



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: ACADEMIC SENATORS
FROM: Sarah Smith, Academic Senate Secretary
SUBJ: **ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES**
DATE: Thursday February 12, 2026, 2:30 p.m.

Senators Present: Ahern, Attarwala, Burk, Cline (proxy for Nichols), Coons, Dizard, Duran, Dutta, Elkins, Engebretson, Geier, Jaxon (proxy for Nice), Johnson, Kamp-Whitaker, Korber, Kredo, Lemmi, Li (proxy for He), Ma (proxy for Tian), Magnus, Paiva, Pouncy, Sargent, Smith, Takayama, Teague Miller, Thapa, Trailer, Underwood (proxy for Boyd), Weingartner, Weiland (proxy for Saunders), White, Yamada. Ex-Officio: Brundage, Clyde, Cornick, Perez, Morales.

Absent: Brookes, Kaiser, Mazzei, Sendze, Sueki, Weaver

Chair Coons called the meeting to order at 2:37 pm.

1. Reminder of our Community Agreements.
2. General Announcements.
 - Chair Coons: Calls for Senate positions are out. I encourage you all to engage your constituents.
 - CFA is having a welcome back meeting at Argus bar tomorrow.
 - The Office of Civic Engagement is offering a Community Connections Forum Feb. 26 5-7 in BSS 101 regarding city council. Free light dinner. Anyone is welcome but we're particularly trying to encourage students since Addison and Katie will likely be their representatives.
3. Approve Agenda
 - **Approved. (2:43)**
4. Approve Academic Senate Meeting Minutes from 11Dec2025
 - **Approved (2:44).**

New Business

5. Proposed Revisions to Academic Senate Bylaws—FASP Introduction Item
 - Senator Dutta: Ad hoc committee was formed and we discussed three main items from the original proposal. Tabled because the purpose of the ad hoc committee is to gather pros and cons and present it to Senate. We are in the second phase. The section regarding a modification to add a resolution no less than "48 hours" was changed to "two days."
 - Chair Coons: There was an interest in including this in the by-laws.
 - Senator Wiengartner: The reason we changed to two working days was that it was more consistent with other Senate documents and there is a substantive difference between "two workdays" and "48 hours."
 - Senator Paiva: We had suggested "academic workdays" since it is more consistent language. The academic calendar uses "instructional days" and "academic workdays" but those are actually different.
 - Chair Coons: Let's discuss.

- Senator Paiva: I made some other suggestions after reviewing the document again. Article II, Section 1 item C currently says “approval or modification of the agenda.” Remove the words “approval or.” I also made a few modifications that are consistent with Robert’s Rules.
- Senator Underwood: I want to clarify that, with this language, what we’re saying is that no matter what, if a resolution is one day early, we’re not going to add it to the agenda.
- Chair Coons: That is my understanding and the intent of the committee.
- Senator Dutta: If there was such a pressing item, nothing prevents the Senate from meeting on a Friday.
- **Approved.** Chair Coons: This is an introduction item. If you want to see this at action, vote yes. **(28 yes, 6 no). (3:02).**

6. Proposed Revisions to FPPP Section 10—FASP Introduction Item

- VP Mahalley Allen: One of the divisions of Academic Affairs is looking at how to make this a great place to work based on the survey, and regarding particularly Professional Development and Service. One of the relevant comments regards flexibility in work, and that is work besides publication which currently does not count for much, if anything at all. The working group worked on this among other issues, such as adding to your dossier how you’re working on equity gaps, for example.
- Senator Paiva: I opposed this at introduction as well in FASP. Is someone working on a similar addition to FPPP for lecturers? The answer was “no” at that point. In 8.1.3.a section: The language needs to be provided for lecturers as well so that they are not disadvantaged when it comes to their evaluations.
- Senator Matthew Teague Miller: One of the problems with making lists is that, the longer the list, the more it highlights the things you’re leaving out. In section 10.2.6a, the first sentence was very clear to me, but then the rest starts to get tricky. Can someone speak to why the list continues, rather than just the first sentence?
- VP Mahalley Allen: I appreciate this concern. I remember the committee saying that we wanted to identify some examples. In my own personal experience, in faculty evaluations, it’s good for the university to give examples regarding how faculty can do this work and meet expectations.
- Senator Underwood: In re-reading it, I see what you’re saying, Senator Teague Miller. I really appreciate the recognition of creative work that this document focuses on, so thank you for the work this required, and I also want to follow up on Marriane’s comment regarding the need to apply this to lecturers.
- Senator Ted Geier: The CBA should be reviewed as well because it will come down to specifics here, with regard to lecturers as well as faculty.
- Senator Matthew Teague Miller: In one part, it encourages “double-dipping,” but in 10.2.7e, it says to clarify if double-dipping is not allowed. That was an amendment at FASP, so the committee would have to identify why.
- Senator Korber: Our guidelines in the library specifically ask faculty to not “double-dip,” so this is part of the reason why the amendment was made.
- Senator Weingartner: Senator Nichols received comments from one of his constituents, so I recognize Dean Hassenzahl to speak on this.
- Dean Hassenzahl: In reviewing files, we have identified teacher-scholar work that is meaningful beyond its context in one of the two traditional areas, and so we think it should be recognized in more than one category.

- Senator Sargent: I echo Dean Hassenzahl's comment and I also wanted to identify that we wanted to encourage departments to consider the potential to consider activity as useful for both categories; the lines are blurred.
- Vice Chair Magnus: I appreciate the sentiment, though I'm open to changing the language. I don't consider activity that spans several categories as "double-dipping." In my file, try to spell out very clearly how the activity is useful for all the categories to which it applies.
- Senator Dutta: Supporting evidence often makes clear how activity can apply to more than one area of work. People are promoted for their professional duty, not their hobbies, so we may be putting ourselves at risk of lawsuit.
- Senator Korber: I am not against the language, we changed the terminology to "may" be permitted to be used in multiple areas. I am fine with this language.
- Senator Matthew Teague Miller: Because some areas identify how we cannot double count, I think we may want to change the language so that they're consistent. I'm not endorsing one or the other language, I'm just noting the inconsistency.
- Senator Kamp-Whitaker: When earlier revisions were made, I don't think we noticed that we introduced an inconsistency. If we remove "without double-counting," that would resolve the conflict.
- **Approved.** Chair Coons: If you would like this to come back at action, please vote yes. **(27 yes, 1 no)**. We will see this at action. (3:28).

7. Curriculum Approvals—UNCC Information Item

- 7.1. Significant Change, BA in Communication Studies
- 7.2. Name Change, Minor in Communication Studies
- Senator Matthew Teague Miller: Neither of these were controversial. No vote against either one of these Communication Studies proposals.

8. Proposed Office of Research and Innovation—Discussion Item (Prof Ben Seipel, 3:30pm time-certain) Communications

- Ben Seipel: I'll discuss five or six major items regarding the potential ideas, one of which is the Office of Research and Innovation; one is comparing CSUs regarding their approach to research and innovation and may inform the outcome-- it is comparing apples and oranges to some extent; SD State, for example, is a research university. This will include student populations, budgets, types of services they offer, stateside or auxiliaries for external grant funding. Another part is to gather input from faculty and staff, the preliminary results of that survey are in; there are also focus groups with faculty and students and so forth. Please email if you have suggestions.
- Ben Seipel: Another part is ways to build innovation and acceleration. It looks differently at different places but it's often at Colleges of Business since this is where seed money often goes.
- Ben Seipel: What models might work after considering these other components; for example SD has an office that encompasses everything, whereas smaller places have a programs office. Others have research compartmentalized in Graduate Studies. Chico State has a very decentralized approach to research. We will have some time to identify models to put forward and propose to Chico State.
- Ben Seipel: The impetus is essentially a customer service survey that was put forth regarding CSE. Some campus have a pre-award and post-award on stateside. Different models might work better depending on the type of grants we get. We want to figure out how we also support faculty that don't typically get grants. There are also some barriers with ITSS and policy in place.

The main push is to support faculty research. Some of the ideas that came forward last year included de-siloing, working differently with CSE. You can email me directly if you have questions or concerns.

