

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

CLA Building, 98, P2-8

Zoom Link: <https://cpp.zoom.us/j/82881340610>

Zoom ID: 828 8134 0610

Passcode: executive

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

Guest: Mohammad Husain

1) Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2026

There was no discussion.

Chair-Elect Barding motion to approve the minutes. Senator Edens seconded.

All in favor. No objections or abstentions. The motion passed.

M/s/p to approve the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from April 8, 2026.

2) Chair's Report

Key Announcements

- A meeting was planned to address the Engineering GE Area 1B exception, prompted by a Chancellor's Office directive requiring resolution this term.
- The issue is considered high-stakes with significant curricular implications for the College of Engineering.
- Initial faculty notification failed due to a distribution issue; this is being corrected and faculty are asked to promote the meeting.

Timeline and Constraints

- A one-year temporary extension is not feasible due to Chancellor's Office deadlines.
 - A decision (approve or deny) must occur this term.

- Concerns were raised about limited time between first and second readings and inadequate opportunity for consultation.

Faculty and Senator Concerns

- Zoom format limits depth of discussion, though it maximizes access and attendance.
- Engineering faculty are actively consulting across colleges and departments (including English and Philosophy) to address concerns and explore possible revisions.
- Senators expressed concern about rushing a vote without sufficient deliberation, given accreditation and curriculum impacts across multiple engineering programs.

Revised Meeting Structure (Consensus)

- The originally planned special session will be reframed as a town hall discussion:
 - Date/Time: April 29, 3:00–4:00 p.m. (Zoom)
 - Purpose: Open discussion only; no vote
- The second reading and vote will occur at the regular Senate meeting on May 6.
- This approach allows additional time for outreach, clarification, and refinement of the proposal.

Procedural Notes

- The town hall format avoids procedural complications under Policy 122 Academic Senate Bylaws.
- Discussion at the May 6 meeting may be managed by limiting speakers or calling the question to ensure agenda control.

Action Items

- Chair/Administration: Send revised announcement clarifying town hall format and May 6 vote.
- Engineering Faculty: Continue stakeholder outreach and prepare responses or possible amendments.
- Senators: Review materials in advance of the May 6 vote.

Outcome

- The revised plan was approved by consensus.
- There will be no votes during the town hall.

Meetings with Provost Gomez

- Chair Hanink and Chair-Elect Barding met with the Provost to discuss ongoing Senate concerns.

- A follow-up meeting is scheduled for May 5 with incoming President Vanya Quiñones, to include Chair Hanink, Chair-Elect Barding, and the incoming Vice Chair.

Discussion Topics: Ombuds Office and Area 6

- Chair Hanink reported an extended discussion with the Provost regarding the future of the faculty ombuds office and Area 6.
- It was noted that new information is unlikely to change the Senate's upcoming vote on the ombuds resolution but has clarified the complexity of the issue.

Report on External Ombuds Consultation

- Chair-Elect Barding met with the UCR Ombuds, who previously served as a consultant in drafting CPP's ombuds charter.
- Key points from that discussion included:
 - California law is largely silent on ombuds confidentiality; limited case law exists.
 - Ombuds offices reduce institutional risk by providing a safe, confidential space for early conflict resolution.
 - Ombuds are state employees but are designated in their charters as not representatives of the institution, allowing confidential conversations without triggering institutional notice.
 - Ombuds report to the Provost yet are structured to avoid mandated-reporter conflicts.
 - Ombuds may engage in discussions unless matters fall under Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) jurisdiction.
 - Confidentiality does not preclude legal subpoenas; while records are typically destroyed, any discoverable material may still be subject to disclosure.
- The discussion highlighted the risk-averse stance of Chancellor's Office legal counsel and the balance between confidentiality and institutional liability.

Provost Response and Next Steps

- In response to questions, Chair Hanink stated that discussions with the Provost focused on interpretation of Title V and whether CSU ombuds offices are more restricted than comparable institutions.
- The Provost did not dismiss Senate concerns; further clarification is needed regarding Title V applicability.
- Chair Hanink suggested seeking additional guidance from Nicole Hawks, Chief of Staff, and emphasizing that:
 - Eliminating the ombuds may increase institutional risk, particularly for behaviors that do not rise to Title IX or CBA issues.
 - This issue aligns with findings from the Cozen report, identifying unresolved conduct concerns as a key area of exposure for the university.

Summary

- The Senate continues to gather information and assess legal interpretations surrounding the ombuds office.
- The matter is recognized as both a legal and political issue within the CSU system and warrants further examination and advocacy.

Overview of Area 6

- Chair Hanink reported that discussions regarding Area 6 have occurred, but no final decisions or resolutions have been reached.
- The university continues to explore how to meet Area 6 demand given existing constraints, particularly related to course availability.

Course Availability and Approval Authority

- A shortage of Area 6 classes was discussed; however, this shortage is not due to a lack of departmental willingness to offer courses.
- Instead, the issue stems from EWS/AWS denying approval for Area 6 course offerings.
- Concern was raised about the significant authority held by EWS/AWS, including the ability to deny approvals, which directly impacts:
 - Departmental offerings,
 - Faculty teaching assignments,
 - Full-Time Student (FTS) generation.
- Chair Hanink noted that such denials have meaningful negative consequences for departments and faculty.

