

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

Wednesday, February 11, 2026
CLA Building, 98, P2-8

Attendees: Greg Barding, Aaron Cayer, David Edens, Ghada Gad, Peter Hanink, Rita Kumar, Kelly Min, Dennis Quinn, Julie Shen, Nicholas Von Glahn, and Gerd Welke.

Proxy: Nicholas Von Glahn for Faye Wachs.

Guests: Interim President Levine, Provost Gomez and Christina Gonzalez

1) Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from January 28, 2026.

There was no discussion.

Vice Chair Barding motioned to approve the meeting minutes. Senator Edens seconded. There were no abstentions.

M/s/p to approve the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for January 28, 2026.

2) Chair's Report

Revisions to Policy 1310 – MPP Appointments

Chair Peter Hanink reported that, in response to a request from the President and Provost, a working group has been formed to draft revisions to Policy 1310. Their goal is to develop suggested policy language by the end of the academic year, drawing from prior referrals. Chair Hanink clarified that the group will submit a referral containing the draft policy, which will first come to the Executive Committee and then follow the standard policy-review process. He emphasized that this approach aligns with past practice, as committees may adopt, modify, or reject suggested language, as seen with prior revisions to Policies 1328 and 1329.

Conversations Following the Ombuds Presentation

Chair Hanink reported that following the Ombuds Office presentation at the previous Academic Senate meeting, he spoke with Nicole Hawkes and Mark Patterson about concerns regarding the session's focus. The Academic Senate allocated 20 minutes with the expectation that the presentation would offer concrete examples of how the Ombuds Office could support faculty—such as resolving conflicts between faculty and students, within departments, or between departments. Instead, the presentation functioned primarily as a general introduction to the concept of an ombuds, which Chair Hanink noted was appropriate but was not tailored to the audience or the stated purpose. He added that Mark and Nicole were receptive to this feedback and acknowledged the mismatch. Mark expressed openness to returning in the future to deliver a more targeted presentation, though the timing is uncertain. Chair Hanink also noted that the presentation left no time for discussion, as the entire allotted period was used for the presentation.

Meeting with the Board of Trustees

Chair Hanink reflected on the previous day's meeting with the Board of Trustees representatives and offered his impressions. He thanked those who attended and asked for their reactions, noting that he aimed to provide balanced and constructive feedback. Participants generally felt that the vice chair of the Board was engaged, attentive, and knowledgeable, and that the community trustee appeared genuinely interested in listening, even taking notes during the conversation. While some expressed skepticism about such meetings in general, the overall tone was that the discussion was more encouraging than expected.

The trustees' visit was part of the presidential search process, and unlike the earlier open town halls, this meeting was targeted specifically toward Senate leadership. Discussion focused heavily on campus infrastructure concerns—especially widespread deferred maintenance—and examples of water leaks and facilities problems across buildings. The group also raised long-standing issues related to consultation processes and the university's reliance on external consultants rather than internal expertise. The trustees appeared receptive to these concerns and expressed surprise about some matters, including delays with the Lanterman project.

Conversation also touched on desired qualities for the next president, such as the need for a visionary leader who can manage both the forward-looking challenges of emerging technologies and the day-to-day operational stability of the institution. Faculty emphasized the importance of a diverse and balanced administrative cabinet, including representation from STEM—an area largely absent in recent administrations. Trustees asked several clarifying questions about ideal backgrounds for presidential candidates, and Chair Hanink noted that all candidates will have faculty experience but vary in administrative emphasis.

Upcoming Semifinalist Interviews for the Presidential Search Committee

Chair Hanink provided a brief update on the search committee's upcoming work. He will participate in day-long semifinalist interviews next week, after which the committee will

send recommendations to the Board of Trustees. He explained that while the Board must choose from the semifinalist pool, the final selection does not have to reflect the committee's top recommendations.

3) Vice Chair's Report

AP-025-256 New State-Support Master of Science in Computer Engineering –
REFERRAL

The Executive Committee agreed with Vice Chair Barding's recommendation for the Academic Programs Committee to consult with the associate deans and department Chairs regarding the referral.

Senator Shen motioned to send the referral to committee with the recommendation to consult the associate deans and department chairs. Senator Quinn seconded.

M/s/p to send AP-025-256 to the Academic Programs with the recommendation to consult with the associate deans and department chairs.

4) Reports

There were no reports.

5) Old Business

There was no old business.

6) New Business

Academic Senate

Chair Hanink mentioned that Jessie Vallejo will fill former Senator Brian Newman's vacant seat, which term ends in 2027. Senator Jessie Vallejo will be seated during the Academic Senate meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

Service Opportunities, the Executive Committee appointed the following:

Dean of the College of Professional and Global Education:

- Wei Yu (FRL/CBA)*
- Wenge Zhu (TOM/CBA)*
- Salomon Oldak (ECE/EGR)

- Greisy Winicki-Landman (Math & Stat/SCI)
- Gabriel Davidov Pardo (NFS/AG)*
- Peter Hanink (Sociology/CLASS)

(* Returned to the search committee)

Academic Senate Standing Committees

- Senator George Proctor will serve on the Academic Affairs Committee.

