

Minutes

of the Academic Senate Meeting
May 7, 2025

PRESENT: Adams, Barding, Blumenfeld, Edens, Fallah Fini, Gad, Gekara, Givens, Hanink, Hoikkala, Husain, John, Korah, Kumar, Monemi, Moore, Newman, Puthoff, Quinn, Roy, Sharma, Shen, Sotoudeh, Sung, Valentine, Wachs, Welke, Yazdani

Proxies: Chair Kumar for Senators Cayer, Wheeler, and Yoo, Senator Hoikkala for Senators Guerrero and Pacleb, Senator Roy for Senator Lloro, Senator Gad for Senator Sotoudeh, Senator Shen for Senator Wachs

GUESTS: K. Forward, N. Hawkes, C. Johnson, M. Jones, S. Krishnamurthy, M. Peppers, J. Pitt-Parker, E. Orr

Chair Kumar welcomed everyone to the final Academic Senate Meeting of the academic year and mentioned that it is also her last meeting as Chair.

1. Academic Senate Minutes – [April 23, 2025](#)

M/s/p to approve the April 23, 2025 Academic Senate Meeting minutes with one abstention.

2. Informational Items

a. Budget Committee

- [University Advancement Budget Update](#)

Senator Valentine went over the Budget Report presentation in detail.

3. Academic Senate Committee Reports

a. [AP-007-245, New Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Ethics and Society Minor – SECOND READING](#)

Senator Husain presented the report.

M/s to adopt AP-007-245, New Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics and Society Minor.

Recommendation

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the New Artificial Intelligence Ethics and Society Minor.

Discussion

Senator Husain explained that this is a minor offered by the Philosophy Department that aims to provide students with a humanistic aspect on AI technologies. It is expected to increase the department's enrollment and accessibility to students from various disciplines as a minor. He added that there have been no comments or concerns received since the first reading.

The motion to adopt AP-007-245, New Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics and Society Minor, passed unanimously.

- b. [AP-008-245, New Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Ethics and Society Option in the BA in Science, Technology, and Society – SECOND READING](#)

Senator Husain presented the report.

M/s to adopt AP-008-245, New Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics and Society Option in the BA in Science, Technology, and Society.

Recommendation

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the New Artificial Intelligence Ethics and Society Option in the BA in Science, Technology, and Society.

Discussion

The Science Technology and Society (STS) program introduces a new AI-focused option that offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding artificial intelligence's broader societal impacts. Senator Husain commented that there were no comments or concerns voiced to the committee since the first reading.

The motion to adopt AP-008-245, New Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics and Society Option in the BA in Science, Technology, and Society, passed unanimously.

- c. [AP-009-245, Convert MS in Geology from Self-Support to State Support – SECOND READING](#)

Senator Husain presented the report.

M/s to adopt AP-009-245, Convert MS in Geology from Self-Support to State Support.

Recommendation

The Academic Programs Committee recommends the conversion of the self-support MS in Geology program to a state-support program.

Discussion

Senator Husain explained that this change is a request from the Geology Department to convert the MS Geology program from self-support to state-support. This will help the program increase enrollment, accessibility, enhance the competitiveness of the program, and streamline the administration of the program. There were no comments or concerns voiced to the committee since the first reading.

The motion to adopt AP-009-245, Convert MS in Geology from Self-Support to State Support, passed unanimously.

- d. [AP-014-245, Apparel Merchandising and Management \(AMM\), B.S. - Program Name Change – SECOND READING](#)

Senator Husain presented the report.

M/s to adopt AP-014-245, Apparel Merchandising and Management (AMM), B.S. - Program Name Change.

Recommendation

The Academic Programs Committee supports the Apparel Merchandising and Management department's request for a program name change for the AY 2025-26 from Apparel Merchandising and Management, B.S., to Fashion Design, Technology, and Management, B.S.

Discussion

The Apparel Merchandising and Management (AMM) department requests a program name change because "fashion" is perceived as being more dynamic thus increasing student appeal and enrollment, enhancing industry relevance and aligning more effectively with the current curriculum. Senator Husain commented that there were no comments or concerns received since the first reading.

