

ACADEMIC SENATE
MINUTES
MAY 1, 2025

Approved 8-28-25

11:30 AM - 12:50 PM

PLN-130

Present: Badal, Barber, Barros, Becerra, Blandon-Gitlin, Bonuso, Brusckke, Casem, Chik, Childers, Dabirian, Fontaine, Garcia, Ghosh, Gradilla, Graewingholt, Jarvis, Kakihara, Kanel, Kleinjans, Landeros, Luker, Martin, Miller, Nair, Ong, Plouffe, Robinson, Sacco, Salim, Scher, Stanley, Swarat, Syed, Thomas, Tsong, Valdez, Wilson, Wynants

Absent: Brown, Ebrahimi, Guo, Larios, LeeKeenan, Mallicoat, Milligan, Palencia Gutierrez, Rochon, Valencia, Weismuller, Wood

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. URGENT BUSINESS

➤ No urgent business.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

➤ (Miller) Congratulations to Women’s golf, the first Big West Championship in the history of golf at Cal State Fullerton. They start the NCAA championship round in Arizona this weekend.

Also, congratulations to both baseball and softball for hosting the Big West Championships, which will be here this week for softball and then towards the end of the month for baseball.

Q: (Jarvis) Do we know if that scoreboard is going to be finished in time?

A: (Miller) Yes. I think it’s going to be done for this weekend.

➤ (Bonuso) Last weekend we had 12 Cal State Fullerton students compete in a statewide research competition, and we had two students’ place. First place went to Cassandra Euan from Biology, master student. Second place went Max Weisner, who’s actually Erica Thomas’s student. So, we were super excited to have two students placed in that competition.

➤ (Salim) Last week the statewide Geography conference was held at Cal State Stanislaus University. Cal State Fullerton students received the highest number of awards of any institution in California.

➤ (Chik) Our cultural celebrations are starting this week. There is a change to one of our celebrations. Our Native American Indigenous Resource Center will be hosting their celebration on May 9th instead of this Friday, we had some students report they couldn’t come because of work. So, we worked with some folks to make sure logistically we could enhance the attendance for that celebration.

IV. TIME APPROXIMATE

11:40 PM

Topic: Q & A - Fiscal State of the University - Spring 2025

Presenter: VP Porter

VP Porter joined the meeting to answer questions regarding the Fiscal State of the University Presentation that was given at the April 24th AS meeting.

Q: (Stanley) Slide 27, the general practice of your office regarding future projections, planning assumptions. I brought it up earlier in previous meetings about planning for exogenous shocks in enrollment coming from Washington and sensitivity analysis. Apparently, that’s not there right now, it’s only based on California budget changes. I don’t know if your office in the future, with the enrollment management hiring, will be considering different types of projections for the future which include the changing landscape.

A: (Porter) As you mentioned the changing landscape right now, not having definitive parameters as to what we could project around is extremely difficult. I will say that our operating budget, as we talked about before, is based on state funding and all of those things. Our enrollment could be affected by a couple of things. One obviously is the ability for us to continue to deliver financial aid at the current rate and the way that we're doing that. So, if that changes, that could have obviously an adverse effect on our budget. For us to be able to predict obviously what that could be, it's extremely difficult for us.

The way that the State budget works for us is that we will be funded at a level based on the target that has been set. Where we run into a situation in the middle of a budget year where it could be a problem if the enrollment starts to fluctuate for all these extenuating issues. It will result in that first year and it would affect our revenue, basically the tuition dollars that we generate in that place. If there is a long-term effect from that, then we'll be adjusted in the subsequent year if we are not able to meet FTEs targets.

- (Provost) It's been very challenging when there's outside influences. The way it is, we don't know exactly what is coming. If you look at the federal government impact for us, which is the grants. We look at financial aid and what's the impact of the state. If the state has to step in and put money where there was money pulled away from the federal government, it's going to have an impact. There is a lot of uncertainty right now, we're looking at all aspects of things, but I don't know if we can really predict anything.

The major thing is financial aid, and we want to make sure it is sustained. So far, we have heard nothing that it's not going to be funded moving forward.

- (VP Porter) My understanding of the financial aid situation is that the current Pell Grant programs are not directly under threat at this moment. The Department of Education did some shifting around in terms of how loans are being managed, I think they have been shifted over to the Small Business Administration. I don't know if there have been any early indications, in terms of the war packages we're currently putting out or looking to put out. There hasn't been any indication from the feds that those programs would be changing at this point.
- (Jarvis) There actually are proposed plans from one of the parties that happens to be in the majority, to significantly affect Pell and other things. It was an article in Politico two days ago.

