Minutes

of the Academic Senate Meeting

Wednesday, October 14th, 2026

Start Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: CLA Building 98 P2-07

PRESENT SENATORS: Ghada Gad, Gregory Barding, Melissa Aaron, Pamela Adams, Aaron Cayer, Chitra Dabas, David Edens, Saeideh Fallah Fini, Berit Givens, Mario Guerrero, Mohammad Husain, Alex John, Rita Kumar, Kelly Min, Sean Monemi, Jessica Perez, Michelle Soto-Peña , Jessie Vallejo, Cory Aragon, Zahra Sotoudeh Jonathan Puthoff, Erin Questad, Jeffrey Ray, Bharti Sharma, Yuanjie He, Julie Shen, Sabrina Toney, Nicholas Van Buer, Saba Salekfard, Nicholas Von Glahn, Eileen Wallis, Gerd Welke, Alejandra Lopez, and Alireza Yazdani.

PROXIES: Senator Jessie Vallejo proxy for Senator Faye Wachs and Senator Jeff Roy, and Senator Rita Kumar proxy for Senator Preeti Wadhwa

GUESTS: Aaron DeRosa, Jenelle Pitt-Parker, Lasisi Ajayi, Hayley Azevedo, Nicole Hawkes, Camille Johnson, Jocelyn Chong, Alison Baski, Cecilia Santiago-Gonzalez, Shonn Haren, Craig W. LaMunyon, Vanya Quiñones, Charles Conn, Cheryl Koos, Laura Massa, Brianne Dávila, Sandeep Krishnamurthy, Claire Whang, Margie Jones, Mary Anne Akers, Lisa Rotunni, and Ethan Orr

Chair Barding welcomed everyone to the second Academic Meeting of the year. Chair Barding reminded everyone to sign-in through the QR code displayed on screen. Paper sign-in sheets are also available to senators and guests.

Chair Barding noted that him and Vice Chair Gad needed to be added to the attendance list from September 16th Academic Senate meeting minutes.

1. Academic Senate Minutes – September 16th , 2026

   The September 16th, 2026, Academic Senate Meeting minutes are located on the Academic Senate website at October 14th, 2026, Academic Senate Meeting

   M/s/p to approve the September 16th, 2026 Academic Senate Meeting minutes.

2. Information Items
   a. Chair's Report

The Chair's Report is located on the Academic Senate website at October 14th, 2026, Academic Senate Meeting

Chair's Announcements and Reminders:
Meeting Procedures:

- **Robert's Rule of Order**

    - All Senate meetings will follow Robert's Rules of Order.
    - Each member **may speak twice per question per day**, but a second opportunity to speak will only be given once all other members have had a chance.
    - **A 3-minute speaking limit** will be enforced per speaker to ensure equitable participation.
    - **Senators will be prioritized** on the speaker list; guests may speak after senators if time permits.

- **AI Use Survey**

    - CSU is conducting a survey on the use of AI across all CSU Campuses. Survey is available until October 19th for a chance to win visa gift cards or iPads

- **CPP Transportation Advisory Committee**

    Transportation was identified as a major equity issue because transportation difficulties contribute to student withdrawals and represent one of the largest expenses faced by students after housing. Current and planned efforts include the Bronco Mobility Hub, a campus mobility survey, pedestrian mobility initiatives, accessibility for mobility devices, and continued advocacy concerning bus routes. Members were encouraged to complete the transportation survey, review the related materials, and attend a community workshop scheduled for later in the month at the University Library.

    - Upcoming community workshop on October 27th, 2026 to learn more about transportation on campus

b. **President's Report**

President Quiñones provided an overview of CPP 2030, the university's strategic initiative for the next four years and four important pillars.

- **Four Pillars**
- The first pillar, referred to as "Promise," focuses on affordability and paid internships. The university intends to expand financial assistance so that more students can attend without paying tuition and mandatory fees and will continue developing philanthropic support for these efforts.
- The second pillar focuses on strengthening the student-success ecosystem. This includes improving the way students find assistance, strengthening retention and

graduation efforts, closing equity gaps, and preparing students for meaningful careers and workforce participation.
  - The third pillar concerns becoming a more technology-enabled institution. CPP 2030 will seek to improve the digital experience for students, faculty, and staff and make university services more efficient.
  - The fourth pillar focuses on branding and investment in people. The university plans to strengthen its recognition among prospective students, including middle- and high-school students, while also expanding employee training, professional development, and access to the technology needed to make Cal Poly Pomona an employer of choice.

