



## Senate Minutes

Tuesday, November 18th, 2025

The Senate Chamber, UC Forum AB, University of San Diego

1. Call to Order - 12:35 pm
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of the agenda for November 18th, 2025
  - a. Senator Jameson - motion to approve the agenda. Seconded. Motion passes.
5. New Business - Presentation by President James T. Harris III
  - a. Fall convocation of faculty and administration - Baillie, Bond, Rappaport, Serbin, Vamosiu, Carmona, Lyon, Layser, Dripps
  - b. Added 15 new faculty members last year
  - c. Dr. Jim Antony - incoming Provost and academic Vice President, starting his position on March 1st, 2026
  - d. Our rankings: top 5 most beautiful campus, top 10 best college food, top 8 Catholic colleges, top 16 mental health services, top 10 schools for making an impact, top 20 sustainable-minded schools
  - e. Freshman class demographics:
    - i. 1300 students, average GPA of 4.02
    - ii. For the 10th year in a row, we have a higher percentage of students of color than the previous class (54% freshman students of color)
  - f. USD has raised over \$261 million in the last three years; 2025 has been our biggest fundraising year
  - g. Prevailing winds:
    - i. US political environment - conservative president, Supreme Court, House, and Senate
    - ii. Emergence of artificial intelligence - working with American Association of Colleges and Universities to get on the cutting edge of using AI in the classroom; especially important for a Catholic intellectual, liberal arts institution
    - iii. Cost of attracting and retaining talent - USD's model is very expensive, particularly for our faculty; working on how to support faculty's housing needs; by 2028, USD will have another 700+ bed dormitory for first-year students
  - h. Head winds (challenges):

- i. Demographic shifts - number of high school graduates will decrease over the next 5 years, so it will become more competitive to get students to come to our school
- ii. Geopolitical issues on campus
- iii. Decrease in federal funding for higher education - reducing or eliminating Pell Grant Awards, Federal Work-Study, TRIO and GEAR UP, FSEOG, NASA, NIH, NSF, graduate student loans
- iv. Impact of federal policies - immigration, visa holders, undocumented students, DOJ and DOE, DEI and HSI; If USD is found to be violating certain policies, the federal government could withhold Title IV funding, which helps students attend our university; USD Law School has immigration law clinic and child advocacy clinic and is working with SDSU and UCSD to support students who face documentation and citizenship concerns
- v. Perceived lack of value of higher education; facing entry level job crunch, new graduates question the value of a degree
- vi. Knauss School of Business - #48 overall, #10 business school ROI, #35 networking
- vii. National average student loan debt at graduation is \$39,510; for USD students the amount is \$26,448
- viii. Dwight Eisenhower: higher education is a national priority because it has a civic responsibility that prepares students for life in a free society; importance of higher education to democracy
- ix. Western Association of Schools and Colleges has dropped references to DEI from its accreditation standards
- i. Favorable winds:
  - i. USD's mission statement
  - ii. Faculty profile is increasingly diverse; faculty of color is now the majority group
  - iii. Student to faculty ratio has decreased and is well below the national average
  - iv. Fall 2025 - highest headcount in the history of the university; 6,050 undergraduate students, total enrollment is 10,027
  - v. 92.1% retention rate as of fall 2025
  - vi. Students of color has increased from 36% to 51% over 10 years; percentage of Hispanic students has increased from 19% to 31%
  - vii. Hispanic Serving Institution; the Hispanic female is the individual most likely to graduate from USD; we still have more work to do to make sure Hispanic students are thriving
  - viii. Palomar Health Student Wellness Center opened this year
  - ix. Shiley STEM Building - first classes will be held in the building in

January 2028

- x. Men's soccer to host second round NCAA tournament match at Torero Stadium
- xi. Angels Unawares Statute dedication scheduled on December 18th - International Migrants Day
- j. Q&A with President Harris
  - i. [Senator Michael S] How are we implementing a better pay system and living situation for faculty; will faculty employees be considered in that strategy? [President Harris] Paying faculty salaries comes from student tuition, so we need to find other ways to fund salaries; children of faculty and staff get free/reduced tuition; forgivable loan programs lets faculty put money down on a house if they stay for a certain amount of time; reaching out to partner foundations to buy-in to faculty housing near the campus; thinking about lower rent for the first 2 years for faculty
  - ii. [Senator Jameson] If the Trump administration doesn't fund HSIs, will student tuition increase? [President Harris] It used to be that faculty members from HSIs and HBCUs had advantages when applying for grants; that has been cut. There was also direct funding to HSIs and HBCUs that has been cut. USD is still proud to be an HSI even if there's no money that comes along with it. We're one of the few Catholic institutions with this designation.
  - iii. [Health & Wellness Coordinator] Will the new STEM building have any effects on the cost of attendance? [President Harris] It probably will. The building will cost up to \$140 million to build, and Mrs. Shiley has given us \$50 million. We will need to fundraise and borrow for the remaining amount. With an increased student body, overall tuition revenue will increase without having to raise individual tuition too much.
  - iv. [Speaker Pro Tempore] Given the federal cuts to funding that many students receive, what will USD do to make up for it? [President Harris] We need to figure out where we can cut costs; what we don't want to do is stop hiring faculty. We need to look at sponsorships, fundraising, investments, spending endowment money, etc. For example, by becoming carbon neutral by 2032, the cost of our electric bill will go down. We're also looking at expanding our online graduate school options, along with badge/certificate programs.
- 6. Approval of the minutes from November 13th, 2025
  - a. Senator Sophia - motion to approve the minutes. Seconded. Motion passes.
- 7. Report from The Speaker of the Senate
  - a. No Senate next week! Office hours and committee/advisor meetings are