Q: (Bruschke) In 2019-20, our baseline funding was \$460 million, then five years later in 2023 it was \$527 million, an increase of about \$67 million in five years, that's 14%. So, for the most recent data we have, for the most 5-year period, funding for the campus at a baseline level has gone up by 14%. During that same time, student enrollment only went up by 2.9%. So, the amount of funding we get is exceeding vastly the number of additional students we need to serve. Over that same period, the number of tenure track faculty had declined by 15.

What concerns me is over this period of relative prosperity where we have been growing, our budget has been growing quickly, we have still been cutting back on tenure track faculty and I know next year doesn't look great, and maybe not the year after that. How in the budget planning process are we attempting to maintain a high quality tenure track faculty if we are cutting them regardless of the state of the budget?

A: (Porter) With the increase of dollars over the last few years, and the percentages that you are referring to, I have to go back, and I can pull and look at those numbers directly. If you want, we can come back to a future meeting and talk about those numbers specifically and show you exactly where those dollars came in and where they went.

Off the top of my head, my basic understanding is that even though enrollment went up at a certain clip, different than the amount you are referring to, in terms of the overall budget increase, we did collectively over that time did have collective bargaining increases during that time. Even though enrollment went at that point, additional dollars were put out for other activities across the campus, not limited to just supporting directly enrollment. There was historical and continuing on increases associated with salary increases for all the bargainers that settle contracts in addition to management.

- (Provost) It is very critical for Academic Affairs to maintain our density and tenure faculty. Last year we did 47 searches, one of the largest ones that we have done. Our number of tenure track searches increased last year. Also, working with Admin and Finance for the past year, with our large increase in enrolment, we were actually able to add more lines. There were 30 new lines allocated to tenure track this year from the institution.

There is an increase that we're looking at to keep the density of certain departments that have been very low increase to higher and also be able to hire more faculty members. This year we're about 30 faculty members; on average we do 30 to 35. We went from 35 to 47, so we anticipate increasing it. It's hard to do now than before because of the budget impact of the increase. Not all of it can go back to the faculty lines because of everything that goes along with it, but it is key to maintain density.

I worked all year with budget and VP Porter to ensure that as we go up, we try to maintain as much as possible the tenure density. We have been working hard with his office to make sure that is not completely on a decline like other campuses.

Q: (Graewingholt) Two of your slides highlighted a roughly 40% year-over-year reduction in library acquisitions, notably representing the largest cuts across expenditure categories and the concerning reliance on Academic Affairs carryover funds to support our budget. While I believe some of these savings may stem from systemwide negotiations at the Chancellor's office, I want to underscore the longstanding and well documented financial needs of the library to maintain essential scholarly resources critical for student faculty success. You noted that campus expenses continue to rise while the overall budget remains flat. Respectfully, I would argue that no area fills this more acutely than the library, particularly given that annual subscription costs of academic databases, journal subscriptions, and other resources increase at a rate that far outpaces inflation.

It's important to remind all senators that the cuts made to the library's operating budget during the Great Recession and the Pandemic have not been restored and the operating budget has not increased in more than a decade. Had our budget been augmented with inflation, our current operating baseline budget would be more than a million dollars higher than it currently is. This issue was explicitly noted in our last publicly available Program Performance Review (PPR). For those who have not read our PPR, historically the library has not hired faculty and staff in order to use salary savings to cover and maintain critical databases and academic subscriptions.

My central question is why does the library not have a budget formula that accounts for inflationary costs as other CSU sister campuses do? And additionally, why does our campus continue to allocate significantly less funding per FTE to the library than comparable institutions?

A: (Porter) You referenced the number of 40% and what it referenced here as the library acquisitions. To be clear what this number represents, it's basically a third quarter comparison from quarter to quarter. The 40% at this time that these numbers were taken, from last year to this fiscal year in the third quarter, there's a change in the 40% terms of what was acquired at the time. I don't have the numbers off the top of my head, but I can come back and show you exactly at the end of the year what was spent in terms of total library acquisitions for all of last year.

