

SSIS Faculty Council Meeting
April 16, 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 1:37
- II. Roll
 - a. Present: Julian Fulton, Jenny Stevenson, Jackie Brooks, Jasmine Wade, Brian DiSarro, Ciobha McKeown, Marya Endriga, Sahar Razavi David Selby (notetaker), Rachel Lim, Dianny Hyson
 - b. Absent: Sharon Flicker (sabbatical), , Megan Raschig,
- III. Approval of Agenda: Faculty Council Agenda_SP25_Mar5 (Attachment B)
 - a. Motion to approve: Jenny Stevensen
 - b. Second: Brian DiSarro
 - i. All approved. No opposition nor abstentions.
- IV. Approval of Minutes: SSIS Faculty Council Meeting Minutes 3-19-25 condensed (Attachment A)
 - a. Motion to approve: Jenny Stevensen
 - b. Second: Ciobha McKeown
 - i. All approved. No opposition nor abstentions.
- V. Open Forum
 - a. Mayra: Dean's update. So much is happening so fast. Nice to have Dianne Hyson back. It's a crazy time. Updates on budget reductions, lecturer reductions proposal was approved and accepted by the Provost. About 22% reduction, but it definitely could have been worse. For some departments, they were reductions from sections held in reserve for GE and GR requirements. HR is also staying tuned and involved, and if there is support needed around that. The work isn't there because of the budget. We're trying to keep enrollments as high as they were. We're still working on course efficiencies, i.e. courses that are chronically underfilled. It still impacts students. Please have students communicate with Chairs and Deans and Provosts so that we can get them graduated. We may be talking about another round of reductions for our operating expenses. People are hopeful but not confident for budget relief from the May Revise. Biran: last week the Provost said she would send a message to the students, do you have an update? Mayra: we don't have an update yet on that, it should come soon. Jenny: 22%?, is that every department? Mayra: that's not exactly how we did it. The Provost's guidance was to look at reductions, but not to devastate programs. What

that means is that we need to make sure that students can make progress. Maybe eliminate electives and things. I'm very thankful to the Chairs who were very helpful in this. We talked to the Chairs and then looked at their answers, and from that we came up with 22%. Dianne: it's an important question, because it wasn't a top-down process. We came up that number through discussion. We were almost expecting a counter from the Provost. Mayra: we're kind of fortunate in that we have GE offerings that we could reduce, and that was helpful as well. That and raising course caps, especially for tenure-track faculty. Jenny: and then there are more cuts coming in Spring 2026? Mayra: yes, more cuts in the Spring. But the general guidance is that I'm not expecting any baseline funding to be restored by Spring. But we're hoping that there are some courses that could be returned back as classes become available. We also had a Staff Forum/town hall. Staff were concerned about their jobs. We talked about what this is likely to mean for the staff. I think the staff appreciated having time with the Dean. It was good to help people be less anxious. Hot off the press is the idea of Student Success Fees. That's coming quick. It's just being rolled out in the last couple of weeks. Jasmine: do we know more about the operational control situation? Mayra: not yet. Senate Executive Committee has some important things on this. They have an important agenda item there, they will make a special committee for it as well. Please check that out.

VI. Old Business: Town Hall

- a. Jasmine: at the last meeting we said we should do one, but we weren't sure what the content should be. Mayra: great ideas about surveying faculty. On the other hand, we're feeling like we're running out of time, and we're running out of time. The original folks who wrote the letter wanted it referred to Faculty Council. It's up to us, but I'm fine with it being very general. The Staff Forum had a Qualtrix survey that was general but helpful. We could do that, or just announce it as an open forum type situation. Dianne: it'd be great to have the Provost invited. The worry with the town Hall is that you set people up with expectation, but it's also good to share ideas and talk to each other. Mayra: I was worried about that with the staff town hall, but just explaining what temporary operational control might mean. Dianne: with the caveat that it may look different later. Dianne: Faculty Council can invite the Provost. Mayra: that might be more powerful. General agreement amongst the body. Mayra: it also gives the Provost a chance to get to know us. Brian: we could do a Friday afternoon on Zoom. Maximum availability and participation. Then we wouldn't have to worry about a room. Quick set up. Getting the Provost getting there would be good. Jenny: dates are real tight. Mayra: yeah, the Provosts schedule is tight too. Ciobha: I wonder if we can send her an update on the goals of the town hall as well. Wasn't the initial idea about restructuring within the college? Mayra: yes, that was the original idea. But what we're also saying is that there are other issues that have come up since then. Ciobha: yeah, I'm just thinking realistically. There is the moratorium that was proposed in Faculty Senate? A town hall might be helpful, but I think it's important for us to think collectively about what our aims are. Will this be a similar approach as the President with his open forums? Should we ask the