Legal and Policy Ambiguity

- The scope of EWS/AWS authority remains unclear, particularly due to potential conflicts between Title V regulations and AB 1460.
- Until this conflict is resolved or clarified, it is uncertain whether EWS/AWS has the absolute authority to deny Area 6 courses.

Recommended Next Steps

- The Executive Committee recommended that the Provost:
 - Consult with peer CSU campuses to determine whether similar challenges exist systemwide.
 - Seek formal guidance from the Chancellor's Office regarding Title V and AB 1460 interpretation.
- It was emphasized that a clear, system-supported path forward is necessary to resolve the issue.

Status

- The Area 6 issue remains unresolved and under active review pending additional guidance and clarification.

3) Vice Chair's Report

FA-005-256 Policy 1310 – Management Personnel Plan Appointments – Compliance Revisions

New Referral

- One new referral was reported, originating from a working group on Policy 1310, which subsequently dissolved.
- Rather than continuing work within the group, the matter is being separated into multiple referrals.
- The current referral focuses solely on a compliance-related revision, which is strongly encouraged.

Nature of the Policy Changes

- Chair Hanink reviewed proposed revisions developed by Diane Gonzalez, Chief of Staff.
- The changes are technical and compliance-based, including:
 - Removal of outdated office titles,
 - Consolidation of roles under Talent Acquisition,
 - Alignment with current federal EEO requirements.
- No substantive policy changes were identified; revisions pertain only to organizational naming and representation to ensure legal compliance.

Fast-Track Request

- A request was made to fast-track the referral.
- If approved by the EC:
 - The referral will be sent immediately to the Faculty Affairs Committee.
 - The Faculty Affairs Committee is prepared to conduct an up-or-down vote the same day.
 - The item will be returned to the Executive Committee the following week and, if approved, advance to the District Council (DC) for consideration at the final meeting of the academic year.

Compliance Context

- While the substance of the changes may prompt concern (particularly regarding affirmative action–related executive orders), the revisions are described as required for federal funding eligibility.
- Guidance received indicates these changes are mandatory for compliance with federal hiring regulations.

Comments

- ASCSU Senator-Elect Rita Kumar noted that the proposed changes were previously discussed within the Policy 1310 working group and understood to be federally mandated compliance revisions.

Senator Wachs motion to send the referral to committee. Senator Quinn seconded.

All in favor. No objections or abstentions. The motion passed.

M/s/p to send FA-005-256 to the Faculty Affairs Committee.

4) Reports

Presented by Dr. Mohammad Husain, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee

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

Summary of Referral

- Senator Husain presented a referral for a new state-supported Master of Science in Computer Engineering.
- The referral was delayed due to the department chair missing a prior meeting; otherwise, it would have appeared on the previous Senate agenda.

Program Overview

- The proposed program is straightforward and well-defined.
- While often compared to Computer Science, the curricular distinction was clarified:
 - Computer Science: Emphasis on software and applications.
 - Computer Engineering (M.S.): Emphasis primarily on hardware-focused content.
- The program demonstrates curricular distinctness and addresses a clear student demand.

Institutional Need and Rationale

- The department currently offers bachelor's degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering, but only a master's program in Electrical Engineering.
- The proposed M.S. in Computer Engineering provides a direct academic pathway for Computer Engineering undergraduates, who otherwise seek graduate study elsewhere.

Implementation and Curriculum

- Proposed start: Fall 2027
- Delivery mode: Face-to-face, on campus

- Most required courses are already developed and current.
- A small number of elective courses will be developed during the next academic year.
- Some courses will be cross-listed from existing upper-division offerings at the graduate level.
- Senator Husain confirmed with the Office of Academic Programs that the proposed course development and listings are acceptable.
- The program will proceed to the Chancellor's Office for review in the next academic year.

Committee Position and Motion

- The committee supports the proposed program.
- Given the extended approval timeline and that this was the final meeting of the year, Senator Husain moved to waive the standard timeline by proceeding from first reading directly to a vote.

Chair's Response

- Chair Hanink acknowledged the motion and the referral.

There was no discussion by the Executive Committee.

Senator Wachs motioned to send the report to the senate meeting agenda. Senate Quinn seconded.

All in favor. No objections or abstentions. The motion passed.

M/s/p to AP-025-256 to the Academic Senate Meeting Agenda for May 6, 2026.

5) Old Business

There was no old business.

6) New Business

Service Opportunity | The CPP Enterprise Board

Overview

- The final item of business concerned a service opportunity on the CPP Enterprise Board.
- The current representative, Homeyra Sadaghiani, expressed interest in continuing to serve.
- A vote was required to proceed.

Procedural Discussion

- ASCSU Senator-Elect Rita Kumar asked whether the position typically follows a formal process involved:
 - A call for applications, and
 - Appointment by the Executive Committee (EC), potentially including interviews.
- Chair Horner noted difficulty locating records detailing the established procedure.
- Senator Julie Shen confirmed that past practice likely involved a call for applications and possible interviews.

Decision

- In the absence of clear documentation, the EC agreed to issue a call for applications.
- The Chair indicated efforts would continue to locate prior records or examples of the call to ensure consistency with past practice.

Action Items

- Draft and distribute a call for applications for the CPP Enterprise service opportunity.
- Continue searching past records to confirm standard procedure.

7) Discussion

There was no discussion.

Adjourned @ 3:43 PM