

STUDENT ACADEMIC SENATE

This meeting was facilitated both in-person and via an online Zoom format.

Thursday, March 13, 2026 1:00 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Kureha Takayama (chair), Chase Weiland, Ysabella Marin, Andrew Ly, Joerly Johnson, Justin Cheung, Madi Sunderman, Kesar Mann, Michael Coons, Pushpak Rane, Caleigh Werblow, Ellie Ertle

MEMBERS ABSENT – Tia Saunders, Amari May, Emily Riera, Pablo Soto, Mary Cox

OTHERS PRESENT – Kendra Wright, Luke Bagwell (recording),

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Takayama, called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Approval of the 3/13/26 regular meeting agenda. **Motion to approve the 3/13/26 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Sunderman/Marin) 8-0-1 MSC.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of the 2/27/26 regular meeting. **Motion to approve the minutes of the 2/27/26 regular meeting, as presented (Ly/Johnson) 8-0-1 MSC.**

IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** –

None.

- V. **PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to items on the agenda, three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic.

None.

VI. **BUSINESS**

- A. **Information Item:** Committee Information Flyers for Recruitment Support

Weiland explained the main request is for each senator to create a flyer with information that may be helpful for next years senator, or other students who are involved in the SLF committee process. They should be completed by March 26.

- B. **Information Item:** Accreditation Institutional Report - Student Input Survey

Ertle presented the reaccreditation process and had the senators take a survey in the meeting that will be valuable information used in the reaccreditation process.

- C. **Discussion Item:** GPA Grading Structure and Equity Considerations

Takayama explained how the current grading scale at Chico State which uses +'s and -'s may unnecessarily impact students, especially ones who transfer from community colleges, where they typically do not use +'s and -'s in their grading scale. Cheung shared that GPA isn't everything, and also mentioned the opportunity for students to retake their classes if they are not pleased with the grade. Takayama mentioned that for international and graduate students, retaking a class is not always the best option financially, since they may need to pay a thousand dollars per class. Werblow shared that an A+ should not exist if it does not positively impact your grade. Ly shared that a 4.3 would essentially just be a 4.0. Marin

shared that she believes that an A- should not negatively affect your grade. She also argued that having a 4.3 scale could potentially make Chico State more competitive academically. Ly shared applications often are holistic and do not rely solely on GPA. Takayama shared the main concern with this GPA discussion is not necessarily focused on the high GPA but the students with low gpa. Coons shared his appreciation for this conversation. He also mentioned the percentage system that some schools have in place, where letter grades do not exist which contributed to alleviating some of the stress students feel from the letter grade scale. Ly argued in favor of the minimum GPA requirements for some programs, AS included, as it sets a standard that must be met. Wright shared that the minimum GPA to be in a leadership role for Government Affairs comes from Executive Order 1068, which is from the Chancellors office. Sunderman shared a personal story which depicted an instance in which she was able to change previous grades due after furnishing proper doctor notes. Coons shared Executive Memorandum 09-010 which is where Chico State academic grading lives. Werblow brought the focus back to the we are punished for getting an A- but not rewarded for getting an A+. Weiland shared that in the EM it explains that +- can be used as well as solid letter grades. He also shared that it seems like the desire is to standardize the scale across all courses. Ly shared that it seems like the overarching sentiment is that people just don't like being punished with – grades and so maybe that should be changed. Chair Takayama shared that she would like to bring this conversation back to the table at a future meeting.

VII. **REPORTS: MEMBERS** –

Behavioral and Social Sciences – Marin shared that she had the chance to speak to students who are interested in running for AS.

Humanities and Fine Arts – Sunderman shared Humanities in Bloom is happening when we return from break on March 25 12:30-2:30. BBQ and Music at the Barn for HFA students is coming up in early April.

Business – Ly shared April 4th will be an easter event hopefully open to all students. April 22 is biz-talks.

Natural Sciences – Mann shared the club council meeting and the successful club council kahoot event.

Communication and Education – Johnson shared she has been planning for the inspirational professor award. March 25 job fair will hopefully include more coms and journalism major related career opportunities.

Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management – Cheung shared his hopes that all senators have a good spring break.

Agriculture – Weiland shared the multiple ways he has been recognizing students and faculty in the college of Ag. He is working with the Ag Dean to put together an event that increases the feeling of involvement from students within the college of ag.

AS President – None.

Provost or designee – Ertle shared general education program review is still happening. UNCC formed a sub-committee that will be talking about developing a policy on mode of instruction. Chico State online is still developing a better online degree program. Student research and creative activities grants are open and the application closes soon. Ertle provided a reminder that the Provost would love to see students so take a look at her office hours.

Chair of Academic Senate – Coons stated that the outstanding professor and outstanding lecturer awards are starting to go out.

Chair- Takayama expressed her thanks to the table for the discussion earlier. The Feb 25 BOD meeting included a discussion on how the AS helped students during the Cal Fresh delay. There was also a discussion at BOD on immediate access, and encouraged the senators to share immediate access to their colleges so we can spread the word. Next SAS we will discuss the individual senators budget and how they plan to spend their funding.

VIII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** –

Wright shared an invitation to the Government Affairs Committee meeting happening today at 3pm where the University President will speak about the Chico State community agreements.

IX. REPORTS: NON-VOTING MEMBERS -

A. Student Representative appointed by the Director of Social Justice and Equity: None

B. Student representative from or appointed by the Council of Graduate Students: None

C. Student representative from First Year Experience or adjacent programs: None

D. Student representative from the University Honors Program in General Education: Werblow shared all honors students are doing mandatory advising. Honors will host a celebration of Excellence.

E. Staff or student representative from Academic Advising Programs: None

F. Staff or student representative from the Accessibility Resource Center: None

X. PUBLIC OPINION – None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT – The Chair, Takayama, adjourned the meeting at 2:13 PM