

Clayton State University Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: August 31, 2026

Time Called to Order: 11:17 AM

Location: UC 260 and Microsoft Teams

Presiding Officer: Dr. David Peña, Chair

Senator Attendance

Present:

Arts & Sciences: Antoinette Miller, Michael Lindsay, David Peña (Chair), Erica Gannon (Secretary)

Business: Stacey Reynolds, Kate Cotter-Reilly

Health: Hae Ryong “Harry” Chung, Kendolyn Smith, Kimberly Campbell, Crystal Marchant

STEM: Stephen Burnett (Vice-Chair), David Murray-Stoker, David Williams, Caroline Sheppard, Vivian Padin-Irizarry

Library: Adam Kubik, Erin Nagel

Absent:

Arts & Sciences: Eugene Ngezem

Business: Christie Burton, Anthony Hannah

General Attendance

Teams: Arianne Adams, Kimberly Campbell, Lindsay Chandler, Briana Christensen, Andre Clanton, Shannon Cochran, Kate Cotter-Reilly, Shirnelle Council, Mesa Davis, Deborah Deckner, Kitty Deering, Martha Fairley, Elnora Farmer, Antoinette France-Harris, Brian Goldman, Nayab Hakim, Feechi Hall, Charlie Harris, Jeff Jacobs, Ebrahim Khosravi, Johnson Kimberly, Christopher Kodani, Michael Lindsay, Samuel Maddox, Crystal Marchant, John Meyers, Antoinette Miller, Keith Miller, Erin Nagel, Michelle Nelson, David Newton, Vivian Padin-Irizarry, David Peña, Sherna Phillips, Leah Pieper, Melanie Poudevigne, Stacey Reynolds, Mya Richardson-Echols, Shakyra

Rivers, Board Room, Hae Ryong Chung, Caroline Sheppard, Kendolyn Smith, Randall Snell, Christopher Stotelmyer, Naquilla Thomas, Carol White, David Williams, Tammy Wilson, Juleen Woods, Karen Young, Alexander

Note: Names of those in Teams and attending in-person are provided in both areas. In person attendance sheet attached.

Agenda

1. Introduction of Senators

- a. Roll call of Senators; attendance noted
- b. Quorum reached 17/20

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Senator Miller moved to approve minutes from the Aug. 31st, 2026 meeting; Senator Burnett seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

3. Standing Committee Reports – Senate Representatives 2026/2027 AY

- a. University Curriculum Committee
Catherine Matos elected Vice-Chair, Carol White as Secretary. New chair not elected, so Dimitri Beznosko will stay on through the October meeting. Cantice Green and Carol White will serve on Gen. Ed. subcommittee, under the UCC. Their meeting minutes will be posted online.
- b. Academic Policy Committee
No updates as they have not yet met. Senator raised a question regarding when APC updates to catalog (approved last year) will be published, and Dr. Drake noted that will be addressed in her presentation.
- c. Faculty Affairs Committee
No updates as they have not yet met.
- d. Student Affairs Committee
 - i. Met on Aug. 24th, meeting addressed that the SAC will now review the rest of the Student Code of Conduct for necessary updates, and included discussion about AI policies.
 - ii. Discussion and vote—Student Code of Conduct; Code F
The committee was charged with reviewing Code F in collaboration with office of Student Affairs—the goal was a clear delineation between an academic misconduct violation and a violation of classroom policy. So, the language was updated to reflect these differences.
Discussion: Questions about the language of “faculty must be able to establish that the student’s actions resulted in an unfair advantage” noting that sometimes people intend to cheat, but don’t do it successfully and therefore don’t get an “unfair advantage” even though they have still cheated.

Concern expressed that evidentiary burden is placed on faculty rather than students; that the phrase “resulted in an unfair advantage” is hard to establish; that the language of “intent” allows students a loophole; and that the use of “may” or “may not” in various places in the policy is problematic and leaves too much open to loopholes. A Senator also raised questions about the standard of evidence, though it was noted that it is “preponderance of evidence” as stated elsewhere in the Code of Conduct.

Another Senator suggested that the policy have more specific, concrete examples throughout, as that gives useful information to both the faculty member and the student.

