

**ACADEMIC SENATE
MINUTES
OCTOBER 23, 2025**

11:30 AM - 12:50 PM

PLN-130

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

Absent: Brusckhe, Ceisel, LeeKeenan, Luker, Milligan, Valencia

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

➤ M/S/P (Wynants/ Weismuller) Motion to approve the consent calendar. Motion passed.

2.1 ASD 25-110 Revisions to UPS 430.000 - Campus Process for Projecting a New Degree Proposal to the University's Academic Master Plan

2.2 NOMINEES TO COMMITTEES

NOMINEES TO STANDING COMMITTEES

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE (10 faculty)

Nominees: Ceciley Zhang (CCOM); **Pending** (HUM)

Confirmed 8/28/25: Scott Bolman (ARTS); Rokon Bhuiyan (CBE); Kanika Sood (ECS); Joyce Gomez-Najarro (EDUC); Do Kyeong Lee (HHD); Joe Carlin (NSM); Sarah Grant (SOC SCI); Ilda Cardenas (L/A/C)

GENERAL EDUCATION REVIEW COMMITTEE (10 faculty)

Nominees: Penchan Phoborisut (CCOM); Charles H. Lee (NSM)

Confirmed 9/25/25: Brenda Bowser (SOC SCI); Xin Che (CBE); Saul Tobias (HUM); Laura Keisler (EDUC); Mary Pomonis (ARTS); Kristina Fortes (HHD); Barbara Miller (L/A/C); Mira Kim (ECS)

NOMINEES TO SEARCH COMMITTEES

AVP OF ENGAGEMENT AND STUDENT SUCCESS (3 faculty)

Nominees: Adelina Gnanlet (CBE); Garrett Struckhoff (ECS); **Pending**

DEAN OF COMMUNICATIONS (5 faculty)

Nominees: Irene Matz (HCOM); HyeKyeong Seung (COMD); Rebecca Sheehan (CTVA); Pete Evanow (COMM); Waleed Rashidi (COMM)

DEAN OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE (5 faculty)

Nominees: Sagil James (EGME); Phoolendra Mishra (EGCE); Mira Kim (CPSC); Chang-Hyun (CPSC); Jidong Huang (ECE)

III. URGENT BUSINESS

➤ No urgent business.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

➤	TitanTHRIVE Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2025	(flyer in Dropbox folder)
➤	TitanWell National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week 2025	October 20-22, 2025 (flyer in Dropbox folder)
➤	Open Access Week Live Webinar: What's the Deal with APCs?	Thursday, October 23, 2025 11AM - 12PM via Zoom (flyer in Dropbox folder)
➤	Disability Support Services New Finals Scheduling	Deadline: Friday, November 21, 2025 by 5 p.m. (flyer in Dropbox folder)
➤	Disability Support Services E-Newsletter	(flyer in Dropbox folder)
➤	Updated: CSU Executive Order on Academic Internships and Community Engaged Learning (2025)	(document in Dropbox folder)

Additional announcements:

- (Chik) I want to invite everybody to the Titan Pride Gala tonight where our Career Resource Center will be celebrating the resilience and the brilliance of our LGBT students. It'll be at 5.30 pm in the Alumni House.
- (Miller) The new General Manager for the Angels was just announced and it is Kurt Suzuki, our Titan Baseball alumnus and catcher for the 2004 NCAA Baseball World Series Championship team. Another alumnus from the 2004 Titan Champions, Mark Kotsay, is the current GM of the former Oakland Athletics, and soon to be Las Vegas Athletics, as soon as their new stadium is completed.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- M/S/P (Landeros/Graewingholt) Motion to approve September 25th minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- 5.1 ASD 25-103 Academic Senate Minutes 9-25-25 (Draft)
- 5.2 ASD 25-93 Academic Senate Minutes 10-9-25 (Draft) - forthcoming

VI. REPORTS

1. [Chair's Report](#)

- Several of us attended the GI 2025 conference which was held at the LAX Hyatt. We heard about the end of GI 2025, to be replaced by the next Student Success Initiative.

2. President Report

- Some of you have read or heard some chatter about what's been happening to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), and a lot of it has been inaccurate. We have been faced with a very, I think, high stress point regarding the need for academic space. Last year when I arrived to campus, I remember coming to this body and one of the first questions I had during my very early tenure as president is what will you do about academic space, providing us with greater opportunity to provide sound pedagogical practices. And, unbeknownst to me, I didn't even realize we had that kind of stressor before us. Since then, Amir Dabirian has talked to me time and time again, both publicly and privately, about the need for us to find more ways to engage academic spaces at this landlocked university.

I had a very, very private meeting with OLLI leadership months ago to talk about ways in which we can reallocate space on campus that would suffice their needs. For some, it has been a very pragmatic discussion, very civil. For some, it's been upsetting. And for some, it's been hostile. Some folks have just been extremely upset about the possibility of even having to relocate. I think what's happened is that we become wedded with space and we begin to have ownership kinds of behaviors and expectations.

I've read several letters, several correspondences that have come to me and others, and this word evicting has come up again and again. I'm not a landlord, don't want to be a landlord, not interested in having that kind of job. But I am interested in finding ways in which we can again be responsive to the strategic enrollment management for this university.

I met with OLLI again as recently as yesterday, the leadership, and we have decided to propose an opportunity to develop an advisory council that will include individuals from Cal State Fullerton and also individuals from OLLI. They were delighted about this opportunity, and I have also indicated that no move will take place prior to June of 2026.

We were looking at trying to find ways in which we could have an expedited opportunity so we can prepare space for next fall, but that's just not going to happen. We're going to be a little bit more methodical, a little bit more deliberate with our attempt to be responsive to the needs. A lot of these needs have come up with regard to safety, accessibility, parking, things that are stressor points for everyone across this university campus. There's no way we're going to make everyone happy. We're going to do our very best to make sure that we're responsive to the well-being of this university and most importantly to our students.

I've indicated to everyone that this is important because it's going to allow us to make sure that we have the space for faculty to offer classes for our students whom we are partnering with when we accept them to this university. We are trying to make sure that they are provided opportunities to take classes so they can matriculate successfully with less debt.

So, we're working hard in this regard. I'm excited about this advisory council. I am removing myself, I've asked John Beisner to serve as a facilitator, and he's excited about this opportunity. I believe there's a yes and a win-win in the room - we just have to find it. There's more to come later, but I want you all to know where we are with that.

- We just had ¡Somos Titans! on campus recently, a very successful event. I want to thank everyone who participated. We raised over \$180,000 for our students through scholarships. I want to thank the committee for doing that.
- If you are available next week on the 27th, 28th, and 29th, we will have finalists on campus for our VP for Human Resources and Inclusive Excellence (HRIE) position. Please participate, I would love to receive your feedback.

As I've indicated to our Senate chair, I will be meeting with the committee again to get their direct feedback about those finalists, and I'm excited about doing so.

- We have had a couple of very unfortunate occurrences take place most recently on campus and also very near to campus regarding e-scooters.

Many of you all are aware that we have two students in the hospital right now, still fighting for ability to regain their life the way it was prior to this accident. I have been to the hospital on several occasions to meet with the families.

This week I was afforded the opportunity to see one of the students, myself, and to hold her hand. And I will tell you our students are fighting and they need your prayers. It's a very, very serious circumstance.

Many of you in this room are parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, or neighbors and you know what it's like to receive a phone call about someone you love. You can imagine what these parents, these families are going through. So, I just ask you all to please focus on sending positive energy to them for whatever it is that you believe in. They need us as a community.

We're sending messages, being present, and providing support in all kinds of ways. I want to thank the coach and his team, the student athletes. You would be so proud of what people are doing to provide support for these families.

We had another student involved in another e-scooter accident, in which she broke her arm, her jaw, and she also lost teeth. So, I'm developing an ad hoc committee. I'm working with my chief of staff, and I've talked to the Senate chair this morning getting some students together with faculty and staff to provide me with an advisory proposal on what we collectively can do about e-scooters on campus.

I am sensitive that some of these scooters are, for some of our students, the only way they are able to travel, they have no car. But what we can do with regard to enhancing safety and expectation is going to be very, very important.

- (Salguero) First off, I want to start off by expressing my blessings for my peers who are currently struggling and fighting for their lives. Very unfortunate circumstances, but something revealing particularly about this was the unity that I've seen within our student body. It's one of the first times that I've seen across campus and social media pages united to express their blessings and their prayers for the families and for our fellow peers.

As President Rochon mentioned, I think that this can initiate efforts on behalf of our university, on our students as well, to abide by the regulations and the rules that are set in place for e-scooters. I think they're extremely important.

With that being said, I also sit on the Chief Advisory Board, and we've begun brainstorming and strategizing ways in which we can help our students abide by these regulations, as they are critically important for the well-being of not just our students.

So, very unfortunate circumstances, but I think moving forward, we really have to realize the importance of following the rules and uniting as a campus to make sure we get past such unfortunate events like these.

