

College of Arts and Letters
Council of Chairs Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2026
University Hall 237 | 1 PM

Attendees: Rueyling Chuang, Kaitlyn Creasy, Dany Doueiri, Parastou Feiz, Michelle Fuller, Katherine Gray, Jessica Luck, Matthew Poole, Mihaela Popescu, and George Thomas.

- I. **Approval of Summary Notes for the 2/13/2026 Meeting**
- II. **1:00 PM - Time Certain | Tiina Mittler - Executive Director, CSUSB Performing Arts Theater:** Tiina Mittler introduced herself and expressed her enthusiasm in collaborating with departments and chairs once the facilities are ready. She mentioned that more concrete ideas would emerge when the facilities are fully operational. During the discussion, Tiina outlined potential collaborations with different campus departments, including public art initiatives and speaker series. The meeting concluded with questions regarding venue pricing and capacity.
- III. **Budget:**
 - a. **Continuing Education Funds:** Michelle Fuller, College Financial Analyst, provided an overview of Professional and Continuing Education funds (PACE, formerly CERF), with revenue allocated by department for the college. Michelle asked Council to review these funds carefully, as they are in account SB001.
 - b. **CSU Buy:** A handout outlining the Procure-to-Pay (P2P) Approval Workflow was provided to the Chairs. The group discussed the possibility of including Chairs in the approval process, particularly for purchase approvals exceeding \$5,000. They agreed to maintain the current approval workflow between department chairs and administrative coordinators for purchases under \$5,000. However, they will explore additional tracking systems for larger expenses based on departmental needs and spending patterns.
- IV. **Sabbatical and DIP Application & Outstanding Student Nominations Deadlines:** Diana De La Cruz, Executive Assistant to the Dean, reminded Council of upcoming deadlines for:
 - a. **Sabbatical & DIP Application:** Friday, March 06, 2026
 - b. **Outstanding Student Nominations:** Monday, March 23, 2026

- V. CSU Learn Noncompliant List:** Dr. Parastou Feiz, Associate Dean, addressed issues with student assistants who haven't completed required training. Dr. Rueyling Chuang, Dean, suggested faculty/staff supervisors could help by ensuring incomplete trainings are finished when students clock into their shift. Dr. Feiz will upload the list to OneDrive and can assist in contacting students if needed.
- VI. Orientation Schedule:** Dr. Feiz shared enrollment and orientation information for first-year and transfer students. The university is ahead of last year's enrollment goals, with 2,400 first-year and 2,200 transfer students committed and registered. Dr. Feiz outlined the schedule for transfer student orientation sessions. She also asked Council to identify preferred classes for transfer students to be automatically packed-enrolled in, with a suggestion to select classes on the same days (Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday) to facilitate students' schedules.
- VII. Strategic Plan Proposal:** Dean Chuang explained that the college is competing with other units across campus for resources and shared past experiences of securing additional funding for faculty development. Dean Chuang shared that she will be requesting faculty participation to work with the Garner Institute. She suggested that considering curriculum revisions/updates and student employment in funding requests would help the college get more strategic plan funds.
- VIII. CSU Program Watchlist & CSU Financial Aid Federal Earnings Accountability:** Dean Chuang presented data from the Chancellor's office regarding graduates earning premiums in relation to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). Beginning July 1, 2026, California State University (CSU) programs will be evaluated based on whether graduates aged 25 to 34 earn more than individuals with only a high school diploma. Programs that do not demonstrate significant earning premiums may receive warnings or face discontinuation. Council expressed concerns about the potential impact of these new policies on arts and humanities programs and questioned the methodology used to collect and present student earnings data. Department Chairs emphasized the importance of the CSU to develop a plan to safeguard university programs in response to these challenges.

Timeline for Implementation of OBBBA:

- July 1, 2026: Framework goes into effect.
- July 1, 2027: First earnings results published.
- July 1, 2028: Earliest possible penalties.

Meeting Adjourned