It was noted that there are sometimes situations where technical glitches or errors happen, and the policy should indicate that such things may not rise to the level of a misconduct charge.

This policy was done in response to increased reporting happening, but a Senator raised a question about the statistics about the increased reporting and what was happening. Dr. Drake noted a situation of someone getting her hair braided by another person during the test; the current policy says if someone is in there, that is a violation of the policy, and so she had to accept the violation even though no academic dishonesty has occurred.

Dr. Dean indicated that numbers can be provided, but not necessarily statistics on appeal decisions, and wondered what the rationale was for that piece of information. The Senator explained that a violation not being upheld on appeal would be of interest and is relevant to the policy, though it was also noted that the appeals process is more about whether the policies were followed correctly, not a re-hearing of the evidence.

A Senator noted that, although faculty members should be using their critical thinking skills, in the case example noted above, the student could not bring a braider into the classroom, so the same rules should apply to the online classroom.

Hearing panel member noted that there have been situations brought forth as academic misconduct that don’t seem to have evidence that there was actual cheating or advantage earned—such as a student taking their eyes away from the camera for a second, etc.

Senator Miller moves to send the policy back to SAC, Senator Gannon seconds, motion carried unanimously.

e. Graduate Affairs Committee

No update, meeting Monday, Sept. 14.

4. Remarks and Q&A – Dr. Georj Lewis, President

- a. No USG updates at this time. ITS working to acquire and commission an Anthropic Teams environment for departments/divisions. A reminder about contact info. for facilities requests (Darren Thomas or David Brown).
- b. Alumni weekend is Sept. 10-12, and Faculty Staff Fund-Drive will be Oct. 5-30.
- c. Athletics wins for Men's Soccer and Women's Soccer; Club Football defeated Lighthouse College in season opener.
- d. Enrollment up 3%, which is up for the 11th consecutive semester.
- e. CSU's economic impact in South-metro region increased 4.5% in fiscal year 2025 as compared to fiscal year 2024.
- f. Questions: A Senator asked about a student who had been dropped from classes for a financial issue and received the email on Friday night at 7:51 pm; she requested an update on how that unfolds and what the process is. President notes that it is normally not the first email that the student has received before they are dropped, and lack of responsiveness to emails is often an issue. Nick Henry noted that the drop was originally scheduled for two weeks ago, but a small number of people were given extensions until Friday; a total of 74 were dropped, a smaller number than in the past. Another Senator asked about the cost-benefit analysis on decisions to fix certain infrastructure. For example, elevator cars in the University Center seem to be regularly broken, and it appears that repairs are being delayed for fiscal reasons. President said he was unfamiliar with one elevator car being broken since the late Spring as noted by Senator Williams. Nick Henry said he was unaware of an elevator car being down for months, and there was no intentional decision made not to fix the elevator simply because one car was working. The Senator explained there were laminated signs about the broken elevator on all four floors, so it was clearly a long-standing issue.

5. Remarks and Q&A – Dr. Jill Drake, Provost

- a. Notes that she appreciated the Senators' robust discussion of the Conduct policy earlier.
- b. Related to an earlier question, the Academic Complaints policy is being updated on the website but there was a line that needed to be modified—there was a line saying that the Provost was final arbiter, and then another that said appeals could be made to the President. After discussion that the Provost is the President's designee, the Provost will be final decision-maker for this policy. Once that language is updated, the updated Academic Complaints policy will be on the website.
- c. ALG grants—consider applying for one to improve affordability.
- d. CSU Retirees' Association Teaching and Learning innovation grant will take applications—email sent to all faculty last week.
- e. CALAA/CALSA/CALEM meeting: Other institutions will now have Bachelor of Applied Sciences degrees, some as low as 90 credit hours (rather than our

120 hours) so more competition in this area. Provost was told that changing our hours would require approval of a new degree. Departments and units should consider which programs at CSU could pursue technical college collaborations moving forward.

- f. J-1 status changes that say students must complete degrees in 4 years; this affects undergraduate education less than doctoral education, which are definitely being impacted at other USG schools. Dr. Spearman notes that for undergraduates, there are impacts concerning travel during Summer as well as rules around changing their majors. Also, there is no longer an ability to change their time to graduation even if they change majors or drop classes. There are also changes happening related to English-proficiency standards and the approved tests.

A professor in the meeting asked about the status of the MOU with a university in China that was being created, given the changes to international student status made at the Federal level as just noted.

Currently we have no financial agreement with them, only an agreement around how their credits transfer.

6. Discussion Items

- a. Intellectual Property Policy—feedback was requested this Summer. Faculty feedback was taken into account, public remarks were also taken. The last thing to be clarified is the make-up of a committee, and then the policy will be shared.
- b. Question about SACSCOC and accreditation; since this is a complex issue, the Senate will invite Dr. Furlong to speak on this at a future meeting.
- c. By-Laws Committee update—draft charging document for a by-laws committee will be shared with Senators via email and then discussed in next meeting.
- d. Chair Peña attended Faculty Affairs Council Meeting last week, and they had a meeting with the USG Chair to discuss the choice of a new Chancellor. The Executive Committee is doing the search, not an outside firm. They are looking for someone with some knowledge of Georgia, administrative experience, experience with the wide range of colleges and universities we have in the USG, and who will acknowledge areas where they don't have expertise. Faculty Council will not be part of the decision process. Question raised about willingness to work with AAUP, Chair Peña noted that was not discussed.

7. Guest Speaker: Dr. Bridgette McDonald

Next week is Internship Week. We need to educate our students about the importance of experiential learning because employers are looking for Internship experiences. Please have students engage with Office of Career Services during the upcoming Internship Week.

8. Adjournment

Senator Miller moved to adjourn, Senator Burnett seconded.

Time Adjourned: 12:48 PM

Minutes Prepared by: Erica Gannon, Faculty Senate Secretary

Clayton State University Faculty Senate Meeting

Date:

8/31/2026

Name	Senator (Yes / No)
Steve Burnett	Y
David Penz	Y
David Murray-Stoker	Yes
Ashlee Sparran	No
Adam Kubik	Y
ERIN Nagel	Y
Antoinette H. Ilze	Y
Erica Gannon	
Jill Drake	N
Georg Lewis	N
J. Celeste Walley-Jean	N
Nick Henry	N
Takeem L Dean	N
Martha Fairley	N
Michelle Furlong	N
JEEMAINIE ROUCE	N
Eric Bridger	N

President's Report

Faculty Senate
August 31, 2026

USG, CABINET AND PRESIDENTS CABINET UPDATES

- ITS is working to acquire and commission an Anthropic Teams environment for use by colleges and divisions. Each unit will be responsible for its applicable subscription fees. More info to follow. (Max of 150-users)
- Facilities Requests-
 - o Visit: <https://www.clayton.edu/facilities/services/index.php>
 - o Call Darren Thomas at (678) 466-4249 or David Brown at (678) 466-4208 with any issues.
- Alumni Weekend is September 10-12
- Faculty/Staff Fund Drive will be October 5-30



CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Alumni Association

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI WEEKEND

RECONNECT. CELEBRATE. MAKE NEW MEMORIES.

EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

Lakers Connect (NETWORKING & UNIVERSITY UPDATES) September 10 6:30 p.m. - Arbor Hall CSU campus	Alumni Mixer (Mix & Mingle) September 11 7:30 p.m. - Yard House Atlantic Station
Laker Fest (Food, Games, & Music) September 12 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Alumni Football Game (Football & Fellowship) September 12 6:00 p.m. - Morrow High School

REGISTER TODAY!
LET'S MAKE ALUMNI WEEKEND ONE TO REMEMBER.
<https://www.clayton.edu/alumni/week.php>

Alumni of Clayton State | claytonstatealumni | Clayton State University Alumni

CHAKA KHAN/GOOD NEWS

- Athletics – Men's Soccer – earned two wins against Christian Brothers University and Barry University. They remain undefeated at 2-0.
- Athletics – Women's Soccer – started season with a win versus Emmanuel University. Jael Brulmeier scored a hat-trick in the win!
- Clayton State Club Football defeated Lighthouse College in its season opener 38-0.
- Enrollment – up 3% (6,522) from last fall. Second Session Orientation & Registration Open Now!
- Clayton State University's economic impact in the southern Atlanta metro region increased to more than \$305 million in fiscal year 2025, a 4.5% increase over fiscal year 2024.