The motion to adopt AP-014-245, Apparel Merchandising and Management (AMM), B.S. - Program Name Change, passed unanimously.

e. [AA-007-234, Renaming of Academic Standing Statuses – FIRST READING](#)

Senator Roy presented the report.

M/s to receive and file AA-007-234, Renaming of Academic Standing Statuses.

Recommendation

The Academic Affairs Committee recommends the following changes to the Academic Standing Status nomenclature:

- Students on "**Academic Warning**" will follow the same protocols as those with the former "At-Risk" or "Early Warning" designation.
- Students on "**Academic Notice**" will follow the same protocols as those previously on "Probation."
- Students on "**Academic Notice with Contract**" will follow the same protocols as those previously on "Probation with Contract."

All changes to Policy 1430 are highlighted in yellow:

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA POLICY NO: 1430

ACADEMIC STANDING – UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the criteria for assignment of **Academic Notice** and Disqualification academic standings to undergraduate students. The minimum requirements for

Academic Notice and **Disqualification** are established under Executive Order No. 1038, Sections 41300 and 41300.1 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, and Chapter III, Sections 1 and 2 of the Standing Orders of the Board of Trustees of the California State University.

2. GOOD STANDING

An undergraduate student is considered to be in good standing when a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 (C) for all university level work attempted and for all such work attempted at Cal Poly Pomona is earned. If a student's GPA remains below 2.0 for more than two consecutive semesters, the student will not be certified for veteran educational benefits until the academic status of the student is restored to good standing.

3. ACADEMIC WARNING

All undergraduate students with a Cal Poly Pomona GPA and Major GPA of less than 2.2 will have an advising hold placed systematically on their record. These students will not be able to register until they have cleared this hold through an advising intervention.

4. ACADEMIC NOTICE

An undergraduate student shall be placed on **Academic Notice** if at any time the cumulative grade point average in all college work attempted or cumulative grade point average for work attempted at Cal Poly Pomona falls below 2.0. The student shall be advised of **Academic Notice** status promptly. The first time an undergraduate student's cumulative grade point average in either work attempted at Cal Poly Pomona or for all college level work attempted falls below 2.0 they shall be placed on **Academic Notice**, even in circumstances where their GPA falls below the **Academic Notice** with Contract thresholds as described under section 5.0 of this policy. An undergraduate student shall be removed from **Academic Notice** when the cumulative grade point average in all college work attempted, and the Cal Poly Pomona cumulative grade point average is 2.0 or higher. After the first occurrence of the GPA falling below 2.0, students may be academically disqualified as detailed in section 5.0 of this policy without first being put on **Academic Notice**.

5. ACADEMIC NOTICE with CONTRACT and DISQUALIFICATION

After attempting 12 semester units at Cal Poly Pomona, an undergraduate student is considered to have **Academic Notice** with Contract standing if at any time:

- a) As a freshman (less than 30 semester units of college work completed) the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 1.50 in all units attempted at Cal Poly Pomona, or in all college level course work attempted overall.
- b) As a sophomore (30 through 59 semester units of college work completed) the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 1.70 for all units attempted at Cal Poly Pomona, or in all college level course work attempted overall.

- c) As a junior (60 through 89 semester units of college work completed) the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 1.85 for all units attempted at Cal Poly Pomona, or in all college level course work attempted overall.
- d) As a senior (90 or more semester units of college work completed) the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 1.95 for all units attempted at Cal Poly Pomona, or in all college level course work attempted overall.

An undergraduate student who is assigned **Academic Notice** with Contract standing will be permitted to attend for at least one semester. These students shall be notified of their **Academic Notice** with Contract Standing before the beginning of the semester following the assignment of that academic standing. Students who have **Academic Notice** with Contract standing at the beginning of a summer enrollment break shall be notified at least one month before the start of the fall term. The notification shall advise the student that the **Academic Notice** with Contract standing is effective immediately. The notification shall include any conditions which, if met, will result in permission to continue in enrollment. Failure to notify students does not create the right of a student to continue enrollment.

