

SSIS Faculty Council Meeting  
February 19, 2025  
1:30 pm – 2:45 pm  
256 AMD SSIS Dean's Conference Room  
Zoom: <https://csus.zoom.us/j/83621712405?from=addon>

- I. Call to Order
  - a. Meeting began at 1:32
- II. Roll
  - a. Present: Jenny Stevenson, Megan Raschig, Jackie Brooks, Sahar Razavi, Jasmine Wade, David Selby, Rachel Lim, Ciobha McKeown, Brian DiSarro, Marya Endriga
  - b. Absent: Sharon Flicker (sabbatical), Julian Fulton
- III. Approval of Agenda: Faculty Council Agenda\_SP25\_Feb19 (Attachment B)
  - a. Motion to approve: Jenny Stevenson
  - b. Second: Ciobha McKeown
    - i. All approved. No opposition nor abstentions.
- IV. Approval of Minutes: SSIS Faculty Council Meeting Minutes 2.05.25 (Attachment A)
  - a. Motion to approve: David Selby
  - b. Second: Ciobha McKeown
    - i. All approved. No opposition nor abstentions.
- V. Open Forum
  - a. No items to discuss.
- VI. New Business
  - a. President's Budget Update
  - b. College Mergers and Operational Control

Operational Control:

Marya gave an account of the budget crisis and campus restructuring, acknowledging there are still more questions than clarity. The focus is shifting from the sheer magnitude of budget cuts to the logistics of operational control changes of academic colleges. Marya explained that the president has authority around operational control and is able to decide, determine, appoint, release MPPs and administrators without faculty (Senate) input. He will be reducing 7 colleges to 4 based on feedback from the Deans. Budget reduction will come through reducing administrative costs (reduction in deans and administrators). It is yet unknown which deans will be retained.

Through Senate input, Dr. Wood revised the timeline on the Operational Control phase to begin at the end of RTP cycle (mid-May). The announcement on which Colleges/Deans will be taking operational control will also be on hold.

Jackie noted that the CFA has been very vocal in the need to protect the RTP process in this restructuring.

Dr. Wood and the Deans discussed College pairings that made some sense; but in Senate, it was posed that if this is a temporary measure, shouldn't these be *illogical* pairings? To ensure their temporary nature. This is in consideration.

Phase 1 – Operational Control

Phase 2 – what could actual college mergers look like? This more permanent process would be part of senate purview. It could take a year to work with the Senate on what this reorganization would look like.

Marya noted that our campus is just part of a system-wide reorganization, which is not top-down at this point. She acknowledged Sacramento State is running a structural deficit that requires larger, structural changes.

Sahar asked: will the cuts/reorganization impact sabbaticals? Marya answered that it might, and it might also impact assigned time, 'internal assigned time' and our 3-3 model FTA (flexible teaching agreement). Lower enrollment may put this model in question. The new provost may also have their concerns.

Brian offered a Chair's perspective: this has been a period of intense dialogue with Chairs to make sense of situation. He called it a "speed dating" phase of potential courting departmental/school matches. We will likely see the consolidation of departments; not merging them per se but combining several under one chair. Questions remain as to the 'shape' of schools; autonomy of departments; RTP processes; disparities and power dynamics between departments.

Jenny and David offered lecturer perspectives, noting widespread fear. There was a question of benefits as part of cost – if lecturers' benefit package was reduced, to retain jobs. Marya noted that the order of work assignment for lecturers is still in place.

Schools: SSIS Chairs are trying to get ahead of possible issues together, and considering liaising with departments from other Colleges. While not yet fully defined, Schools would serve as conceptual umbrellas for 4-5 department to share admin. A priority remains that this is Chair and faculty-driven; yet decisions are with the President. We may forward decisions to the Senate sooner than we are required to, in order to show commitment and proactivity.

Sahar asked whether 'Schools' are effectively just an umbrella that would eliminate some costs, or whether they will functionally change how our departments function. Marya suggests it will not circumvent shared governance process; we should pay attention to the revising of this policy that is currently under Senate scrutiny.

There are important questions: What does ‘OC’ mean? What does a ‘School’ mean? (Schools can be accreditation requirements, like School of Nursing, School of Music.)

There is no discussion yet of impacts on curriculum, though it would be wise for departments to streamline.

c. Department of Education’s “Dear Colleague” Letter

Sahar explained that ‘[dear colleague](#)’ memo doesn’t have force of law; but is a signal for what this administration want. The memo language is around “race-based discrimination,” based on US official census *racial categories*. We should continue to ensure our programs are open to everyone, regardless of background.

VII. Good of the Order

VIII. Adjournment

a. Meeting concluded at 2:45.