California State University Chico
Academic Senate

Academic Senate Meeting

August 27, 2026

Information

2:30pm to 5:00pm in Kendall 207

How to Participate in Meetings

Live stream. For Fall 2026, Senators who need to attend a meeting and vote remotely (on Zoom) must provide notice at least two hours in advance of a meeting to provide time for the Senate Office to make the necessary arrangements. The meeting format for Spring 2027 and 2027-28 will be determined by a vote of the Academic Senate in December, 2026.

Agenda

A. Establishment of the fact of a quorum by the Secretary
B. Correction and approval of the Minutes of May 7, 2026
C. Approval of the Agenda
D. Announcements and Communications
    1. Welcome to the 2026-27 Session of the Academic Senate
    2. Presentation of the Kathy Kaiser Award
    3. 2026-27 Book in Common (Kristen Mahlis, Book in Common Coordinator)
    4. Reaccreditation Update (Kate McCarthy, WSCUC Accreditation Liaison Officer and Co-Chair of Reaccreditation Steering Committee)
    5. California Faculty Association Update (Nathaniel Heggins Bryant, CFA President)
    6. Other announcements or communications
E. Old Business
F. New Business
G. Reports (*including questions from presenters to Senators about works in progress, as well questions from Senators and Guests following each presentation*)
    1. Steve Perez, University President
    2. Reginald C. Stewart, University Diversity Officer
    3. Branches
        i. Leslie Cornick, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

ii. Isaac Brundage, Vice President for Student Affairs
iii. Monique Sendze, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer
iv. Jamie Clyde, Vice President for Business and Finance
v. Kristine Mazzei, Vice President for University Advancement

4. Beatrix Teaney, Associated Students President
5. Rana Marshall, Staff Council Chair
6. Elizabeth “Betsy” Boyd and Holly Kralj, Senators of the Academic Senate of California State University
7. April Kamp-Whittaker, Academic Senate Executive Committee Secretary
8. Nicholas Burk, Faculty and Student Policies Committee Chair
9. Kim Jaxon, University Curriculum Committee Chair

H. Other
I. Adjournment

California State University Chico
Academic Affairs
ACADEMIC SENATE

(530) 898-6201, Zip 020 http://www.csuchico.edu/sen/

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: ACADEMIC SENATORS
FROM: April Kamp-Whittaker, Academic Senate Secretary
SUBJ: **ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES**
DATE: Thursday August 27, 2026, 2:30 p.m.

Senators Present: Boyd, Betsy; Brookes, David; Burk, Nicholas; Cline, Troy; Dizard, Jesse; Dubie, Bob; Duran, Ben; Dutta, Saurav; Gammell, Laurence; Jaxon, Kim; Kaiser, Kathy; Kamp-Whitaker, April; Kilian, Nicole; Kralj, Holly; Kredo, Kurtis; Lower, Kristin; Magnus, Amy; Marshall, Rana; Nice, Jason; Nichols, Chris; Raeder, Jessie; Rose, Michelle; Sargent, Dann; Schreder, Karen; Sistrunk, Tim; Smith, Sarah; Sparks, Laura; Sueki, Miguel; Sunderman, Madi; Teaney, Beatrix; Tian, Kun; Weiland, Chase; Yamada, Kensuke

Absent: Asante, Christian; Attarwala, Abbas; Engebretson, Jesse; Frost, Jacob; Hames, Jack; Paiva, Marianne; Korber, Irene; Li, Qingyi; McKenzie, Bree; Sueki, Miguel

Chair Nice called the meeting to order at 2:31 pm.

A. Establishment of the fact of a quorum by the Secretary
B. Correction and approval of the Minutes of May 7, 2026
   - **Approved**
C. Approval of the Agenda
   - **Approved**
D. Announcements and Communications
   1. Welcome to the 2026-27 Session of the Academic Senate
   - Chair welcomes new members who are acknowledged
   - New campus members acknowledged
   - Trifolds promoted and purpose in making Senate more transparent explained
     - Structure of motions and process of Robert's Rules
     - Process of being acknowledged as a guest speaker
   - New process for introduction items
     - Introduction items not voted on
     - Introduction items reintroduced in second meeting for motions and voting
   - Explanation of Cabinet members
     - Non-voting members
     - Contribute to the conversation and bring items for discussion
   2. Presentation of the Kathy Kaiser Award
   - Presented by President Prez
   - Reading of the Award and acknowledgement of the contributions of Kathy Kaiser to the campus and Senate

- Reading of nomination letter documenting the contributions of Senator Magnus
- Award given to Amy Magnus with great celebration

3. 2026-27 Book in Common (Kristen Mahlis, Book in Common Coordinator)

- Introduction of Book in Common program
- Book in Common committee and events are open
- Book introduced
    - The AI Con
    - Book authors and contents introduced
    - Main theme – what is artificial intelligence. Not just big tech but a marketing tool. Book explores this issue and also who controls these technologies and the consequences of AI technology
- Public lecture at Laxen on April 7th
- Resources for teaching are available
- Copies available at Meriam Library and complementary copies available if adopting the book for a course

4. Reaccreditation Update (Kate McCarthy, WSCUC Accreditation Liaison Officer and Co-Chair of Reaccreditation Steering Committee and Ben Juliano (TITLE)

- WASC Reaccreditation is this year and campus report submitted 10 days ahead of schedule
- Report can be found online at https://www.csuchico.edu/about/projects-initiatives/institutional-accreditation/reaffirmation.shtml
- Attention drawn to Section C – Reflections as an area to start
- October 22nd Zoom call with members of Cabinet and 5 member WASC accreditation team who will provide initial response
- February is a campus visit
- Between now and October 22 WASC will be looking at website – please check and make sure content is current and links are not broken
- Distance education review form was also submitted as part of this for the 1st time
- Provost - Thank you given to the presenters and team for all their work and acknowledgement of how well done the self-study is
- Question – How long accreditation will be for?
- Response – This is variable and can be up to 10 years
- Faculty encouraged to engage in this process and with WASC when they are visiting

5. California Faculty Association Update (Nathaniel Heggins Bryant, CFA President)
    - Chair Nice notes that all Union leaders have been offered opportunity to speak at Senate

- In dead period where both sides are gathering information
- Potential impasse later in the year
- Statement provided to include in syllabus
- Not done lightly – last tool to use and no desire to interrupt campus workflow, mission, or students
- Charley Turner, campus bargaining team rep (cturner@calfac.org) and Nathan Bryant (nbryant@calfac.org) happy to come and speak with groups and answer questions as Campus Union representatives

- Question – What are the primary points to disagreement?
- Response – Salary, work load, academic freedom, and AI. In principle agreement on non-budget issues but not on larger items. All of this is public record and can be accesses online
- Question – Thank you given for syllabi language

6. Other announcements or communications

- Non given

E. Old Business

F. New Business

G. Reports (*including questions from presenters to Senators about works in progress, as well questions from Senators and Guests following each presentation*)

1. Steve Perez, University President

- Addressed media report that was published yesterday (8/26)
- 1900 new students moved in last week
    - Rising enrollment and record attendance at orientation
    - Expanding outreach to continue attracting new students
- Request made to Senate to work on how to invite and evaluate proposals for strategic initiatives that will help advance our initiatives and regularly evaluate strategic plans
    - Wants to start larger conversation
- Question – Ask to share more concrete example of strategic concept
- Response – Does not want to bias ideas but will provide an example of funding to support neurodivergence by pairing student with a coach who will help them better success. At end of year will evaluate success and impact
- Question – Keeping education affordable mentioned in fall address. How will we be tackling this issue?
- Response – Working on this. Students leave with lower-than-average debt load but still need more. Financial aid covers a lot but could cover more. Addressed book costs and student housing costs and two examples of where we are and can find more savings that can be passed to students.
- Currently system wide conversations about changing the academic calendar to benefit students
    - Wants us to have a conversation as a Senate about this issue
    - Lots of impacts to a change in the calendar
    - Want conversation on best possible structure
    - Senator Boyd spoke to fact that other campuses are starting to work on this
    - Chair Nice part of working group with other North state campuses to evaluate barriers to students taking classes are other campuses – semester schedule is a major barrier

