

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT

University Senate Written Reports, March 3, 2026

Standing Committees, Statewide Senators and Ex-officio Members

Academic Policies Committee

Submitted by Tyler Evans, APC Chair

Members: Julie Alderson (Faculty-Art), Frank Cappuccio (Faculty-Chem), Alexis-Harrelle Deshazier (Coordinator-Umoja Center), Tyler Evans (APC Chair), Frank Fogarty (Faculty-Wildlife), Jacob Garcia (AS Students), Stephanie McKindley (AS Students), Marissa O'Neill (Faculty-Social Work), Jenni Robinson Reisinger (Registrar), Mark Wicklund (Director-Assessment, AVP Academic Programs designee).

Meeting Date(s): 2/16/26 and 2/23/26

Meeting Details: 2/16/26: The committee prepared for the second listening session for the draft revision of the procedure for discontinuance of an academic program, discussed a plan for SenEx, UPC and APC to jointly bring a revision to the Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct, got an update on ABC/NC proposal, and briefly discussed necessary changes to the Syllabus policy following recent changes in ICC processes.

2/23/26: Open listening session in Goodwin Forum and on Zoom. This report was due before APC had met following the listening session.

Appointments and Elections Committee

Submitted by Jorge Monteiro, AEC Chair

Members: Ara Pachmayer, Jorge Monteiro, Michihiro Sugata

Meeting Date(s): 02/20/2026

Meeting Details: The committee met to appoint the nominees collected from the first call for nominations. We expect to send the second call for nominations next week.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Submitted by Rouhollah Aghasaleh, CBC Chair

Members:

Meeting Date(s):

Meeting Details: no report

Faculty Affairs Committee

Submitted by Jayne McGuire, FAC Chair

Members: Claire Till, Melanie Michalak, Lisa Tremain, Ara Pachmayer, Ryder Dschida, Kim White

Meeting Date(s): February 25

Meeting Details: The committee focused on the topics during the last two weeks.

1. Summer Course Feedback inclusion for RTP process. As a committee we decided that we will propose an update to Appendix J, rather than send out a memo of clarification. We worked on the language for the revision. This update will be shared with the Senate Executive Committee next week, and then with senate soon after.
 2. We discussed the topic of a potential policy regarding finals on Fridays. We determined that this is beyond the scope of the FAC.
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Integrated Curriculum Committee

Submitted by Sara Sterner, ICC Chair

Members: Paul Michael Atienza, Morgan Barker, Christine Cass, Joice Chang, Tom Cook, William Fisher, Paul Geck, Chris Guillen, Sara Hart, Alison Hodges, Sei Hee Hwang, JuEun Lee, Heather Madar*, Bori Mazzag, John Meyer, Libbi Miller, Cindy Moyer, Justus Ortega, Meenal Rana, Jenni Robinson Reisinger, Joshua Smith, Sara Sterner (Chair), Anna Thaler, Melissa Tafoya, Mark Wicklund; Student Representative: Ayan Cabot, AS Executive Vice President; Curriculum and Catalog Specialist: Cameron Allison Govier; Curriculum and Assessment Analyst: Khristan Lamb; ASC, Office of Academic Programs: Geneva Samuelson

Meeting Date: February 24, 2026

Overview of Meeting Details: The meeting focused on discussing the syllabus review process and compliance with the syllabus repository policy. The group debated whether to continue critiquing syllabi as part of program review or to shift this responsibility to deans. They explored using technology solutions like a standard syllabus builder or the ChatGPT tool to improve

compliance. The committee agreed to consider these options further and potentially revisit the issue in the future. Updates were also provided on the Big Five proposals, curriculum development survey, and listening sessions on academic discontinuance.

Highlights of Note:

- At the request of campus stakeholders and following a multi-year, collaborative review process, the Integrated Curriculum Committee has finalized the ICC Decision Review and Appeal Process Guidelines. The approved guidelines are now available [[ICC Decision Review Process Guidelines \(Updated SP26\)](#)] and will be posted on the ICC website as an ongoing resource for the campus community.
- Planning to submit curriculum updates for the 2026-2027 review cycle (Due April 15 for most proposals)? We need to hear from you: [2026 Curriculum Development Survey](#)

Curriculum Development Decisions:

- **ICC-Approved Proposals Advancing to Senate on Consent:** [ICC Consent and Voting Action Calendar - 2.24.2026](#)
- **ICC-Approved Proposals Advancing to Senate by Resolution:** None
- **ICC-Reviewed Proposals Determined to Require Further Development Prior to Advancement to Senate:** None

Read More:

