ARF Board Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2026

Date: May 8 2026 **Time:** 10:30 AM **Location:** via Zoom

1. Call to Order Cynthia Rawitch called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

2. Attendance via ZOOM: Rawitch, Saetermoe, Gross, Jeppson, Saiz, Kiddoo, Stepanek, Lasky, D. Fox, Schwartz, Miller, and T. Fox.
Absent: Blake, Turner, Su and Perkins.

3. Adoption of the Agenda: Agenda was adopted by all present.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes: Online approval was given by 11 Board members (without changes) for Minutes from the March 13, 2026 Meeting. There was no April Meeting.

5. President's Announcements:

1. The Honored Faculty Reception was held on Friday, May 1, from 12:00-2:00PM. Cynthia felt it went well. She said she "pitched" ARF and invited the Retirees to the Annual Picnic.

***Reminder:** Volunteers needed for Standing Committees (Program, Membership, Remembrance, Fiscal). Some current Chairs will retire next year.

6. Board Members' Announcements: P. Miller mentioned the Soraya Director retired and the new schedule for Soraya is online. .

7. Old Business Updates: Faculty Club (Miller), Campus Communications and Emeriti (Gross), Zoom meetings (Stepanek), ARF Elections.
Faculty Club: Pat stated we have progressed considerably. Spaces were suggested for Faculty although there is nothing concrete at this time. The Orchard has created a menu for ARF. The offering will be a buffet, and the cost will be around $23.50. Colin supports the Faculty Club concept.
Campus Communications Barbara G. asked Cynthia to send her a letter to present to the VP for University Advancement. The letter regards invites for Emeriti Faculty to University events. The Board agreed that ARF has a role to play on Campus.

Zoom Meetings: Steven S. continues to gather information for a dedicated ZOOM Account for ARF Meetings.

ARF Elections: 2026/2027 Proposed ARF Executive Board Election Slate as of 4/19/2026

Nominating Committee – Steven Stepanek, David Fox, Catherine Jeppson, Carrie Saetermoe

President (Elected): Steven Stepanek
Vice Pres/President Elect: Patricia Miller (Nominate)
Immediate Past President: Cynthia Rawitch (Elected)
Secretary: David Fox (Nominate)
Treasurer: Cathy Jeppson (Nominate)
Program Chair: (Nominate) OPEN
Membership Chair: Tim Fox (Nominate)
Historian: Dan Blake (Nominate)
Webmaster: Eugene Turner (Nominate)
Member-at-Large 2 Year: Ron McIntyre (Nominate)
Member-at-Large 2 Year: Carrie Saetermoe (Nominate)
Member-at-Large 2 Year: Barbara Swerkes (Nominate)
Member-at-Large 1 Year: Beth Lasky (Nominate)
Member-at-Large 1 Year remaining: Martin Saiz (Elected)
Member-at-Large 1 Year remaining: Barbara Gross (Elected)
In addition: Beth Lasky has agreed to serve as Program Co-Chair, which is not a board position.

*A correction has been made to the original proposed slate: Ron McIntyre was added to the Board Nominations.

The position of Program Director Chair is still open. As mentioned, Beth Lasky was kind enough to agree to serve as Co-Chair. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding some strategies to make the position less onerous.

Tim Fox suggested there was a committee in the past that split up some of the duties of the Program Director. The key issue is the five meetings with Speakers ARF has during the year. Board members would share these specific events. Steven Stapanek felt it might be advantageous to share events with nearby CSU Universities such CSULA, etc. Diane Schwartz thought that members of ARF would be more than capable of giving talks for our Speaker Series.

8. New Business - Cynthia R. reviewed the New Business discussions and tactical planning objectives for the next few months:

1. **Ad hoc Committee :**
Members: C. Rawitch, B. Lasky, B. Gross, P. Miller, T. Fox, K. Pichler, B. Swerkes and C. Jeppson.
A great deal of discussion at the February Board meeting revolved around changes that may need to be made in ARF documents, forms, procedures and follow-up practices, both to update them and/or make change. Toward that end, we established an ad-hoc committee to carry out a review of our Constitution and By-laws, forms such as membership renewal/application, our website, and practices in place that do not represent us well.