Students who have **Academic Notice** with Contract standing have the right to be considered for continued enrollment each term. To do so, the student must meet with their advisor or retention and graduation specialist AND maintain a term GPA of a 2.0 or better each subsequent term. Students having **Academic Notice** with Contract standing may take no more than 13 semester units in the Fall and Spring terms (not more than 3 semester units in Winter terms, and 7 semester units in Summer terms) until their overall and Cal Poly Pomona grade point average is 2.0 or better. If students meet these criteria, they will be permitted to continue enrollment. If students do not meet these criteria, they will be academically disqualified.

Students can fall into Disqualification in two ways:

1. If students do not meet the term GPA of 2.0 or higher at the end of any term following their first **Academic Notice** with Contract status, while they remain in **Academic Notice** with Contract status.
2. If, after a first **Academic Notice** with Contract status, students successfully raise their CPP and Overall GPA above the **Academic Notice** with Contract threshold, but then their GPA falls below the threshold in a subsequent term, they will be automatically disqualified from CPP. All academically disqualified students shall be notified of their disqualification.

Students who do not attend two semesters consecutively in one calendar year are considered to have broken continuous enrollment status.

Students have the right to appeal their eligibility to enroll after Disqualification by contacting the Office of Student Success. Only in extraordinary circumstances will appeals be considered. A successful appeal request is considered a reinstatement. However, no reinstatement petition or advising contract is required. Students may not appeal a second disqualification.

Upon initial disqualification, students may request consideration for reinstatement only after presentation to the university of satisfactory evidence that they have improved their chances of scholastic success. After reinstatement, students must maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or better each subsequent semester and may take no more than 13 units until the overall and Cal Poly Pomona grade point average is 2.0 or better.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE-ACADEMIC NOTICE

An undergraduate student may be placed on Administrative-Academic Notice for any of the following reasons:

- a) Withdrawal from more than two-thirds of a program of study in two successive semesters or in any three semesters. A student whose withdrawal is directly associated with a chronic or recurring medical condition or its treatment is not to be subject to Administrative-Academic Notice for such withdrawal.
- b) Repeated failure to progress toward the stated degree objective or other program objective, including that resulting from assignment of 15 semester units of No Credit, when such failure appears to be due to circumstances within the control of the student. This may also include students who have not declared a major, and students who are no longer taking courses in their declared major.
- c) Failure to comply, after due notice, with an academic requirement or regulation, as defined by campus policy, which is routine for all students or a defined group of students (example: failure to complete a required CSU or campus examination, failure to complete a required practicum, failure to comply with professional standards appropriate to the field of study, failure to complete a specified number of units as a condition for receiving student financial aid or making satisfactory progress in the academic program).

When such action is taken, the student shall be notified in writing and shall be provided with the conditions for removal from Academic Notice and the circumstances that would lead to disqualification, should Academic Notice not be removed.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE-ACADEMIC DISQUALIFICATION

A student who has been placed on Administrative-Academic Notice may be disqualified from further attendance if:

- a) The conditions for removal of Administrative-Academic Notice are not met within the period specified.
- b) The student becomes subject to Academic Notice while on Administrative-Academic Notice.
- c) The student becomes subject to Administrative-Academic Notice for the same or similar reason for which they have been placed on Administrative-Academic Notice previously, although not currently in such status.

When a student has been placed on Administrative-Academic Disqualification they shall receive written notification including an explanation of the basis for the action.

In addition, the Office of Student Success may disqualify a student who at any time during enrollment has demonstrated behavior so contrary to the standards of the profession for which the student is preparing as to render them unfit for the profession. In such cases, disqualification will occur immediately upon notice to the student, which shall include an explanation of the basis for the action, and the campus may require the student to discontinue enrollment as of the date of the notification.