- (President Rochon) And please be clear, this language from both Juan and I are not indicating that our students were at fault in any kind of way, but we do have an issue on campus where these scooters are weaving in and out, pedestrians are walking, going across the street without looking quite often. I've seen students do this as well. People are just trying to get to their destination. I'm going to have something come forward and I'll be reporting back to this body in the weeks to come.

- Another very serious matter I wanted to bring your attention. Some of you may not be aware of this, but it has come to my attention that we have a student who is missing. He has been missing for about a week. The family has now filed a formal missing person's report with the police. We've talked to the dean, and the faculty know as well.

I've spoken to the parents directly, and they've indicated to me directly that their son loves this place. He does not miss classes, and he does not miss work. And as you can imagine, they are very concerned about the safety of their child. So, very serious matters are going on with several of our students and I just wanted to bring that to your attention.

- There's a new opportunity coming from the Chancellor's office through Greg Sachs called CSU Voice. I'm going to forward this link to the chair and ask him to get it out to the Senate. It is an opportunity for us to get even more clarity about announcements coming from the Chancellor's office. But you have to opt in, they do not want to bombard your phone and your text messaging if you are not interested. I'll make sure that those of you who are not aware of this can receive access to that.

And Matt and I talked this morning; we were talking about the fact that the Chancellor has a page where she has weekly updates for the CSU. We are not sure if our body is noticing those notifications that are coming out. I'm going to have something come out to the body so that folks can ping that and be aware of those updates also.

- This Saturday, we will have a Fall in Love with Fullerton. We will have families, students, and potential candidates on campus. If you are able to come out and help folks understand why falling in love with Fullerton is not difficult at all, please come out. It's our opportunity to tell our story, to show families, and in particular, prospective students, on why this is the place, the campus of choice. So, if you have time, please come on by and be a part of the thousands of people that will be on campus.

Q & A:

Q: (Valdez) Regarding the e-scooters, I'm wondering if the CSU has any plans to lobby the state to create statewide guidelines and regulations, because it is impacting universities, but also it's not just e-scooters, I'm also thinking of e-bikes.

But I'm just wondering, because we do have leverage, right, if there could be some sort of pressure on the state to create some sort of guidelines, because it is getting out of control safety-wise.

A: (President) I'll make note of that and at our next board meeting, I will bring that to the Chancellor's attention.

Q: (Robinson) Is there any plan to meet with the city of Fullerton to discuss how to fix that part of Associated (between Bastanchury and Yorba Linda Blvd)? Because it's pretty bad, and that's something that I feel like we should be lobbying them to fix. Can we be part of that process with the city and city council meetings, something along those lines?

A: (President Rochon) I'll make note of that as well. I actually just had a meeting with the mayor, and I'll be seeing him again soon, so I will I'll bring that to his attention.

Q: (Kuffner) A few days ago, faculty who are here on H-1B visas received an e-mail stating that the institution is no longer going to hire people with H-1B visas, which obviously is out of your control because of the price increase of H-1B visas. But as someone who teaches in modern languages where most of my colleagues are not from the US, this is very concerning to me.

And I'd like to ask for more transparency from the administration regarding how political shifts change our working conditions. I would like is for the administration to update us about how we're affected by the political climate and the changes.

A: (Provost) It's very volatile right now, it's changing almost every minute what the Department of the U.S. Immigration Office is doing currently. It will cost the institution \$100,000 for new H-1B visa. It has to come from the institution, it cannot come from them, plus the lawyer fees and everything that goes along with it. So, it is important for us to update our candidates that we are at this point not sponsoring new H-1B visa because of the cost. But we are finding out there are other visas that they can use and be sponsored on. We're not sure how this might work.

Also, we were told that if you're on an F-1 visa going to an H-1B visa, there's a possibility that isn't considered a new visa. All of this is being studied right now by our general counsel, and we will update individuals as things go on. We will make sure that your search committees are updated and also search sites are updated.

3. [Provost Report](#)

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

- (Kanel) We have our plenary in a couple of weeks. My committee, Academic Affairs, is working on two things in particular that I wanted to bring your attention to. One has to do with the use of ChatGPT, in our case, Titan GPT. They did a survey and honestly, it would be really good if more faculty and staff participated in the survey, because 77% of respondents to this survey were students.

The students are basically saying since we've given them the usage of AI, Chat GPT or Titan GPT in our case, they're confused why every professor is not standardizing the use of this. That's becoming a big issue in helping our students understand.

We passed a policy in the statewide that it's up to each faculty to emphasize, and we did that here too, what is allowable for their own particular students. But that's really rough on students who are given this tool and then from one class to another, it's going to be different.