- **Meeting Agenda:** [02.24.26-ICC Meeting Agenda - Approved](#) (*Humboldt Login Required*)
- **DRAFT Meeting Minutes:** [02.24.26-ICC Meeting Minutes - DRAFT](#) (*Humboldt Login Required*)
- **PolyTechnic Big 5 - Approved by the CO!**
 - The Curriculum Office is finalizing the processing of these new additions and degrees will be in the catalog and ready for enrollment in the next cycle.
 - [Applied Humanities, B.A. New Degree Proposal](#)
 - [Health and Medical Sciences BS - New Degree Proposal](#)
 - [Critical Agriculture Studies & Agroecology New Degree Proposal](#)
 - [Community Health, B.A. New Degree Proposal](#)
 - [STEM Education MA New Degree Proposal](#)
- **25-26 Curriculum Review Queue:** [ICC 2025-26 MCC Proposal Tracking](#)

University Policies Committee

Submitted by Sulaina Banks, UPC Chair

Members:

Meeting Date(s):

Meeting Details: no report

University Resources and Planning Committee

Submitted by Jaime Lancaster, URPC Co-Chair

Members:

Meeting Date(s):

Meeting Details: no report

Academic Senate of the CSU

Submitted by Stephanie Burkhalter and Mary Virnoche, ASCSU Senators

Meeting Date(s): Next standing committee meetings and plenary take place March 3-March 6.

The next CSU Board of Trustees meeting is March 9-11.

Meeting Details: No report

Associated Students

Submitted by Eduardo Cruz, AS President

Hello everyone!

Quick Important Updates

The deadline to apply for **Instructionally Related Activities (IRA)** funding is **Sunday, March 8, 2026**. Each academic year, full-time students at Cal Poly Humboldt contribute **\$64 of the \$674 student fee** toward IRA. Every spring, the IRA Committee reviews funding applications and establishes the allocation for the upcoming academic year. If your program or department is considering applying, please make sure submissions are completed before the deadline.

We are currently developing the draft **Associated Students budget** as part of our annual budget cycle. The Subcommittee on Finance is actively reviewing materials, and the proposed budget will be presented to the Board of Directors on **March 11, 2026**. I want to thank **Nate Heron, Vice President of Administration and Finance**, for the significant work and leadership they've provided throughout this process.

On **March 3 from 5:00–7:00 p.m.**, we will host our **A.S. Election Open Forum**, and candidates will be tabling throughout the week. Please encourage your students to engage, ask questions,

and get to know the individuals running to represent them. Voting opens **Monday, March 9** and closes **March 13**. Student participation in this election is critical and these are the leaders who will represent student voices in the upcoming academic year.

Additionally, please consider attending Rooted & Rising Together, the **WSCUC Accreditation Site Visit Launch Event**, on **Wednesday, March 4 from 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in the Kate Buchanan Room (SAC 225)**. Lunch will be provided. This is an important opportunity to engage in our university's reaffirmation of accreditation, and I hope to see strong student representation there.

Finally, the **Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC)** will meet on **March 3 from 8:00–8:50 a.m.**

Thank you all for staying engaged and continuing to support student involvement across campus.

California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary Report

Online Plenary | January 24–25

Overview

I attended the California State Student Association (CSSA) Plenary in Sonoma, where representatives from all 22 CSU campuses convened to discuss systemwide advocacy, governance, and student impact. This plenary focused on financial transparency, ethical leadership, shared governance, and legislative priorities affecting affordability and access across the CSU.

The conversations were serious, thoughtful, and centered on ensuring that student voices are meaningfully included in system-level decision-making.

Systemwide Themes & Major Discussions

Financial Transparency & Ethical Governance

A consistent theme throughout the plenary was the importance of transparency in financial and administrative decision-making. Key discussions included executive compensation decisions made by the Board of Trustees, student fee reporting practices, oversight of systemwide contracts, and long-term fiscal accountability. Students emphasized that transparency must be proactive rather than reactive.

Federal Funding & Equity Concerns

We discussed potential federal funding reductions affecting Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI). Given that many CSU campuses serve historically underrepresented communities, protecting equity-based funding remains critical to student access, retention, and success.

Finance Committee

The committee explored the potential creation of a CSSA Endowment to support long-term financial sustainability. Ethical investing standards were emphasized to ensure CSSA funds align with student values and do not contradict the principles we advocate for.

We also reviewed Student Involvement and Representation Fee (SIRF) opt-out trends across campuses. Fee transparency and student awareness remain ongoing priorities.

Systemwide Affairs

Student Trustee Search

Interviews have concluded and finalists have been selected. A public forum is scheduled, and feedback will be forwarded to the Governor's Office. The Student Trustee plays a critical role in shaping tuition policy, fee oversight, and overall CSU priorities at the Board of Trustees level. Strong student representation remains essential.

AI White Paper & CSU AI Contract

One of the most significant discussions involved the CSU entering a \$17 million AI contract without prior CSSA consultation. This raised concerns about transparency and shared governance.

