

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES
ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES
November 4, 2025

ASM 25-7 DRAFT

A. Badr, C. Battle, C. Wang, D. Green, H. Awad, H. Hajaiej, K. Yang, K. Castillo, M. Tufenkjian, M. Abdullah, M. He, M. Abed, S. Grusnis, S. Trzaskoma, T. Zamil, T. Dark, Y. Cao

ABSENT

C. Orosco, N. Hunt, R. Pearl, C. Sun

EXCUSED ABSENCE

Chair DeShazo convened the meeting at 1:53 p.m.

Chair DeShazo read the Tongva land acknowledgement.

1. 1.1 Senator Porter announced: ORSCA submissions open today. Please encourage students to submit their work and we need faculty to serve as judges.
- 1.2 Senator Hazra announced: The office of DEIB has organized a workshop on Gender-Based Violence and Marginalized Communities. It will be presented by Shirley LaBrie (Peace Over Violence) on Wednesday, November 12, 3:05 – 4:15 p.m. on Zoom. Please reach out to me should you have any questions.
- 1.3 AVP Heise announced: Tomorrow all faculty will receive an email announcing our new course evaluation software. Hopefully the email will answer your questions but please free to reach out to the Faculty Affairs office if need additional information.
- 1.4 Chair DeShazo announced: “Ask Me Anything” with Provost Lattimer will be held November 19, 11am-12pm, Salazar Hall, room 184 “Transforming Together: Community Conversations with President Eanes” will be held on December 3, 3:30-4:30pm in Rosser Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. The following questions/concerns around these topics were raised from the floor:
 - Can we have clarification on the various strategic planning initiatives and the corresponding major planning efforts?
 - How does the survey fit into the integrated strategic plan?
 - Does the food services on campus hire students?
 - Can a list of members of the strategic committees be shared?

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Responses were provided by President Eanes, Provost Lattimer and COS Rojas from the floor.

3. 3.1 There were no new intent to raise questions.
- 3.2 The following response from the VP of Administration and Finance was presented to the IRQ raised by Senator Porter at the meeting of September 23, 2025 (ASM 24-4):
Please note: The response is attached at the end of the minutes.

INTENT TO RAISE QUESTIONS

4. It was m/s/p (Porter) to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 21, 2025 (ASM 25-6).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5. It was m/s/p (Meyerott) to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

6. Chair DeShazo presented her report.

SENATE CHAIR’S REPORT

7. President Eanes provided campus updates.

UPDATES FROM PRESIDENT EANES

8. Provost Lattimer and Interim Dean Haras presented updates on the office of Professional and Global Education (PaGE). A question and answer period took place.

PROFESSIONAL AND GLOBAL EDUCATION (PAGE) PRESENTATION

9. The floor was opened for nominations. Molly Talcott was nominated and elected by acclamation.

NOMINATIONS FOR AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE DEAN POSITION: COES

NOMINATIONS FOR AD
HOC ADVISORY
COMMITTEE FOR THE
DEAN POSITION: NSS

NOMINATIONS FOR AD
HOC ADVISORY
COMMITTEE FOR THE
VICE PROVOST FOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

PROPOSED POLICY MOD-
IFICATION: ACADEMIC
FREEDOM, PROFESSIONAL
ETHICS, AND FACULTY
RIGHTS, FACULTY HAND-
BOOK, CHAPTER VI (24-20)
Second Reading Item
Forwarded to the President

PROPOSED POLICY DELE-
TION: PRINCIPLES OF
ACADEMIC FREEDOM,
FACULTY HANDBOOK,
CHAPTER VI (24-21)
Second Reading Item

PROPOSED POLICY MOD-
IFICATION: INTEGRATED
BACHELOR'S AND
MASTER'S DEGREE
PROGRAMS, FACULTY
HANDBOOK, CHAPTER IV
(24-17)
Second Reading Item
Forwarded to the President

ADJOURNMENT

10. The floor was opened for nominations. Juily Phun and Negin Forouzesch were nominated. Chair DeShazo advised the body that an election will be conducted via email.
11. The floor was opened for nominations. Ellen Shiau, Robin Dodds, Holly Yu, and Porschia Nkansa were nominated and elected by acclimation.
12. The recommendation was APPROVED. (V: 36/1/5)
13. It was m/s/p (Meyerott) to lay this recommendation on the table. (V: 36/2/1)
14.
 - 14.1 Senator Porter advised of an editorial amendment in line 37. No objections were raised.
 - 14.2 Debate ensued.
 - 14.3 Senator Avramchuk advised of an editorial amendment in line 34. No objections were raised.
 - 14.4 The recommendation was APPROVED. (V: 35/0/3)
15. It was m/s/p (Bettcher) to adjourn at 3:43 p.m.

Response to Intent to Raise Question from Senator Porter – Academic Senate, September 23, 2025

Topic: University Support for Undergraduate Independent Study, Field Work, Studio Instruction, and Supervised Activities

The Administration deeply values these high-impact learning opportunities and the faculty who make them possible.

We also acknowledge the difficulty of navigating a challenging fiscal environment while striving to minimize the impact on our students. Every budget decision has been guided by our core principles: Student Success and Enrollment, Health and Safety, Compliance, and Revenue Generation.

Our goal has been to preserve essential academic and student-support functions while addressing the structural deficit in a way that positions Cal State LA for long-term financial stability.

Enhancing Budget Governance and Transparency

Over the past year, we have continued to strengthen our Budget and Planning Committee (BAPC) to ensure that decisions are inclusive, transparent, and data driven.

Key enhancements include:

- **Increasing campus representation**, particularly from faculty and staff.
- **Expanding open dialogue and transparency** through published materials, open forums, and budget communications.
- **Improving the planning cycle** to align campus timelines with CSU budget releases.
- **Sharing planning updates** with the entire campus community through the Financial Transparency website and campus communications.

Through this shared-governance structure, faculty, staff, and students now participate earlier and more meaningfully in discussions that shape divisional allocations and long-term planning assumptions.

Collaborative Process for Difficult Budget Decisions

It is important to emphasize that difficult budget reduction decisions are not made in isolation. They are reached through collaboration and consultation at multiple levels across the university from the department level to college and divisional leadership, and through university-wide discussions involving the Budget and Planning Committee and Cabinet.

IRQ Response from VP of Administration and Finance Office

Each area identifies priorities and develops plans that align with campus goals and mitigate impact on students and instructional quality. This multi-layered process ensures that decisions are informed by those closest to academic programs and student services while maintaining consistency with system-level fiscal policy and university-wide objectives.

Understanding the Distinction Between Budget and Actuals

A key point of clarification concerns the difference between the Budget (planned allocations) and Actuals (year-end expenditures):

- **Budget**

- Represents annual base resources allocated across the university.
- Developed through consultation with the BPC, Cabinet, and divisional leaders through the University Budgeting process. This is the primary driver to how resources are allocated across campus.
- For FY 2025-26, included a **planned 5% reduction across all divisions** to address the \$12.4 million shortfall consistent with state and CSU guidance.

- **Actuals**

- Reflect not only what was allocated but also fluctuations in expense activity due to a variety of factors impacting our divisions within a complex organization.
- For example, FY 2024-25 actuals reflect the **5% compensation increase** implemented that year, as well as fluctuations in staffing levels and cost activity that occur year to year. This affects comparatives.
- Divisions have managed financial pressures through careful spending controls, hiring freezes, and targeted use of one-time carryforward funds all in alignment with the university's core priorities.
- Year to year actual fluctuations alone may not provide a full picture. For example, A comparison of going back just one year further comparing 22-23 and 23-24 would show division expense activity:
 - Increase of \$15,373,000 in Academic Affairs (excluding Enrollment Management)
 - Increase of \$2,654,000 in Student Affairs (excluding ESPG)

IRQ Response from VP of Administration and Finance Office

- Increase of \$5,000 in President's Office
- Decrease of \$255,000 in Information Technology Services
- Decrease of \$612,000 in Administration & Finance

Because of these dynamics, year-end expenditure data may not mirror the base budget allocations and must be interpreted within the broader budget context (additional notes on the last page).

