



**AGENDA**

- 1. Call to Order** [Greenwood]
  
- 2. Approval of Minutes** [Greenwood]  
    **2.1.** Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from January 6, 2026 ..... pp. 2-6
  
- 3. Communications and Announcements** [Greenwood]
  
- 4. Reports**
  - 4.1. Academic Senate Chair** [Greenwood]
  - 4.2. President's Office** [Haft]
  - 4.3. Provost** [Liddicoat] ..... pp. 7-8
  - 4.4. Statewide Senate** [Frame, Rein, & Stegner; Inoue & Senk] ..... p. 9
  - 4.5. CFA-SLO** [Kawamura, Sinha]
  - 4.6. ASI** [Cabeliza, Engel]
  
- 5. Discussion Items**
  - 5.1.** Semester Meeting Schedules for the Academic Senate and Executive Committee  
[Greenwood]
  
- 6. Business Items**
  - 6.1.** Faculty Appointments [Greenwood]
    - 6.1.1.** Approval of Faculty Appointments to Academic Senate and University  
Committees ..... pp. 10-15
  
  - 6.2. [TIME CERTAIN 4:40 p.m.]** Resolution on the Renaming of the Department of Sciences  
and Mathematics to the Department of Oceanography and Natural Sciences [Alexander  
Parker, Department Chair] ..... pp. 16-20
  
- 7. Adjournment** [Greenwood]



## **ATTENDEES**

### **Executive Committee Members**

**Benjamin Alexander** OCOB Caucus Chair; **Marc Cabeliza** ASI President; **Alyson Engel** ASI Board of Directors Chair; ~~**Samuel Frame** Vice Chair & CSU Statewide Senator; **Jerusha Greenwood** Academic Senate Chair; **Thomas Gutierrez** Immediate Past Senate Chair; **Kara Hitchcock** PCS Caucus Chair; **Sean Hurley** CAFES Caucus Chair; **Taiyo Inoue** CSU Statewide Senator; **Lisa Kawamura** CFA-SLO Chapter President; ~~**Al Liddicoat** Provost and Executive Vice President; **Elizabeth McNie** Solano Campus Representative; **Steffen Peuker** CENG Caucus Chair; **Steve Rein** CSU Statewide Senator; **Andrew Schaffner** BCSM Caucus Chair; **Sarah Senk** CSU Statewide Senator; **Dustin Stegner** CSU Statewide Senator; **Ava Wright** CLA Caucus Chair; **Vacant**: CAED Caucus Chair~~~~

### **Guests**

Simone Aloisio; Kenneth Brown; Rachel Fernflores; Daniel Grassian; Cheryl May; Soma Roy; Aparna Sinha; Zora Sowinska; Shannon Sullivan-Danser; Matthew Weinstein

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## **MINUTES**

- 1. Call to Order:** Jerusha Greenwood, Academic Senate Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** The Executive Committee meeting minutes from November 4, 2025, were approved.
- 3. Communications and Announcements:** Jerusha Greenwood, Academic Senate Chair, noted that a statement of interest for the Teaching Effectiveness Committee has been received, and the person who put their name forward should be considered as a lecturer. The Executive Committee participated in three e-votes across the winter break period, resulting in three appointments: Anastasia Telesetsky (CAFES) as the Sustainability Committee Chair, Allison Myers (CLA) as the faculty representative for the Library Dean search, and Erin Gorter (CAFES) as the CAFES committee representative on the Graduate Education Ad Hoc Curriculum Committee.
- 4. Reports**
  - 4.1. Academic Senate Chair:** None.



**4.2. President's Office:** Jennifer Haft, President Armstrong's Chief of Staff, reported that the Cal Poly Rose Parade team's float won the Sweepstakes Award, an honor typically accorded to larger, commercially built floats, which is the first win across Cal Poly's 77 years of participation in the competition. The 125<sup>th</sup> Cal Poly Anniversary Celebration will begin with an event at the University Union on Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Concurrent celebrations will occur on the Cal Poly Solano Campus and in the Mustang Business Park, and further additions will be announced throughout the year. Mildred García, Chancellor, sent communications prior to the break surrounding CSU Forward for the strategic plan, the Economic Impact Study, and a new advocacy platform entitled CSU Voices. Lastly, Congressman Doug LaMalfa, Cal Poly alumni, passed away.