- optional
- b. Speaker Pro Tempore Natalie will chair 12/4 Senate
- c. Mid semester reports are due today
- d. Clerk of the Senate interviews this week
- e. Happy Birthday Tako! Party at 3:30 pm at SLP 3rd floor courtyard
- 8. Reports from The Senate Leadership Team
  - a. Speaker Pro Tempore - keep working on initiatives; last call for parking services questions
  - b. Clerk - \$5000 left in initiatives fund; update senate initiatives sheet
  - c. Parliamentarian - keep following Robert's Rules
- 9. Reports from The Committee Chairs & Coordinators
  - a. The Academics Committee Chair
    - i. Met with Knauss Deans
    - ii. Dean Gong from Copley presented on OER last week; thinking about Open Access Week in March
    - iii. First academic grants committee last week, second one this week
    - iv. Pre-finals informational tabling on December 9th from 12-2
  - b. The Student Org Committee Chair
    - i. Continuing with new/returning student organization approvals
    - ii. Committee initiative brainstorming
    - iii. New SOC member: Jameson
  - c. The IDEA Committee Chair
    - i. Awaiting ROTC Google Form responses
    - ii. POI fundraiser, FUSO GBM, and LUL fundraiser today!
  - d. The Student Life Committee Chair
    - i. Working on de-stress touchpoints for students between classes
    - ii. Gathering student feedback on campus lighting, mental health resources, wellness center music
    - iii. Thanksgiving airport Lyft codes will be shared out soon
    - iv. Beginning early planning for winter break transportation support
  - e. The Athletics Coordinator
    - i. Men's basketball tailgate on December 9th!
    - ii. Next semester: athletic team tabling, working with club teams, etc.
  - f. The Health and Wellness Coordinator
    - i. Meeting with Anne Cass tomorrow
    - ii. Upcoming events: Queer Salsa, Unscripted (Healthy Masculinity), City Lights Biking
  - g. The Sustainability Coordinator
    - i. Camino vs. Founders sustainability competition in progress
    - ii. Holiday Fair on December 4th
- 10. Reports from The ASG Executive Board
  - a. President

- i. Thank you to President Harris and VP Johnson for coming to Senate today!
    - ii. Currently interviewing Finance Chair and Controller candidates
    - iii. Met with VP University Operations to discuss event spaces and amplified sound restrictions
    - iv. Meeting with Director of Parking & Mobility after Thanksgiving break
  - b. Vice President
    - i. Attended Core Curriculum Committee last week
    - ii. First academic grants committee last week, second one this week
    - iii. Interviewing Controller candidate tomorrow
  - c. Chief Justice
    - i. Currently at parking re-appeals with judicial branch
    - ii. Attending Student Code of Conduct review session this Thursday
    - iii. Chairing Finance Committee after Thanksgiving break
  - d. TPB Chair
    - i. Met with VP University Operations to discuss event spaces and amplified sound restrictions
    - ii. Connecting Your Roots event with CHWP happening now!
    - iii. Civic Circus this Thursday!
  - e. PR Chair
    - i. Zip-ups are in the works! Look out for an email about sizing
    - ii. Working on updating ASG website
  - f. Chief of Staff
    - i. Leading a controller interview tomorrow
    - ii. Respond to Finance Committee and team bonding GCal invites
    - iii. Input next semester schedule into GCal
11. Final Business and Hearing of the Public. *At this time, any Senator may take from the table any motion previously laid on the table in the meeting the week before or present urgent business; any member of the public may voice any concerns to the assembly on non-agenda items.*
12. Adjournment
- a. Senator Michael S - motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded. Motion passes. Senate adjourned at 1:57 pm.

*The public is invited and encouraged to attend and participate in all Associated Student Government Senate Meetings. All meetings are open to the public and participation in discussion is welcome during Final Business and Hearing of the Public.*

Associated Student Government of the University of San Diego