Discussion

Senator Roy explained that currently, students are given an academic standing status of “probation” when their cumulative or CPP GPA is below 2.0, and “probation with contract” when their GPA is below 1.5 as a freshman, 1.7 as a sophomore, 1.85 as a junior and 1.95 as a senior. The referral was submitted by a team of retention and graduation specialists, Berlinda Crawford, Student Success Center and Retention Coordinator and Henry Flores, Retention & Graduation Specialist. The committee has recently been consulting with the following individuals:

- Dr. Santiago-González, Associate Vice President for Student Success
- Dr. Erin DeRosa, Executive Director, University Advising
- Connie Kuang, University Registrar
- Dr. Forward, Interim Associate Vice President, Academic Planning
- Dr. Aaron DeRosa, Interim Faculty Director, Undergraduate Studies & General Education
- Jessica Wagoner, Senior Associate Vice President, Enrollment Mgmt. & Services
- Department Chairs

This report proposes a change in the terminology of “probation” and “probation with contract” to “academic notice” and “academic notice with contract,” which would demonstrate the importance of students taking action, while helping to prevent additional psychological barriers that the current terminology imposes. Senator Roy commented that the term “probation” is associated with the prison industrial complex and criminal system, which disproportionately impact and shape the lived experiences, particularly students of color, in ways that are harmful and heed educational access. It is also important to note that there has been a significant amount of research conducted over the course of the decade, which reveals that the term “probation” imposed psychological barriers that impacted student’s mental health, sense of belonging, and self-efficacy. The citations are in the committee report.

Two survey studies were conducted involving Cal Poly Pomona students and faculty/staff. The results showed that 70% of students and 85% of faculty/staff preferred a change in terminology, with a preference for the term “academic notice” over “probation.” Students reported that “probation” evoked negative emotions, while “academic notice” was perceived as more supportive and less punitive. Faculty also favored “academic notice” as it aligns with a more supportive and student-centered approach.

The shift from “academic probation” to “academic notice” is part of a broader trend across the California State University (CSU) system. Fourteen CSU campuses, including CSU Fullerton, Cal State LA, CSUN, and Cal Poly Humboldt, have already adopted similar changes. The document lists these campuses. Additionally, the UC System has implemented a system-wide initiative to incorporate “academic notice”, and California Community Colleges are in the process of adopting similar resolutions.

The Academic Affairs Committee members, after extensive consultation, unanimously agreed on the necessity of updating the terminology. They emphasized the importance of removing stigmatized language associated with the prison industrial complex to create a more inclusive and supportive academic environment.

Senator Roy motioned to waive the first reading of AA-007-234, Renaming of Academic Standing Statutes, so that the new terminology can be adopted as soon as possible. The motion received a second.

The motion to waive the first reading of AA-007-234, Renaming of Academic Standing Statutes, passed with one NO and three abstentions.

M/s to adopt AA-007-234, Renaming of Academic Standing Statutes

The motion to adopt AA-007-234, Renaming of Academic Standing Statutes, passed with two abstentions.

4. Emeritus Awards

Chair Kumar recognized Senator Greg Barding, Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Senator Barding announced that the Faculty Affairs Committee has unanimously approved nominating resolutions for the award of Emeritus to twenty-five distinguished members of the Cal Poly Pomona community.

Senator Barding moved that the resolutions be received and filed as a permanent part of the Academic Senate Archives. The motion received a second.

M/s that the resolutions be adopted, and with adoption, they are proclaimed to the entire University community.

The motions passed unanimously.

Chair Kumar congratulated all retiring faculty and reminded everyone that Senator Barding will be presenting, in alphabetical order, the Emeritus Designees for the 2024 -2025 academic year at the Faculty Emeritus Ceremony immediately following today's Academic Senate meeting.

5. Honoring Retiring Senators

Academic Senate Chair Kumar recognized and appreciated the exemplary service of the following senators and stated that she hoped that they would consider serving on the Academic Senate in the future:

Jun Myers – College of Business Administration
Jocelyn Pacleb – College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences
Cade Wheeler – ASI Academic Senator
Michelle Yoo – Collins College of Hospitality Management
Kevin Moore – College of Environmental Design
John Korah – College of Science
Stephen Osborn – College of Science
Candice Valentine – Staff Senator
Ondieki Gekara – Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture

6. Seating of New Senators

Chair Kumar recognized the following senators who were re-elected to serve their constituencies for another three years:

- Pam Adams – Related Areas
- Gregory Barding – College of Science
- Saeideh Fallah Fini – College of Engineering
- Berit Givens – College of Science
- Jeffrey Roy – College of Education and Integrative Studies
- Bharti Sharma – College of Science
- Zahra Sotoudeh – College of Engineering
- Faye Wachs - ASCSU

The following new senators were welcomed to the Academic Senate:

- Melissa Aaron – College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences
- Corwin Aragon – College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences
- Chitra Dabas – Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture
- Kelly Min – Collins College of Hospitality Management
- Jessica Perez – College of Science
- Erin Questad – College of Science
- Jeffrey Ray – College of Environmental Design
- Sabrina Toney – Staff Senator
- Nicholas Van Buer – College of Science
- Preeti Wadhwa – College of Business Administration

7. Voting on Degrees

M/s that the Academic Senate, on behalf of the Faculty at this University, recommend to President Coley that the degree candidates listed in the Registrars' List be awarded the appropriate degrees this May.

The motion passed unanimously and enthusiastically.

8. Election of Executive Committee

Chair Kumar recognized Senator Sean Monemi, Chair of the Elections and Procedures Committee. Senator Monemi stated that the body must decide who is going to serve on the Executive Committee for the 2025-2026 academic year. The Elections and Procedures Committee received the following nominations to constitute the Executive Committee for 2025-2026:

- Past Senate Chair – Rita Kumar
- Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture – David Edens
- College of Business Administration – Gerd Welke
- College of Education and Integrative Studies – Dennis Quinn
- College of Engineering – Ghada Gad
- College of Environmental Design – Aaron Cayer
- Collins College of Hospitality Management – Kelly Min
- Related Areas/Library – Julie Shen
- Statewide CSU – Faye Wachs

- College of Science – Vice Chair Barding serve as College of Science Representative

Senator Monemi mentioned that the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences needed a nominee and asked if there were any other nominations from the floor.

Senator Brian Newman was nominated to serve on the Executive Committee as the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences representative.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to elect all unopposed nominees for the 2025-2026 Executive Committee by acclamation.

9. New Business

[Resolution to Establish a Mutual Defense Compact to Protect Academic Freedom and Shared Governance in the CSU](#)

Chair Kumar recognized Senator Shen.

M/s to receive and file the following *Resolution to Establish a Mutual Defense Compact to Protect Academic Freedom and Shared Governance in the CSU*.

Whereas, The mission¹ and vision² of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (“CPP”) are rooted in cultivating success through our inclusive polytechnic identity; and

Whereas, CPP values³ fostering an environment in which our diverse community feels welcomed and respected; and

Whereas, CPP and its sister California State University (“CSU”) campuses are part of a system of higher education established by California’s Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act (“HEERA”) that provides our academic community with full freedom of inquiry and insulation from political influence⁴; and

Whereas, CPP faculty, students, and staff pursue excellence in teaching, research, and learning through the free exchange of ideas⁵; and

Whereas, Joint decision making and consultation between administration and faculty and other academic employees are essential to the performance of our educational mission⁶; and

Whereas, The federal government has targeted individual institutions with legal, financial, and political incursions designed to undermine their public mission, silence dissenting voices, and exert improper and often unlawful control over campus governance and academic inquiry⁷; and

Whereas, The federal government has demonstrated willingness to censor curricula; rescind

¹ CPP mission: <https://www.cpp.edu/strategicplan/mission.shtml>

² CPP vision: <https://www.cpp.edu/strategicplan/vision.shtml>

³ CPP values: <https://www.cpp.edu/strategicplan/values.shtml>

⁴ HEERA section 3560: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV§ionNum=3560

⁵ HEERA section 3561: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV§ionNum=3561

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ See <https://www.chronicle.com/article/trends-were-watching-trump-edition>

approved research funding and restrict research⁸; target faculty, students, and administrators; and deport students without the due process rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution⁹; and

Whereas, Faculty senates across the nation are standing collectively together against the actions of the federal government^{10,11}; and

Whereas, On April 22, 2025, the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) published a public statement entitled, A Call for Constructive Engagement, signed by leaders of America's colleges, universities, and scholarly societies^{12,13}; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the CPP Academic Senate affirms its commitment to academic freedom and shared governance; and be it further

Resolved, That the Academic Senate calls on university leaders to work collaboratively to protect the integrity of our academic mission and communicate regularly and transparently about external threats to academic freedom and shared governance; and be it further