One-for-Ones

- **Council for Graduate and Faculty Scholarship (CGFS) Library Vacancy:**
 - Amber Wu (Library)
- **Exceptional Assigned Time Committee (EATC) CLASS and CEIS Vacancies:**
 - Peter Hanink, CLASS
 - Soon Young Jang, CEIS

7) Discussion

Dr. Iris Levine, Interim President Updates

Interim President Levine provided an update on the recent campus visit by two CSU Trustees involved in the presidential search process. She described the day as fast-paced and wide-ranging, with trustees meeting campus leaders, touring academic and student-support facilities, and hearing directly from students at multiple stops. Their visit included overviews from deans and vice presidents, a tour of the new lab facility, the Lyle Center, the Lanterman property, athletics, the Care Center, and the Career Center, followed by meetings with Senate and ASI leadership. The President emphasized that the goal was to give the trustees a meaningful sense of campus strengths, student experiences, and the community they will ultimately entrust to the next president. She noted that the trustees spoke sincerely about the importance of positioning the next president to succeed, and she highlighted her own message to them: Cal Poly Pomona's success is driven by its people, not just its programs or facilities.

The President also shared updates on major campus initiatives. She announced that the groundbreaking for the Innovation Village Phase III project would begin the following day, with a target for completion around September. In addition, she noted that Provost Gomez announced \$400,000 for the Teacher-Scholar Series, and Levine committed an additional \$100,000 to restore the program to its original funding level.

Finally, the President discussed an important shift in the university's support for basic needs. Historically, the Poly Pantry's operating budget, including food, has been funded by student fees. The President stated that it is inappropriate for students who face financial insecurity to subsidize the pantry's operations. She has therefore directed that state funds be used to support the Poly Pantry and related basic-needs initiatives going forward, a change she framed as central to the university's commitment to student success. She also noted efforts to relocate the pantry to a larger space and highlighted substantial donations, including new refrigeration equipment. Any remaining student-fee allocations already spent will be covered this year through one-time funds, with future funding now coming from state resources. President Levine closed by noting the positive momentum around food security initiatives, including gleaning projects that recover produce from campus orchards for student use. She closed with lighter remarks, including a story about meeting the campus alpacas and a recent visit she made to the student choir room after students invited her through social media.

Dr. S. Terri Gomez, Provost Updates

Provost S. Terri Gomez provided updates on faculty hiring, visa limitations, new faculty lines, and delays in professional leave notifications. She explained that the university is currently unable to advance candidates who require H-1B visa sponsorship, a challenge affecting searches in Engineering and Agriculture in particular. Several semifinalists had to be informed that the campus could not cover H-1B costs; this policy aligns with practices across the CSU. Current graduate students on existing visas are not affected.

The Provost then addressed questions about the allocation of new faculty lines. She described a data-driven process involving three key indicators—three-year FTES trends, tenure-density data, and faculty-to-major ratios—supplemented by performance on GI 2025 metrics. Deans reviewed this data and collaboratively identified departments with the greatest need. Five additional faculty lines were held pending budget clarity, and with approval from Interim President Levine, the university will proceed with a focused cluster hire centered on GIS, leveraging existing partnerships with Esri, philanthropic opportunities, and ongoing modernization efforts. All colleges will be invited to submit proposals, with the expectation that colleges advance one or two strong candidates. She noted that emerging tech priorities in AI and cybersecurity remain important, and one line has already been shifted to support the University Library's needs.

Provost Gomez also discussed delays in announcing professional leave (sabbatical) decisions. She acknowledged the delay openly, attributing it to an administrative error in which the fully eligible applicant pool had not been contacted. She emphasized that her office has corrected the process and will send a direct communication to applicants explaining the situation and providing an updated timeline. The delay will not reduce the number of potential awardees, and she hopes the university can exceed the contractual minimum number of leaves awarded, as it has done in past years.

Finally, Provost Gomez responded to concerns about professional development and travel funding, noting that after addressing teacher-scholar support, professional development resources will be her next priority once next year's budget is clearer. She expressed continued commitment to strengthening faculty support wherever possible.

Christina Gonzales, Vice President of Student Affairs

Recruitment for the Executive Director Position (MPP III Level)

Christina Gonzales provided an update on the restructuring of Student Health Services leadership. She explained that the university has struggled for several years to fill key medical positions, including a physician role lost in 2020 and—more recently—the director of Student Health Services, who resigned in 2024. Historically, the director-level position has been administrative rather than medical, but national guidance indicates that recruiting a qualified medical professional requires combining the administrative and clinical responsibilities into a single medical director role.

A recent search at the existing MPP2 classification attracted a strong physician candidate, but the individual declined due to the salary range, which maxed out around \$170–180k. Gonzales noted that qualified physicians will not accept offers below \$200k, and peer institutions confirmed that higher compensation is necessary to remain competitive. To address this, the university proposes elevating the position to **MPP3**, allowing a salary closer to \$230k and improving recruitment prospects. Because this constitutes a position elevation, policy requires consultation with the Senate Executive Committee.

Gonzales emphasized that the position is funded entirely through student health fees, not state funds, and that merging the previously vacant positions will be cost-neutral or cost-saving. Student Health Services is a large operation with approximately 40 staff members, and she stressed the need for a medically trained leader who can guide clinical staff, oversee increasingly complex health regulations, and provide direct patient care. Most services remain free or low-cost to students, though the clinic is not equipped for major medical emergencies, which are referred to emergency services. She concluded by noting that this restructuring will enable a new search to begin and invited volunteers to participate.

Adjourned @ 4:34 PM