To my knowledge, there has been no directed reduction budget cut to the library I know specifically from Division of Administration and Finance, as we've allocated funds out. It does not mean that your dollar as a budget within the library is going as far as it was. Knowing for example the idea that money has not been reduced, but your money doesn't go as far, can feel like a budget cut. I would make the argument that almost everyone in this room, any division head, or anybody that's working with the budget would be feeling the same exact way.

For those folks who are here, that we have collective bargaining agreements with, or we have mandatory cost issues that we have to deal with, those things have been taken care of because that's the money we do have. There are other things in terms of investments in academic departments or other places across campus that I would love to do so, and we struggle with doing that because we don't have the base budget in order to do that.

The money we have been storing, in terms of our reserves, have been kind of geared up for what we're going through now and will probably continue to go through for the next couple of years. So, I don't have a solution for you right now about being able to fund and do the things you're asking about and inquiring about. I also want you to know it doesn't fall on deaf ears.

Q: (Graewingholt) Why is our budget not considering inflation when it comes to our resources? Why do we not have a budget formula that takes that into account? Because these are resources that support every program, student, and faculty member on this campus, this isn't disposable. At a certain point it will be losing critical resources that will hurt some departments more than others.

A: (Porter) I think from a planning perspective and how we look at budgets and plan what we see coming ahead, the departments, colleges, and administrative otherwise, they do take into account inflation they do know how much things cost. The problem is that our funding mechanism doesn't follow along with that. So, we very much could be experiencing cost increases and inflation. We're all seeing it in a lot of different ways and a lot of different manners.

But unfortunately, the way that we're funded from the state and how we gain additional dollars is not directly tied to that. It is tied to enrollment, at a rate that fluctuates minimally from year to year as they look at the marginal cost formula. But at the end of the day, we don't get extra money because we have inflationary cost issues.

- (Provost) Since I got this job, one of my top priorities was to see what I can do with the library's budget. I don't disagree with you, everything you said is correct. We are trying our best on working with your university library on how we sustain it moving forward. The Chancellor's office gives us a little extra money this year, which was helpful, but that does not cut it. I am looking at how we can do this internally and also working with Admin and Finance on what we can do to bring money in to be able to help the library moving forward.

The library is about a \$500,000 to \$750,000 deficit on a regular basis. Every year we try to compensate for it in different means to allow you to continue without cutting that a \$500,000 to \$750,000.

Q: (Graewingholt) Respectfully, wouldn't it make sense to augment our baseline budget rather than putting us in the red every year?

A: (Provost) Yes. The issue is not that, it's baseline dollar versus onetime dollars. When you look at baseline dollars you got to take it from someplace to put it in place. But onetime dollars get generated with salary savings and other things that comes along with it and those are easier to be assigned on a yearly basis than doing it on a baseline basis.

Q: (Graewingholt) What happens when we don't have those onetime funds? This is my concern for my dean and for the future doomsday scenario in which we are confronted. The library cannot continue along with path without additional support.

A: (Provost) You're correct, and we are working on it. I have been working on it since I got the job and I'm still working on it.

Q: (Salim) Slide 23: in the top right the graph indicates our costs for utilities. In the past our expenditures were below the budget, and in the inflection point in 2021, they've increased beyond the allocated budget. Obviously, utilities include a variety of things, but I was wondering if you could comment on the possibility of increasing our portfolio of renewable energy beyond the amount that we already have to insulate our campus and our budget from these utility rate increases which you indicate here 7% and then 6% for future years.

A: (Porter) If you look in the prior years to 2021 where there was that difference. Some of the savings' efforts we were doing in terms of trying to conserve our utilities and that delta we were able to achieve. Usually in any one year we experience savings in those spaces. What we end up doing is we actually end up reinvesting into renewable opportunities. The thing about sustainable energy is you have to spend money in order to save money eventually.

Those years we have made investments in different spaces when it comes to improved controls, more efficient equipment when we do buy it. When we do buildings that come on board, we do look at control and lighting systems that are definitely more advanced and more sustainable than we have in our older buildings. So, we do make an effort to do that when we can.

In this space going forward in terms of other renewable opportunities, one of the things we've been looking at recently is a battery program on campus. The problem we've run into is working with a company that can work with us on that. It usually ends up being that there's a level of provision that company brings to the table in terms of providing, there's an investment and a payoff period. We had one lined up and it fell through, because of the company, not because of us. We have continued to look for partners in order to expand our sustainable energy opportunities.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

➤ M/S/P (Miller/Kleinjans) Motion to approve the AS April 10th minutes. Motion passed as amended.

5.1 ASD 25-58 Academic Senate Minutes 4-10-25 (Draft)

➤ M/S/P (Salim/Graewingholt) Motion to approve the AS April 24th minutes. Motion passed

5.2 ASD 25-65 Academic Seante Minutes 4-24-25 (Draft)

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

- M/S/P (Badal/Kleinjans) Motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion passed as amended.
- 6.1 ASD 25-66 Revision to UPS 411.601 - Policy on Academic Internships
- 6.2 ASD 25-67 Revisions to UPS 320.020 - University Writing Requirements
 - This item was pulled by Senator Casem, it will become the first item of new business.
- 6.3 ASD 25-68 Revisions to UPS 300.030 - Academic Appeals
 - This item was pulled by Senator Salim, it will become the second item of new business.
- 6.4 ASD 25-69 Program Discontinuance - Spring 2025

VII. REPORTS

1. Chair's Report - **no report.**
2. President Report - **no report.**
3. Provost Report
 - (Provost) I want to thank everyone for attending the three open forums for the vice president for strategic enrollment management. Thanks to Dr. Swarat what chaired that committee. We had three candidates this week.

We also have the vice president for information technology search moving forward. We will have three candidates on May 12, 13, and 14. We have three strong candidates and hope to see you all there and providing your feedback, which is very critical to all these searches.

Chief Frisbee and VP Porter came to Senate and talked about after hour access to the buildings. We talked about having a form for students to fill out for after hour access. I have worked with Dr. Jarvis, VP Porter, Office of Risk Management, and informative technology to create a new system. So, we will have a new system for after hours permits, we will roll out a pilot in summer and it will be available for fall semester.

A faculty member or staff member will access the system and issue a permit to a student to a location of the building after hours, and for a time period. The system will immediately generate an email to students issuing them a permit. The system will also send an email to the faculty member that provided the permit. The system will be available for the deans and associate deans to see who has a permit for after hours, so they will know who is on the list and who issued the permit. There is not an approval process, faculty and staff can approve and assign the permit.

Q: (Casem) When you say location, if I say the student should have access to Dan Black Hall, because the lab on the second floor and shared utilities are on the first floor, is that sufficient?

A: (Provost) It requires a location. If you have a location, you can pick a location and in the comment section say this student will be traveling the entire Dan Black Hall. The system does rooms, can do multiple rooms, and allows you to specify more details needed.

Q: (Robinson) Can you clarify for my faculty after hours include?

A: (Provost) After hours means when the university is closed for access to our students. The times are listed in Time, Place, and Manner (TPM), we can send it to you.

Q: (Barros) I asked that Student Affairs is pulled into this conversation because there are several student clubs that meet in spaces, and they stay late.

A: (Provost) This is available for everyone, so a staff member could sponsor the student.

Q: (Thomas) How does this work with a building like College Park, which I've always understood operates a little differently because we have 24-hour access with security? It's important for my student program to understand, because sometimes I speak directly with that building manager about after hours stuff. So, I'm curious if that's going to simplify the process?

A: (Provost) We will follow up on that. During the pilot in the summer, it will help us get all the kinks out and let the faculty try it out. If we need to change it, we can change it as we go along.

Q: (Ong) How does it get monitored, does the student, faculty, or security have access to the database and can track who's supposed to be there? Are the students supposed to carry around a physical copy of the permit?

A: (Provost) The way we are operationalizing it, we are still working with UPD and the building managers. You don't have to carry around anything, they have access to know that your permit is valid to the places. We also send you an email that you can keep on your phone in case something comes up, you can show the permit.

Q: (Ong) What about the buildings that are restricted, they lock out at a certain time? How would the students get access, do they have to go through the normal process of contacting UPD?

A: (Provost) Yes, for today. The university is looking at having perimeter access to buildings in the future. So, if that's the case, then we can actually have card access for the students to get in during the time authorized. That is something we need to look at in the future, how we would tie it in to the security access.

Q: (Sacco) I hope that some consideration will be made to the frequency of faculty having to do this. If a student enrolls in a research program the permit can last for the duration of their time at Cal State Fullerton, until they graduate. I also wonder if this can anyway be linked with the process for our students to get keys. I feel like we're having a parallel process, when granting them keys should grant them permission to use the building.