Resolved, That the Academic Senate commends President Soraya Coley for signing the AAC&U public statement, joining Presidents and leaders calling for constructive engagement that improves our institutions and serves our republic; and be it further

Resolved, That the Academic Senate urges the CSU Chancellor and Board of Trustees to establish a Mutual Academic Defense Compact—with participation from CSU campuses, faculty senates, and the Academic Senate of the CSU ("ASCSU")—that includes a shared legal and communications defense fund, a coordinated system-wide response to political interference, and a standing summit of CSU leadership, faculty governance, and legal experts to protect the integrity and autonomy of all CSU campuses; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be distributed to the CPP President, the CPP Provost, the CPP Vice Presidents, the CPP Associate and Assistant Vice Presidents, the CPP College Deans, the CPP Department Chairs, Unit 3 Employees of CPP, CSU Chancellor's Office, CSU Board of Trustees, ASCSU, CSU Senate Chairs, California Faculty Association ("CFA") Statewide President, CFA Chapter Presidents, CPP CFA Chapter President, and California State legislators.

M/s to waive the first reading.

The motion to waive the first reading passed unanimously.

Chair Kumar opened the floor for discussion. Senator Gad requested further clarification on the "Mutual Academic Defense Compact," questioning its scope, operational status, and limitations. Chair Kumar explained that the idea for a resolution was brought forth by another campus senate chair who reached out via the senate chairs email list to gauge interest. She added that one campus had already begun developing a framework and had introduced it to their Senate last week. Since then, additional campuses have expressed interest and are considering bringing the matter forward

⁸ See <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-co-leads-lawsuit-against-trump-administration-unlawfully>

⁹ See <https://thepolypost.com/news/2025/04/22/cpp-student-deported-after-routine-immigration-appointment/>

¹⁰ See <https://www.chronicle.com/article/more-and-more-faculty-groups-want-their-colleges-to-stand-together-against-trump>

¹¹ See https://www.sunyufs.us/uploads/1/1/6/9/116933050/200-09-1_defense_of_higher_education.pdf

¹² See <https://www.aacu.org/newsroom/a-call-for-constructive-engagement>

¹³ See <https://edsourse.org/updates/california-higher-ed-leaders-sign-letter-protesting-undue-government-intrusion>

for Senate discussion. The goal is to align campuses with a unified approach rather than having each campus pursue individual initiatives. A similar system exists on the East Coast, serving as a reference model for implementation. The ASCSU is currently meeting, and it is hoped that they will address this initiative. Chair Kumar commented that concept is intended as a system-wide Senate effort, as multiple campuses are engaging with the idea. The Executive Committee discussed this issue last week, and their consensus was to proceed with the initiative for the benefit of stakeholders.

M/s to approve the *Resolution to Establish a Mutual Defense Compact to Protect Academic Freedom and Shared Governance in the CSU*.

The motion passed with one abstention.

Chair Kumar thanked Senator Shen for her leadership in drafting the resolution and making it come to life in a short time.

Vice Chair Hanink introduced a resolution celebrating Chair Rita Kumar. He read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Dr. Rita Kumar served as Chair of the Academic Senate from 2023 to 2025 and as Vice-Chair of the Academic Senate from 2022 to 2023, and

WHEREAS, She has served the Academic Senate as a Senator representing the College of Business since 2017; and

WHEREAS, She has served on the Academic Senate Faculty Affairs Committee from 2017 to 2018 and on the Academic Senate Executive Committee since 2018; and

WHEREAS, She served the statewide Academic Senate of the California State University as an interim Senator representing Cal Poly Pomona from 2023 to 2024; and

WHEREAS, She has worked passionately and tirelessly to represent the interests of the faculty, staff, and students of Cal Poly Pomona; and

WHEREAS, She has over and over again fulfilled her duties as with commendable care, meticulous attention to detail, and prodigious organizational skill; and

WHEREAS, She has provided a model of effective, collaborative, and constructive leadership, while encouraging thoughtful deliberation in translating academic goals and values into university policy or action; and

WHEREAS, She has vigorously promoted the effectiveness and visibility of the Academic Senate as an essential site of shared governance, and been a strong advocate of the role of the Academic Senate in all matters that vitally affect the interests of the faculty, staff, students, and administration; and

WHEREAS, She has striven always to cultivate a culture of collegiality, inclusivity, professionalism, and respect among the members and guests of the Academic Senate and within its proceedings; and

WHEREAS, She has provided steady leadership amidst a period of contentious debates, institutional tensions, and growing threats to higher education and academic freedom; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona express its sincere appreciation to Dr. Rita Kumar for her leadership and support for faculty, staff, and students; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be permanently recorded in the Minutes and Archives of the Academic Senate in recognition of Dr. Rita Kumar's service to Cal Poly Pomona and the Academic Senate.

