

University Senate Chair Report September 30th, 2025

Hi All,

I hope you had a restful weekend and things are going well. What a blast College Colors Day was! This was my first time participating in kickball and attending the College Colors Day event, which brought folks together in a way that is so uniquely part of the college experience. Thanks so much to the people who made this event possible and to you all for participating and having fun. I'm already thinking about how we can dethrone 2 Legit 2 Kick from Advancement and Athletics next year!

Okay, on to business, and there is a lot of it. Cade Webb and I were able to submit an ITS Project Proposal titled "Policy Management Modernization for Senate Governance and Compliance," which I'm quite excited by. Really, I should say Cade did most of the work, so thanks very much, Cade! In this project proposal, we detailed an exploratory phase in which we will comb through our existing policy database for key metadata, such as the responsible office, expiration date, compliance information, etc. We will also explore possible in-house solutions to enhance our organization of policy metadata, as well as commercial products, such as *PolicyStat*, a program used by the CSU. After this exploratory phase, we will implement what we find in the organization of our policies into the new database, whether in-house or a commercial product. Our target deadline is to have this complete by Fall 2026, so this is ambitious, which is exactly my kind of style.

We will have our first voting item of the semester today, which is always exciting. This will be a Sense of the Senate Resolution respectfully requesting Governor Newsom to veto Assembly Bill (AB) 1400. I expect this may be controversial, so as we engage in this discussion and vote today, I ask members to respect each other's opinions and that we engage civilly.

The last item of business that I will detail in my report is on the presentation and conversation we had at the last Senate meeting, September 16th, 2025, with guests Brenda Perez, David Hickcox, Michelle Caisse, Gregory Allen, and Heather Honig. We followed up on this conversation during SenEx with Brenda Perez last week, and I'm excited to report we are taking immediate action. For now, I've been thinking about this as the "Know Your Rights Campaign", but it could be so much more than that. In SenEx, we are operationalizing a task force with a charge to disseminate timely information and produce actionable items to enhance our campus safety around the possible unlawful detainment of campus community members. We heard your voices, and we are acting with urgency to create this critically important task force following the new Committee Governance and Oversight Policy. At this time, I will not detail the membership or specific charge statement for this group; however, these things are being worked on as we speak, and I expect the campus community will be informed very soon. I expect this task force to provide regular updates to the Senate, and I also expect that you will see some actionable items, like the QR Codes we discussed, very soon! I'm grateful for the conversation we had two weeks ago; however, this is only the beginning.

I would also like to take a moment to share a thought I had around this campaign, task force, thing, which I have been reflecting on all week. It goes something like this: Two years ago, our campus was a tinder box, ready to burst into flames at any moment, plagued by our own leadership controversy, national political angst, and an unjust war (two of them, actually) raging a half a world away. The latter ended up being the spark that set our campus into events that changed us existentially, the occupation of Siemens Hall, and the subsequent campus closure. I think it felt very much like an *us vs. them* thing, with *us* being the faculty and students and *them* being the police and administration (reverse that description depending on which group you are in). Well, two years later, we still find unjust wars raging and lots of national political angst. However, what a fortuitous moment we find ourselves in, where it's no longer *us vs. them*, it's just *us*. *US* being faculty, students, staff,

administration, and yes, even the police. I believe the collective desire to protect our most vulnerable populations was on full display at our meeting two weeks ago, and I couldn't be prouder of this fact. We heard support from the campus Chief of Police and the campus administration. We've also heard support from the CFA, from El Centro del Pueblo, Scholars Without Borders, the Women's Resource Center, CHIRLA, AS, and so many others. Let's take this opportunity to reflect on what a difference a year (or two) makes, and the community we have created in the wake of *them* being, well, you know who. Truly, it is a remarkable time to be here, and I want to thank everyone for the collective wisdom and community we share in standing up for *us*.

Best,

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