**4.3. Provost:** Daniel Grassian, Senior Vice Provost, spoke in place of Al Liddicoat, Provost. He reported a summary of fall progress updates, including the reopening of the Kennedy Library, advancing transfer pathways to expand local access, welcoming new deans and academic leaders, and strengthening cross-college and cross-campus cooperation. The key principle underscoring this progress is a dual focus on academic equality and student success. Faculty and staff input shaped fall efforts such as the first AI Convening, which will return in the spring, and feedback from the research administration assessment, which will be used to inform improvement priorities and structural decisions. Cal Poly continues to advance through the first common student application cycle while being integrated with Cal Poly Solano. Academic alignment and cross-campus faculty collaboration remains central to the integration process. The 2026-2028 Semester Catalog was released, representing three years of sustained faculty work. Students were provided additional support for adjusting to the semester catalog, such as the recent Semester Conversion Resource Carnival. Academic Affairs continues to focus on learning from peer institutions and working to understand how a year-round model can support academic quality by expanding access, increasing flexibility, and strengthening student success. Their primary focus moving forward is to finalize the forthcoming academic calendars, preparing for the full Maritime integration which will occur this August, continuing year-round operations planning with broad faculty engagement, and launching the enhanced Teacher-Scholar Model assigned time program.

**4.4. Statewide Senate:** Steve Rein (STAT), reported that the chairs of various committees will meet this week with Samuel Frame, Vice Chair, to debrief prior to the upcoming plenary session. Dustin Stegner (ENGL), reported that the possibility of forward movement with community colleges offering certain bachelor's degrees. An announcement may be released as early as mid-January; however, the CSU views this



idea as duplicative to CSU degree programs. Sarah Senk (CLA), Statewide Senator, reported that she has been appointed to the CSU Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee. Taiyo Inoue (BCSM), Statewide Senator, reported that he has been appointed to the CSU Faculty Affairs Committee.

**4.5. CFA-SLO:** Lisa Kawamura, CFA SLO Chair, reported that CFA SLO has returned to the bargaining table and subsequently rejected the Chancellor's offer of a 3% base salary increase in lieu of larger salary asks. She encouraged the Executive Committee to review bargaining proposals, as these proposals will continuously be forward to management. The Teamsters notified CFA of an upcoming strike, and CFA intends to stand in solidarity with them. Aparna Sinha, CFA Solano Chair, reported that CFA Solano will be meeting about their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) #3 on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, they hope to reach an agreement on travel and related union topics. On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Solano lecturers received a memo that their evaluations were due in January, and SLO administration failed to bring this to CFA's attention during any meet-and-confers. The administration is now issuing a memo that states, beginning in January, lecturers must adhere to SLO's process and procedures. These memos created confusion among lecturers, necessitating CFA negotiation in mid-December, which resulted in an agreement to extend the lecturer evaluation timeline if needed.

**4.6. ASI:** Alyson Engel, ASI Board of Directors Chair, congratulated the Rose Parade team for their Sweepstakes Award win. A letter of intent outlining ASI's management of certain Solano campus recreational facilities was signed by the President's Office, ASI, and the Solano Campus. Finally, preparation for ASI elections has begun, and more information is forthcoming. Marc Cabeliza, ASI President, reported that Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, is the inaugural ride for ASI's student grocery shuttle, and ASI has partnered with Campus Health and Wellbeing to help students register for CalFresh and give away tote bags for collecting their groceries. Civic Engagement Day, which will occur on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, will encourage students to increase their community engagement by meeting local, state, and federal officials.

**5. Discussion Items:** None.

**6. Business Items**

**6.1. Faculty Appointments**



**6.1.1. Approval of Faculty Appointments to Academic Senate and University**

Committees: M/S/P to approve the following faculty appointments to Academic Senate and University Committees.

