

Academic Affairs Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 19, 2026

10:00 - 11:30am

Humanities Office Building, Dean's Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Members Attending: Tiffany Tsantsoulas (Chair), Atieh Poushneh (BPA), Heidi He (NSME), Qiwei Sheng (At-Large), Jahyn Kim (At-Large), Emelia Reed (ASI Executive VP), Elizabeth Adams (Academic Affairs), Eduardo Montoya (GE Faculty Director), Angelica Mendoza (Enrollment Systems)

Guests:

Members Excused: Alice Hays (SSE), Joe Ren (At-Large),

1. Welcome

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. 02.05.26 (*tabled*)

3. Old Business

- a. 2025-2026 REFERRAL #03: Academic Policies and Academic Advising in Student Affairs and Strategic Enrollment Management

The committee is still in favor of current resolution, and decided to return it to Senate for further discussion rather than making additional revisions, as it had gone beyond its original scope.

- b. 2025-2026 #36: New Degree Proposal_BS in Environmental Science

The committee engaged in robust discussion and is generally supportive of the degree proposal, recognizing it as a needed program for the community. However, members expressed concern about claims that the program prepares students for graduate study, noting that the current curriculum does not meet typical graduate admission requirements. The committee recommends removing these claims from the catalog description.

In addition, the committee recommends the development of a comprehensive faculty–staff advising model to ensure appropriate student guidance and support.

The committee chair will send a memorandum to the department proposing the new Environmental Science degree, recommending removal of the graduate school preparation language from the catalog description and suggesting that the department clarify or revise the stated preparation requirements for graduate study.

- c. Added to the agenda: update on RES 252618 Special Review Committee Recommendations for Anthropology

FYI to the committee: The third “Resolved” clause in the resolution omitted the word “*recommends.*” The Senate Executive Committee will make the correct. The revision will not require the resolution to go through the full review process again.

4. New Business

a. 2025-2026 #37: New Degree Proposal_BS in Mechanical Engineering

The committee reviewed the proposal and raised several questions and concerns:

1. Program Learning Outcomes (PLO) Curriculum Map and assessment plans are not complete.
2. Members expressed concern about how ethics and social responsibility are integrated into the curriculum, particularly given the limited number of dedicated ethics course offerings. The committee requested clarification on how these learning outcomes will be achieved.
3. The committee noted that several courses listed in the proposal have not yet received approval. In addition, the GEM courses identified for Areas 1B, 5B, and 4 were either inaccurate or not well aligned with the stated requirements.
4. The CSU Chancellor’s Office has changed requirements for engineering majors, specifically eliminating the waiver of life science courses for engineering students effective 2027. As currently structured, the proposed curriculum would not meet the 2027 requirements. Therefore, even if approved this year, the program would need to revise the curriculum again to remain compliant.
5. The committee observed that the existing Engineering degree and the proposed Mechanical Engineering degree have nearly identical curricula, differing by only three courses. The committee asked whether the department has explored renaming or modifying the existing degree program rather than proposing an entirely new degree.

Action Items:

1. Reach out to the Mechanical Engineering department to discuss ethics integration, GE requirements (particularly Area 5B), and the transition plan between the current Engineering degree and the proposed Mechanical Engineering degree, including whether the existing degree will be phased out.
2. Request that the Mechanical Engineering department revise the curriculum matrix to clearly indicate where ethics and other learning outcomes are introduced, developed, and mastered, and ensure alignment with accreditation requirements.

b. 2025-2026 #38: New Degree Proposal_BA in Human Development

- The department is requesting a change to the degree name and CIP code

Background: A previous department name change occurred, but the degree name was not changed. This has created some confusion between the department name and the degree title.

Concerns:

1. The committee expressed significant concern about the proposed CIP code change. A CIP code cannot be changed without corresponding curricular modifications, as CIP

codes are used for federal reporting and must accurately reflect program content. The proposal does not indicate substantive curriculum changes that would justify a new CIP code.

2. The committee also noted that campuses cannot create entirely new degree programs without Chancellor's Office approval, and that alignment with similar programs across the CSU system is essential.
3. Additionally, other CSU campuses offer similar programs as a BS rather than a BA, raising further questions about consistency and alignment. A proposed new degree name and CIP code require more comprehensive research and systemwide comparison with similar CSU programs to ensure appropriate alignment.
4. The CIP code cannot be changed if the curriculum remains substantially the same. Regarding the Human Development program specifically, the committee expressed concern about changing the degree name and CIP code without modifying the curriculum, as this could create confusion with comparable CSU programs. The committee will request a more detailed systemwide comparison of similar programs before considering approval of the proposed changes.

Action Items:

Reach out to the Human Development/CAFS chair to request a more detailed comparison of their curriculum with similar programs at other CSU campuses, especially regarding the proposed new degree name and CIP code and inform them that changing the CIP code requires curriculum changes and alignment with other CSU programs.

- c. 2025-2026 #20: Disqualification and Readmission Policies: Did not have time to discuss
- d. 2025-2026 #23: PERC Timing Concerns: Did not have time to discuss

5. Open Forum: None

Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:35am.