

**CONSTITUTION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE OF
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS**

RATIFIED APRIL 29, 2025

PREAMBLE

We, the faculty of California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI), in order to promote the effective exercise of our rights, duties, and privileges, and to discharge fully the responsibilities placed upon us by our profession, society, and the State as well as the University and our commitment to our students, do hereby establish, subject to the limitations set forth by the Trustees of the California State University and their officers and the Legislature of California, the Academic Senate of CSUCI and this Constitution. The Academic Senate shall be the representative body of the faculty through which the faculty shall normally exercise its powers. The Academic Senate shall have the power to act for the faculty on all matters within the scope of the faculty. The Constitution establishes and defines the means by which it will participate in the formulation, evaluation, and recommendation of University policy and procedures. It facilitates communication, coordination, and cooperation within the University; and provides to members of the Academic Senate a formal means of expression regarding matters of academic concern, academic freedom, and academic leadership.

ARTICLE 1

ORGANIZATION

Name

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be the Academic Senate of California State University Channel Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities

- 1.2 It shall be the purpose of the Academic Senate of California State University Channel Islands to promote academic excellence in this University. To that end, the Academic Senate remains at all times in the possession of the authority and power as set forth in this document. The Academic Senate and its designated sub-units shall participate in the governance of the University. Governance shall include collaboration with and recommendations to the President of the University concerning the formation, revision, adoption, and review of policy and procedures at CSUCI.
- 1.3 The Academic Senate shall be responsible for requirements for degrees and other academic programs, and evaluation and recommendation of candidates for degrees and other academic programs.
- 1.4 It shall be responsible for developing policies and making recommendations to the campus

president on the following matters:

- a. criteria and standards for the appointment, retention, awarding of tenure, promotion, and evaluation of faculty;
- b. such curricular policies as admission and degree requirements, approval of new courses and programs, discontinuance of academic programs, and academic standards;
- c. determination of membership in the faculty;
- d. academic standards and academic policies governing athletics;
- e. establishment of campus-wide committees on academic and professional matters;
- f. policy decisions regarding curricula and research programs, criteria and standards for programs designed to maintain professional competence (i.e. academic leaves);
- g. academic conduct of students and means for handling infractions;
- h. academic role of the library;
- i. academic role of technology; and
- j. academic recognitions and awards.

1.5 It shall be the primary source of policy recommendations to the campus president on the following matters:

- a. development and revision of institutional missions and goals; and
- b. strategic planning for the University.

1.6 It may offer advice on the following matters:

- a. creation of and selection of faculty representatives to system-wide and inter-segmental committees, auxiliary organizations, conferences, or task forces designed to deal with educational, professional, or academically related fiscal matters, as well as organization composition and charge;
- b. system-wide aspects of program review;
- c. system-wide aspects of the basic direction of academic support programs;
- d. the appointment and evaluation of academic personnel; and
- e. academic calendar and policies governing the scheduling of classes.

1.7 The Senate shall have the ability to express the will of the body, or of the faculty portion

of the body, in the form of resolutions, including but not limited to resolutions of:

- a. Commendation
 - b. Censure
 - c. No Confidence
 - d. Support
- 1.8 The Senate shall exercise its authority consistent with the provision of state and federal laws and with the regulations of the Trustees and chancellor of the California State University.
- 1.9 The Senate shall take an active role in helping to embed the values of equity, diversity, collegiality and inclusive excellence in all aspects of University work.¹
- 1.10 Academic Freedom²
- a. The Academic Senate shall uphold the principle of academic freedom.
 - b. The Academic Senate shall not abridge academic freedom by its own action or that of its sub-units.
- 1.11 The Academic Senate assumes responsibility for actions that result from delegation of its authority to an authorized sub-unit.

Membership

- 1.12 Voting members of the Academic Senate are as follows:
- a. Elected members of the tenured and probationary faculty (including librarian and counselor faculty) shall serve staggered two-year terms;
 - b. Elected representatives of the non-tenure track faculty (including librarian and counselor faculty) shall serve staggered two-year terms;
 - c. Chairs of Standing Committees (or in the case of Co-Chairs, one Co-Chair) shall serve for the duration of their chairship; and
 - d. Other members as specified in Article Two of the Bylaws of the Academic Senate of CSUCI

¹ See Senate Resolution 20-09 (<https://senate.csuci.edu/resolutions/2020-2021/sr20-09-resolution-to-adopt-shared-definitions-inclusive-excellence.pdf>) and the Shared Definitions of the President's Advisory Council on Inclusive Excellence (PACIE) (<https://senate.csuci.edu/minutes/2020-2021/documents/meeting-materials/6a-ie-proposed-shared-definitions-final-approved-by-pres-beck-revised-11-2-2020.pdf>)

² "1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure," *American Association of University Professors*, <https://www.aaup.org/report/1940-statement-principles-academic-freedom-and-tenure>, accessed 3 April 2025.

- 1.13 Ex officio members of the Academic Senate are non-voting. They are as follows:
- a. The University President;
 - b. The University Vice Presidents;
 - c. The Associate Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs;
 - d. The Deans and Associate Deans for Academic Affairs;
 - e. Representatives of Student Affairs;
 - f. Representatives of Technology Services; and
 - g. Other members as specified in Article Two of the Bylaws of the Academic Senate of CSUCI
- 1.14 An individual may hold both non-voting and voting seats in Senate (e.g., elected representative and CFA representative).
- 1.15 Should an individual hold multiple voting seats in Senate (e.g., elected representative and Standing Committee Chair), unless specified otherwise elsewhere in this Constitution or its Bylaws, that individual shall be entitled to cast one vote for each seat held.
- 1.16 No individual shall hold more than two seats in Senate; both voting and non-voting seats shall count toward this limit.

Officers

- 1.17 The officers of the Academic Senate shall include, but shall not be restricted to, a Chair, a Vice Chair or Second Officer, and a Secretary or Third Officer. These officers shall be selected pursuant to processes delineated in Article Three of the Bylaws and shall perform the usual functions of such offices.
- 1.18 No Officer shall have voting rights by virtue of their position as Officer, except that in the case of a tie vote, the Chair or presiding Officer shall cast the deciding vote.

Calendar

- 1.19 The annual calendar of the Academic Senate shall begin on the day following the conclusion of the spring semester.

Meetings

- 1.20 There shall be regular meetings of the Academic Senate during each academic term. Additional meetings may be initiated, with appropriate notice, by the University President, by the Chair of the Academic Senate, or by a written request signed by 10% of the Academic Senate membership.

Institutional Support

- 1.21 As an integral element of the infrastructure of CSUCI, the Academic Senate of CSUCI shall be provided with institutional support to ensure shared governance. The Academic Senate shall constitute a line item in the Academic Affairs budget. The Academic Senate shall be provided with an administrative assistant appointed at least 50% time.

Additional Responsibilities

- 1.22 This outline of functions and responsibilities is intended to provide the essentials for a satisfactory system of shared governance but should not necessarily be viewed as a comprehensive enumeration of such functions and responsibilities.

ARTICLE 2

FRANCHISE

Definition

- 2.1 The term “Voting Faculty” shall be understood to include all Unit 3 faculty currently employed by CSU Channel Islands, regardless of rank, tenure status, or tenure eligibility, and including faculty on approved leave, on sabbatical, and participating in the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP), provided that such faculty member shall have completed a minimum of one year (two regular semesters) of contractual employment at the University as Unit 3 faculty.³

Franchise

- 2.2 Unless specified otherwise in this Constitution or the accompanying Bylaws, the constituency for the election of any Officer, General Faculty Representative to the state-wide Academic Senate of the CSU, or committee member, or for the modification or replacement of this constitution or the accompanying bylaws, shall be the Voting Faculty.
- 2.3 Unless specified otherwise in this Constitution or the accompanying Bylaws, the constituency for any Senator shall be the entity to be represented by said Senator, who shall be selected according to the procedures set forth in that entity’s Bylaws or equivalent governing documents.

ARTICLE 3

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

³ Faculty Unit 3 Employees are defined in CBA Article 2.13.

General

- 3.1 The Executive Committee shall be the principal sub-unit of the Academic Senate. Its role is to set the agenda for the Senate's general meetings, to act in place of the Senate when the Senate is not in session, and to exercise such other powers as the Senate may delegate.

Membership

- 3.2 The Executive Committee of the Academic Senate shall consist of voting members including but not limited to the following:
- a. The Chair of the Academic Senate
 - b. Vice-Chair or Second Officer of the Academic Senate
 - c. Secretary or Third Officer of the Academic Senate
 - d. The Chairs of the Standing Committee
 - e. One Co-Chair of the Non-Tenure Track Faculty Council
 - f. One General Faculty Representative or Lecturer Senator to the state-wide Academic Senate of the CSU⁴
 - g. One staff representative to the state-wide Staff Council of the CSU (if applicable)*
 - h. One representative from the Unity Coalition*
 - i. One representative from Associated Students*
 - j. One Staff Senator*
 - k. One faculty representative from each school and the library, should none hold a voting position above.

** Non-faculty members of the Executive Committee may not vote on policies pertaining to the retention, promotion, or tenure of faculty⁵ or on curriculum and policies pertaining to curriculum.⁶ See also Bylaws, Art. 2.1.c.i.*

⁴ "Lecturer Senator" is the title under consideration by the Statewide Academic Senate.