M/s to adopt the resolution in celebration of Chair Kumar's contributions to the Academic Senate.

The motion passed unanimously, and Chair Kumar received a round of applause.

10. Closing Comments

Chair Kumar commented that over the last ten years, President Coley led Cal Poly Pomona through some very difficult times and in conversations with colleagues at sister campuses about the challenges we are all facing, she stated that she is keenly aware that our campus is in a better position than several others, and of the role President Coley's steadfast leadership, resilience and fortitude has played in that. The relationship between Senate and a president is not always easy, even in the best of times, and navigating it is even more challenging under difficult circumstances. Chair Kumar appreciated President Coley's willingness to dialog, engage and work with Senate, including trying to reach compromise, even when that appears elusive. She mentioned that on a personal note, over the past two years, she has gotten to know the president and came to appreciate her thoughtful, caring, and empathetic side. Chair Kumar commented that she has enjoyed collaborating with President Coley.

Chair Kumar conveyed that the main work of the Academic Senate happens in the standing committees. She thanked each committee member for their work in moving the university's goals forward. She expressed her gratitude to each committee chair and acknowledged the four committee chairs that were new to the role this academic year, and thanked them for their leadership under difficult circumstances. She wished the new committee chairs for next academic year, Senators Givens and Sharma, the best in their new roles.

She thanked ASI President, Senator Wheeler, who was not present, and gave him a special shout out for his contributions as the ASI student senator. Chair Kumar acknowledged that it has not been easy for him, often being the only student voice in the room, and applauded his courage in using his voice to try and make a difference.

Chair Kumar thanked the Executive Committee members, who have been there every week and helped her see issues from different perspectives. She stated that she continues to learn from each of them. She thanked Vice Chair Hanink for his partnership this academic year and wished him and Vice Chair Elect Barding success in the upcoming academic year and offered her support in ensuring their success.

Chair Kumar expressed deep appreciation for the Academic Senate staff, Val Otto and Casandra Horner, emphasizing that their dedication and hard work are the foundation of the Senate's success.

Reflecting on previous remarks from the past year, Chair Kumar stated that this sentiment has only strengthened, recognizing their invaluable contributions. She acknowledged their ability to bring everything together seamlessly, describing them as the driving force behind the Senate's operations. Chair Kumar noted that one of her greatest privileges as Senate Chair has been the opportunity to collaborate closely with both. Chair Kumar expressed her sincere gratitude, marveling at their ability to manage numerous responsibilities while ensuring everything runs smoothly.

Chair Kumar emphasized that the Senate functions as part of a larger community and does not operate in a vacuum. She expressed deep appreciation for the ongoing collaboration and meaningful engagement with President Coley and Provost Gomez in pursuit of shared goals. Additionally, she extended her gratitude to all guests who attended Senate meetings, including members of the President's Cabinet, AVPs, deans, faculty, staff, and students. She acknowledged their valuable contributions and thanked them for their time, and the many opportunities for engagement.

She thanked Academic Senate Analyst Val Otto, who was retiring, and this was her last meeting, for her ten years of service to the Academic Senate. She commented that Senate Analyst Otto's dedication, commitment, and work ethic are inspiring, and she brings quiet strength to everything she does. Chair Kumar noted that, on a personal level, she appreciates Analyst Otto's kindness, empathy, and humility. She congratulated Analyst Otto on her retirement and wished her the best in future endeavors.

Then at the conclusion of the meeting, Chair Kumar passed the gavel to Chair Elect Hanink for the 2025-26 academic year.

The May 7, 2025 Academic Senate Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.