

STUDENT ACADEMIC SENATE

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

Thursday, March 27, 2026 1:00 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Kureha Takayama (Chair), Tia Saunders, Chase Weiland (Recording), Ysabella Marin, Andrew Ly, Joerly Johnson, Madi Sunderman, Kesar Mann, Michael Coons, Ellie Ertle, Mary Cox (online), Pushpak Rane

MEMBERS ABSENT – Justin Cheung, Amari May, Emily Reira, Caleigh Werblow, Pablo Soto

OTHERS PRESENT – Adin White, Landon Hendricks

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Takayama, called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Approval of the 3/27/26 regular meeting agenda. **Motion to approve the 3/27/26 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Ly/Johnson) 8-0-1 MSC.**
APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of the 3/13/26 regular meeting. **Motion to approve the minutes of the 3/13/26 regular meeting, as presented (Sunderman/Marin) 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. Action Item: Revision of Student Academic Senate Code (attached, page 6-9). **Action Item: Revision of Student Academic Senate Code (attached, page 6-9)**

Chair Takayama shared this is what was discussed 2-3 weeks ago, the main change was adding the student or staff from undergraduate education. The intention was adding a representative for undeclared students. Subsequently this changed the member amount from 6 to 7. She also mentioned she changed it to automatic numbering system and added a strike over “senator should chair college council”. Senator Ly asked if there was a method for finding a student representative for undeclared. Chair Takayama shared because there is no appointment, the next director can send an email to the office and they will send someone. Ellie confirmed, and clarified they are not elected. Chair Takayama shared that the appointment process takes more time, so because it is a non-voting member, it makes more sense to send a representative. Kendra asked Ellie if the program is listed accurately. Ellie shared it is okay, but shared concern that it does not explicitly say undeclared. She proposed

adding exploratory studies, since it will be the eventual program name, and asked Chair Takayama for clarification. Kendra shared that a program would be able to decide, but the intent is undergraduate. Ellie wanted to clarify for undeclared not undergraduate education. Chair Takayama asked for clarification from Ellie, since she shared it was the undeclared success coordinator that would make the decision. Kendra clarified who they are working under. Ellie shared that it is folded within the first-year experience program. They further discussed that this position should reach out to a program, over a position. Ellie shared that there is a lack of clarification for those in the future, that this is for undeclared. Senator Ly shared it would make more sense to have a student representative. He showed support for the previous discussion from Ellie. Ellie shared that starting fall 2026 exploratory studies will be undergraduate experience. President Saunders and Chair Takayama discussed possible motion recommendations.

Senator Ly asked a question based off why the requirement of holding a council is being removed. Senator Sunderman responded about college councils, since many are unable to. Kendra shared that if that they add "if applicable," they will be able to, since some colleges do. Maddie shared support for "if applicable", Senator Ly agrees with that also.

Motion to amend line 7 under Non-Voting membership to "A staff or student representative: Exploratory Studies from the Office of Undergraduate Education and Academic Success." (Ly/Johnson) 7-0-2 MSC.

Motion to amend line 3 under Duties for Student Senators to "Each Student Senator shall chair a College Council if applicable." (Sunderman/Marin) 7-0-2 MSC.

Kendra shared that now it is moving to the original motion, approving the code, as amended.

Action Item: Revision of Student Academic Senate Code, as amended. (Ly/Sunderman) 7-0-2 MSC.

B. Discussion Item: GPA Grading Structure and Equity Considerations (Follow-Up, attached page 10)

Chair Takayama discussed that this is a summary of previously shared thoughts and that she would like to bring this item to Academic Senate in the future. She shared she wanted to keep a cap but make + or – different points. President Saunders asked clarification on how to enforce the cap. Chair Takayama wanted to avoid GPA inflation, benefit for some students. Senator Ly suggested a 4.3 scale instead for a more logical system requirement but suggested following a system that has already been done. Senator Ly said most of the issues was A- brings you down. Chair Takayama shared that students A is still considered excellent student, may be easier to suggest. Senator Ly asked more of the intent, 3.9. Pushpak Rane wanted to clarify what A- is, because each professor views it slightly differently, shared as an international student it disproportionately affects students. Chair Takayama asked about if there are any policies for faculty, and Coons shared they are covered under academic freedom. Senator Johnson shared that she sees it as reflective in students, supported the continued work of the grades already in progress. Senator Ly shared that Coon's information was important, and shared that we could push a 4.3 scale, but professors would just change it. Chair Takayama echoed the thoughts shared, and supported them, but also shared transfer system unfairness in transferring reports. Chair Takayama closed thoughts sharing that she hopes the next director will continue this discussion.

