

ACADEMIC SENATE
MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2026

Approved 2-19-26

11:30 AM - 12:50 PM

PLN-130

Present: Ahmad, Badal, Barber, Barros, Becerra, Blandon-Gitlin, Bono, Bonuso, Bruschke, Carlin, Ceisel, Chen, Chik, Childers, Dabirian, Fontaine, Ghosh, Gradilla, Graewingholt, Jarvis, Kalczynski, Kanel, Kleinjans, Kuffner, Landeros, Larios, LeeKeenan, Luker, Mallicoat, Martin, Plouffe, Robinson, Rochon, Salguero, Salim, Setten, Shahrestani, Struckhoff, Swarat, Thomas, Tobias, Valdez, Valencia, Wilson, Wood, Wynants
Absent: Miller, Milligan, Rutkowski, Tsong, Weismuller

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jarvis called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

In Memoriam

- Dr. Arthur A. Hanson, Emeritus Professor of History and Asian American Studies [died October 30, 2025, age:87]

II. URGENT BUSINESS

- No urgent business.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (Becerra) There are several events and services for students that will be offered by Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) throughout the semester. Flyers are available in the meeting Dropbox folder.
 - [Mental Health Resource Fair](#)
 - [Drop-in Groups](#)
 - [Wellness Workshops](#)
 - [Therapy Groups](#)

So, there are lots of great resources happening out of our counseling and psychological services for you to refer students to. Feel free to forward those electronically, post on whatever media you have.

If you have any questions, please contact our CAPS office, their contact information is on the flyers.

Q: (Kanel) I wanted to verify. If we walk a student to CAPS, can we go to the Student Health Center or do we have to go across the street?

A: (Becerra) All counseling and psychological services now are done through Titan Hall. You can send the walkover as well through the online form, but if you are physically going to go with the student, it's over in Titan Hall.

- (Chik) Our cultural celebration registrations are open through DIRC. If you have students who are interested in signing up, check out their social media pages.
- (Deputy Provost Walker) Our Arboretum donated flowers for the Cal Poly Rose Parade Float, which won an award.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- M/S/P (Kanel/Wynants) Motion to approve the December 11th AS Minutes. Motion passed.
- 4.1 ASD 25-126 Academic Senate Minutes 12-11-25 (Draft)

V. REPORTS

1. [Chair's Report](#)

- The only thing I will add to my chair's report is to just put a button on the idea that when you do have amendments for UPS documents, if you know them in advance, please send those to us at academicsenate@fullerton.edu. That's very helpful for the body because then the staff can put your amendments exactly where you want them. It speeds the business of the Senate. So, any time you can send those in, that's very helpful. Even if you come up with it during the meeting.

2. President Report

- It's good to be back and welcome everybody. I spent my very first holiday season here in SoCal this year. My wife, my kids, and we were all together and we were excited about not being in Indiana. We knew there was going to be a beautiful holiday, and we had nothing but rain. But it was much better than the snow and ice back in the Midwest, so, it was still a beautiful holiday season. So, I welcome you all back, welcome all of our students as well.

I got to meet with our students as recent as yesterday afternoon, the Big 3. I also met with ASI leadership this week as well, just to welcome them back also.

I want to just really express my sincere appreciation on behalf of the students. Several students have stopped me indicating their appreciation of what's happened at this university with regard to safety, concern, grace, empathy.

Quite often, students are, and other folks are thanking me, and I deserve no thanks. The thanks go to the people in this room and outside of this room. So, I really celebrate our faculty and staff for all that you have and continue to do to make this place so intimately special, so intentional with your touches to our students on the intellectual development.

We talked with the students the other day about de-escalation, about the power of de-escalation, and about the power of them understanding certain circumstances that they may walk into, unbeknownst to them, that could cause danger without predicting it whatsoever. I'm just reminding folks to please utilize their protocol card that we have, that's been developed. We've had so many people pour into their card with great intentionality. Our students were extremely responsive. I've asked ASI leadership in particular to carry this baton of de-escalation, ways in which we continue to communicate to our students, not only as faculty, as staff, but also as parents and as guardians who want them home safely.

What we saw on television in Minnesota was unpredictable, it was horrific. I'm telling our students; we want you safe. We want you to get home safe. We want you to be with us and us to come together to find ways in which we can investigate anything that has been going in the wrong direction with regard to policy and behavior. I can't express the importance of us being a model, a blueprint for our students on what this looks like and what this means with regard to their safety and our collective safety as well. Please use that card, and if you have any questions, we have Cecil Chik, John Beisner, Chief Frisbee. We have so many people around campus that are prepared to answer your questions.