⁵ CBA Articles 13, 14, and 15 make repeated reference to "appropriate faculty committee(s)" as empowered to set campus-level timelines and procedures for both periodic and performance reviews, subject to approval of the President. While these same articles restrict participation in periodic and performance reviews to tenured faculty and indicate a preference for tenured faculty on hiring committees, it is deemed equitable that all voting faculty members of the Senate Executive Committee be permitted to vote on such matters when they come before the Committee.

⁶ The faculty of the university are responsible for new programs as well as discontinuation of programs, the latter in collaboration with deans, the provost, academic senate, and the president. The faculty are responsible for course content, choice of course materials, design, and organization. The faculty are responsible for these areas because

- 3.3 The Executive Committee shall include, at minimum, the following non-voting members:
- a. University President or designee
 - b. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs or designee
 - c. Second Co-Chair of the Non-Tenure Track Faculty Council
 - d. President, CI Chapter of the California Faculty Association, or designee
 - e. Immediate past Chair of the Academic Senate (only for academic year following conclusion of term as chair)
- 3.4 The Executive Committee shall review its voting and non-voting membership at the beginning of each academic year to ensure its representation of campus constituencies supports inclusive decision making in keeping with the scope of work and values set forth in this Constitution. Modifications other than to the minimum membership set forth in this Article are at the discretion of the Senate Executive Committee, in line with any limitations set forth in this Constitution or the related Bylaws.

Powers

- 3.5 The Executive Committee, as the direct, active agent of the Academic Senate of CSUCI, shall have powers consistent with those granted to the Academic Senate in Article One of this Constitution.
- 3.6 The authority described in this Constitution shall be exercised in a manner and to an extent consistent with the provisions of state and federal law, and the regulations of the Trustees and the Chancellor of the California State University.

Responsibilities

- 3.7 It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee, acting for the Academic Senate of CSUCI, to make recommendations to the Senate concerning the formulation, revision, adoption, and review of policies and procedures related to all academic matters delegated to the President of CSUCI by law and the Trustees and Chancellor of the California State University. Areas of responsibility shall include, but not be limited to, those dealing with academic, personnel, and fiscal policies and procedures.

Duties

- 3.8 The Executive Committee shall perform all duties necessitated by, and consistent with, the delegation of the Senate authority to participate in the formulation, revision, adoption, or review of policy and procedures of CSUCI.

their expertise equips them to judge best whether courses, majors, and programs adhere to scholarly standards.
Sources: Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU), 1999; California State University, 2025;
CSU General Education (GE) Breadth Requirements (EO 1100), 2024.

- 3.9 The Executive Committee shall have responsibility for oversight of Academic Senate committees. To this end, the Executive Committee shall:
- a. Recommend to the Senate the creation or dissolution of all new standing committees and permanent subcommittees;
 - b. Propose changes to the Constitution or bylaws necessitated by the creation or dissolution of standing committees and permanent subcommittees;
 - c. Propose the creation of such ad hoc committees as it deems necessary to ensure the performance of Senate duties and recommend their dissolution at such time as they shall be deemed no longer necessary; and
 - d. Propose methods for selecting the membership of Academic Senate standing committees, permanent subcommittees, and ad hoc committees, should such methods not be articulated in this Constitution or accompanying Bylaws.

Recall

- 3.10 Any member of the Executive Committee may be impeached by a unanimous vote of the other members of the Executive Committee or by a petition signed by one-third of the members of the Senate.
- 3.11 Any member so impeached may only be removed following a hearing before the Senate and an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Senate present and voting.

Vacancies

- 3.12 Vacancies on the Executive Committee shall be filled by processes delineated in Article Three of the Bylaws.

ARTICLE 4

AMENDMENTS

- 4.1 Amendments to this Constitution or its Bylaws may be initiated by (a) the Executive Committee or (b) a written request signed by 10% of the Voting Faculty.
- 4.2 If a proposed change impacts both the Constitution and Bylaws, each vote (of the Senate, and the Voting Faculty) shall address both changes simultaneously.
- 4.3 Amendments shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Senate, if approved, followed by a two-thirds vote of the Voting Faculty.

ARTICLE 5

SAVINGS CLAUSE

- 5.1 This constitution is subordinate to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).
- 5.2 If any element of this constitution is held to be contrary to law by a court of competent jurisdiction, or governmental administrative agency having authority over the elements, such elements will not be deemed valid and subsisting except to the extent permitted by law, but all other elements of this constitution will continue in full force and effect.

Approved by a vote of the Academic Senate, 04-15-2025

Ratified by a vote of the Faculty, 04-29-2025