

From: [University Affairs](#)
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Subject: Campus Update: Momentum, Milestones, and What's Ahead
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Sent on behalf of Interim President Dumont.

Dear Campus Community,

As we approach the close of the spring semester, I continue to be encouraged by the energy and dedication that permeates our campus—from our classrooms and labs to preparations for Summer Sea Term, the integration with Cal Poly, and beyond. Thank you for your commitment to this university, to our cadets and other students, and to one another. I want to take this moment to share with you a few important updates and highlights.

Cal Poly Integration Progress

Our integration effort with Cal Poly is moving forward steadily. As we've discussed, this transition is significant—but it is also filled with opportunity. The work we're doing now is setting the foundation for a stronger, more sustainable future for our university and the Maritime Academy. The next phase in our methodical approach is focusing on refining the necessary governance and support structures. We understand that many across the staff are eager to understand the staffing and organizational portion of the integration, and I assure you this is being assessed, reviewed and crafted incrementally as more and more of the integration effort occurs. But it will take time. As you can imagine, integrating the culture and organizational structure of two universities is quite an undertaking. I'll continue to keep you informed as details evolve, and I deeply appreciate your thoughtful engagement throughout this process.

Leadership Searches

The Cal Poly leadership searches for our campus are entering their final stages. We will welcome candidates for the superintendent role to campus on April 23rd and 24th, followed by a VP/CEO candidate on April 25th. These visits will be important opportunities for community interaction and feedback, and I encourage you to participate in the open forums with staff and faculty and for students to engage while the candidates are at lunch in the Dining Center. Your perspective will help shape the university's future. In the coming weeks, President Armstrong will make his decisions on the two senior leadership positions and those will be announced by Cal Poly at the appropriate time.

U.S. Training Ship *Golden State* Update

March 5th marked a monumental milestone in the construction of *Golden State*, with the keel laying ceremony officially completed. Captain Bannister, cadets, members of Marine Programs, and Cal Maritime alumni represented the university at this historic occasion. The new ship symbolizes not only our maritime legacy, but the bright future ahead for generations of cadets and others who will sail and learn aboard *Golden State*.

Pier Expansion and Construction Permitting Process

The Boat Basin and Pier Expansion project is in the final stages of the state and federal permitting process. We've cleared several major hurdles in the permitting process and anticipate receiving final permits in June (with our fingers crossed!). If we have all the required approvals in place, we anticipate that construction will commence in early August. Because of a variety of environmental factors, in-water work may only take place between August and November. While there are more permitting hurdles to overcome, the construction team is working diligently to prevent any delay. Along with the assignment of a new training ship, a new pier & wharf complex marks a significant investment in the future of maritime training and education at our campus.

Engagements in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

Over the past several weeks I have been engaging with leaders at both the state and federal levels to highlight Cal Maritime's needs, as well as our vital role and impact. In mid-March, I participated in CSU Advocacy Day in Sacramento, highlighting not only the CSU contributions to the State, but also our distinctive role and value to California and the Nation. Last week, I joined the CSU's Hill Day in Washington D.C. and met with Congressman Garamendi, Senator Padilla and Senator Schiff and their staffs to talk about the integration and increased federal funding for our programs. I also attended the annual Congressional Sail-In events with Members of Congress, industry partners, and labor organizations. These engagements and meetings with legislators and congressional staff underscored the importance of our mission and the critical need for sustained federal support.

Congressional and State Leadership Visits

Last month we hosted several state senators for an update on the integration effort and the needs of the campus. The visit included tours of residence halls, the ship, and other facilities. Earlier this week, we hosted Congressional staff from the offices of Representative Garamendi (CA), Senator Schumer (NY), and Representative Bergman (MI) as part of a maritime transportation workforce development-focused visit. Today, we were honored to welcome Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis to campus. Her visit included a tour of the ship, engaging conversations with cadets and other students, understanding the pier construction project, and a deeper look into the value of our programs and the maritime workforce pipeline.

Presidential Executive Order Action on Maritime

Working with the U.S. Maritime Administration and the other state maritime academies, we are closely assessing the recent Presidential executive order focused on revitalizing the maritime sector and shipbuilding industry. The order outlines a renewed commitment to national maritime strategy, including workforce development, which directly aligns with our mission. We will continue to track developments and are advocating for the Maritime Academy's role in this national priority.

Budget Outlook

As we look ahead to the 2025-26 fiscal year, we continue to face significant budgetary challenges shared across the CSU. The Governor's January budget proposal includes a 7.95% reduction to CSU funding—approximately \$397 million. For Cal Maritime, this equates to a projected \$2.5 million reduction, while Cal Poly would see an estimated \$24 million cut. Additionally, our campus anticipates a \$600,000 reduction under the CSU Enrollment Reallocation Plan. These cuts follow reductions already implemented to our operating budget in previous fiscal years (\$3.8 million in 2023–24 and \$2.8 million in 2024–25). The current projected total deficit for FY2025–26 is approximately \$3.1 million. While these figures are challenging, we remain focused on managing resources responsibly and protecting our core mission: student success.

Enrollment Growth

Despite these fiscal headwinds, we are seeing encouraging signs on the enrollment front. Compared to this time last year, applications are up by 30.8% year to date, and our current number of intent-to-enroll confirmations is up 96% over this time last year. This positive trend reflects the incredible work being done on the recruitment front and valuable assistance from Cal Poly's Strategic Enrollment Management team.

Commencement and Final Exams

As we head into finals and approach Commencement, I want to extend my very best wishes to all our cadets, other students, faculty, and staff. The final stretch is always intense, but it is also filled with bittersweet moments of celebration and self-reflection.

To our graduating seniors and graduate students: we are incredibly proud of you and look forward to celebrating together on May 3d, in recognition of your hard work and outstanding academic achievements.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to our students and to each other. With summer quickly approaching, we have some enormous though exciting changes ahead as we begin joining the Cal Poly community on July 1st. Full integration as the new, larger Cal Poly community will not happen overnight, and not all questions will be answered by time classes start again in the fall. Joining two universities is not something you do over a few weeks or even months; there will be a full year of integration work that will take place over 2025 and well into 2026. Our job is to do everything within our power to make the effort successful. Thank you for all that you are doing, individually and as a team.

Respectfully,

Mike

Michael J. Dumont, J.D.

Interim President



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