

Executive Committee of the Academic Senate  
Minutes of the Meeting of April 28, 2025  
Clark 551, 12 p.m. to 1:30 pm

**Present:** Joshua Baur, Julia Curry, Vincent Del Casino, Kristin Dukes, Tabitha Hart, Ranko Heindl, Colleen Johnson, Ariana Lacson, Stan Nosek, Shannon Rose Riley, Karthika Sasikumar, Laura Sullivan-Green, Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Hiu Yung Wong

**Absent:** Mari Fuentes Martin

1. Update by the Chair

I want to thank everyone who helped me transition into the chair role, as this is my last Senate Executive meeting as chair. When I became chair, in consultation with the President, the Executive Committee meeting format changed. Reporting out ceased as a practice, and we moved to a more traditional agenda. I leave it up to you all if this format should continue. I will be writing a referral to change 17 G in our Standing Rules regarding remote attendance for Senate Executive. I want to extend an extra thank you to Colleen Johnson, Julia Curry, and Ariana Lacson, who will be stepping off the Senate Executive Committee, and all their work is appreciated. Lastly, Laura Sullivan-Green could not attend this meeting, but she wanted to let you know that ISA is bringing two first readings on Monday regarding the Honors Convocation and the Academic Integrity policy.

2. Update by the President

Thank you, Karthika, for your leadership and support in tackling issues and overcoming challenges. Also, for your work on a smooth WASC visit, partly as a result of the Senate expansion. The VP for Research and Innovation and Graduate Dean of Studies is still a combined position in the interim, and I intend to leave that interim status into the fall. By the fall, I will come back and inform the Senate what I decide for this position as a result of the budget and the changes in the federal realm. Marc d'Alarcao will continue as interim. Jeanne Durr will also continue as the interim AS President for UP through November. I will have a recommendation by August on how we will proceed with permanent recruitment. I intend to follow the standing Senate policy for the broader representation search process. We also have a candidate for the CFO position on campus today, and another on Friday.

Q: So Marc D'Alarcao will continue till fall?

A: He has a one-year appointment with an opportunity for a one-year extension as interim.

Q: We have learned of some good news that some student visas have been restored. Have all our students benefited from this?

A: All students except for one have been reinstated.

C: Thank you so much for signing the statement put out by the American Association of Colleges and Universities. Have you received any response to your signing?

A: Nothing other than from faculty and staff in gratitude.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 21, 2025- approved unanimously

4. Consent Calendar

There will be the most changes to the seating of this consent calendar because things like availability change over the summer and into fall. All new senators have been seated on policy committees, and this will be presented on Monday.

5. Fundraising Update Presentation by Judy Nagai, time certain (12:20-12:40)

Last fiscal year, we had over 4000 donors and we raised \$25.1 million. Within that \$25.1 million, we raised \$9.7 million in donations towards scholarships. That averages out to \$2,250 per scholarship, and 4,836 scholarships were awarded. Additionally, 21,500 students qualified for financial aid. The majority of our donors were individuals (62%), and 38% were corporations and foundations. \$8 million came from alumni. When breaking down the categories of donations, no one is counted twice, even if they fit into two different categories. The majority of our donors are giving to programs and faculty support.

Q: The 13% that goes to athletics, does that go to a certain sport?

A: I could get the breakdown for athletics. There are lots of different gift accounts within athletics that donors can choose from. When we were still collecting donations for the Spartans Athletics Center, some of the donors donated to put their names on some of the rooms, so that is also counted in the 13%.

Q: Can faculty and staff deduct donations from salaries? Also, do you have stats on who the faculty and staff are that are donating?

A: Yes, it is called payroll deduction, and the payroll office will set it up, and it is a post-tax deduction. Yes, we also have a breakdown on the type of employee donating. It is a headcount number, so 10% of donors, not 10% of the total amount, are employees.

Endowment is money that donors have designated specifically to be invested. So these are dollars not being spent. As of June 2024, the aggregate value of our endowment was \$203.6 million. We have over 600 endowment accounts. We had an 11.4% return on endowment investments, and each year, based on the Tower Foundation's Board of Directors' spending policy, a distribution is made. Last year, it was a 4% distribution. That 4% over the five years has enabled us to contribute \$30 million to the university. In this current FY, we gave \$7.1 million worth of distributions to the University.