Ben Ruttenberg (BCSM)	<i>Shared Governance Task Force</i>
Jermaine Washington (CAED)	<i>Ad Hoc Committee on Student Perceptions of Teaching Effectiveness Questionnaires/Student Opinion Surveys</i>
Lucy Bencharit (CLA)	<i>Shared Governance Task Force</i>
Sandy Shen (CAED)	<i>Commencement Policy Committee (2025-2027)</i>
John Oliver (CENG)	<i>Commencement Policy Committee (2025-2027)</i>
Jennifer Mott (CENG)	<i>Shared Governance Task Force</i>
Katherine Luce (PCS)	<i>Consultative Search Committee for the Dean of Library Services</i>
Christian Anderson (CLA)	<i>Curriculum Appeals Committee</i>
Gregory Bohr (CLA)	<i>Curriculum Appeals Committee</i>
Jane Lehr (CLA)	<i>Curriculum Appeals Committee</i>
Andrew Schaffner (BCSM)	<i>Curriculum Appeals Committee</i>
Dustin Stegner (CLA)	<i>Curriculum Appeals Committee</i>

**6.2. Resolution on Modifications to the Bylaws of the Academic Senate regarding the Distinguished Teaching Awards Committee:** Soma Roya, Distinguished Teaching Awards Committee Chair, introduced a resolution that would establish individual Distinguished Teaching Awards committees at each Cal Poly Campus in order to fit their unique needs. Each committee would prepare procedures and guidelines in accordance with these needs. M/S/P to agendize the Resolution on Modifications to the Bylaws of the Academic Senate regarding the Distinguished Teaching Awards Committee.

**6.3. Resolution on UFPP 13.1 Administrative Memos:** Kenneth Brown, Faculty Affairs Committee Chair, introduced a resolution that would change the procedure for adding administrative memos to the UPFF Appendix. This revision would allow additions to the UPFF Appendix as needed with notification to the Senate of any changes. M/S/P to agendize the Resolution on UFPP 13.1 Administrative Memos.

**6.4. Resolution on UFPP Procedural Updates for Semester Conversion:** Kenneth Brown, Faculty Affairs Committee Chair, introduced a resolution containing an ad hoc



exception to normal Academic Senate procedure for approving omnibus procedural revisions to the UFPP, specifically for the 2026-2027 Academic Year. The Faculty Affairs Committee would provide a written report detailing all such procedural revisions to the Academic Senate Executive Committee. M/S/P to agendize the Resolution on UFPP Procedural Updates for Semester Conversion.

**6.5. [CONFIDENTIAL]** Donor Recognition Naming Consideration: Matthew Weinstein, VP of University Development and Alumni Engagement, presented donor recognition to the Executive Committee. M/S/P to endorse the naming proposal.

**7. Adjournment:** Jerusha Greenwood, Academic Senate Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Minutes submitted by

Zora Sowinska

### **CENG Dean Search Campus Visits - Save the Dates**

The Consultative Search Committee for the Dean of the College of Engineering (CENG) will soon host up to four finalists for on-campus visits, with potential two-day visits scheduled for February 26–27, March 2–3, March 5–6, and March 17–18. Each visit will include an open forum on the first day from 11:10 a.m. to noon, offered in both in-person and virtual formats and open to the campus community. Information about finalists, forum logistics, and opportunities for feedback will be shared in advance of each visit.

The search committee is chaired by John Pan, Department Chair of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering.

### **University Research Advisory Committee (U-RAC) Kickoff & Workday Go-Live**

The research transformation initiative formally launched with the University Research Advisory Committee (U-RAC) kickoff session on January 20, 2026. The session established the project scope, governance structure, and expectations for committee and campus contributions, and included discussion of the implementation timeline, overall approach, and cultural change objectives to support shared accountability across research units. U-RAC will serve as a strategic advisory body throughout implementation. Next steps include launching aligned workstreams focused on process redesign, compliance improvements, and technology enablement. Briefing of the Huron Assessment was held with the office of research and the deans council in mid-January.

The Workday Go-Live is planned for March 2026. Cal Poly Partners' implementation of Workday modernizes operations by consolidating previously separate systems into a single, more efficient platform with improved functionality and transparency. Training sessions will begin in February and will cover HR and payroll. Details for these Zoom sessions will be shared broadly, and recordings and job aides and videos are available on the Cal Poly Partners Intranet for users to access the information they need.

### **Cal Poly Maritime Academy Faculty and Staff Town Halls**

On January 27, 2026, Provost Liddicoat held faculty and staff town halls at the Cal Poly Maritime Academy to provide updates on integration efforts and to hear campus feedback. He outlined work that is defined, underway, and still being shaped through shared governance, much of it coordinated through Focused Integration Teams (FITs) addressing advising, faculty development, tutoring and learning support, international education, and EPaCE. The Provost noted that FIT recommendations will be shared with leadership in February, integration plans will be finalized by early April, and he will return to the Solano campus in April to share next steps as faculty and staff prepare for the fall semester.

### **SJSU AI Visit**

On January 28, 2026, Provost Liddicoat visited San José State University with Chris Lupo (Director, Noyce School of Applied Computing) and Bob Crockett (Interim Dean, College of Engineering) to meet with academic and cross-campus leadership regarding institutional approaches to artificial intelligence (AI). Topics included AI curricular integration, governance and accreditation considerations, faculty development, digital learning strategies, and workforce alignment. Cal Poly faculty Patrick Lin, Ava Wright, Ryan Jenkins, and Leida Chen participated remotely in selected meetings focused on AI and

education and cross-campus collaboration. The visit underscored opportunities for CSU-wide collaboration related to AI infrastructure, pedagogy, and applied research.

#### **Apple Next Gen Innovator Program Kickoff**

On January 29, 2026, Cal Poly launched its participation in Apple's Next Gen Innovator Program with a kickoff event for the inaugural student cohort. Cal Poly is one of 22 institutions nationwide selected to participate in this initiative, which provides industry mentorship and applied learning experiences for undergraduate students. The seven-month Apple Next Gen Innovators Mentorship Program pairs students with Apple engineers for one-on-one mentorship and includes virtual hands-on workshops and networking opportunities. Through this engagement, participating students will gain exposure to professional practice and career pathways across hardware, software, and manufacturing-related fields.



## Submitted by Samuel Frame

This report covers APEP and the ASCSU plenary meetings held during the week of 12 January 2026.

I would like to highlight two first-reading resolutions. The first, AS-3773-25/Exec on the Apportionment of Academic Senate of the California State University Seats, sunsets the Maritime representatives stemming from its time as a separate university. For AY 2026–2027, Cal Poly Maritime will have one representative to the ASCSU.

The second, AS-3778-25/APEP on the Process for Appointment of Area 6 Ethnic Studies Disciplinary Faculty Reviewers, seeks to clarify the processes and requirements for appointing CSU faculty as Ethnic Studies discipline expert reviewers for Cal-GETC Area 6. I or the Senate Office can provide a link to the resolution should you wish to review it and provide feedback.

The new Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Junius Gonzales, M.D., spoke during the plenary on a variety of systemwide issues. In his opening remarks, Dr. Gonzales candidly noted that the CSU's approval of California Community College baccalaureate programs had not been handled well when compared to "other states and systems." He discussed a WestEd analysis commissioned by the CCC, released in October 2025, which examined program duplication and he indicated there are "pieces of the review and approval process that need to be tweaked and improved." Dr. Gonzales further suggested that "Arizona State University's relationship with the community colleges is the play we need to replicate" with adjustments of course. Finally, he stressed the importance of further developing CSU online program offerings, a point that was also brought up by the CO's representative to APEP, Dr. Shireen Pavri AVC Educator & Leadership Programs, in the context of CSU Online-to-CSU articulations. Dr. Pavri remarked "we have to get into the online space."

## **FACULTY STATEMENTS OF INTEREST RECEIVED**

ACADEMIC SENATE COMMITTEES .....	1
BAILEY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS ( <i>NONE</i> ).....	1
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES ( <i>NONE</i> ) .....	1
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN ( <i>NONE</i> ) .....	1
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING ( <i>NONE</i> ).....	1
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS ( <i>NONE</i> ).....	1
ORFALEA COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ( <i>NONE</i> ) .....	1
PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATIVE SERVICES ( <i>NONE</i> ).....	1
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES .....	2
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN .....	2
ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT COUNCIL (2024-2027) .....	2
JOSEPH CLEARY.....	2
VACANCIES BY CAUCUS/CAMPUS.....	3
ACADEMIC SENATE FACULTY VACANCIES BY COMMITTEE .....	3
FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE VACANCIES FOR UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES.....	4

### **ACADEMIC SENATE COMMITTEES**

**BAILEY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS (*None*)**

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (*None*)**

**COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (*None*)**

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (*None*)**

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS (*None*)**

**ORFALEA COLLEGE OF BUSINESS (*None*)**

**PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATIVE SERVICES (*None*)**

## **UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

### **COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN**

#### **ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT COUNCIL (2024-2027)**

##### **JOSEPH CLEARY, Construction Management (Tenured); 7 years at Cal Poly**

I have been serving on the AAC as the CAED Faculty Fellow (interim Associate Dean) for the last year and a half. That assignment has ended at the end of Fall 2025 term when I stepped down upon the appointment of a permanent AD. I began that role following my term on Academic Senate and as the CAED Caucus Chair. The current CAED faculty representative on AAC has been named the new CAED AD. I offer to continue to serve on the AAC but in the CAED Faculty representative for the remainder of the CAED term.

*Highlighted committees indicate that one or more SOIs were included in the February 3 Executive Committee agenda.*

## **VACANCIES BY CAUCUS/CAMPUS**

CAUCUS/ CAMPUS	ACADEMIC SENATE COMMITTEE	UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE
CAED	Distinguished Teaching Awards (25-27)	Academic Assessment Council (24-27)
	Fairness Board (24-26)	Commencement Policy Committee (24-26)
	GEGB (24-27)	
	Instruction (25-27)	
CAFES	GEGB (25-28)	
CENG	BLRP (25-27)	
	Diversity (24-26)	
	Fairness Board (25-27)	
CLA	BLRP (2024-2026)	Intellectual Property Review Committee (25-28)
BCSM	GEGB (23-26)	Commencement Policy Committee (25-27)
OCOB	GEGB (23-26)	Commencement Policy Committee (24-26)
	Sustainability (25-27)	
PCS	Ad Hoc Committee on Student Perceptions of Teaching Effectiveness/ Questionnaires/Student Opinion Surveys	Academic Assessment Council (23-26)
	Curriculum (25-27)	GWR Advisory Board (24-26)
	DSA (25-27)	Intellectual Property Review (23-26)
	DTA (25-27)	
	Fairness Board (24-26)	
	Grants Review (25-27)	
	RSCA (24-26)	
	Sustainability (25-27)	
SOLANO	Ad Hoc Committee on Student Perceptions of Teaching Effectiveness/ Questionnaires/Student Opinion Surveys	
	BLRP (AY 25-26)	
	Fairness Board (AY 25-26)	
	Graduate (AY 25-26)	
	Sustainability (AY 25-26)	

## **ACADEMIC SENATE FACULTY VACANCIES BY COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE	VACANCY	TERM EXPIRATION
	PCS	n/a

COMMITTEE	VACANCY	TERM EXPIRATION
Ad Hoc Committee on Student Perceptions of Teaching Effectiveness/ Questionnaires/Student Opinion Surveys	Solano	n/a
BLRP	CENG	2027
	CLA	2026
	Solano	2026
Curriculum	CAED	2026
	PCS	2027
Curriculum Appeals	<i>None</i>	
DSA	PCS	2027
DTA	PCS	2027
Diversity	CENG	2026
Faculty Affairs	<i>None</i>	
Fairness Board	CAED	2026
	CENG	2027
	PCS	2026
	Solano	2026
GEGB	CAED	2027
	CAFES	2028
	BCSM	2026
	OCOB	2026
Graduate	Solano	2026
Grants Review	PCS	2027
Instruction	CAED	2027
RSCA	PCS	2026
Sustainability	PCS	2027
	OCOB	2027
	Solano	2027
USCP Review	<i>None</i>	

#### ***FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE VACANCIES FOR UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES***

COMMITTEE	VACANCY	TERM EXPIRATION
Academic Assessment Council	CAED	2027
	PCS	2026
	School of Education	2027
Academic Council for International Programs	<i>None</i>	
Alternative Transportation Committee	<i>None</i>	

COMMITTEE	VACANCY	TERM EXPIRATION
ASI Board of Directors	<i>None</i>	
Athletics Advisory Board	<i>None</i>	
Cal Poly Corporation Board of Directors	<i>None</i>	
Cal Poly Opportunity Fee (CPOF) Committee	<i>None</i>	
Campus Administrative Policy (CAP) Committee	<i>None</i>	
Campus Dining Advisory Committee	<i>None</i>	
Campus Fee Advisory Committee	<i>None</i>	
Campus Parking & Transportation Advisory Committee	1 At-large faculty	2027
Campus Planning Committee	2 at-large faculty representatives	2027 (for both)
Campus Safety and Risk Management Committee	<i>None</i>	
Commencement Policy Committee	CAED	2026
	BCSM	2027
	OCOB	2026
Disability Access and Inclusion Committee	<i>None</i>	
Faculty Advisory Committee on Library	<i>None</i>	
GWR Advisory Board	PCS	2026
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee	<i>None</i>	
Instructionally Related Activities Advisory Committee	<i>None</i>	
Intellectual Property Review	CLA	2028
	PCS	2026
International Programs Committee	<i>None</i>	
President's Cabinet	<i>None</i>	
Public Safety Advisory Committee	<i>None</i>	
Shared Governance Task Force	CAED	n/a
	CAFES	n/a
	OCOB	n/a
	PCS	n/a
	Solano (x2)	n/a
Student Health Advisory Committee	<i>None</i>	
Student Success Fee Allocation Advisory Committee	<i>None</i>	
Substance Use and Abuse Advisory Committee	<i>None</i>	
Sustainability Advisory Committee	<i>None</i>	

COMMITTEE	VACANCY	TERM EXPIRATION
University Committee on Committees	<i>None</i>	
University Union Advisory Board	<i>None</i>	
Youth Protection Committee	<i>None</i>	

Adopted:

ACADEMIC SENATE  
Of  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY  
San Luis Obispo, CA

AS-\_\_\_\_-26

**RESOLUTION ON THE RENAMING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS TO  
THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND NATURAL SCIENCES**

**Impact on Existing Policy:** This resolution updates the departmental name to reflect current faculty composition and academic programs following the integration of California State University Maritime Academy (Cal Maritime) with California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

1  
2 **WHEREAS**, the integration of Cal Maritime and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo resulted in the  
3 restructuring of academic units within Academic Affairs; and  
4  
5 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Sciences and Mathematics (S&M) was retained following the  
6 integration to maintain laboratory and facility support for the curriculum; and  
7  
8 **WHEREAS**, historically, the Department of Sciences and Mathematics included faculty  
9 expertise in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and oceanography, of which only  
10 oceanography offered a bachelor's degree program; and  
11  
12 **WHEREAS**, as part of the integration, mathematics faculty transitioned to the Department of  
13 Mathematics within the Bailey College of Science and Mathematics, leaving the  
14 disciplines of chemistry, physics, and oceanography within the current  
15 department; and  
16  
17 **WHEREAS**, on October 17, 2025, the current faculty of the Department of Sciences and  
18 Mathematics voted 8 – 0 in favor of renaming the department to the Department  
19 of Oceanography and Natural Sciences (OcNS); and  
20  
21 **WHEREAS**, the continued use of the title "Sciences and Mathematics" no longer accurately  
22 represents the faculty composition or the department's academic focus; and  
23  
24 **WHEREAS**, including "Oceanography" in the department name will better reflect and  
25 support the existing bachelor's degree program in oceanography, while "Natural

26 Sciences" accurately encompasses the remaining disciplinary areas; therefore be  
27 it

28

29 **RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis  
30 Obispo, endorse the proposed name change of the Department of Sciences and  
31 Mathematics to the **Department of Oceanography and Natural Sciences (OcNS)**;  
32 and be it further

33

34 **RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate recommend that all university documents, catalogs,  
35 and websites be updated to reflect this change upon final approval; and be it  
36 further

37

38 **RESOLVED:** That the new department name be effective upon approval by the appropriate  
39 university and CSU system authorities.

40

**Proposed by:** Department of Sciences and Mathematics (S&M)

**Date:** February 3, 2026

*From: Alex Parker, Interim Chair, Department of Sciences and Mathematics (S&M), Cal Poly Maritime*

*To:*

RE: Request for Department Name Change: Department of Sciences and Mathematics (S&M) to Department of Oceanography and Natural Sciences (OcNS)

With the integration of the California State University Maritime Academy (Cal Maritime) and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, the organizational structure of Academic Affairs was revised. This included the dissolution of the “Three School Model” at Cal Maritime, and in many cases, the restructuring or dissolution of existing academic departments.

The Department of Sciences and Mathematics (S&M) was retained, in part, due to the essential role it plays in maintaining laboratory and other facilities necessary to support the curriculum. Historically, S&M housed faculty expertise in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and oceanography. Of these disciplines, only oceanography offered a bachelor’s degree program, which was administered within S&M by a faculty program coordinator.

As part of the integration, the mathematics faculty transitioned as a unit to the Department of Mathematics within the Bailey College of Science and Mathematics at Cal Poly. The remaining 10 faculty members, representing the disciplines of chemistry, physics, and oceanography, continue to be housed together as one of the eight departments within the Bailey College.

The request to rename the department addresses two key concerns:

1. To better reflect and support the bachelor’s degree program in oceanography, it is important that oceanography be included in the department’s name.
2. With the integration of mathematics faculty into the existing Bailey College Mathematics Department, our department no longer represents mathematics at Cal Poly.

For these reasons, we propose renaming the department from the Department of Sciences and Mathematics (S&M) to the Department of Oceanography and Natural Sciences (OcNS). This name more accurately represents the current faculty expertise, promotes the identity of the oceanography degree program, and ensures alignment with the department’s ongoing academic mission.

**Date:** November 7, 2025

**To:** Academic Senate  
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

**From:** Dinesh Pinisetty  
Associate Vice President and Academics Lead  
California Polytechnic State University, Solano

**Subject:** Support for the Resolution to Rename the Department of Sciences and Mathematics to the Department of Oceanography and Natural Sciences

Dear Members of the Academic Senate,

I write in strong support of the resolution to rename the Department of Sciences and Mathematics to the **Department of Oceanography and Natural Sciences (OcNS)**. This proposed change accurately reflects the department's current faculty composition and academic focus following the integration of California State University Maritime Academy (Cal Maritime) with California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

The renaming aligns the department's title with its active disciplines—oceanography, chemistry, and physics—and highlights its signature program, the Bachelor of Science in Oceanography, which serves as a distinctive academic pathway within Cal Poly Solano. Including “Oceanography” in the department name recognizes the unique strength and identity of this degree program while “Natural Sciences” provides an inclusive and representative term for the foundational science disciplines that support it.

Beyond disciplinary alignment, the updated name will enhance external visibility and recruitment efforts, providing a clear and marketable identity to prospective students and partners. The title “Oceanography and Natural Sciences” effectively communicates both the applied and interdisciplinary nature of the department’s work, supporting Cal Poly’s mission of *learn by doing*, polytechnic education. This renaming is a meaningful and timely step in the ongoing academic integration process. It ensures that our academic structures, communications, and outreach reflect the true scope and expertise of our faculty and programs.

I fully endorse this resolution and recommend its approval by the Academic Senate.

Sincerely,



Dinesh Pinisetty  
Associate Vice President and Academics Lead  
California Polytechnic State University, Solano



November 5, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the proposed resolution to rename the Department of Sciences and Mathematics to the **Department of Oceanography and Natural Sciences (OcNS)**. As the former Chair of the university Curriculum Committee at California State University Maritime Academy, I had the opportunity to work closely with colleagues across the Department of Sciences and Mathematics during and following the integration with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

This name change is both timely and appropriate. It reflects the current disciplinary composition of the department and better aligns with its academic focus and degree offerings. With the transition of mathematics faculty to the Department of Mathematics within the Bailey College of Science and Mathematics, the remaining disciplines - oceanography, chemistry, and physics - are well represented under the proposed title. Including “Oceanography” highlights the department’s flagship bachelor’s program, while “Natural Sciences” accurately encompasses the supporting foundational sciences that remain essential to the curriculum.

The proposed name provides greater clarity and coherence within the evolving academic structure and helps ensure that students, faculty, and external partners can readily understand the department’s scope and contributions within Cal Poly’s expanding portfolio of programs. While departmental identities will continue to evolve as programs grow, I view this resolution as a positive and pragmatic step toward ensuring our academic structure reflects current realities and supports future development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ariel Setniker".

Ariel Setniker, PhD  
Former Chair, Curriculum Committee  
Director of Faculty Development  
Associate Professor of Mathematics Education  
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