



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: ACADEMIC SENATORS
FROM: Michael Coons, Academic Senate Secretary
SUBJ: **ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES**
DATE: Thursday February 6, 2025, 2:30 p.m.

Zoom: <https://csuchico.zoom.us/j/6929553877?pwd=WFNQb29hdlMrMXZMbmXuam5sZzBRdz09>

Meeting ID: 692 955 3877

Passcode: shark

Senators Present: Attarwala, Boyd, Coons, Feng, Geier, Gibson, He, Johnson, Jones, Kaiser, Kamp-Whitaker (proxy Ahern), Kralj, Lemmi, Ma, Maday, Magnus, McBride-Praetorius, Medic, Miller, Morales, Newell, Nichols, O'Brien, Peterson, Sistrunk, Smith (proxy Cline), Sullivan, Tian, Trailer, Traver, Underwood, Villani, Weingartner, White, Zeichick. Ex-Officio: Clyde, Cornick, Perez, Sendze.

Absent: Draper, Gapa, Kachiwala, Klobodu, Magnus, Moss, Boura, Brundage.

Chair Trailer called the meeting to order at 2:35 pm.

1. Approve Minutes of 12Dec2024
 - **Approved.**
2. Approve Agenda
 - **Approved.**
3. Proposed Revision of EM 17-004 Statement on Final Exams – EPPC Action Item
 - (2:40 pm) Dean Patten introduced and fielded questions. Noted there has been a lot of consultation with students (over 600). This revision now matches actual practices on campus.
 - Motion: (Sistrunk) to strike the first line of the first paragraph referencing a possible disciplinary action. **Approved (27 Yes, 0 No).**
 - Motion: (Boyd) To change language in the second sentence of the second sentence. Deletion of “While not required” and change “must” to “should”. **Approved (28 Yes, 0 No).**
 - **Approved (32 Yes, 0 No).**
4. *Curriculum Approvals* – EPPC Information Item (3:04 pm)
 - MS in Earth and Environmental Science - Significant Change
 - Minor in Physical Education - Significant Change
 - Minor in 3D Digital Modeling and Environments – New Program Proposal
 - Minor in Finance – New Program Proposal
5. Announcements and Communications
 - Reimagining Chico State Academic Affairs – Provost Cornick: (3:05 pm) The special action team has provided their report, which has been shared with campus and is available on the webpage. We are now moving into Phase 2 with the goal of providing options to put out to the campus

for feedback. There will be a series of three expos that will provide the (now three) suggested options, where in people can provide feedback. The hope is by April to be down to one option. This restructure will not be enough to bridge the current \$7M budget hole. If we do this process well, we should be able to save around \$2M per year. The restructuring is not budget-driven, but it does help. The provost encourages everyone to participate in this process.

- Supplemental admission criteria change for Nursing – Mitchell-Brown/Sawyer: (3:16 pm) Nursing would like to move to a more wholistic admission, to not only consider academics, but to consider the applicant as a whole, to support DEI. This change would also address the shortage and help our own Chico students be successful. Sawyer gave a slide presentation explaining the changes.

6. University Reports

- Cabinet
 - Pres. Perez: (3:36 pm) It's an extremely chaotic time right now. The governor has released his January budget proposal, which continues to include the 7.89% decline to the CSU budget. The "state of the university" presentation is coming up soon. Enrolment is moving forward. Choose Chico is March 1st, and registrants are higher than last year, which was a record. The grand opening of the BSS building was Tuesday. We were number two in the system last year for research and sponsored projects in the CSU! We are doing really well with applications from Riverside County. Noted the significant cuts and changes at Sonoma State. We continue to watch the national situation and consider the possible impacts. Track/Field/Cross country teams are celebrating their 100th year!
 - VP Clyde: (3:50 pm) There has been a lot of advocacy at the Board of Trustees. A lot of time has been spent on understand what it really means to lose 8% of our budget. Note that with new buildings going up, she acknowledged the FMS team has worked really hard and put a lot of effort in. The UBC meetings will be up and rolling in two sets, the large forums and Q&As and the smaller planning group that will look at suggestions, modifications, and cuts. We had a very intense Cleary audit, and we have already cleared all of the recommendations. We are working with a mutli-university collaborations to look at shared services such as procurement, IT support, and benefits. Pres. Perez noted that the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) will be enacted more frequently, since it is an exceptionally efficient way to communicate information—so it may not be an emergency if it is enacted, just something important.
 - UDO Morales: (4:06 pm) Webinar series about equipping you with ways to have difficult conversations. Discussed the Diversity Certificate program and workshops' foci. (4:16 pm) There was some discussion/questions around the US President's comments on DEI and possible disruption with funding and other issues.
 - VP Sendze: (4:11 pm) Discussed the CSU partnership with Open AI, making it available to all of our students and noted a few of the benefits (e.g., workforce development) for our faculty and students. We have an 18-month agreement with Open AI, VP Sendze and Provost Cornick are the "campus champions". (4:23 pm) Discussed questions surrounding security and noted that our model will be a blank slate and will not be allowed to "touch" the other AI versions, that is, this will be a private secure environment, available only to people with Chico State credentials. The chancellor's office is working on ethical guidelines that will help us. Senator White noted that it feels like AI is still the wild west right now and we are diving right in, so asked about clarification around this, and how this connects to the view that we are at university to

become better people (4:36 pm)—many comments and answers were given. AS Pres. Sullivan noted the concerns, but that also many benefits about transferable skills.

- Provost Cornick: (4:47 pm) See the above Announcement for Cornick’s comments.
- Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU)
 - (Boyd / Underwood): (4:47 pm) Note the attached report. There is information in the report from our Trustee Yee-Melichar. The report contains discussions of civil rights in the current climate, and Senator Underwood noted that each campus has a designee responsible for the area (ours is UDO Morales). There is a list of the approved resolutions, as usual, including those that have gone through the first reading process that will be discussed next time. Senator Boyd noted that they represent the whole faculty of Chico State, so any and all feedback is appreciated, whether or not it comes from our senate. Senator Boyd noted that, given the budget, any advocacy we can do right now is important—legislators, government officials, everyone needs to know the good we are doing for our communities and the north state, and we need to provide a united front.
- Associated Students Report
 - AS President Sullivan: (4:59 pm) Report was uploaded into the chat. Noted that the “student vibes” are troubling in response to the federal government. Noted that AS student government elections are coming up. February 11th there will be a Women in STEM event. The Board of Directors meetings are kicking off.

7. Adjourn at 5 pm

- Adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Coons, Academic Senate Secretary