Academic Affairs University Senate Report 11/10/2026

Honorary Degree Nominations

The nomination period for Cal Poly Humboldt's 2027 honorary degrees has closed. Campus nominations will be reviewed by the Honorary Degree Committee and, following approval by the President, selected nominees will be forwarded to the CSU Board of Trustees Subcommittee on Honorary Degrees for consideration in advance of the January 26–27, 2027, Board meeting. The conferral of honorary degrees is anticipated during spring commencement.

Pelican Bay Graduation

At the conclusion of the Fall 2026 semester, the first cohort of 17 students in Cal Poly Humboldt's Bachelor of Arts in Communication program at Pelican Bay State Prison will complete their degrees. Thirteen students are expected to participate in the program's inaugural graduation ceremony on January 7, 2027, marking a historic milestone as the first students in the nation to earn bachelor's degrees at a maximum-security prison.

The Pelican Bay campus is an accredited instructional site of Cal Poly Humboldt, offering the same curriculum taught by the same instructors as the Arcata campus. Several students have already transferred to lower-security facilities, reflecting one of the many positive ways education can contribute to rehabilitation. The university looks forward to recognizing these Cal Poly Humboldt scholars and celebrating their academic achievements.

Class Scheduling and Classroom Utilization Working Group

Academic Affairs is establishing a Scheduling and Classroom Utilization Working Group to review the university's course scheduling practices and assess their effectiveness in supporting student success, timely degree progress, and efficient use of instructional resources. Building on existing scheduling guidelines and recommendations from the 2025–2026 Registration Working Group, the group will evaluate current scheduling zones, classroom utilization, and opportunities to reduce student scheduling conflicts. The group is also charged with identifying opportunities to leverage technology and data, improve communication and consistency across colleges and departments, and develop recommendations for leadership consideration. Membership will include representatives from Academic Affairs, faculty, staff, and students, as well as key campus offices involved in scheduling and space management. Recruitment is underway, and the group will hold its initial convening prior to winter break.