

Executive Committee Minutes

Tuesday, April 22, 2025, 3:00 pm

Approved: April 29, 2025

Call to Order: 3:02 pm

Roll Call: Martin Boston, Sharon Furtak, Hogan Hayes, Carolyn Gibbs, Amber Gonzalez (Zoom), Sheree Meyer, Pat Oberle, Adam Rechs, Andrea Terry, Matthew Krauel, Raul Tadle

Open Forum:

- **Leaders of America’s Colleges, Universities, and Scholarly Societies Call for Constructive Engagement in Response to Ongoing Government Intrusion into Higher Education - AACU article:** <https://www.aacu.org/newsroom/a-call-for-constructive-engagement>. It was asked whether the President will be signing the “Call.”
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- **NCAA Rules:** Antonia Peigahi expressed concerns about the Athletics Department adhering to NCAA rules which restrict transgender and non-binary student athletes from participating in sports. She believes the rules are discriminatory.
- **Comp II Graduation Requirements:**
It was shared that the administration’s misreading of a graduation requirement has led to a serious error in the curricular planning for the next academic year. In the effort to make cuts required by various budget shortfalls, someone suggested an alternative pathway to meeting the Comp II graduation requirement. The suggested pathway is based on how students in the Los Rios Community College District meet the Comp II requirement. On those campuses, after completing a semester of first-year writing, there is a Comp II course that also meets the critical thinking requirement – those courses at Los Rios have both composition and critical thinking learning outcomes. This led someone to believe that completing the first-year writing requirement and the critical thinking requirement on our campus is equivalent to completing the Comp II requirement. On our campus, however, the Composition II graduation requirement is separate from the Critical Thinking General Education Requirement. Our Critical Thinking outcomes do not require instruction on college-level writing. While some critical thinking courses include elements of writing, most do not. Most have course caps far too high to facilitate writing instruction. It’s worth noting that the Comp II outcomes were revisited, revised, and reapproved by the full Faculty Senate just three years ago. The courses that meet that requirement, English 20 and Honors 3, serve as one of the pre-reqs. for the WPJ, which in turn serves as a pre-req for the writing intensive requirement. Neither of those courses are going to be offered next year, meaning that students

will not have an opportunity to meet all of the graduation requirements approved by the Faculty Senate.

Additionally, the GE/GRPC Chair shared concerns regarding the status of courses that satisfy the 2nd semester composition requirement, which is the university's approved graduation requirement. The General Education/Graduation Requirements Policies Committee has not been consulted in this matter. There may be some misunderstanding about the difference between the ways in which transfer students, and our native students satisfy this requirement.

Vice Chair Rechs shared that the decision was made to not offer ENGL 20, a graduate requirement for all students, during the next academic year. As this is a curricular decision that affects students, shouldn't this be something that the faculty weighs in on? If the campus is going to be cutting classes, the faculty may want to strategize what types of classes are going to be cut as well as whether we want to prioritize students being able to graduate on time vs holding our students to the current graduation requirements.

- **Orientation vs online classes for incoming students:** A request for a message to be sent to incoming students to address the misconception around the university's primary modality (which is face-to-face.) Incoming students are routinely expecting most of their classes to be online.
- **Sac State 5K Run:** The Senate Chair was acknowledged for winning in her age group.

Approval of the Agenda: The agenda was amended as follows. The amended agenda was approved.

1. After #14: Add a discussion item Shared Substitutions for Course Cuts of Graduation Requirements:
2. Move the Faculty Senate Standing Rules amendment of Articles II and III after the Sonoma State resolution.

Minutes: April 15, 2025 Approved.

From the Chair:

- Open Forum – April 24 Senate Meeting: Due to the meeting beginning at 3:45 pm and to allow time to address some of the agenda items, it was requested that Open Forum be moved to the end of the agenda with a Time Certain of 4:50 pm

Motion: Move Open Forum on the April 24, 2025 Senate agenda to the end of the agenda with a time certain of 4:50 pm to complete the remaining elements of the agenda. Carried.

From the President: No items.

From the Provost: Information on systemwide and campus reserves was shared and is publicly available at the CSU's Transparency Portal. The following information was shared.

- The CSU has operating balances. As of June 30, 2024, the CSU had \$8 billion, this includes the 23 universities' reserves. Over \$7 billion is restricted or designated for specific purposes. This includes:
 - \$2.7 billion is bond proceeds or state funds for capital projects
 - \$2.8 billion is restricted by statute or state budget (Housing, Student Body Centers, PaCE, Parking, etc.)
 - \$2.4 billion is operating fund designated balances and reserves

- \$1.6 billion is designated for short term obligations (encumbrances, financial aid, future commitments), capital, and catastrophic events (insurance deductible)
- \$776 million is reserved for economic uncertainty across the 23 universities, this includes \$524 million that belongs to individual campuses. Only \$252 million is truly a reserve to help support needs across the entire CSU system.
- National best practices stipulate reserves cover at least 3 to 6 months of operations. We have considerably less than that.
- The rest, \$1.6 billion, is obligated for certain purposes. For example:
 - \$1.25 billion is for short-term obligations – open contracts and purchase orders, near-term debt service payments, financial aid obligations, and programs that are under development.
 - \$316 million is for constructing and maintaining CSU facilities and infrastructure.
 - \$30 million for costs associated with fires, floods, and earthquakes that are not covered by insurance.
- Reserves are one-time funds and it would not be responsible or sustainable to use them to meet ongoing expenses such as salary and benefits.

Preliminary Senate Agenda – May 1: Approved.

Cal Apply Portal: Brian Henley, Interim Sr. AVP for Enrollment shared information about the portal.

- An internal protocol needs to be established.
- Challenges: How can the challenges be address? There are seven impacted majors on campus which includes health science.
- Interim Sr. AVP Henley is supportive of putting together a team to look at the structure over the summer.

Nominations for Faculty Representatives: Vice Provost for Faculty Success Search Committee

The following names will be placed on the April 24 Senate agenda on Consent Action:

- Saad Merayyan, Civil Engineering (ECS)
- Yaeum Kim, Marketing & Supply Chain Management (COB)
- Lina Rincon, Sociology (SSIS)

Resolution Condemning Racial Attacks and Reaffirming Our Commitment to an Inclusive and Respectful Campus Environment, Adoption of:

- Feedback provided: The last three resolved clauses seem to be the same. It was requested they be combined to one resolve clause. The last resolve clause seems to be a statement and not calling for an action.
- Feedback provided: The resolution speaks to the President a lot. Other administrators in key places needs to be identified..

Motion: Place on the April 24, 2025 Senate agenda at First Reading. Placement of the item is at the Chair's prerogative. Carried.

Senate action to take-up: Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) Plenary Report, March 14-15, 2025. Academic Senator Van Gaasbeck encouraged the Exec Committee to read the resolution before taking any action. The Vice Chair shared that it is a deeper conversation with complexity and someone at the meeting can add the item to the Senate agenda.

Shared Substitutions for Course Cuts of Graduation Requirements:

Main Points of the Discussion:

- It was noted: The requirement is a university wide requirement and does not belong to the College of Arts and Letters or to the Department of English. Typically, any change or course substitution for a GE/GR requirement has to be approved by the GE/GR Policy Committee.
- It was shared that the GE/GR Committee is happy to look at alternatives. Consultation with the appropriate committees was requested for changes to the GR Requirement.
- It was noted: Once the University has come to a decision on courses and requirements they don't belong to a department anymore. They are service courses. A department is not at liberty then to decide otherwise.
- Concern was expressed for using budget cuts as a way to usurp the curriculum process.
- Concern was expressed about face-to-face being replaced with hybrid classes for other GE/GR multi-section courses.
- It was noted that there is an effort to spread the responsibility of the English Comp requirement across several departments.
- Question raised: What are the approved equivalents for English 20? Response: Honors 3 is the only approved equivalent.
- It was shared that the recent decision that was made around English 20 helped Arts & Letters with 30% of their needed reductions.

At the time of adjournment, the following items had not been heard and will be placed on the next meeting agenda:

- Sonoma State Resolution
- Continued Discussion: Faculty Senate Standing Rules Amendment of Articles II and III
- Review for Policy Compliance: College of Business Reorganization
- Course Syllabus Policy
- General Education/Graduate Requirements Working Groups: Work completed 1) Area C and 2) First Year Seminar

Adjourned: 3:48 pm.