

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

RESOLUTION ON THE MODIFICATION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE CONSTITUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Cal Poly San Luis Obispo campus will convert to a semester-based
2 schedule as of Fall 2026 in response to a mandate from the CSU
3 Chancellor's Office; and

4 WHEREAS, The California State University Board of Trustees (CSU BOT) directed Cal
5 Poly and Cal Maritime to integrate and become one university by July 1,
6 2026; and

7 WHEREAS, One Cal Poly Academic Senate inclusive of faculty at the Cal Poly Solano
8 Campus was established as of July 1, 2025 (AS-989-25), and

9 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Academic Senate must be updated to reflect
10 these changes; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED: That the Constitution of the Academic Senate be modified as shown on
12 the attached copy; and be it further

13 RESOLVED: That this resolution and the modifications go into effect immediately
14 upon adoption and positive result of the referendum vote by the general
15 faculty.

Proposed by: The Academic Senate Executive Committee

Date: May 19, 2026

CONSTITUTION OF THE FACULTY

Preamble

We, the faculty of the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and Solano Campuses (Cal Poly), in order to meet our academic responsibilities, hereby establish this *Constitution of the Faculty* for our governance. The responsibilities of the faculty, the powers necessary to fulfill those responsibilities, and the collegial form of shared governance are based on historic academic traditions that have been recognized by the people of the State of California through their legislature.

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

Voting members of the General Faculty of Cal Poly shall consist of those persons who are employed at Cal Poly and belong to at least one of the following entities: (1) full-time academic employees holding faculty rank whose principal duty is within an academic department, unit, or program; (2) faculty members in the Pre-Retirement Reduction in Time Base Program and Faculty Early Retirement Program; (3) full-time probationary and/or permanent employees in Professional Consultative Services as defined in Article III.1.b of this constitution; (4) full-time coaches holding a current faculty appointment of at least one year; (5) lecturers holding full-time appointments of at least one year in one or more academic departments, units, or programs; or (6) lecturers with a current assignment of 15 WTUs for at least three-two consecutive quartersacademic terms.

Members of the General Faculty, including department chairs/heads, shall not cease to be members because of any assigned time allotted to them for the carrying out of duties consistent with their employment at Cal Poly. "Visiting Personnel" shall not be members of the General Faculty. Members of the General Faculty who are on leave for at least one year shall not be voting members during their leave.

Non-voting membership in the General Faculty shall consist of all academic personnel not included in the voting membership.

ARTICLE II. RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND POWERS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

Section 1. Rights of the General Faculty

The right of academic freedom is necessary for the pursuit and dissemination of truth and the maintenance of a free society. It is the obligation of the General Faculty to ensure the preservation of an academic community with full freedom of inquiry and expression and insulation from political influence.

Voting members of the General Faculty have the right to nominate, elect, and recall members of the Academic Senate and the right to call for, participate in, and vote at meetings of the General Faculty.

Section 2. Responsibilities of the General Faculty

The primary responsibility of members of the General Faculty is to seek truth and to encourage the free pursuit of learning in their peers and students. To this end, they devote their energies to developing and improving their scholarly competence. They make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to assureensure that their evaluation of students and peers reflects true merit. They respect the confidential nature of the relationship between professor and student. They avoid any exploitation of students for their private

advantage, acknowledge significant assistance from them, and protect their freedom of inquiry.

Section 3. Powers of the General Faculty: Meetings, Initiatives, Referenda, and Recall
No regularly scheduled meetings of the General Faculty are provided for, but meetings of the General Faculty may be called by the University President or the Academic Senate Chair. Meetings of the General Faculty will be scheduled by the Academic Senate Chair upon receipt of a meeting request petition bearing the signatures of 10% of the voting membership of the General Faculty. The Academic Senate Chair presides at meetings of the General ~~Faculty~~Faculty, and parliamentary procedure is in effect. Positions developed at meetings of the General Faculty must be ratified by initiative.

A majority of the voting members of the General Faculty in attendance at duly called General Faculty meetings is needed to propose an initiative to be put before the entire voting membership of the General Faculty. A majority of those voting in a mail or electronic ballot is needed to pass an initiative. Initiatives to amend this constitution shall be governed by Article IV.

Actions of the Academic Senate are subject to nullification by the voting membership of the General Faculty. Upon receipt of a referendum petition bearing the signatures of 15% of the voting faculty constituency, the Academic Senate Chair will conduct a mail or electronic ballot of the voting members of the General Faculty. A majority of those voting on a referendum is required to nullify the Academic Senate action in question. Recall of academic senators shall be provided for in the *Bylaws of the Academic Senate*.

ARTICLE III. THE ACADEMIC SENATE

Section 1. Membership

- (a) Colleges with fewer than 30 faculty members shall elect two senators. All other colleges shall elect three senators, plus one senator for each 30 faculty members or major fraction thereof.
- (b) Designated personnel in Professional Consultative Services (except directors) shall be represented in the Academic Senate by the formula of one senator per each fifteen members or major fraction thereof:
 - (1) Full-time probationary or permanent Librarians; and
 - (2) Full-time probationary or permanent (a) counselors; (b) student services professionals [SSP]: SSP I-academically related, SSP II-academically related, and SSP III-academically related; (c) SSPs III and IV; (d) Cooperative Education lecturers; and (e) physicians.
 - (3) Full-time coaches holding a current faculty appointment of at least one year.
- (c) Part-time lecturers in an academic department/teaching area and part-time employees in Professional Consultative Services, other than those who are members of the General Faculty as defined in Article I, will be represented by up to seven voting members in the Senate, of which no more than one will be from any college or from Professional Consultative Services.
- (d) Senators acting in an at-large capacity are the current Academic Senate Chair, the immediate Past Academic Senate Chair, and the CSU academic senators. ~~Additionally, for 2025-2026, there will be four at-large~~

~~representatives from Cal Poly, Solano Campus.~~ All at-large positions shall be voting positions except for the Academic Senate Chair which is a nonvoting position except when the Chair's vote is needed to break a tie.

- (e) Ex officio, nonvoting members are (1) the President of the University or designee, (2) the Provost or designee, (3) one representative from among the academic deans, (4) the ASI President, (5) the Chair of ASI Board of Directors, and (6) the Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management/Student Affairs.

Section 2. Powers and Responsibilities of the Academic Senate

Joint decision-making and consultation between the administration and the General Faculty have been recognized by the legislature of the State of California as the long-accepted manner of governing institutions of higher learning and are essential to the educational missions of such institutions. In order to participate fully in the process of joint decision-making and consultation with the administration, the Academic Senate is empowered to exercise all legislative and advisory powers on behalf of the General Faculty. These legislative powers shall include all educational matters that affect the General Faculty (e.g., curricula, academic personnel policies, and academic standards). Advisory powers shall include, but not be limited to consultation on budget policy, administrative appointments, determination of campus administrative policy, university organization, and facilities use and planning.

It is the responsibility of the Academic Senate to respond to requests for legislative action or advice from the President within sixty days of the receipt of such requests. On those occasions when the President disapproves Senate legislation, ~~they s/he~~ shall inform the Senate in writing within sixty days from the date of transmittal of the compelling reasons for disapproval. The President shall inform the Senate of the disposition of such matters upon which the Academic Senate has performed in its advisory capacity.

The Academic Senate has the right to present to the Chancellor or the Board of Trustees of the CSU any matter pertaining to the conduct and welfare of the University. The Academic Senate, through its Chair, is empowered to express the sentiments of the General Faculty.

The Academic Senate is empowered to adopt bylaws for its governance.

Section 3. Officers

The officers of the Academic Senate are a Chair, a Vice Chair, and a Secretary as provided for in the bylaws.

Section 4. Organization

The Academic Senate shall function through its standing and ad hoc committees as well as through floor discussion and debate. Enumeration of the committees and their responsibilities is specified in the bylaws. Meetings of the Academic Senate and its committees shall be called and conducted as specified in the *Bylaws of the Academic Senate*. Fifty percent (50%) plus one member of the Academic Senate membership constitutes a quorum.

ARTICLE IV. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by initiative in a meeting of the General Faculty (Article II, Section 3) or by resolution of the Academic Senate by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Amendments to this constitution shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by the voting members of the General Faculty. A referendum to

amend this constitution shall be administered by the Academic Senate Chair within 45 days of the receipt of a duly submitted proposal.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Samuel Frame
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: July 28, 2026

From: Jeffrey D. Armstrong
President

Copies: Al Liddicoat
Jennifer Haft
Jessica Darin
Corey Cook
Mary Pedersen
Dinesh Pinisetty
Cheryl May
Simone Aloisio
Rachel Fernflores
Academic Deans
Office of the Provost

Subject: Response to AS-1021-26 Resolution on the Modification of the Academic Senate Constitution

By way of this memo, I acknowledge receipt of the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution.

As matters pertaining to Senate constitution fall within the purview of the Academic Senate, this resolution is received and recorded accordingly.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Academic Senate Executive Committee and the Academic Senate for their thoughtful attention to the inclusion of Cal Poly Solano faculty in shared governance and to the governance updates needed to support the university's transition to semesters.