- Chair Coons: What is the timeline?
- Ben Seipel: By the end of the semester, I should be able to identify a model that could be implemented over one or two years. For example, we used to have CELT office, whereas Faculty Development does some of the things CELT used to do. The model is ultimately the Provost's decision.
- Provost Cornick: I consider this essentially a feasibility study: what do faculty want and how can we provide it and operationalize it? One item I want to be very clear about is there are no plans to make any structural changes to CSE. The goal is to partner with CSE, pull some things they would like to do more of and try to do that. How do we best provide what faculty need?
- Senator Engebretson: How are different forms of inquiry--activism, arts, etc—how are they being taken into account in this initiative?
- Ben Seipel: This has come up: based on the results of the survey, there are ways that the Office could support folks working on art and other creative work that's not traditionally "research." This office could provide orientations, workshop support. One-stop concierge type place, like at Dominguez Hills, could be useful particularly in breaking down silos and centralizing seed funding. The number one thing faculty want is time and resources to do their work: more sabbaticals, more seed money.
- Provost Cornick: From my perspective, this is a placeholder of a name, the goal is to support faculty across all disciplines however scholarship and creative work is defined--providing faculty in non-STEM fields support to identify and secure external funding.
- Ben Seipel: There are sites like Pivot, Spin it, Grant search: these are tangible services that could benefit everybody.
- Senator Lemmi: This question is more for Provost Cornick, though feel free to jump in. Is part of the goal to increase research productivity? Are we trying to change our research designation?
- Provost Cornick: No, we are not trying to change our classification. We are already classified highly. The intention is to help increase productivity, but only insofar as faculty are interested in doing that; we are not interested in changing RTP standards. One of the metrics has shown us where we stand relative to the system. We have been #2 only behind SD State in total research dollars but it's driven by the Center for Regenerative Ag, the Collective, Center for Healthy Communities. If we look at faculty scholarship, we are much lower down and that is probably an issue related to the 4/4 teaching load. Incentive funds and matching dollars would be really helpful to match buy-outs. Anecdotally, there are challenges with using money through CSE, cost recovery and so forth. This is designed to be an opportunity to help faculty do the scholarship and work they're interested in.
- Senator Lemmi: I'm wondering if, regarding Ben's work, can you include a comparison of the teaching load alongside our research productivity? I am curious to see the load at other universities: for example, SF State is on a 3/3.
- Ben Seipel: You may also want to look at the articles for proposed negotiations, as they are considering allowing more research productivity for Full Professors.
- Vice Chair Amy Magnus: I am interested in what others are doing in cross-disciplinary research and how we can bring research to students given its utility as a high impact practice.
- Ben Seipel: Based on special action team's report, this is an important topic and it often comes down to funding. Leslie's call was about faculty research, but in meeting with many folks, it is clear that Graduate, Undergraduate and those research offices are one and the same as faculty

research. The IRB also is involved, and most of the oversight is for teaching and learning, and so student research is definitely part of the conversation. Policy is also involved, capital investments must be met by not only internal grants.

- Senator Dizard: Are there potential impacts on indirect rates and whether they might change as a consequence of the reorganization? The current Trump administration wanted to renegotiate indirect rates, each campus has a negotiated rate, pushing it down to 8-12%, which would make it nearly impossible for any campuses to do research. The person who was pushing for this at the federal level has stepped down, so this is not an immediate push, though it could come back.
- Senator Korber: Can we discuss Unit 3 faculty because we are leaving out a significant number of people when speaking of the “colleges”?
- Ben Seipel: I have a focus group coming up with librarians. Next Tuesday, after the Provost’s town hall, there will be more time for questions.

Bio break (time certain 3:45)

9. University Reports (Questions may be asked at the end of each report)

- 9.1. Cabinet—Pres. Perez/Prov. Cornick/VP Brundage/VP Clyde/UDO Morales/VP Sendze/VP Mazzei
- Provost Cornick: I’ve spent the last couple of days at an AI in Higher Education Symposium. One takeaway is that, in particular, regarding the work going on with IT and Faculty Development, we are far ahead in terms of how to use AI, teach students to use it ethically, how to address the ethical and environmental implications.
- Provost Cornick: From the monthly provost meeting today: there will be language coming to the Trustees in March to give us flexibility around student success, strategic plan, so I want us to think creatively about applied bachelors degrees and how to respond to community colleges’ interest in offering bachelors degrees, how we meet the needs of students in our service areas. Please think creatively about the kinds of programs we might consider offering in the future. For example, what would a bachelor’s degree of professional studies look like? Embedding teaching credentials in the degree we offer. On the doctoral side, we need to ensure we’re not competing with UCs, but we have opportunities such as the college of business, PsyD is a need across the state, health-related degrees. These conversations are happening at the higher levels, and I want to create a bit of a sense of urgency so that we can lead rather than catch up. The Research and Innovation office, or identifying some other entity, for supporting campus would be helpful. We appreciate all the work you all do in terms of retention and that is put into careers or graduate school programs. All of our blended programs: MPA, business, CAGD, have all been approved by chancellors office for Fall 2026.
- VP Brundage: We are suspending recruitment and intake for IFC fraternities. This is not the case for the multicultural fraternities. A plan of action is also being put forward, and they will engage students in the process.
- VP Brundage: Feb 24 at 9 in Colusa we have a Campus Safety Forum. It will assess processes related to safety: CARE Team, CBBC, follow-up and so forth.
- VP Clyde: We’re in the midst of turning in our Capital Outlay plan like we do every year, and the numbers are increasingly startling. We’re still looking at nearly a billion dollars deferred. \$300 million for remodeling of buildings. We often just get a total portfolio return of \$4 million. We turn this in on March 1. We’re running scenarios based on different funding plans.