The finalized AI White Paper prioritizes transparency, ethical accountability, environmental responsibility, and meaningful student involvement in decision-making. Students expressed concerns about privacy, data use, environmental impact, and access barriers. This conversation is ongoing, and oversight will continue.

Nonresident Tuition Resolution

We discussed improved inclusion of international and nonresident students in tuition increase conversations. While revisions are required before the resolution advances, the intent is clear: tuition policy must reflect the realities of all CSU students.

Internal Affairs & Governance Updates

The Board updated constitutional language to reflect next year's structure, proposed adjustments to agenda submission deadlines, and clarified elected officer review policy language. Governance clarity strengthens accountability and organizational integrity.

Legislative Affairs

The committee voted to co-sponsor legislation adjusting Cal Grant cost of attendance calculations, support legislation addressing technology-facilitated sexual violence, support AB 713 expanding equitable access to student employment, and support SB 961 expanding CalFresh eligibility for students.

Affordability, food security, and employment access remain top CSU advocacy priorities. Advocacy efforts will continue through CHESS and legislative meetings.

Board of Directors Highlights

Executive officers reported on federal advocacy, tele-mental health expansion, governance and policy revisions, budget transparency efforts, AI oversight, Title IX communications, and Basic Needs partnerships.

Student Trustees addressed executive compensation structures, student fee oversight, civil rights implementation, and Title IX updates. There was a strong emphasis on long-term accountability at the Board of Trustees level.

Action Items

- The Revised Constitution Resolution passed.
- Legislator of the Year and Staffer of the Year were selected.
- We also received information regarding the 2026–2027 Executive Officer elections. If you know of any students who would like to engage more on the state level, encourage them to apply and run!
- The board of directors approved the recommendations of support from the legislative affairs committee:
 - **AB XXX (Rodriguez)** – Cal Grant Cost of Attendance
Voted to **Co-Sponsor**
 - **AB XXX (Bauer-Kahan)** – Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence
Voted to **Support**
 - **AB 713 (Solache)** – Student Employment Access
Voted to **Support**
 - **SB 961 (Ashby)** – CalFresh Student Eligibility
Voted to **Support**

Advocacy efforts moving forward through CHESS and legislative meetings.

Presidential Reflection

This CSSA Plenary reinforced that systemwide advocacy only matters if it translates into action here at Cal Poly Humboldt. The conversations around AI contracts, executive compensation, federal funding shifts, and legislative priorities are not abstract. It directly affects our students' tuition, fees, employment access, basic need support, and the overall campus experience. For Humboldt, this means strengthening shared governance so students are consulted early in major decisions, not after they have been finalized.

Associated Students is committed to being the official voice for the students of Cal Poly Humboldt.

California Faculty Association

Submitted by Ryder Dschida, CFA Humboldt Chapter President

Members:

Meeting Date(s):

Meeting Details: no report

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Submitted by Rosamel Benavides-Garb, Campus Diversity Officer

Members:

Meeting Date(s):

Meeting Details: no report

Emeritus & Retired Faculty & Staff Association

Submitted by Marshelle Thobaben, Senate Representative for ERFSA



Thanks to Guy for the photo

A warm appreciation to President Carvajal for taking time to spend with ERFSA retirees!

On Feb. 12th, the Humboldt-ERFSA Executive Committee invited President Carvajal to have a “meet and greet” before the regular Humboldt-ERFSA luncheon meeting. The half-hour was well received by the attendees. President Carvajal talked about his connection to Humboldt and his passion for a student-centered approach. He then took questions, where his warmth and caring personality came through. Looking around the room (which was filled with twice as many guests as usual), it was clear that he was connecting with most that were there. It was also notable that he stayed through our speakers' presentations and got to see what kinds of exciting research our new faculty and students are involved in. It made for an excellent start to our Spring '26 luncheon series

Labor Council

Submitted by Bella Gray, Labor Council Delegate

Members:

- APC (Unit 4): Tania Marin-Zeldin, Marissa Holguin, Ann Johnson-Cruz,
- CFA (Unit 3): Ryder Dschida, Loren Cannon, Mario Fernandez,
- CSUEU (Units 2,5, 7, and 9): Edwin Espinoza, Bella Gray, Steve Tillinghast,
- Teamsters (Unit 6): Phil Bradley, Ryan Moore, Jason Wiegandt.