2. Reginald C. Stewart, University Diversity Officer

- Statement provided that was read by Academic Senate Secretary
- Covers 3 points for engagement with campus and students

3. Branches

i. Leslie Cornick, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

- Welcoming of 3 new members of provost advisory council (PAC)
    - New interim farm director – Kevin Patton

- 2 new deans – Dr. Colleen Harris (Meriam Library) and Dr. James Schmidtke(?) (College of Business)

- Update on PAC and PAC+ work around strategic priorities for Academic Affairs
  - 5 pillars for coming year
    - Recruitment, use of budget, interdisciplinary opportunities, scheduling, career readiness
  - Now inviting people from across campus to participate in sub-groups to provide feedback and input
  - Student success implementation team being formed on campus
    - Will be adding 2 more chairs to this group
    - If interested in this work please reach out to Provost or VP Brundage
- Academic scheduling to better serve students
  - Dean Patten is chairing working group on Campus
  - Looking for 4 additional groups to participate in student centered scheduling working group
- Question – What is student centered scheduling
- Response – Not an official definition but can share language out of project. Philosophically it is not thinking about room availability or faculty over needs ot students. Philosophy is about using predictive analytics to think moe about needs for sections and section types and how to use classroom resources to optimize space use and create more opportunities. This will be a feasibility study and development of recommendations that will facilitate conversation on what we want to adopt or phase in.
- Academic Affairs town hall on Wednesday September 9th from 2:00-4:00
  - Will have groups that will table to talk about things they are working on and create space for questions

ii. Isaac Brundage, Vice President for Student Affairs

- More students and more engagement from students in campus events
- FTIC # as of Tuesday at 2,065, Transfer 2,143 students
- 1st time in history of Chico State transfer is larger than 1st time in college
- Student affairs working on campus conversations to help with campus safety to have a holistic approach
- Basic needs piloted new program to identify students will potential issues with food insecurity or housing insecurity to participate in financial wellness program
  - Looking to expand so more proactive in helping students
- Black student success initiative proposal in progress so it can be submitted in September

iii. Monique Sendze, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer

- Over summer IT looked at classroom technology to access it
  - Able to fund some classroom refreshes –302 need work
  - 600,000 investment for 30 most critical classrooms
  - Will be investing in more in the future
- Campus technology infrastructure is currently working
  - 600 laptops checked out to students

    - 10,000 accounts provided on 1st day
    - Mobile app updated over summer to integrate more services and information
- Question – Transfer of bus passes from id to mobile. Students think it was decision made by AS due to verbiage. But it was not initiate by AS and they were in disagreement due to equity issues. Note email was misleading and ask it be clarified in follow up email.
- Response – Not an IT decision either but being managed by AS since it is funded by AS contract and Stateside. Intent of message was to convey this. Willing to work with AS to clarify this.
- Question – Given massive legal settlement around technology use and appropriates – what are we doing in our curriculum to help our students understand risk of addictive content creation
- Response from Provost – strong partnership to work on these issues and questions. Working to train faculty in how to teach students about AI, how to use it , and the risks. Building ethical use framework into teaching.
- Comment – Students scared or uncomfortable with ChatGPT so school of ed is teaching teachers to use AI so they understand how students use it. Teaching how to build AI in intentionally into classrooms.
- Comment – Faculty learning to approach use of AI but also lots of conversation on how to use other pedagogical styles to promote interpersonal interaction. Students like more engagement that fosters thought and discussion.
- Comment – Given students real world questions and also provides AI answers to show students that their answers need to be better that what AI can produce to get an A to help teach students how to think about value add.

iv. Jamie Clyde, Vice President for Business and Finance

- Audit season is happening – both financial and non financial
    - 3 Non-Financial audits –Governance of AI, Athletics, BSS Building
    - Additional audit of CSE already have occurred
    - President already shared most elements
- State allocation is still being held centrally so we don't currently know total allotment and are still running scenarios
    - 1st year of centralized benefit pool complete – we ran slightly short but process is going well and we will make adjustments
    - Centralized process are things like IT and back of the house components of benefits
- Open enrollment starts in min September
- Human ID Lab on track for fall 2027 semester
- Glenn Hall refresh work phase 1
- Collaboration with AS and campus on food trucks and shifted power to reduce generator use
- Gym refresh – electrical upgrades, floor refresh, and other upgrades throughout building
- New storefront for BMU
- Bike help has moved from bookstore to Holt hall

- Police chief recruitment
    - Previous chief moved to Butte College
    - Recruitment open in summer
    - Diverse committee formed to evaluate candidates
    - Hope to wrap up by end of September beginning of October
    - Currently have retired annuitant so short time clock for hiring
- Question – Is there a staff seat on the hiring committee
- Response – Committee not fully EMEDC so not necessarily
- Question – Work on Campus Safety Committee revision – had Chief of Police on the committee. Currently more lightly staffed and cooperative committee revision is ongoing. Combine ideas of free speech committee and safety committee to create new EM. Raises questions as new people are being hired. Is there some consideration of how safety and policing is managed to lesson burden on armed officers to manage emergency intervention. How ready and amenable would a new person be to joining in on these efforts.
- Response from FASP Chair – We are entertaining combined committee. It is on our yearly agenda
- Response – Thorpe is chairing committee and familiar with these issues. Previous chief was willing to participate so there is existing draw to looking at these issues in selection of new chief.

v. Kristine Mazzei, Vice President for University Advancement

- Advancement elevating campus and CSU forward especially around affordability
- Increased work fundraising for scholarships
- Working with Foundation board for Wildcat Scholarship to help enrollment
- Leveraging alumni networks to help with career preparation

4. Beatrix Teaney, Associated Students President

- AS VP of Facilities and Services resigned – working to fill vacancy
- Recruiting for councils and committees
    - Encourage students to apply through website
- CSSA being hosted in Chico with Presidents from all 23 campuses present
- Office hours for all team members starting next week
- Working with current Executive Director who started in July
- CSSA policy agenda open for key objectives and issues to be submitted
- Wednesday Sept 2nd 2:30 -4:00 pm is first Executive board meeting
- Question – Will meetings be posted on CatsConnect?
- Response – Generally are and minutes are posted online in advance. All meetings are open
- Response – Can bring initiatives or issues to AS to receive student feedback to help incorporate student voices.

5. Rana Marshall, Staff Council Chair

- Ask Me tables had strong turn out of students and volunteers
- Staff academic awards open soon - $1,000 scholarship

6. Elizabeth “Betsy” Boyd and Holly Kralj, Senators of the Academic Senate of California State University
- New ASCSU Senator Kralj introduced
- Provide overview and orientation on role of ASCSU and website to learn more - https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/academic-senate/Pages/default.aspx
- Updates on AB2236 - https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billCompareClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB2236&showamends=false
    - Tag on bill to explain who is responsible for curriculum content
    - B.6 in Bill notes that only 70% content alignment requirement for equivalency that could create issues for accreditation - This section was held under submission at University Accreditation Committee so is not currently not moving forward.
- Provided link to system level AI information - https://genai.calstate.edu/
- Two policy drafts on CSU Nondiscrimination and Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy
    - ASCSU Vice Chancellor for Human Resources has requested that faculty consultation occur on these issues
    - Please provide feedback either through forms or by contacting our ASCSU Senators directly.
- ASCSU will also have office hours throughout the semester and will work with Senate Chair to share these.

7. April Kamp-Whittaker, Academic Senate Executive Committee Secretary
8. Nicholas Burk, Faculty and Student Policies Committee Chair
- Committee agenda finalized tomorrow and circulated
- Constituents invited to provide issues for discussion

9. Kim Jaxon, University Curriculum Committee Chair

H. Other
- There are still open position for faculty or staff on standing committees
- Next Senate meeting October 8th
- More meetings can be called if needed

I. Adjournment

J. Meeting adjourned at 5:00

Respectfully submitted,
April Kamp-Whittaker, Academic Senate Secretary