- VP Clyde: We concluded the Student Organization and Student Conduct Audit and we did well. We're being recognized for Erika Romo's work on Title IX and that will be recognized at Trustees meeting.
- VP Clyde: Executive Director search for AS should start shortly.
- VP Clyde: On Tuesday, I worked with UPD and Chico Rotary Exchange and we recognized the officers of the year.
- Chair Coons: We'll have the schedules for the UBC meetings soon and will send that out.
- 9.2. Academic Senate of the CSU—ASCSU Senators Boyd and Underwood, ASCSU Agendas, Minutes, Resolutions, Summaries, January Plenary Documents.
- Jenn Underwood: Information regarding resolutions will be discussed at the next meeting in March. Some highlights:
 - Social mobility symposium hosted by CSU San Marcos occurred Feb 6.
 - Budget summary for CSU shows additional \$5.6 million for base funding initially proposed. It will be revised but the start looks great.
 - Department of Education and Professional Degrees: definition of a professional degree is related to the amount that a student can borrow. Eligibility of funding based on career: may be determined by their earnings in their field. I will keep you updated as we discuss in the plenaries.
 - Community colleges and bachelors degrees: Chancellors will continue this conversation. Contracted with West Ed to see program duplication, report came in at the end of October. The CSU is waiting to review this and put together a comment on that. Hope to know more about this after the next plenary.
 - Grant funding sponsored by Adobe: systemwide contract with Adobe. Due by March 2.
 - Alumni offices would like to have more connections with alumni. They should be notified when alumni are visiting and parking be coordinated.
 - Take a look at the resolutions and provide me some feedback—I have included an anonymous form, so feel free to ask questions. Feb. 27 is the deadline.
- Provost Cornick: Regarding the degrees not meeting the earnings test, we discussed it in the provost meeting. I'm reviewing the report, but it looks like Chico State does not have any on this list. We're thinking about how to address this systemically across all campuses; our career centers might be receiving outreach requests. One thing in the near term is engaging with alumni in your programs, check in with them about what they're doing and if they have a job yet.
- Provost Cornick: We already have one proposal for the Adobe grant. Only one per campus is allowed.
- 9.3. Associated Students Report – AS Senator Weiland
 - Senator Takayama: Academic Senate 1-2:30. We will continue with the bylaw process. Elections for 2026-2027 are now open for students. Deadline is March 4. Four government affairs students will attend Student Summit, all CSUs will be represented
- 9.4. Staff Council Report (January, February) – Staff Council Chair Elkins
 - The December Cats Caught Being Awesome was Shannon Grubert.
 - 5 student clubs vying for Wildcat sponsorship: Sigma Omega Pi did an amazing presentation and will be receiving \$2000.
- 9.5. Standing Committee Reports
 - 9.5.1. University Curriculum Committee Report – UNCC Chair Miller
The fruits of our labor were discussed above.
 - 9.5.2. Faculty and Student Policies Committee Report – FASP Chair Geier

We've had a very productive start to the semester.

10. Other

- Jenn Underwood: I wanted to state that I am not running again for statewide ASCSU position so that I can work on RTP. Feel free to reach out and ask if you're curious about what it entails. Monday is the deadline.
- Chair Coons: 5 pm tomorrow, the musical theater folks are going to NY. We do it every February but we do one on-campus group performance before they go to NY. ARTS recital.
- Senator Weiland: Over 1700 students competing next Saturday at Chico State; the high school students competing at Chico State will be wearing blue corduroy jackets.

11. Adjourned at 4:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Smith, Academic Senate Secretary