Acknowledging Enrollment and Broader Fiscal Pressures

While enrollment decline remains a significant financial pressure, it is not the only one.

- Enrollment has been decreasing since 2017-18 with resident FTES dropping by 3,725 or 17% since that time, reducing both tuition and state support.
- The state's deferral of Compact funding and 3% base reduction for FY 2025-26 have further reduces available recurring resources.

Thus, the university's fiscal planning must address a combination of factors enrollment, mandatory cost increases, and state-level reductions all of which influence the campus's overall financial position.

Addressing the \$8.8 Million Instructional Budget Reduction

The referenced **\$8.8 million reduction to the instructional budget** reflects Academic Affairs' proportional share of the 5% budget reduction applied across all divisions in FY 2025–26 as part of the university's budget planning process.

It is important to note that Academic Affairs represents approximately **70%** of the University's divisional operating budget. Because of this scale, proportional reductions in Academic Affairs naturally appear larger in dollar terms compared to other divisions.

Reallocating that same \$8.8 million reduction to the remaining divisions collectively representing about 30% of campus operations would disproportionately impact essential functions such as student services, enrollment management, financial operations, information technology, campus safety, facilities, and compliance areas that are necessary for the daily functioning of the University.

In short, while the administration recognizes the impact of this reduction, redistributing it elsewhere would compromise the University's ability to operate effectively and safely, and would not result in a balanced or sustainable fiscal approach.

IRQ Response from VP of Administration and Finance Office

As with all budget adjustments, the 5% divisional reduction was discussed through the shared governance process, reviewed by the Budget and Planning Committee, and approved as part of the university's overall strategy to close a \$12.4 million budget gap resulting from the state's 3% funding reduction and deferred Compact increase.

We must continue to advocate the state restore CSU budget reductions and honor compact funding to help rebuild resources for student success.

Commitment to Student Success and Faculty Partnership

Despite these constraints, Cal State LA remains steadfast in its commitment to student success, academic quality, and inclusive excellence.

We continue to:

- Prioritize instructional and student-facing investments within Academic Affairs.
- Pursue alternate and external funding sources to expand high-impact educational opportunities.
- Engage faculty governance, through the Academic Senate and Budget and Planning Committee, to guide future budget planning and policy development.

Independent study, field work, studio, and supervised learning opportunities remain central to our mission, and we will continue to explore ways to sustain and strengthen these offerings as fiscal conditions improve.

We appreciate the ongoing partnership of the Academic Senate and our campus community in addressing these complex challenges.

Through continued transparency, collaboration, and shared governance, Cal State LA will continue to make responsible financial decisions that honor our mission and serve our students, faculty, and staff.

IRQ Response from VP of Administration and Finance Office

The following includes notable items that impacted expenses in 24-25 and is not intended to fully analyze each change year to year.

- Administration and Finance \$4,900,000 increase
 - \$1,900,000 are Encumbrance balances for activity not yet expensed. Primarily related to facilities activities requiring contracts to be in place.
 - \$1,007,000 approx. impact for employee 5% GSI Increases.
 - \$500,000 approx. for mandated Title IX related expenditures.
 - \$1,300,000 increased facilities related expenses to maintain a safe campus and address unplanned repairs and events. Some events include windstorm damage, water damage in buildings, and chiller plant repairs.
- President's Area \$600,000 increase
 - \$534,000 reflecting Pat Brown Institute under the president's office organizational structure, which is **not** increased spending.
 - \$56,000 approx. impact for employee 5% GSI Increases.
- Student Affairs \$660,000 increase
 - \$667,000 approx. impact for employee 5% GSI Increases
- University Advancement \$147,000 increase
 - \$127,000 approx. impact for employee 5% GSI Increases