

SSIS Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2024
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

- Meeting called to order by Chair Jasmine Wade at 1:36 pm.

II. Roll

- In Attendance: Dean Dianne Hyson, Associate Dean Marya Endriga, Jackie Brooks, Brian DiSarro, Sharon Flicker, Julian Fulton, Ciobha McKeown, Megan Raschig, Sahar Razavi, David Selby, Jenny Stevenson, and Chair Jasmine Wade

III. Approval of Agenda: Faculty Council Agenda_Oct16 (Attachment A)

- Minutes approved with three amendments 1) add brief discussion of the Julia Morgan House to the agenda, 2) note that Mayrose Acob, Graduation & Retention Coordinator SSIS Student Success Center will join Faculty Council's discussion of the SSIS Student Success Center, and 3) move discussion of SSIS Student Success Center after Faculty Council's discussion of Travel Awards.
First: Sharon
Second: David

IV. Approval of Minutes: SSIS Faculty Council Minutes_Sept25 (Attachment B)

- Minutes reviewed and approved.
First: Jenny
Second: Jackie

V. Open Forum

- Jackie informed Faculty Council that anti-Transgender flyers were being posted around campus.
- Sahar shared information on Dr. Mansour Farhang's October 18th talk in the University Union. In addition, Sahar shared information on the October 24th screening of the documentary "The Dawn is Too Far: Stories of Iranian-American Life" at UC Davis.
- Jenny asked about the process to receive approval for a new course. Associate Dean Endriga clarified the process.
- Faculty Council was encouraged to attend interview open forums for the new CSUS Provost.
- Faculty Council was encouraged to attend the CSUS budget town hall meeting.

VI. New Business

A. Travel Award

- Dean Hyson stated she will meet with each Department Chair regarding the budget and travel awards. Chairs will be encouraged to consider what can be funded from their stateside Operating Expenses. Concerns were raised about the university's ability to support elevation to R2 ranking given budget restraints. The

council discussed some concern among faculty about the university's priorities. Dean Hyson stated that transparency helps us to clarify where we have control in the budget and where we do not have control.

- Dean Hyson indicated there are disparate experiences across campus, and that the budget restraints may contribute to morale issues. Faculty Council addressed how travel award cuts, and a lengthy wait to receive reimbursement for travel also contribute to morale issues. Although SSIS will ask faculty to consider accessing other financial resources to support their travel, for some faculty access to supplemental financial resources may increase workloads (e.g. participating in Faculty Learning Communities).
- The council discussed a perceived lack of attention by the university to holes in the infrastructure such as, staffing issues. A question was raised about the importance of staffing issues for administration. Dean Hyson indicated that universities benefit greatly from staffing smarter, rather than staffing up. The council indicated that more competitive salaries would benefit the university as well.

B. SSIS Student Success Center

- Mayrose entered the meeting at 2 pm.
- Associate Dean Endriga introduced Mayrose to Faculty Council applauding Mayrose's contribution to building the SSIS Student Success Center and effectively addressing the needs of students and faculty. Mayrose was asked to attend Faculty Council to participate in a discussion centered around issues that faculty are experiencing in the classroom.
- Ciobha stated that she has relied on well-tested teaching strategies (previously used in courses with upper-level students) that now seem to be less effective among students in a lower-level, in-person course. For example, the use of guided notes seems to be less effective, and she expressed experiencing struggles in getting students to be responsive.
- David echoed Ciobha's concerns, and indicated that he forwarded useful resources to Faculty Council.
- Mayrose stated that students have expressed not having access to study guides in some courses. The council discussed that faculty and students may have different ideas of what comprises a study guide and how study guides are used.
- Mayrose stated that some students appear to need more one-on-one attention from faculty. Further, some students resist attending office hours, despite needing help.
- The council addressed student preparedness and time dedicated to coursework each week. The council raised concerns about the time students dedicate to reading the course materials. Further the council addressed student preference for minimal reading requirements in their courses, and students' use of AI to summarize the course readings.
- Mayrose suggested SSIS host a seminar - possible title - "How to be a Successful College Student." The seminar could target first year and/or transfer students. Ciobha suggested a workshop on how to access Disability Services resources. Mayrose indicated that a scavenger hunt may help to broaden student awareness of DAC resources. Perhaps the scavenger hunt could be modeled after the MultiCultural Center's Passport program.

- Faculty Council discussed the perceived negative impact of social media platforms such as, Discord on student engagement and morale. The council questioned a correlation between social media use and loss of skills among students. Further, discussion included recognition that student loss of skills may create more work for faculty.
- Mayrose left the meeting at 2:34 pm.

C. Faculty Fellows

- Dean Hyson stated the Faculty Fellows program will help the Dean's office work differently. Some faculty may see this as a good opportunity to test their interest in doing administrative work. Thus far, the Dean's office has received several applications. However, about 20 faculty opened the application without completing it. The council suggested that 1) faculty may lack time to complete the application, 2) faculty may view the structure of the fellowship (3 or 6 WTU buyout) as an impediment to applying, and 3) current changes in administration (e.g., SSIS Dean, Provost) may keep faculty from applying.
- Associate Dean Endriga indicated that laddering in smaller rungs helps to diversify leadership.

D. Large classroom requests

- Faculty Council will receive information about the large classroom requests before the scheduled discussion.

E. Julia Morgan House

- Chair Wade will send an email to Faculty Council about requests for the Julia Morgan House.

VII. Good of the Order

VIII. Adjournment

- Chair Wade adjourned the meeting at 2:48 pm.

Minutes recorded by Jackie Brooks