Meeting Date(s): upcoming meeting, Tuesday, March 10th

Post Teamsters Feb 17-20 Strike: In the words of Teamsters' Chief Steward, Phil Bradley, *“The Teamsters are eternally grateful for all of the support we received from our campus and our community. We deeply appreciate it and will be working very hard over the next few weeks to play catchup with everything we weren't here to handle.”*

Staff Council

Submitted by Senator Sulaina Banks

Members:

Meeting Date(s):

Meeting Details: no report

President and President's Executive Cabinet

Richard Carvajal, President

Bethany Gilden, Acting Chief of Staff

Shawna Young, Interim Provost and VP for Academic Affairs

Michael Fisher, Interim VP for Administration & Finance and CFO

Chrissy Holliday, VP for Enrollment Management & Student Success

Steve Karp, Interim VP for University Advancement

Nick Pettit, Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics & Recreational Sports

Adrienne Colegrove-Raymond, Special Assistant to the President for Tribal & Community Engagement

Connie Stewart, Executive Director of Initiatives

MOMENTS OF PRIDE

Spring Enrollment - Cal Poly Humboldt's Spring 2026 enrollment grew 4.1% compared with last spring, as was [announced last week](#) in a campus message. Pride points include the fact we saw growth in both new and continuing student enrollment, with additional significant growth among our transfer population. We also announced the coming launch of a pilot Poly Redirect program with the other two Cal Poly campuses, and asked for continued campus engagement in order to drive continued applications and deposits for Fall.

ACADEMICS

WSCUC Updates

- All campus employees, including student employees are cordially invited to attend the WSCUC Accreditation Site Visit Launch event this *Wednesday, March 4, 2026 from 11:30 am to 1 pm*. The event is designed to prepare, inform, and inspire engagement in the WSCUC Accreditation Reaffirmation site visit process. This interactive session builds shared understanding of accreditation and prepares our campus community for the

upcoming WSCUC site visit and open forums, which will be held *Wednesday and Thursday, April 15th and 16th, 2026*. Lunch will be provided!

- WSCUC Accreditation Reaffirmation site visit preparatory consultative sessions start on March 4th, beginning with the Accreditation Steering Committee. Over the next several weeks, Shawna Young, Interim Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs, Heather Madar, AVP of Academic Affairs and Dean of Undergraduate and Graduate Students, and Marck Wicklund, Accreditation Liaison Officer and Director of Institutional Assessment will meet leadership and staff teams from the following groups:
 - President and Executive Cabinet
 - Academic Affairs
 - Institutional Research, Analytics & Reporting
 - Enrollment Management
 - Center for Teaching & Learning
 - University Advancement
 - GEAR Committee
 - University Senate
 - Provost's Council of Chairs
 - University Budget Office
 - University Resource Planning Committee
 - Associated Students
 - Community partners
- WSCUC Accreditation Reaffirmation Open Forums for students, faculty, and staff and the WSCUC review team are being planned. Watch campus communications for invitations.

Division Budget Planning Presentation

Academic Affairs will provide its divisional budget planning report on Friday, March 13, 2026 at the regularly scheduled URPC meeting.

Changes to the Graduate Assistant/Teaching Associate Waiver Process

Through a longstanding campus practice and in alignment with EO 611, the President and Executive Cabinet annually approve the allocation of graduate student TA/GA tuition fee waivers. In addition to this year's allocation, the Executive Cabinet also recommended decoupling TA/GA waiver allocation from State University Grant (SUG) eligibility. This decision was made after extensive consultation with Financial Aid and the college Deans, and was announced at the February 24th SenEx meeting. This change was done to allow waivers to be used to support graduate student recruitment, increase equitable access to waivers and to

better support graduate programs. The following provides specific details of the rationale for the change:

- The university has removed the requirement to review FAFSA applications prior to the awarding of GA/TA Waivers. Past practice has been to review FAFSA applications in order to deem SUG recipients ineligible for the GA/TA Waiver program.
- In addition to inequity issues related to making SUG recipients ineligible for the GA/TA Waiver program, making the professional development opportunity of being a GA/TA less accessible to that student population, requiring FAFSA review prior to awarding of the GA/TA Waivers postpones by several months graduate programs' capability of notifying prospective and continuing graduate students of their GA/TA Waiver, subsequently threatening student matriculation and retention in the graduate program.
- Decoupling FAFSA review from the awarding decisions of the GA/TA Waivers allows graduate programs to more effectively leverage the GA/TA Waiver program as a recruitment tool, and allows the university to distribute SUG awards (which cover tuition) to students who were not already selected for a GA/TA Waiver, resulting in more students receiving aid for tuition in one form or another.

CAMPUS

Friday morning, Vice Presidents Mike Fisher, Chrissy Holliday, and Steve Karp, along with faculty and other University and student leadership, met with students and community members for a conversation about concerns surrounding immigration, global conflict, labor negotiations, and University investments. The conversation was difficult at times but necessary, and we appreciate everyone who took the time to participate and share their perspectives. Following the dialogue, a sit-in and building occupation concluded overnight. The University remains committed to ongoing engagement and support for our campus community. We look forward to continuing this conversation in person at Senate or at other times as we work to support constructive dialogue and our shared campus values.