2. The Agenda for the June Meeting will be forthcoming.

9. Reports

Treasurer's Report
Submitted by Cathy Jeppson

ARF TREASURER'S REPORT: As of 4.30.2026					
	Submitted by Cathy Jeppson				
	ACCOUNT BALANCES				
	4/1/26		4/30/26	DIFFERENCE	
Matador Primary	$26.33		$16.33	($10.00)	
Chase Checking	$27,711.30		$27,711.30	None	
Matador CD 46 **Note 2.**	$159,683.28		$160,212.21	$528.93	
TOTAL	$187,420.91		$187,939.84	$518.93	
Chase CD	$12,000.00		$ 12,000.00		

	April 1 - 30, 2026				
		Amount			
Interest Income					
Dividend CD 46		$528.93			
Chase CD	**Note 1.**				
	Total Interest	$528.93			
INFLOWS					
None		None			
Outflows					
Service fee for Matador		$10.00			
	Net Change	$518.93			
Note 1. Chase cd for $12,000 matured on May 3, 2026.					
It was renewed for 6 months @3.2% int for $12,157.39 (principal + interest).					
Note 2. Matures 05/27/26. Then will cancel Matador Acct.	and move to Chase				

Program Report Pat M.

A. Pat put together a tentative calendar for 2026-2027.

B. Pat offered to continue to work on transportation for ARF activities , as needed.

Membership Report Tim F.

Tim stated there were some technical issues computer-wise, prior to the Memorial Awards Brunch. Fortunately, one of the Awardees was a Computer Science Major so the IT issues were resolved. Everyone appeared to be quite pleased with the program. Carrie Saetermoe attended the Brunch and mentioned that the Program was excellent. Cathy Jeppson did mention that the bill was up approximately 10%

Remembrance Report Diane S.

It is my sad duty to let ARF members know about the recent deaths of ARF members and other members of our community:
The ARF Remembrance Committee facilitates the writing and publication in ARF Notes of remembrance articles honoring deceased members of the CSUN community. During the past month, we have drafted articles for the following deceased members of the community:

- Michael Barrett, Librarian Emeritus in the Social Sciences, died on March 8, 2026.
- Rudolfo F. Acuna , Emeritus Professor of Chicano/a Studies, died on March 23, 2026.
- John R. Swanson, Emeritus Faculty in Biology, died on January 27, 2026.

Remembrance articles for these faculty will be published in the May 2026 issue of the ARF newsletter (ARF Notes). The ARF newsletters are posted at www.csun.edu/ARF.

Diane Schwartz
ARF Remembrance Committee Chair

Newsletter Editor Ann P.
Ann Perkins sent out the May ARF Notes. ***Reminder:** Please send any articles of interest to Ann Perkins.

Historian Dan B.
Nothing new to report.

Webmaster Gene T.
Nothing new to report.

Senate Representative(s)
Martin Saiz and Barbara Gross attended the recent April and May Faculty Senate Meetings respectively. Martin's Report: **Faculty Senate Meeting, April 9, 2026:**

Provost Meera Komarraju's report

- First-time transfer students are up 5.6%, first-time freshmen applications are down 0.3%, admissions down 2.4%. Graduate applications are down 4.5%, with admissions down 22%.

- 28 faculty searches are underway. The Senior Director of University Advising search is paused.

- Title V Changes: The Chancellor's office proposed 90-unit degree programs (Bachelors in Education, Applied Studies, and Professional Studies).

Policy Items and Resolutions

1. First Reading. Joint Resolution on Graduate Advising. The resolution aims to establish workload support for faculty engaging in graduate advising. Discussion clarified that "staffing models" refers to faculty, not hiring additional professional staff

2. IT Presentation on Zoom AI Activation. IT plans to unlock Zoom AI features (Meeting Summaries, Real-Time Questions, and Smart Recording) at the end of the semester. The tool is strictly opt-in; default settings will be "off." Transcripts and recordings are deleted after 120 days.

3. First reading, Majors-Minors Policy Update. The policy increases the unit limit cap from 140 units to 170 units to allow students more flexibility to add a minor or change high-unit majors without penalty. First reading waived; moved to Second Reading and Vote. Passed.

4. Second Reading Policy on Revisions to the Tenure-Track Faculty Hiring Toolkit. Formalizes the process for updating and reviewing the tenure-track hiring toolkit. Passed

5. Second Reading Proposed Amendment to Faculty Bylaws. Revises the committee's charge to accurately reflect current activities. Passed The amendment will now be forwarded to faculty for a formal vote (requires 25% participation and a two-thirds majority to pass).