VII. REPORTS: MEMBERS –

Behavioral and Social Sciences – Marin shared she has started her April newsletter and worked with an organization on campus. Has been discussing with dean about BSS symposium, and worked on the SLF committee flyer, used it as an advertising piece. Chair Takayama asked about budget, Marin, shared she will be using it all for that event.

Chair Takayama shared that she would like a clear thought of budget.

Humanities and Fine Arts – Sunderman shared she did not do the flyer but was talking about how members were chosen for SLF, and she will get that information in the future. She is about to use her money at the HFA Barn event Wednesday April 8th, through a candy bar, but will talk to Eliza about the implementation of this progress. The rest of the money will be at the end of the semester, during the week before dead week, donuts and to introduce the new senator.

Business – Ly shared April 4 Easter events and regarding budgets, he believes he will have a good chunk left. He shared he will be focusing on setting up information for the next senator, so they can start strong. He also requested clarification on where unused senator budget goes, and was told it stays in funding, but will not go to next year's senator.

Ellie Ertle left the meeting at 1:47.

Natural Sciences – Mann shared she is working on the newsletter and sits on the academic integrity council. Next week the club council meeting will be working on the softball tournament. She will be using her budget for that event.

Chair Takayama requested more information on AI usage discussion in academic integrity council. Senator Mann shared she will discuss that in the future.

Communication and Education – Johnson shared she was supposed to meet with her Dean; she is working on April newsletter and will talk about graduation in it. She is prepping transition documents for future senator, that way it goes smoothly. The rest of budget will be used in the end of the year awards banquet. She is excited to look through responses and is currently planning budget.

Senator Johnson left the room at 1:52.

Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management – none.

Agriculture – Weiland shared he sent out his ninth weekly newsletter. The Excellence in Ag award ceremony is approaching, and he is inviting previous winners. He will be sending out Club and research information starting Monday. The next Inter Club Council meeting is next Friday. The associate dean will be present to run the faculty, staff, and club of the year voting, with results announced at the excellence award ceremony on April 24th. He also shared that he attended California Higher Education Student Summit, where he met with legislative members and staff, discussed bills, and advocated for them. He is also a part of the University Diversity Officer Search Committee, and they have started their work. Lastly, he shared his budget will be used for the excellence in ag award ceremony, and with the dean to collect student feedback.

AS President – Saunders shared that CHESS was a great event, she got to attend the conference portion, with other members attending the lobbying portion. She further shared that the work student

academic senate is doing is important and interesting. She shared her appreciation for the work and hopes to continue seeing it. She also is working on the committee to find the new Executive Director for AS, that will take place soon. Senator Ly requested information on whether it was renewing the search or using previous selected candidates. Wright said the posting is currently a national search and by the end of the semester, the Board of Directors will approve the final selection.

Senator Johnson Returned at 1:55

Provost or designee – none.

Chair of Academic Senate – Coons stated that not much has happened in Academic Senate, but the last one will be the presentation of graduates.

Chair- Takayama expressed her appreciation for timely discussions and welcome back to those who went to CHESS. She also shared her budget will be purchasing scantrons and green books for students to utilize prior to finals week. She further shared there are two more student academic senate meetings and pass the gavel after the April 10 meeting. AS elections are here, all regularly enrolled students are able to vote. Report from GAC, SOEAF funding is running out, so please inform college students. Currently, on the April 1st BOD will be putting up removal for ECC senator for violations in the student senator position. Senators can share during public opinion if desired. She also shared that Senator Cheung, can share a counter claim, if he so chooses.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Kendra shared that budget touch base is appreciated, but noted that there is a process, the second you have your idea, please strategize the payment of it, and how do we pay for it.

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: Pushpak shared that there is a flyer for the connections fair, request that all senators share with their respective colleges.
- D. Student representative from the University Honors Program in General Education: None
- 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.

XI. ADJOURNMENT – The Chair, Takayama, adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM