

Clayton State University Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: Sept. 14, 2026

Time Called to Order: 11:15 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: Anthony Hannah, Christie Burton

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

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: Stacey Reynolds, Kate Cotter-Reilly

Health: Crystal Marchant

General Attendance

Teams: Arianne Adams, Antwan Aiken, Shakil Akhtar, Dennis Attick, Eric Bridges, Stephen Burnett, Kimberly Campbell, Briana Christensen, Shannon Cochran, Shirnelle Council, Mesa Davis, Deborah Deckner-Davis, Martha Fairley, Brian Goldman, Nayab Hakim, Feechi Hall, Anthony Hannah, Jonathan Harris, Nick Henry, Laura Herndon, Dwayne Hooks, Jeff Jacobs, Chizara Jones, John Keener, Ebrahim Khosravi, Mary Lamb, Alexander Latonia, Michael Lindsay, Paul Melvin, John Meyers, Antoinette Miller, Keith Miller, Jada Mitchell, George Nakos, Michelle Nelson, David Newton, Vivian Padin-Irizarry, David Pena, Leah Pieper,

Melanie Poudevigne, Mya Richardson-Echols, Jermaine Rolle, Jessica Rose, Hae Ryong, Caroline Sheppard, Kendolyn Smith, Christopher Stotemyer, Terri Summers, Naquilla Thomas, Carol White, David Williams, Tammy Wilson, Karen Young

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 16/20

2. Approval of Minutes

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

3. SACS-COC/CHPE Update from Dr. Furlong, Executive Director, Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation

- a. Dr. Furlong begins by explaining that the U.S. Dept. of Ed. created the AIM (Accreditation, Innovation, and Modernization) Committee to update and modernize accrediting standards. They want to lower barriers to recognition of newer accrediting agencies and make it easier for institutions to change accreditors. She notes that the AIM committee is receiving public comments on these proposed changes to the accreditation process until Sept. 21st, 2026.
- b. SACS-COC is now called “The Commission” and is positioning itself as a national accreditor rather than a regionally defined accreditor.
- c. Current USG policy is that CSU can choose whichever accreditor we would like. We are not, however, being forced to leave SACS and go elsewhere.
- d. CPHE (Commission for Public Higher Education) is a newly created entity that has not yet been approved as an accrediting body, but they are seeking that approval from the Dept. of Ed. Three USG institutions have volunteered to be “guinea pigs” for a CPHE review, but according to Dr. Furlong, the accrediting liaisons at those institutions have not yet heard any information from CPHE regarding those reviews.
- e. SACS is working to introduce some innovations to remain competitive, including a new dashboard that they noted will allow “parents to see data that may help them in college decision-making” (presumably for their college student-aged offspring).
- f. Discussion: A Senator states that AIM seems to be attempting to de-regulate accreditation without specifically using the term de-regulation. Dr. Furlong indicates that the central debate right now in the Dept. of Ed. is about federal

oversight, accreditor discretion, and institutional autonomy, all of which are, to some extent, in conflict with one another.

A Senator asks whether there is a deadline for institutions deciding to change accreditors, and Dr. Furlong explains that, as of now, there is not a deadline or a timeline. Currently, SACS is making numerous changes.

Another Senator asks, what is the advantage of competition in this arena? If the purpose of accreditation is to ensure that students have a quality education, it would seem that allowing schools to choose which accrediting agency they want to accredit them could reduce trust in the overall process, as schools could make choices based on affiliation rather than quality of accrediting body. Dr. Furlong acknowledges that concern; she notes that the positive of this situation is that SACS is evolving and really examining why they are requiring certain things of the schools that they accredit. Follow-up question: is it going to be possible for one school to be accredited by multiple accreditors, or for different colleges in the same university to be accredited by different accreditors? Dr. Furlong says that, right now, the answer is not clear, and there may not be anything specifically prohibiting such situations.

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

- a. University Curriculum Committee
No updates at this time. Next meeting is Oct. 16, 2026. They will meet twice a month moving forward.
- b. Academic Policy Committee
Has not met, still waiting on membership list to be fully updated. List of Senators and committee members has been recently updated, so Dr. Peña will send out the list and if you notice any problems on that document, please let Dr. Peña know.
- c. Faculty Affairs Committee
Has not met, though scheduled to meet on Sept. 21, 2026.
- d. Student Affairs Committee
Met in September, scheduled to meet again on Oct. 5. Received feedback from Faculty Senate on the updates to Code F of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are reviewing that virtually; will discuss that feedback at the upcoming meeting.
- e. Graduate Affairs Committee
Meeting today, Sept. 14 at 2 pm.