6. Second Reading Resolution on Institutional Support for Neurodivergent Students Endorses institutional support for neurodivergent students. The word "mandatory" was removed from the previous draft. Passed

7. Second Readings Section 600 Policy Changes (PP&R)

- Policy 621.2.5: Clarifies the definition of "tenure-track" faculty. Passed.

- Policy 622.5: Outlines procedures for replacing search committee members who step down. Passed.

- Policy 622.6: Clarifies that the Dean is the appointing authority for the Associate Chair position, based on an advisory vote/process by the department faculty. Passed.

Department of Police Services

Chief Alfredo Fernandez acknowledged concerns surrounding systemic racism and anti-Blackness regarding recent campus policing. Multiple senators expressed profound concern over an erosion of trust, escalating aggression, and the criminalization of student activists. The Senate urged DPS to explore alternative conflict resolution strategies.

University Planning and Budget Group Update (UPBG).

The university has identified approximately $50 million in sustainable non-operating funds (including the MacKenzie Scott gift) and aims to dedicate $15 million annually to university priorities. UPBG members encouraged further faculty involvement.

Statewide Academic Senate (ASCSU) Report *Presenter:* Senator Adam Swenson

A written report was provided. ASCSU representatives are actively advocating against pending state legislation and will be traveling to Washington D.C. next week to lobby for MSI funding.

CFA Report. *Presenter:* Chapter President Nate Thomas

Contract bargaining with CSU management is ongoing. A bargaining town hall is scheduled for the 14th, and a side-by-side comparison of proposals will be distributed to faculty. The fact-finder report regarding the Time, Place, and Manner policy is complete and available for review.

Barbara's Report, **Faculty Senate Meeting , May 7, 2026:**

Faculty President Jeff Wiegley announced that Adam Swenson (Philosophy) has been elected as Chair of the Statewide Academic Senate. This is the first time since the 1970s that someone from CSUN has held this position.

In her President's Report, CSUN President Erica Beck noted there will be 11,000 students crossing the stage at the 2026 commencement, bringing the number of CSUN alumni to 435,000. She thanked the faculty for all they do and addressed serious systemic challenges to higher education. She pledged that CSUN has not and will not back off or maintain a low profile in the face of such challenges, and mentioned many recent accomplishments at CSUN, including hiring 38 new tenure track faculty for Fall 2026, achieving enrollment of 26% above target for Spring 2026, earning the designation Black Serving Institution, opening the Valera NEST and the Autodesk Technology Engagement Center, earning a second consecutive Carnegie classification for community engagement, progressing on the Sierra Hall renovation, and receiving more than $100 million in philanthropic gifts. President Beck asked Ranjit Philip, VP for Information Technology, to update Senators on the current widespread Canvas security breach and outage affecting CSUN and other educational institutions at the time of the meeting.

In her Provost's Report, Provost Meera Komarraju thanked Senators for their work. She is currently reviewing 105 RTP files and awaiting those associated with appeals. She has been meeting with faculty in their departments. Current enrollment projections for Summer and Fall 2026 are strong overall. Summer 2026 enrollment is up 0.9% over Summer 2025. First Time Freshman (FTF) applications for Fall 2026 are up 0.8% over the same time for Fall 2025. Extending the application deadline for FTF was effective. First Time Transfers are projected to be up by 9%. However, graduate student enrollment is projected to be down by 3.8%. A retention group meets regularly to work on ways to best serve and retain students once they are enrolled. The Provost reported that the AVP for Graduate Studies position has been filled and finalist campus visits/interviews for the Dean of the College of Science and Math position are this week. UPBG has been meeting and holding workshops to receive recommendations for best use of philanthropic gifts. In general, these monies will be used for student support, teaching support, research and grants, and staff support. With positive budget news, 38 tenure track faculty have been hired for Fall 2026, and it is anticipated that some reassigned time will be reinstated. Finally, she noted that the Chancellor's Office found the Interim Bridge Model recently proposed by the Large Grants Task Force to be non-compliant in some respects and so further work must be done.

Ryan Swartwood, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, now at CSUN for approximately six months, introduced himself and provided information on his background. He noted that 86 student-athletes will graduate in 2026 and the average cumulative GPA among student-athletes is 3.28. He mentioned the Most Valuable Professor Program in which student-athletes honor their professors.