- I wanted to remind folks that we spoke about the Provost search at the last meeting in December. We had decided to go ahead and extend the search with the current pool. I promised this body that we would get to work immediately. We will have candidates on campus next week, January 26th, 28th, and the 29th.

Open forums will be available for faculty and staff. Please participate and please provide your feedback as well.

- The University Advancement search also has been extended. Please hold the dates of April 7th through 9th on your calendars for the advancement candidates and their visits to campus.
- I want to publicly thank Laleh for her presentation she provided us with regard to our budget. Thank you, Laleh, for stepping in and giving this body a great explanation of where we are. We appreciate all that you've done. Dr. Garcia sent out a memo to the entire CSU system just recently about the budget as well, just affirming everything that Laleh has said.

We will have a board of trustees meeting next week; there will be another public discussion about the budget. I ask you all to tune in for any additional updates at that point.

- Also, I wanted to express my appreciation for the campus community with your continued patience with our capital projects, all of our construction projects that are going on right now, with the Engineering Computer Science Hub is making significant progress. Landmark Hall is making progress as well.

Phase five of our student housing is occurring. I took a tour last week with the cabinet and some additional folks. I'll tell you right now, many of you all have never seen amenities like this for a living. These students are not going to leave Cal State Fullerton; it is that nice. It is absolutely gorgeous. I'm really proud of what's going on.

- Commencement will be here before you know it. My first year, we matriculated over 11,000 students walking across that stage. Both I and Amir, we shook a lot of hands. It's one of the happiest days of not only the graduates' life, but I think our lives as well.

One thing occurred over and over again with last year's commencement was that sun; there were several calls for health professionals to come to bring aid immediately to those in the audience because the sun was so intense. Some of our exercises were far too long. What we're going to do, I will be very transparent with you. I have stepped in and indicated to each of the deans that we need to streamline these exercises and need to add a couple more to make them shorter. You all know this as well as I do, families do not come to see the president, the provost, the dean, they come to see their graduate. We will keep this respectful; we will keep it in order. We will still highlight pomp and circumstance as an institution should, but we're going to get to what people are there for, those graduates.

I will admit that it's going to be a little bit more stressful on us with regard to time and presence. The Provost and I have talked about this with the cabinet and with the deans and with several other folks across campus too.

I want to thank Kimberly Shiner and her entire advancement team, they have worked hard at creating a very streamlined, respectful, engaging commencement exercise opportunity for us to enjoy and to celebrate.

- And then my last announcement that I wanted to mention to you all again is last semester right before we went to break, we were really grieving as a community because we had two students to pass away.

One of the students involved in an e-scooter accident, I remember the first time I saw her in the hospital, I left her hospital room just depleted because of the way she appeared and also the prognosis that the doctors were providing. Well, I want to let you all know that Ashlyn Gwynn is doing amazingly well.

She sent a video and the video is actually her walking up and down the stairs with her therapist. She sent another video just expressing happy holidays to the campus community. So, I just want to thank everyone who has supported these families and continue to support them as well. They appreciate it more than I can express to you. It's a beautiful moment to see those two videos and to see the progress that she is making.

Q: (Mallicoat) One question, you mentioned that we will be having open forums this next week. Do we have time for that, given that it is Thursday? And I know we tend to get the candidate information 24 hours ahead; can we request that those maybe come out on Friday so that way those faculty and staff that are able to shut their laptops over the weekend and have some work-life balance, will have that information prior to Monday morning?

A: (VP McCullough) Yes, the information will go out later this afternoon to the campus community, and we will make the CVs available in the portal, so you have time to review those candidates prior to the open forum.

In addition, the open forum, I do believe, is scheduled at 1:00 pm or 2:00 pm for two of the candidates. And the third candidate, I do believe it will be a little later in the day. We are looking at the room scheduling to see if we can accommodate our normal schedule, so you can plan accordingly.

Q: (Valdez) I'm super excited that we're continuing with the search, President Rochon, but I do want to share some frustration.

As a member of the search committee, this is the first I'm hearing of those campus visits. There was a last-minute meeting scheduled for Tuesday and several of us had to teach and we notified them. We haven't received any updates in writing or calendar invites, so it's very stressful to now think that it's a few days away and I have things booked and I now have to rearrange things to be able to participate. So that's a big concern in terms of transparency and shared governance, because I don't feel like I'm a part of the shared governance having just heard this at the same time as other people.

So, I would like to request if there is a time for committee interview scheduled so I can quickly work to rearrange my schedule to be able to attend that.

A: (President Rochon) Let me be real clear, Senator. I mentioned last semester that I was going to work hard to make this happen immediately when we returned. So, this is not a surprise, that's number one.

Number two, I know for a fact that the chair has done her very best to not bother you over the break. So I want to be clear because I was clear with the chair to give folks some distance over the break so they can actually be prepared when they come back to engage in the work. But I guess I'm a little confused on the surprise tone.

- (Valdez) So, it's not the surprise. I would have preferred an invite being sent over the break, because then it would at least be in my calendar.
- (President Rochon) Let me just say, I was intentional on not bothering you. I'm trying hard to make sure that when we have a break, that we give you the break. So, I own that.
- (Valdez) Additionally, several of us sent emails requesting could we move the time an hour back for that meeting and no response for over a week from anyone on that search. So, that's more than just you dropping the ball. They met Tuesday, it's Thursday, and I still don't have any e-mail update, or a calendar invite for any of those dates and times, so I think it's a bigger issue than that.
- (VP McCullough) So yes, we could not accommodate everyone's schedule, and we did proceed with that time. In addition, we are coordinating and scheduling times. We had conversations possibly trying to see if we could push some dates out, and we were unable to do that due to the president's calendar. We were trying to see if we could push it out to the first week of February and could not make that happen.

You will receive an e-mail later today to coordinate times for the search committee. And we discussed on Tuesday, possibly being flexible to see what we could move around to accommodate the faculty.

3. [Provost Report](#)

- I want to give you a couple updates about enrollment. I think it's important that, you know, the spring enrollment has been very strong. Last year, this time we had about 41,000 students, now we're at 42,399 students. So, we have almost 1,400 more headcounts. Now, this is not as impressive as the next stat.

We have over 1,600 FTEs higher than last year. It's the first time we have more FTEs than headcount added in a spring semester, and it is to the hard work of all of you accommodating students, encouraging students to take more classes. FTEs means the students are taking more classes and that's really critical to their success and moving on into graduation.

This means all the IR targets have been met, we met all of our targets across the board. All the colleges met their target or were near their target. But when you look at the academic year, all of them met the target. Headcounts to FTEs, to full-time enrollments, is at 84%. This is one of the highest we have had for a long time. That means, again, the FTEs are high.

Next year, as I said to all of you, we have 500 new FTEs coming to us as a university, Laleh talked about this in the budget presentation. But there is a compact that may be awarded by the governor coming. So, there's possibility we may get more FTE's coming to the campus. This is all great for us as an institution, so keep up the great work. I really appreciate all of you and appreciate everything you're doing.

- One more thing, we added more space. If you have a chance, go to the first floor of College Park and you can see they have this collaborative space that we create for students, and you go to the first floor of Langsdorf Hall, and we have actually redone some of that and put up some stand-up furniture for students. We have been trying to work more and more to create better spaces for students, faculty, and staff.
- The last thing I want to bring up, I don't want to get into politics of it, but as you heard there's a lot of things going on in Iran, and you have a lot of students in your classes that are from Iran. I just want to make sure that you extend grace to those students because they could have family members that are in trouble back home.
 - (Jarvis) Just a point of clarification. I just want to note that those 500 FTEs, is an increase in our budgeted FTEs; it is not an increase in our expected number of students being taught.
 - (Provost) Absolutely. Last time we talked about it, our numbers for fall will remain the same. We are looking at the same number of FTEs and same number of headcounts. We're looking at 45,000 students for fall of 2026, same amount of FTEs as last year. What we're looking at that we were about 10% over, we're going to be probably about 8% over enrolled as we explained last time.
 - (President Rochon) Chairman, please indulge me for one second. I want to go back to Senator Caro. You know, I want to make sure that you heard from me directly. The objective with all of our searches is never to avoid shared governance. I take that very seriously. I've leaned on several members of this community to serve on these search committees. And right now, we are not only searching for a provost and advancement VP, we're also searching for deans as well. We have a lot going on. My goal over the break was to give you what I said, a break intentionally. It was not to drop the ball. And then also to make sure we got to work immediately with regard to the availability. My calendar is crazy. So I want to make sure that you hear me, the frustration, I appreciate, I respect, and I'm sorry you're frustrated, but I want you to know that I don't feel like I've dropped the ball. I was intentional with when I told the chair, leave people alone, let them rest. We'll come back, we'll hit the ground running. So I want everyone to understand the intentionality of how we're doing it and why we're doing it. We have a lot of searches in front of us, a lot of work, and a lot of time has to go into this. I'm leaning on a lot of folks. And I'll tell you right now, the committee folks in particular, the chairs know the cause that they received from me is get it done. Let's get these folks here. We're working with candidate schedules, working with my work. It is complicated. And so I apologize, nothing's perfect, but it is not to be less transparent and it's definitely not to avoid or disrespect shared governance. Thank you.

4. [Statewide Academic Senate Report](#)

- (Kanel) I really want feedback from you all. I realize sometimes when I go vote and I'm on my committee, academic affairs, it's often my own value system. And I realize I need to represent you all and what your value systems are too.

We're working on some heavy stuff like use of AI, the idea of Cal States being part of the workforce, preparing students to go into the workforce.

What I want to mention is the concept of systemness. I am opposed to it in many ways, but I shouldn't be presenting my voice only. If you all like that concept, let me know and then I can change my tune a little bit when I advocate for things. So, I'd like to know what the will of people are, you all, in terms of all the system, all the CSUs being, having the same kind of policies. That's what we mean by systemness.

Please send me emails, send Alejandro emails or Mike Mulligan, and we make sure when we vote, we do incorporate your feedback.

Q: (Jarvis) In the report, it mentioned a bill pending in the legislature to hold CSU accountable for the income of our graduates as compared to high school graduates.

Is there any word on how serious this is, or is this one of the many thousands of bills that is going to go nowhere?

A: (Kanel) Yes, this is another area that my committee, we're fighting against. We don't think that's a good sign to define student success. So, we are working to have other ways to measure student success other than income in terms of comparing us to high school graduates. They're trying to see whether higher education is even worth it or not.

One of the things I've been working on is that higher education has been related to less usage, if you will, of need for social services in terms of less violence. So, we're looking also at how we benefit the

public good. And that is what we're really fighting for these days, that higher education goes towards the public good in general, not just creating incomes of people.

5. [ASI Report](#)

6. CFA Report

- (Ceisel) I just want to share our excitement about the budget news, 5% increase to the CSU, as well as, you know, as we welcome more students to campus and increase our FTES, keeping an eye on our faculty to student ratio and making sure we're replacing tenure lines as people retire. We've been hearing from librarians as well as CAPS about issues in terms of their staffing.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 ASD 25-115 Revisions to 411.104 - Policy on Online Instruction

- M/S/ (Childers/Kanel) Motion to approve ASD 25-115 Revisions to 411.104 - Policy on Online Instruction.

- M/S/F (Malicoat/Gradilla) Motion for the changes listed below. Motion failed.

(Hand vote: Yes = 18, No = 21, Abstentions = 6)

- Line 19: replace the wording "and also includes at least two of the following", with "shall include the following".
- Line 20: add the wording "with original content created by faculty".
- Line 24: add the wording "In addition, online courses should reflect best practices for online teaching"
- Line 25: delete the wording "Facilitating a group discussion regarding the content of a course or competency"
- Line 26: add the wording "may include"

Back to the main motion

- M/S/P (Dabirian/Kalczynski) Lines 69-71: motion to delete the wording "Instructors should give as much advance notice as is practical. Instructors and department chairs are very strongly discouraged from scheduling online instructional time in week 1, in order to assist students who are trying to find and add the course." and replace it with "Instructors should give as much advance notice to students as is practical and notify the department chair and department staff."
- (Kalczynski) Amendment to read "Instructors should give as much advance notice to students as is practical and shall notify their department office (e.g., by e-mail, phone, or in person) about the timing of Online Instruction in In-Person courses." *Considered friendly.*
- M/S/P (Childers/Shahrestani) Lines 73-75: motion to move the text that reads "and instructors shall notify their department office (e.g., by e-mail, phone, or in person) about the timing of Online Instruction in In-Person courses.", to line 52.
 - M/S/P (Jarvis/Graewingholt) Motion to replicate the Childers/Shahrestani amendment to both lines 53 and 73. *Considered friendly.*

Back to the Dabirian/Kalczynski motion. Motion passed.

Back to the main motion

- M/S/ (Dabirian/Kleinjans) Lines 78: motion to add the wording "Instructors are required to obtain the department chair's approval to change modality to online for the first and last week of the current term."
- (Jarvis) Line 79: replace the word "and" with "or". *Considered friendly.*
- (Graewingholt) Line 79: add the wording "from in-person". *Considered friendly.*
- M/S/ (Valdez/Ceisel) Line 79: motion amend to remove the wording "last week".

6.2 ASD 26-03 Revisions to UPS 260.102 - Sabbatical Leaves

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- M/S/P (Badal/Wood) Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.