A: (Provost) Again, it's the first step of a multi-step process. Having the system available will open up other doors for other things. I don't disagree with you that it all needs to be linked. We could also have a security system, a card system that we're trying to establish around campus. We need to do a card system so keys are not issued. If a key is not issued for the building and there's research labs, we can put access on a card system, so the students will have access without having a physical key, that would be preferred in the future.

Q: (Becerra) Is there going to be something on the permit that encourages the student to have some form of identification on them as well, so there is no confusion from whoever's checking?

A: (Provost) We are putting something on the permit encouraging them to download their Titan Card onto their phone, so it's available in case they are asked. That will be part of the message that goes out to the students.

Q: (Becerra) What happens to students that are in the buildings and do not have a permit?

A: (VP Porter) According to the TPM, if they do not have a permit, they are not supposed to be in the building, so they will be asked to leave.

Q: (Tsong) Will the process also be applicable to volunteers or speakers for events and activities?

A: (VP Porter) Those events usually occur during business hours.

Q: (Fontaine) Would it be possible to put signs on the doors that are likely to be used after hours, with a note asking if they have a permit, so that people without a permit don't enter the door? Let will also let visitors know a permit is necessary.

A: (AP Porter) Yes, with a QR code with instructions on how to obtain a permit.

Q: (Barros) I assume the people who approve the keys are also the ones that would be allowed to approve permits?

A: (VP Porter) From my understanding, there is no limit, key authority verses non-key authority. We recognize the idea that many folks are giving students access for different activities, and not necessarily tied to any other type of authority. So, it won't be a restrictive factor.

4. Statewide Academic Senate Report - **no report.**

- (Kanel) We got the results back from the faculty survey about what the definition of student success is, according to faculty. Almost all the faculty felt like student success was related to having in-person contact with students, treating them kindly, listening to them, engaging them, having them participate in class with each other, with the faculty, giving them feedback on a regular basis.

Most people were very upset that the ChatGPT was thrown at out campuses without any faculty consultation.

I will have a full report after we look at this at the Statewide Senate next week.

5. ASI Report - **no report.**

6. [CFA Report](#)

VIII. SECOND READING

8.1 ASD 25-32 Revisions to UPS 100.001 - Academic Senate Bylaws

- M/S/ (Kanel/Kleinjans) Motion to approve ASD 25-32 Revisions to UPS 100.001 - Academic Senate Bylaws.

From AS meeting 4-10-25

M/S (Kanel/Kleinjans) Motion to approve ASD 25-32 Revisions to UPS 100.001 - Academic Senate Bylaws.

[MAIN MOTION]

Chair Jarvis reminded the body where they left off on this document.

[MOTION ON THE FLOOR]

- M/S/P (Tsong/Mallicoat) Lines 663-669: reword to read “To formulate, recommend, and review policies regarding academic advising and promote and share best practices on academic advising”. Motion passed.
 - M/S/F (Fontaine/Casem) Line 664: add the wording “and orientation”. Motion failed.
 - (Tsong) Amendment to the amendment, add wording “its role in”. *Considered friendly.*

Back to the Tsong motion

- M/S/F (Provost/Fontaine) Line 664: add the wording “including orientation”. Motion failed.

Back to the Tsong motion. Motion passed.

Back to the Main motion

- M/S/F (Swarat/Tsong) Line 1085: add the wording “up to”. Motion failed.

Back to the Main motion

- M/S/F (Swarat/Valdez) Line 1096: delete the word “revise” and add the wording “and make recommendations to”. Motion failed.

Back to the Main motion

- M/S/P (Sacco/Casem) Line 1137: Restore “committee” and strike “board”. Motion passed.

Back to the Main motion

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.1 ASD 25-33 Revisions to UPS 300.021 - Academic Dishonesty

X. NEW BUSINESS

6.5 ASD 25-67 Revisions to UPS 320.020 - University Writing Requirements

- This was pulled from the consent calendar and became the first item of new business.

6.6 ASD 25-68 Revisions to UPS 300.030 - Academic Appeals

- This was pulled from the consent calendar and became the second item of new business.

10.1 ASD 25-60 Resolution on Faculty Workload Equity and the Inclusion of Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity (RSCA) in Workload Calculations

1. 2021 Survey on Supporting Faculty Engagement in Research Scholarship and Creative Activity (RSCA) Preliminary Findings

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- M/S/P (Badal/Dabirian) Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.