Richard Heermance, chair of the Large Grant Taskforce, provided an update. The taskforce has been meeting weekly since April 10 when the Chancellor's Office communicated that the Interim Bridge Model submitted is not fully compliant. The Taskforce is now working to develop an alternate that will be acceptable. He outlined the likely new proposal, but it is still a work in progress. He questioned whether university funding committed to the new program is sufficient. The AVP for Research and Sponsored Programs compared CSUN's commitment as comparable to San Jose State's experience, which is what the proposed model is largely based on. Faculty President Jeff Wiegley noted discussions in support of research funding at UPBG and Provost Meera Komarraju pledged support from the university administration for research.

The Educational Equity Committee (EEC) brought a proposed resolution for a first reading: "Resolution in Support of Psychological Safely, Black Student Success, and Accountable Campus Policing at CSUN." The Faculty Senate waived a second reading, and the Resolution was approved by vote.

The Educational Resources Committee (ERC) and the Graduate Student Committee (GSC) brought a revised joint resolution for a second reading: "Graduate Advising as a Matter of Graduate Academic Standards and Educational Resources." The Resolution was approved by vote.

The Personnel Planning and Review Committee (PP&R) brought a proposed revision of Section 652, "Grant-Related/Specially-Funded Instruction Faculty Appointments," for a first reading.

This is PP&R's response to the whistleblower complaint and subsequent finding by the Chancellor's Office of noncompliance in the Large Grant Program. Further changes were recommended and a revision will be brought for a second reading in Fall 2026.

AVP of Research and Sponsored Programs, Mariappan "Jawa" Jawaharial, provided an update on the AI Taskforce. The taskforce is primarily faculty-led and has been meeting regularly for the past year. The taskforce has drafted "CSUN AI Guidelines" which will be shared for governance committee review (primarily Educational Policies Committee and Educational Resources Committee) and beyond in Fall 2026. A website has been created with all AI-related resources in one place. Senators expressed concern about encouragement of AI use and questioned whether the drafted CSUN AI Guidelines incorporate the recent Senate Resolution regarding AI. They asked that reference to the Senate Resolution be made clear in the guidelines.

In her Statewide Academic Senate Report, Theresa Montano reiterated that Adam Swenson has been elected chair and reported that the Statewide Academic Senate recently passed 15 resolutions dealing with articulation with community colleges, naming of academic buildings, and AI. She noted that the Statewide Academic Senate is concerned about the role of AI in changing the university.

New Business was introduced from the Personnel Policy and Review Committee (PP&R) regarding proposed revisions to Section 613 on "gathering faculty and student comments for faculty evaluations" in the RTP process. In the proposal, the process remains the same, but timeline language was added for submitting and reviewing comments on faculty under review in years 3-6. Grievances have resulted from not having clear timelines or deadlines. Senators waived a second reading and approved the proposed revisions. Further proposed changes to Section 613 will be submitted to Faculty Senate in Fall 2026 once a timeline and deadlines appropriate for commenting on 2nd year faculty are worked out.

ERFSA-ARF Representative to ERFSA Report given May 8, 2026, to ARF Board by Steven Stepanek

A CSU-ERFSA State Council Meeting was held on Zoom on April 2, 2026.

Funds are available for campus affiliate organizations to hold membership drives. Also, campus affiliates should consider joint activities with nearby campuses.

ERFSA receives a list from the CSU Chancellor's Office of recent retirees. This information is broken down by campus and sent to campus affiliates.

The CalPERS data breach impacting 55,000 members was discussed. Visit the Reporter article online or the CalPERS website for additional details.

The State Council discussed issues related to CalPERS' investments in private equity funds, IRRs and healthcare.

The new free tuition program at CSU DH was announced. This program provides full tuition coverage to eligible students for either 4 years if they start as a freshmen or 2 years if they are a transfer student. The funding for this program comes from an external source.

The ERFSA State Council approved updates to the ERFSA Constitution clarifying the calculation of affiliate delegate representation on the State Council based on campus-based ERFSA membership counts.

The ERFSA State Council also approved updates to the ERFSA Constitution regarding the structuring and naming of ERFSA committees; this includes the formal creation of a Program Committee.

Adjourned.