Provost strategically after April 25th? Because we might have questions after that? What are our goals? Mayra: I would only add that if we focus on the discussion of what we did in side the college and how people felt about that, and to talk about the internal, Department Chair led discussion, I think that was part of what the letter-writers were concerned about. I don't think the Provost would want to get involved in that. So we may want to think about whether or not we invite her there for that. Ciobha: that's more my question. What are our goals of the town hall? Do we want the Provost there? What are the questions? Dianne: it's hard in this space right now. Unclear decisions and moving parts. The aggressive timeline might seem more related. Brian: I was having non-stop conversations about this for awhile, but since the President backed off a bit, I haven't hardly had any. Now it's really just about managing the budget cuts. Depending on what you think, maybe it still happens, maybe not. Unclear language from everyone whether or not it happens. But people may still want to ask about it. Jasime: another goal that folks had was that people had different levels of access to information about what is going on. Request was to get information out there easily. People who can't come to in-person meetings, etc. Mayra: do the letter-writers still want to have the meeting? That's one key question. Maybe I should talk to them. Brian: yeah, the way I read the letter is that people were concerned that the Chairs were concerned about decisions being made without input. I'm not being asked to join with other departments now. Mayra: I could send an email to them, ask if they still want to have a faculty forum. Jenny: should we vote? Mayra: we can keep discussing. There is a need to listen and faculty need to use their voices. Maybe it would be good to do one or twice a year anyways. What do people think? Brian: open forum, and people can ask what they want to ask. If it's a question so of school and reorg, that's fine. If it's budget cuts then that's fine. Ciobha: some response from us is needed. It also helps build community, and spread information. Our goal is to remain transparent through the process. An hour or hour and a half on zoom might be appreciated by many. But the response from Faculty Council to letter writers, the college, and lecturers, etc. might be helpful. Julian: I was thinking that there is a low hum of discussion about all of this—not has hot as before. The 25th we'll get a big announcement and kick back up. Then we should plan proactively for a meeting. Maybe Friday the 2nd would be a good day. Mayra: slight clarification—we MAY hear something on April 25th. It's just the first day there might be a decision. Julian: the May Revise date too, and then everybody is done. Mayra: well also the next item of business is the student success fee. So there's budget, reorg, temporary operational control, and the success fee. Sahar: it's a good idea to at least set it up. There are a lot of loose ends that people will want clarification, and subjectively they want to be heard. Even if we don't change the outcome then at least they feel heard. David: The only two dates that make sense are the 2nd and 9th. 2nd probably better, but it's a bit tight and not as much clarification. Brian: zoom is easy. Jenny: do it like the President did. Just here to ask questions. Collectively speak as a council. Dianne: it also gives a deadline to get answers. Mayra: given where this is going, should we still invite the Provost? What does the Council think? We have enough time to do a survey if we want? Do you think that necessary? Ciobha: I attended two of

the three open forums, and it was the same questions for both. Which suggests to me that we can predict what people will ask. Meaning, I don't think a survey is necessary. Jasmine: May 2nd, no survey, what time? Brian: afternoon. After 12, early afternoon. Jasmine: 1-2:30? General agreement. Provost invite question? Jenny: yes. Jasmine: we could have her there the second half? Both good. Mayra: from what I've seen from her schedule is that 30 minutes is probably about max anyways. 1.5 hours is probably more than she can commit. Jenny: whenever she is available. Mayra: Dianne: you think contacting the office directly is best to make the request. Dianne: I think there is something about the Faculty Council Town Hall itself is powerful. Jasmine's idea sounds really good. Mayra: you might want to give some options to the Provost, on May 2nd and maybe also May 9th. Jasmine: I can draft the invitation.

- b. Ciobha Motion: "I move that Faculty Council sponsor a town hall on May 2nd or 9th, with some flexibility for the Provost (hopefully), one and a half hours, on zoom, in the afternoon. No Qualtrics, people ask questions, and no recording." Brian second. Moved with no opposition.
- c. Jasmine: I'll do a rough draft of the invitation to the Provost and share it promptly with the committee.

VII. New Business: Student Success Fee

- a. Mayra: this is a rough outline. So, we're not circulating the full one yet. Background is that in the context of the budget cuts, Deans discussions, etc. is that as we continue work on the graduation initiative, and our sense of what students are needing. The idea of the Student Success Fee proposal was born. Lots of iterations. Each college has different focus, but the same level of fee. This will be done through a referendum. Students will have the option to vote. The plan for voting would be the week before finals. If passed, it would not be until Fall 2026 (AY 2026-27). The basic idea is three options: no fee, and then if yes there are a 300\$/semester and a 350\$/semester level. We are the only large CSU that does not have a Student Success Fee. Other CSUs have 700\$ or higher SSFs, like San Jose. For SSIS, based on my understanding, what this would do is focus on career-oriented experiential learning, internships, connections to job opportunities. And then the kind of things that plague us in bad budget times (high demand courses). This is how it's structured. The bullet-points are the kinds of things we'll do. I didn't put the allocations here, but 75% will go to course related options. Restoring courses, offering hard to get course, et... The most expensive things are the course needs that we will have. I think I did 15% to Student Support and Advising. More advising, career workshops, Alumni connections, workshops with employers, etc. For most of the departments that means more public service, i.e. government jobs and non-profits. The other 10% is related to IT software upgrades, some hardware upgrades. If we're not going to get regular computer refreshes, they break down, students need data transcription, etc. We should have some money to invest there. The Library has not put forward a success fee, so making sure some of their resources are maintained as well. The second option is similar, but adds more on. About the same mix, just a larger pot of money. That's my overview. I'm happy to provide more information. Dianne: it's about 3.1 million what would be raised. For academics, it's 2.3 million, which

would open up quite a few courses. It's a pretty good amount of money. Dianne: the no SSF option is so sad. Mayra: what if this had been in the mix last time? I'd like to think that students had voted for this in that context? But this won't be imposed on students, it's something that students will vote on. On other campuses it's taken a few rounds of voting. What we're being asked to do is to have student forums, and more in a very quick timeline. That's quick turnaround. The Deans seem to feel that we want our proposals to be consistent but not exactly the same. Fee proposals that are successful have not just student backing, but also faculty backing. More important than backing is that you become aware. We're not prescribing what you feel about it. Just like any other vote, encourage them to vote. Dianne: it's pretty clear that students are asking for transparency. There a lot of conversations about it. Dianne: if you didn't know in the last round of fees, the president promised no more fees for three years. The President's line is that 'this is different, it's coming from the Deans, and you get to choose'. Jenny: they just don't know that much. They don't understand the details, they felt like they were promised. And it's a very few that even know about it, even though they were also complaining about the bathroom doors not shutting. Jasmine: there's a disconnect between personnel and courses. They don't see how you have to hire someone to teach courses. So, when they read this they don't see it. Maybe we should make the connection between hiring people and the ability to have more classes. Mayra: students think that tuition covers all of their education. They don't realize how little it actually is. David: do we know the rough number on how much the tuition really covers? Dianne: state funding is under 50%. It's not a lot. It's a conversation about how expensive it's gotten? Mayra: reactions? David: personally, it's just standard practice to me, so it feels like a no-brainer. Sahar: I do everything I can not to put additional financial burdens for them. I even give out lined paper instead of bluebooks. Even from that position, I'm OK with this fee. If it's standard across the CSU, it just seems odd that we're not doing it. And it feels detrimental to the students because we won't be able to do certain things. Dianne: good point, why haven't we done this yet? Sahar: it's unfortunate but predictable that this is happening during extreme austerity measures. It's a Catch-22 but I think we probably need it. Mayra: the consultation we've had from a student affairs group. They encouraged us to be transparent and accurate about the money. If you want to get support, it's about showing them what they're getting. "Here are things you've been asking us for, and this is how we can get it." They say that's known to be more successful with students. It also is consistent with the Graduation Initiative. This was tough because we didn't want to over promise, and we didn't want to say 'pay this fee for the status quo'. For that amount of money, we should be able to show progress in those areas. Dianne: it's over 250 new sections. Julian: just a clarification on that. Is it a flat fee, it's not depending on how many classes you are enrolled in? Mayra/Dianne: we don't think it's prorated. Julian: my other question about not over promising, we don't want to have option 3 overpromise. Mayra: yeah, having multiple options makes them maybe want to vote for the higher option because it's more appealing. I do think that it's doable. And because of economies of scale, there is more space to share the higher sum to more things. Julian: my other question is just how does this roll

out? When and how? Mayra: no, this is being run centrally by a different office. It's supposed to happen the week before finals. Logistically this is a bit tough. I think the infrastructure is not 100% done yet. We haven't done something like this. Julian: I'm just thinking about the framing and the context of this. Whatever we include in there could be part of how they decide. Mayra: I'll email out the full proposal once I get the go-ahead. And then if you have questions you send me, things students want to know, then I'd love to get some of your suggestions. The President's assistant sent some questions from before as well. We're supposed to put up a FAQ kind of thing.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting concluded at 2:53.