Provost's Report

Faculty Senate
August 31, 2026

UPDATES

- Updates to Academic Complaints Policy
- ALG Grants – Consider Applying
- Clayton State Retirees Association Teaching & Learning Innovation
- CALAA/CALSA/CALEM Meeting
 - 90-120 Bachelor of Applied Sciences
 - D/F-1 or J-1 status
 - CERF-aligned Standards

CLAYTON
STATE
UNIVERSITY



THANK YOU!

TWO IMPORTANT UPDATES:

- 1) Duration of Status Ends
- 2) New English Proficiency Standards

F and J status rules effective Sept. 15, 2026 | English Proficiency standards Fall 2027

End of D/S for F and J: What Changes

DHS eliminates Duration of Status for F-1 students and J-1 exchange visitors. Fixed admission periods begin September 15, 2026.



Admission Limits

- Fixed periods replace D/S — limit most program lengths to not exceed **4 years**
- ESL students capped at a **24-month** admission period
- I-94 Admit Until Dates replace D/S

Students and scholars who were **admitted in F-1 or J-1 status before September 15, 2026**, generally remain under existing D/S-based admissions pursuant to the transition provisions of the final rule until a subsequent immigration event results in a new period of admission.



Grace Period

- Grace period cut from **60 to 30 days**
- Students who fall out of status can file for reinstatement, but they begin accruing unlawful presence immediately, which could result in a bar from the U.S. if the reinstatement isn't successful.



Graduate Restrictions

- Doctoral and other long programs will require **formal federal extension filings (this can no longer be done at the institutional level through SEVIS)**
- New restrictions on transfers, program changes, and institutional mobility
- DHS may delay some mobility restrictions through **September 2028** if found infeasible



Operational Impact

- New cost and process burden from extension filing requirements
- Advising workflows must shift to deadline-driven tracking
 - What will be your school's mechanism for tracking AUD dates?



Effective September 15, 2026 — every enrolled F-1 student and J-1 exchange visitor is affected

Your Action List — End of D/S for F and J

Six actions, ahead of September 15

1 

Meet with your Senior International Officer

Schedule time with your Director of International Education (**PDSO & RO**) now to ensure they have a plan to implement the new rule and a communication plan in place to inform all current and future students as well as the broader campus community.

2 

Confirm PDSO NAFSA Memberships

Active NAFSA membership is essential for real-time compliance guidance on evolving federal rules. Provide appropriate resources if necessary.

3 

Brief Graduate Deans & Faculty Advisors

Inform department chairs and faculty advisors about program mobility restrictions and the 4-year time limits affecting graduate students.

4 

Connect HR & Academic Affairs

Align HR and Academic Affairs with the international education office to update employment timelines.

5 

Assess Advising Capacity

Prioritize students nearing 4 years or approaching graduation since deadline-driven advising is now essential.

6 

Monitor DHS/SEVP Guidance

Establish a process to track evolving federal guidance through September 2028, when additional guidance/rules/changes may take effect.

USG English Proficiency Guidance Updates

System-wide CEFR-aligned standards at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels.



Topic

USG English Proficiency Policy



Full compliance after September 1, 2027

CEFR-aligned standards : B2 for undergraduates, C1 for graduate and professional programs

- **Applies to every degree-seeking applicant**

All admission categories map to a specific CEFR scale.

- **Graduate and professional admissions have new requirements**

New ASH Section 03.07

- **Few changes to undergraduate requirements**

The B2 benchmark aligns closely with current standards; the main addition is the Duolingo English Test and the Oxford Test of English as accepted measures.

What is CEFR?

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages is an international six-level scale (A1 through C2) that describes what a learner can actually do in a language, rather than relying on any single test score.

B2 — independent user. Can follow complex academic discussion and write clear, detailed text.

C1 — proficient user. Can use language flexibly for demanding academic and professional purposes.

Because CEFR is test-neutral, all USG-approved measures map to the same benchmark.

Preferred measures (IELTS, TOEFL, USG-approved ESL completion) must be accepted by every institution;

Accepted measures (Duolingo, PTE, Oxford, Cambridge, SAT/ACT, and others) are optional — an institution may accept them but is not required to.

English Proficiency Standards and Approved Tests

CEFR B2 for undergraduates, C1 for graduate and professional programs — only USG-approved measures may be used.

Undergraduate

CEFR B2

Policy 03.01.01.02/.06

IELTS Min.
6.0

TOEFL Min.
4 overall

USG ESL Program
Completion

- **B2 benchmark**
- **Preferred:** IELTS Academic 6.0 overall; TOEFL iBT 4 overall; USG-approved campus-based ESL program completion
- **Acceptable:** Duolingo 115+ writing; Pearson PTE Academic 59; Oxford Test of English (Advanced) 125; Cambridge C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency; SAT EBRW 480; ACT English 17

Waivers

A degree earned where English is the language of instruction (including high school), or English 1101/1102 with a C or better, satisfies the requirement.

NEW Policy 03.07

CEFR C1

Graduate / Professional

IELTS Min.
7.0

TOEFL Min.
5 overall

USG ESL Program
Completion

- **New requirement:** C1 is now required for all graduate and professional degree-seeking applicants
- **Preferred:** IELTS Academic 7.0 band; TOEFL iBT 5 overall; or USG-approved campus-based ESL program completion
- **Acceptable:** Duolingo 140+ writing; Pearson PTE Academic 76; Oxford Test of English 141; Cambridge C1 Advanced or C2 Proficiency
- **B2 alignment** may be requested for specific programs; certificate-only students may enter at B2

Limited Admission Exception

CEFR B1 floor plus a 450-word timed writing sample scored at B2 or other documented methods; Graduate School Dean or designee only.

Work Experience

Programs requiring extensive professional experience may accept documented evidence of at least 5 years of work performed in English.

Exceptions, Approvals, and Reporting

Flexibility exists at the graduate level, but every path runs through a defined request, approval, and reporting process.

Undergraduate-level exceptions remain unchanged.



Program B2 Alignment

- Institutions may request CEFR B2 in place of C1 for specific graduate or professional programs
- Submitted via the **B2 Alignment Request Form** in the Academic Programs portal (coming soon)
- Justification must address:
 - Program content and learning outcomes
 - Institutional support
 - Student-success evidence & peer benchmarking
 - Structure & Delivery
 - Safeguards and monitoring



Reviewed by the USO Director of International Education and/or the USG ESL Stakeholders Committee



Limited Admission Exception

- For applicants below standard who show exceptional potential. Used in rare and limited cases
- Requires a **CEFR B1 floor** on any approved test
- Plus, a 450-word proctored writing sample at B2, or other documented measures



Pilot Exception Process

- Institutions may pilot alternative exemption criteria for graduate- and professional-level applicants. Plans are submitted in the Academic Programs Portal (coming soon)
- Requires prior approval from the USO Director of International Education
- Clear, auditable records of every decision must be maintained



Reviewed by the USO Director of International Education and/or the USG ESL Stakeholders Committee



Approval and Reporting

- Exceptions authorized only by the Graduate School Dean, head of Graduate Admissions, or designee
- All methods and exceptions coded per the Test Score Business Practice
- Every determination reported through Academic Data Collection (ADC)

English Proficiency: Phased Implementation Timeline

A phased rollout from August 2026 to full compliance on September 1, 2027.

1 

August 2026 — Policy Communicated

USG communicates the revised standards; institutions begin reviewing admissions materials and processes.

2 

Fall 2026 — Institutional Review

Audit websites, admissions procedures, and graduate program needs against the new CEFR standards.

3 

Fall 2026–Fall 2027 — B2 Alignment Requests Filed

Program-level CEFR B2 alignment requests should be submitted and finalized in this window. Forms will be housed on the Academic Programs Portal.

4 

Spring 2027 — Duolingo Accepted

Institutions *may* begin accepting the Duolingo English Test and *may* adopt the updated standards early, if they choose.

5 

September 1, 2027 — Full Compliance

Required for all students admitted after this date; unapproved proficiency methods may no longer be used.

The intent at the Graduate and Professional Level is for all students admitted for Fall 2028 to have met the new guidelines.

QUESTIONS OR CLARIFICATIONS?

Tammy Rosner

Office of International Education, University System of Georgia

Tammy.Rosner@usg.edu | Reach out with any questions about these updates