- **CPP 2030**
  - The President explained that CPP 2030 will be supported through existing resources and new grant funding. Approximately $3-5 million per year is expected to be made available for proposals connected to the initiative.

- **Announcements**
  - Haley Azevedo was introduced as the new Chief of Staff, responsible for coordinating Cabinet and President's Office priorities. Nicole Hawkes is transitioning to Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, where she will help lead CPP 2030, internship and experiential-learning initiatives, work related to the Lanterman property, and strategic partnerships
  - The President also acknowledged John McGurthy's planned retirement in December and announced that the university would begin the search for his successor soon
  - The President discussed the upcoming Chancellor's Office Student Success Symposium scheduled for October 22–23 in San Jose. A Cal Poly Pomona delegation will attend this Symposium in San Jose to share ideas and advance student success in alignment with the CSU Student Success Framework
  - A campus town hall is scheduled for October 29 from noon to 1:00 p.m. and will introduce the CSU Forward strategic plan and additional student-success concepts

No questions were raised, and the meeting continued with the next agenda item.

c. **Provost's Report**

The Provost's Report is located on the Academic Senate website at October 14th, 2026, Academic Senate Meeting

Interim Provost Alison Baski introduced Broncos Covered. Broncos Covered will coordinate state and institutional financial aid so that eligible undergraduate students have their tuition and mandatory campus fees fully covered. Currently, 50% of the students have their tuition fees covered. The program is intended for California residents and students who meet AB 540 criteria, complete the FAFSA or California Dream Act application, satisfy the applicable requirements, and have a Student Aid Index of $5,000 or less.

- **Opportunities**
  - The Winter Institute will bring faculty and staff together to explore entrepreneurial and intrapreneurial approaches to student learning and career preparation
  - CAFE will offer workshops on syllabus, Canvas, grading, artificial intelligence and pedagogy, and responsible use of AI
  - CAFE also provides confidential individual consultations with faculty

- **Announcements**
- Research funding opportunities discussed included RSCA, SIRG, and Agricultural Research Institute.
- Student-success activities include National Transfer Week, a first-generation student celebration, a showcase of first-year experience and PolyX projects, and the Day of the Advisor event on November 19th.
- The Provost also announced the Provost Award for Excellence Symposium and recognized awardees in teaching, research, and service.

A comment from a Senator asking if the Provost's Teacher-Scholar Program would open for application.

d. **Vice Chair's Report**

The Vice Chair's Report is located on the Academic Senate website at October 14th, 2026 Academic Senate Meeting

e. **ASCSU Report**

Senator Rita Kumar presented that ASCSU's plenary is in November and will provide an update in the December Senate meeting.

f. **Budget Committee Report**

The Budget Reports is located on the Academic Senate website at October 14th, 2026 Academic Senate Meeting

Senator Bharti Sharma, Chair of the Budget Committee, delivered the second budget report of the academic year. The committee has met several times and recently reviewed the newly established Enrollment Management division. The division has an initial general-fund allocation of approximately $8.95 million and currently includes approximately 122 staff and MPP positions, in addition to student positions supported through other programs. Fall enrollment targets were not fully met, resulting in increased spring transfer targets. The administration is also committed to developing more stable budget lines for essential recurring activities such as commencement, athletics, and outreach programs.

g. **CFA Report**

The CFA Report is located on the Academic Senate website at October 14th, 2026 Academic Senate Meeting

Senator Jonathan Puthoff presented the updates on CFA contract negotiations for the year. Faculty and staff were encouraged to follow CFA communications, ask questions, and participate in future events when possible. The All-union march involving campus unions is planned for October 27th at noon in the Engineering Meadow.

The CFA Report is located on the Academic Senate website at October 14th, 2026

h. **ASI Report**

The ASI Report is located on the Academic Senate website at October 14th, 2026 Academic Senate Meeting.

ASI President Alejandra reported that ASI is currently conducting strategic financial planning focused on the Bronco Student Center and other facilities. Possible areas of collaboration include reviewing prices at Vista Market and Poly Express, finding ways to use excess food production to provide meals for students, and improving awareness of basic needs resources. The Poly Pantry was highlighted as an important resource that provides free food, basic necessities, and other assistance to students experiencing food insecurity or financial hardship.

A senator commented about childcare support for students who are caregivers, including students who may miss class because of unexpected childcare responsibilities. ASI President Alejandra noted that a child development center exists on campus and will gather more information about its services.

Motion to Extend Time Certain

At **3:45PM,** the meeting approached its scheduled time certain. A motion was made to **extend the time certain by 5 minutes** to allow for the continuation of reports and discussion.

- **Motion:** To extend the time certain by 10 minutes
- **Vote:** Motion passed by unanimous voice vote

Outcome: Time certain extended to **3:50 PM**.

i. **Staff Report**

The Staff Report is located on the Academic Senate website at October 14th, 2026 Academic Senate Meeting.

Senator Sabrina Toney updated upcoming campus events. Senator Toney reminded that there is an earthquake drill and a fire drill tomorrow, October 15th. Senator Toney also discussed the compliance with NAGPRA requirements and emphasized that all employees,

including lecturers, must complete the required form. A Project Rebound book drive will be held in the coming weeks.

3. Academic Senate Committee Reports- **Time Certain 3:50pm**

AP-007-256 Abbreviated Program Review for College of Engineering B.S. Programs- First Reading

Senator Mohammad Husain presented the review report of the College of Engineering's ABET-accredited B.S. bachelor's programs. The review highlighted the College of Engineering's First-Year Experience program and support for students entering engineering majors.

Challenges included advising capacity, space, and facilities. The report emphasized the college's accomplishments while highlighting the need for additional advising and temporary faculty support.

M/s to receive and file **AP-007-256, Program Review for College of Engineering B.S. Programs.**

AP-019-256 Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry – B.S. and M.S. Program Review-First Reading

Senator Mohammad Husain presented AP-019-256, covering the Bachelor of Chemistry, related options, and the Master of Science in Chemistry.

Challenges included laboratory and instructional space, the need for additional eyewash stations, and limited course availability.

M/s to receive and file **AP-019-256, B.S. and M.S. Program Review for Chemistry and Biochemistry**

AP-001-267 Move Minor in Regenerative Studies from Lyle Center for Sustainability and Regenerative Studies to the Urban and Regional Planning Department-First Reading

Senator Mohammad Husain presented the referral regarding the relocation of the Regenerative Studies minor from the Lyle Center to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

M/s to receive and file **AP-001-267: To Move Minor in Regenerative Studies from Lyle Center for Sustainability and Regenerative Studies to the Urban and Regional Planning Department.**

A Senator and Guest commented if the term could be enacted sooner than 2028.

AP-002-267 Move M.S. in Regenerative Studies from the Lyle Center for Sustainability and Regenerative Studies to the Urban and Regional Planning Department-First Reading

Senator Mohammad Husain presented the referral regarding the relocation of the master's program from the Lyle Center to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.

M/s to receive and file **AP-002-267: To Move Minor in Regenerative Studies from Lyle Center for Sustainability and Regenerative Studies to the Urban and Regional Planning Department.**

4. New Business
   None

5. Old Business
   None

6. Discussion

   a. University Commencement Schedule- Presented by Frances Teves, Vice President of University Advancement at 4:00pm

The Commencement Report is located on the Academic Senate website at October 14th, 2026 Academic Senate Meeting

The University Advancement and commencement team presented proposed changes to the 2027 commencement schedule. For 2027, commencement will move from the weekend to Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, with ten ceremonies instead of twelve.

- **Changes**
  - Agriculture and Collins will hold a combined ceremony while continuing to be recognized as separate colleges.
  - The university is not currently planning to include college speakers, but honorary doctorate selections will continue.
  - Additional changes include the introduction of green commencement gowns and replacement of printed programs with a digital program that will be available during commencement week
  - The change is also intended to reduce the burden on employees who have been asked to work throughout commencement weekends and to distribute assignments more equitably

Senators expressed concern about eliminating or reducing the procession. Senators also asked whether department banner carriers could continue to be recognized along with the possibility of bringing back receptions.

Adjourned @ 4:26pm.