C: 4% is the norm for distributions.

A: In the spending policy, we typically do not go higher than 4%. The philosophy is that we're holding back some money to be reinvested for inflation, and some money covers the charges for our audit, investment company, and the ups and downs of the market. Sometimes it can go lower. For fall, it will be a 4% distribution again. The Tower Foundation has a 2% management fee that we charge annually on endowments. There is also a 5% fee when money is spent out of a gift account. The donors are aware of all the fees.

Q: Is the 5% put back into the endowment?

A: It is pulled out and goes to the Tower Foundation's operating budget.

The majority of our endowments are designated to programs and faculty support. As of December 2024, our endowment grew to \$217 million. As of March 31st, our endowment fell to \$210 million, and as of April 24th, it fell to \$206 million. So we've lost about \$10 million since December due to the stock market. Over the years, we have had emails and such calling for a divestment. However, through our investment company, Beacon Point, we are invested in mutual funds. We do not buy individual stocks. So when we are told we need to divest, we can't divest because we are not invested. Recently, students came forward and gave us a list of specific companies to divest, and we are going to look into it, and we want it to be a teachable conversation moment.

C: Is it possible to invest in socially responsible accounts?

A: We have a socially responsible ERG set of investment opportunities where donors can choose to only invest in socially responsible areas. In recent years, it has not been specifically requested, but it is in our policy.

Q: Do we have criteria or a process on how we agree on what to invest in or divest when there is a request from other entities?

A: It is in our investment policy.

For every dollar we spend on fundraising, we raise \$7.33. On our Day of Giving, we raised \$3.6 million, and we are the only CSU to raise this amount. Last year, we were the first CSU to surpass one million in our Day of Giving. We received a \$2 million estate gift during the Day of Giving. For the current FY, we have raised \$24.23 million, so we are going to surpass our goal of \$25 million. 98% of our donors are restricting their gifts, which is a trend across the college campuses. Over ten years, we see that donors are giving cash about 60% of the time, and 41% are in the form of future gifts. We continue to carry out outreach events and activities.

## 6. Selection of members for contested seats on Operating Committees

a. Institutional Review Board

The Executive Committee appointed Luis Poza to seat F on the Institutional Review Board

b. University Sustainability Board

The Executive Committee appointed Dina Izenstark to seat J on the University Sustainability Board.

c. Strategic Planning Steering Committee

The Executive Committee appointed Eleanor Pries to seat J on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee

7. Report from Provost on the Dean Search for College of Education

There are three candidates for the dean search; however, since the senate is in the middle of a transition, I need to know which senate executive should meet with them. The current members or the newly appointed ones after Monday?

C: It does not hurt to invite everyone since some people won't be able to make it because it is a busy time of year.

C: The newly appointed Dean of CIDS was never able to meet with the Senate Executive, so maybe a meeting with them when they join could also be set up.

8. Report on AS Elections, Preliminary Results 25-26

There was an uncontested executive board ticket. We had a 10.7% voter turnout. Katelyn Gambarin will be the new AS President. Geoffrey Agustin will be the Vice President. Rishika Joshi will be the Controller. Sivagami Subramanyan for Director of Business Affairs. Isabella Rosal will be Director of Communications. Laura Charles will be the Director of Internal Affairs. Teairra Brown will continue on as Director of Student Resource Affairs. Kaili Mallari will be the Director for Sustainability. There are currently five director seats vacant: Students Rights and Responsibilities, Legislative Affairs, Academic Affairs, Internal Affairs, and Co-Curricular Affairs. AS is going to work to fill them by June. However, there will be three vacant student senator seats and additionally many on university committees. Please make sure to encourage your students to apply for these vacant positions.

The minutes were taken by Grace Barbieri on April 29, 2025, reviewed and accepted by Senate Chair Karthika Sasikumar on April 30, 2025, and approved by the Senate Executive Committee on May 1, 2025.