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

- a. Regarding Dr. Furlong's presentation and the public comment period for AIM mentioned above, Dr. Lewis encourages faculty to engage with the process and share feedback as needed.
- b. Faculty Staff fund drive will be Oct. 1-30th; Hot dog rally will be Oct. 8th (time TBA).

- c. USG BOR meeting upcoming on Sept. 16, 2026 (virtual meeting).
- d. President reviews an annual budget development timeline that outlines both the State/USG process and then the CSU process. Each year, CSU does not know what our final budget for the coming fiscal year is until late March/early April, when the General Assembly passes a budget (after receiving guidance the BOR and Governor's office). CSU receives guidance from USG in August, and this year was told that for FY 2028, the anticipated increase is 1.7 million ("anticipated" because things can happen in the legislative session that could impact that number). Now we have an opportunity for the campus to give feedback (each Division, Faculty Senate, and Staff Council) on their priorities for the budget. Faculty Senate can provide feedback and can determine how we want to discuss and determine those priorities, but the deadline for receiving that feedback is Sept. 30th. Budget documents must be submitted to the USG on Nov. 6th, and the President and Cabinet will use October to review the feedback and make final determinations of the campus priorities. Sometime next March or April (2027) is when we receive the final 2028 budget from the USG. Faculty should also be hearing about this from their Divisions/Colleges and having the opportunity to give feedback in that way as well.
- e. Discussion: A Senator notes that it's difficult to have such budget discussions at a time (during Summer) when most faculty are not on campus. Dr. Peña has proposed the creation of a Budget Committee for Faculty Senate so that, moving forward, there will be a more structured process for giving such feedback. Dr. Peña suggests that, at this time, senators collect information on budget priorities from the faculty in their colleges; Dr. Miller offers to create a survey to gather information on budgeting priorities.
- f. President reviews Good News (details in his PowerPoint presentation-attached).

6. Remarks and Q&A – Dr. Walley-Jean, Associate Provost

- a. Administrator evaluation policy and procedure (section 203) has been updated in the Faculty Handbook.
- b. A Senator asks, has the credit by exam language that was finalized by the Academic Policy Committee last Spring also been updated in the Faculty Handbook? Dr. Walley-Jean says she believes that has not been updated yet but she will follow up.

7. Discussion Items

Senator notes that, following the FAC work on the testing policy, which is ongoing, she would also request that FAC work on a standardized policy on AI usage in courses addressing when such usage can be considered academic misconduct, what type of evidence would be needed to uphold such a violation, etc.

8. Adjournment

Senator Lindsay moved to adjourn, Senator Burton seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

Time Adjourned: 12:06 PM

Minutes Prepared by: Erica Gannon, Faculty Senate Secretary

Attendance Sept. 14 meeting

Name

Senator (Y/N)

Reza Kheirandish

N

David Murray-Stoker

X

Christie Burton

Y

Pinar Gunkas

N

Nichelle Gause

N

MICHAEL LINDSAY

Y

Ekin Nagel

Y

Antoinette Miller

Y

Erica Gannon

Y

Adam Kubik

Y

Takeem L Dean

N

J. Celeste Walley-Jean

N

Georg L. Lewis

N

David Penz

Y

President's Report

Faculty Senate
September 14, 2026

USG, CABINET AND PRESIDENTS CABINET UPDATES

- Faculty/Staff Fund Drive October 1st-30th
 - Hot Dog Rally October 8th
- USG BOR Meeting September 16, 2026-(virtual)

Annual Budget Development Timeline

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY

State and university activities shown in parallel

● State / USG process

● Clayton State process



Sequence progresses from left to right →

CHAKA KHAN/GOOD NEWS

- Mathematics Professor at Clayton State Dr. Mohsen Aliabadi Awarded American Mathematical Society-Simons Foundation Research Enhancement Grant
- Dean of College of Health Inducted into the National Academies of Practice Class of 2026
- Dr. Shawn Bulloch won “Best Photography” at the Toronto International Nollywood Film Festival!

CLAYTON
STATE
UNIVERSITY



THANK YOU!