We had very low turnout for faculty to give their input on that particular survey. So, when there's surveys, please fill them out.

We're also writing a position paper on what's the purpose of Cal State Fullerton, what's the purpose of higher ed and comparing us to the community colleges and the UCs. We're no longer calling it a white paper; we're going to call them position papers.

If you have any input for me, please let me know because I'm on that committee to help write that paper and I could use any feedback you might want to offer.

The last thing, we did that survey about student success, and my committee worked with the Chancellor's office and we're a little disappointed that there wasn't more mention of faculty as being part of student success. We are going to continue working on that because we still believe faculty have a huge role in student success on the campus.

They moved it away from time to graduation, that's not the focus anymore. They've moved it to: can you get a job and how much do people who graduate from your department make?

So, these are the things we're struggling with and that I could use some of your feedback on. If you have any ideas, please send them my way because otherwise we don't have a voice in this and it's going to be consumer driven.

Q&A:

Q: (Shahrestani) My question is for the faculty on the Senate, the Senate chair and maybe CFA. This is not a question for administration nor is it directly about ChatGPT or Smart Access, but I'm going to use Smart Access as an example of how decisions are made that really impact faculty and students. Faculty and students are the last two groups that come to the table and to be part of the conversation about the decisions that are made.

The question is about process of why is this happening over and over with so many different things and what can we do to change the process from this familiar pattern of asking us for feedback after something's already in effect? Because at that point, for example, in spring, Smart Access is happening no matter what feedback faculty or students give, yet in faculty meetings, we're asked for feedback. But the feedback that we can give is about minor differences in how exactly things are implemented or maybe how their site's going to look on Canvas. But the feedback we can give is not about whether or not the decision gets made because the decision has already been made.

So how can faculty voices and how can the people who are impacted the most by the decisions be brought to the table before the decisions are made, like, for instance, with ChatGPT?

A: (Kanel) We're doing a resolution on that, asking to be part of the decision-making process before the decisions are made.

Q: (Valdez) So speaking to the smart access question, I would say a possible way for faculty to get on the front end would be to serve on the auxiliary board that oversees that process. Can anyone attend their meetings even if they do not plan to vote on something?

A: (Provost) Yes, it is an open meeting.

- (Valdez) So, I can't speak for the CSU and the ChatGPT thing, but auxiliary is technically its own organization, and they oversee those sorts of conversations. They've been talking about smart access for over a year now.

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

- (Ahmad) We are excited to give you guys an update on the ASI Wellness Initiative. As you know, President Rochon approved our initiative after three years of positive feedback from students who wanted comprehensive improvements to wellness on campus. Here are a few of the updates that we have and students are already experiencing here on campus.

Our fall concert, the first event funded by ASWI, was a huge success on October 4th. It featured a wellness lounge visited by over 500 students, including a chill zone with massages where students could step away and recharge if needed.

Also, we've seen a significant increase in ASI scholarships for students. The application period with new funding from ASWI just closed and we saw record numbers. This fall, we also provided around \$100,000 to student clubs and organizations to improve student engagement, especially around wellness programming.

And then finally, a job posting for ASI's first wellness director was just announced. We're really looking forward to seeing candidates interested in creating new wellness opportunities for our students here on campus. Please help us spread the word to colleagues who might be interested. The job is posted on our ASI website.

6. [CFA Report](#)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 ASD 25-116 Revisions to UPS 210.001 - Recruitment and Appointment of Tenure-Line Faculty

- M/S/P (Gradilla/Kleinjans) Motion to refer ASD 25-111 Revisions to UPS 210.001 - Recruitment and Appointment of Tenure-Line Faculty back to Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) then the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DE&I) with the comments listed below. Motion passed unanimously.
 - (Gradilla) Instructions are to work with Cecil Chik to address what we used to call diversity statements. We want to make sure that they're streamlined and actually reflect the new student success initiatives in the CSU and have that be the central focus in order to help departments, search committees, and colleges to find the best candidate in their recruitment.
 - (Graewingholt) There's another line that needs to be addressed, the redaction process of applications, to make clear whose job that is. There's a section in it where all tenure, tenure track faculty has to be able to access candidate material when they apply for open positions, but there's no detail on who makes that happen. So, I would just ask them to make that clear if it's the administrative support coordinator or HREI support.

Q: (Kanel) To clarify the order, it's going to FAC and then DE&I. After DE&I does it go back to FAC?

A: (Jarvis) I believe the order Senator Gradilla proposed was from FAC to DE&I and then to the Senate Executive Committee.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- M/S/P (Badal/Dabirian) Meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm.