

Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 20, 2025

10:00 - 11:15am

Humanities Office Building, Dean's Conference Room

Meeting Agenda

Members Attending: Tiffany Tsantsoulas (Chair), Atieh Poushneh (BPA), Heidi He (NSME), Alice Hays (SSE), Joe Ren (At-Large), Qiwei Sheng (At-Large), Jahyn Kim (At-Large), Marcos Ramirez (ASI VP University Affairs), Elizabeth Adams (Academic Affairs), Tommy Holiwell (Enrollment Systems), Eduardo Montoya (GE Faculty Director)

1. Welcome: Chair Tsantsoulas welcomed members at 10:00am.

2. Old Business

- a. Chair Tsantsoulas announced that there was no Senate discussion on the Applied Math and two MPA concentration resolutions. The three resolutions will go forward for second reading unchanged.
- b. Chair Tsantsoulas let AAC know that Comp Sci is temporarily pulling their CIS concentration elevation proposal until they can deal with the new GEM rules.
- c. Tsantsoulas shared an email from Dr. Flores (chair, MLL) that he approves the suggested course progression changes made by AAC re: 2025-2026 REFERRAL #10: Proposal for a New Minor in Medical Spanish. The referral is now with BPC awaiting discussion.

3. New Business

- a. GST: NextTech Kern (NTK) Practicum syllabus review
 - Dr. Tsantsoulas informed the Committee that AAC serves as the de facto curriculum committee for interdisciplinary and general studies courses as these do not reside in a traditional College structure. As such, she asked that the Committee review the proposed syllabus for GST: NextTech Kern (NTK) Practicum course.
 - Members raised a small concern about course sustainability if there is only one potential instructor who is not a faculty member. Dr. Tsantsoulas clarified that because the course is not part of a degree program we do not need to worry about sustainability. Members raised no further concerns with the course and AAC voted to approve the syllabus.
 - Chair Tsantsoulas will contact instructor, Jaimi Paschal.
- b. 2025-2026 REFERRAL #07: Proposal to Rename the Computer Science Information Security Concentration
 - AAC discussed the proposal and draft resolution provided by BPC

- Dr. Tsantsoulas clarified that the proposal contains no curricular changes, only a title change to be consistent with other CSUs and industry standards
 - A question was raised about overlapping degrees with CCC and UC systems, Dr. Adams confirmed that the CCC system should not offer degrees that directly compete with the CSU offerings, and likewise, we cannot offer PhD programs that are offered by the UC system, though we can partner with UCs to do so.
 - AAC voted to approve the name change and will send the joint resolution with BPC to the Senate floor.
- c. 2025-2026 REFERRAL #08: Proposal to Change the MS in Computer Science from Self-support to Stateside Support <https://csub.box.com/s/87kl7lnhqqua23drhqhvprqtvpat65d3>
- The Committee engaged in substantial discussion about this proposal.
 - Concerns were raised about low student demand for the existing self-support program and how this would translate to stateside. While tuition would be lower, there was still worries about low enrollment and the stress placed on existing faculty resources to service the program.
 - Members agreed that elements of the proposal, including the evidence of student demand and other survey data were outdated (in some cases 10 years old) and new data are needed.
 - Dr. Kim raised a comparison with the MS in Kinesiology, which is also self-support and consistently has 20 students, which is a higher enrollment than the MS in CS. They did not move the program State-side out of concerns that the enrollment was not sustainable, especially given the marketing that EEGO engages in. Given this precedent, it is doubtful that the MS in CS fare better.
 - AAC Members agreed to ask the Computer Science program to revisit the proposal by updating the data on student demand and being clearer about the job market needs and benefits.
 - Chair Tsantsoulas will email the department with these requests and await an updated proposal for further review by AAC.
- d. 2025-2026 REFERRAL #14: Proposal for Public Personnel Services_PPS_Credential
- There was a lot of confusion about this proposal. Dean Adams clarified that right now we have an MS in Educational Counselling with two pathways, one for K-12 counselling accredited by the CTC, and the other focused on higher ed, specifically Student Affairs jobs.
 - Dean Adams stated that the second pathway has historically lower enrollment than the first. This credential only proposal would serve students in the second pathway.
 - Dean Adams also notified AAC that AES is currently out of compliance with CSU Executive Order 1071, and will need to make program changes to come into compliance. She suggested that we consider asking them to make these changes before we approve the proposal.

- Members asked about overlapping with the MS in Psych, which also allows students to get credentialed to do individual counselling.
 - Members were concerned that adding the credential to the MS in EC, Student Affairs pathway might undermine the more successful K-12 pathway (which is a higher unit, more demanding concentration)
 - AAC agreed to provide comments to the department and request that they pause the proposal until they have dealt with EO 1071 compliance.
- e. 2025-2026 REFERRAL #15: Proposal for New Minor_Early Childhood Development_ECD
- Dr. Tsantsoulas raised concerns about the lack of a clear minor program description summarizing the curriculum and the proposed course progression neglecting to account for the prerequisites for CAFS 3110. She also noted that the minor proposal is otherwise acceptable as-is, pending a description and resolution of course progression concerns.
 - AAC members agreed, and the above notes will be passed on to the HDCAFS Department for review.
- f. 2025-2026 REFERRAL #03: Academic Policies and Academic Advising in Student Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management
- Dr. Tsantsoulas introduced the previous Academic Senate resolution about academic advising structure, which was passed by Senate but not signed by the President who requested revisions, particularly regarding the use of the word "purview."
 - Committee members discussed general concerns about the transition of academic advising from Academic Affairs to Student Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management (SASEM), which raised fears about reduced faculty involvement and unclear reporting structures.
 - Dr. Tsantsoulas clarified that when the original resolution passed, Senate expressed worry that advising structures and policies could be revised without faculty input. This led to the creation of an advising council co-chaired by Dr. Cantrell and Dr. Danforth.
 - Members emphasized the importance of faculty involvement in advising and curriculum decisions, suggesting that advising responsibilities should return to college-level departments for better collaboration.
 - Members agreed that there is a need for clear policies to ensure shared governance and collaboration between faculty and administration, especially in light of potential future leadership changes. The discussion highlighted the importance of involving the Academic Senate in advising structures and policy changes, as well as the need for Senate approval on certain academic matters.
 - AAC agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting as we were not ready to commit to specific resolution language.

Chair Tsantsoulas adjourned the meeting at 11:15am.