



Committee on Strategic and Financial Planning (CoSFP) Annual Report, 2022-2023 Academic Year

Committee Membership:

Geoff Morris	(Agricultural Sciences)
Robert Schwebach	(Business)
David Dandy	(Engineering)
James Graham	(Health & Human Sciences)
Gamze Cavdar	(Liberal Arts)
Lina Xiong	(Natural Resources)
Benjamin Clegg	(Natural Sciences)
Felix Duerr	(Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences)
Heidi Zuniga	(Libraries)
Michael Diehl	(Graduate Student Representative)
Rob Long	(Undergraduate Student Representative)
Benjamin Withers	(College Dean Representative, <i>ex-officio</i>)
Sue Doe	(Faculty Council Chair, <i>ex-officio</i>)
Matt Klein	(Administrative Professional Council, <i>ex-officio, voting</i>)
Adrian Macdonald	(Classified Personnel Council, <i>ex-officio, voting</i>)
Joseph DiVerdi	(Contract & Continuing Faculty, <i>ex-officio, voting</i>)
Laura Jensen	(Provost Office, <i>ex-officio</i>)
Angela Nielsen	(Finance Office, <i>ex-officio</i>)

Meetings and Participation:

The CoSFP met consistently on the second Thursday of the month from 9-10am during the academic year. Meetings were in-person in the Provost's Conference Room or virtual on Teams. Overview of monthly topics and member attendance are included in the agenda notes.

Proposed Program Reviews:

The *Committee* reviewed documents and/or hosted presentations for the following program changes:

- New degree: BA in Arts Management
- New degree: Plan C, Master of Materials Engineering
- Name change: School of Advanced Materials Discovery to School of Materials Science and Engineering
- New degree: BS in Construction Engineering
- New degree: BS in Applied Statistics
- Name change: Department of Ethnic Studies to Department of Race, Gender, and Ethnic Studies



Summary of Activities and Priority Issues:

There were several personnel changes in upper administration during summer 2022, so the *Committee* began the academic year by reevaluating communication and engagement strategies with interim leadership and confirming our role in the institution's ongoing strategic and financial planning initiatives. Further, there was no consensus on the status of continuing priorities, including the Courageous Strategic Transformation, Academic Master Plan, and New Budget Model, all three of which dominated the *Committee's* efforts in 2021-2022.

The *Committee* also revisited a couple of carryover items from the spring semester. We discussed the potential implications of the Testing Center closure and how that would impact different units. We also discussed the lack of leadership opportunities for CCA faculty as most leadership job descriptions list tenure-track and ranks as required qualifications.

The program proposal process remained a frequent agenda item in 2022-2023. The *Committee* agreed that the process has strayed from the established protocol in recent years and that our role has become less prominent than in prior years. Interim President Rick Miranda, Chief of Staff Albert Bimper, and Brad Goetz, Chair of the University Curriculum Committee, attended a monthly meeting to share their views on the current state of the process and suggestions for improving it moving forward. Several barriers and potential opportunities were identified during these discussions and the *Committee* concluded that a dedicated task force or subcommittee should be charged with refining and articulating specific recommendations. Rick Miranda, in his new role as Executive Vice President, agreed to participate in and support those efforts.

Somewhat related to the program proposal process, the *Committee* also discussed CSU's clear interest in developing certificates and other non-degree credentials. There are several financial and strategic implications related to this parallel offering, yet the CoSFP has not been asked to weigh in on any of those discussions.

Prominent financial issues were discussed at various times and in different formats throughout the academic year. Brendan Hanlon, VP of University Operations and Chief Financial Officer, briefed the *Committee* on the University's interest in exploring alternative budget models to replace or integrate with the current (mostly) incremental budget model. The *Committee* also met with Andrew Comrie, who the University brought in as an expert advisor. The University is at the early stage of a multi-year exploration and implementation process, but the *Committee* is encouraged that it will be actively engaged in both the information-finding and decision-making processes and is committed to being responsive to upper administration requests.



Salary equity and cost-of-living concerns were two other notable financial issues. The *Committee* reviewed different proposals and memos put forward by other committees and individual CSU administrators. The *Committee* also met with Brendan Hanlon and President Amy Parsons to discuss short-term options for the FY24 budget. We sent a follow up email ranking our immediate recommendations with a request to more thoroughly explore and prioritize salary decisions moving forward, with an emphasis on explicitly linking financial investments to the institution's mission, values, and stated priorities.

Of note, in Fall 2023, two separate Faculty Council Task Forces were charged with exploring challenges and opportunities related to CSU's budget and innovation environment, respectively. In their reports to Faculty Council, both Task Forces reiterated the utility of actively including the CoSFP in all associated activities.

During the May 11, 2023, meeting, the *Committee* elected Gamze Cavdar, from the College of Liberal Arts, to be Chair for the 2023-2024 academic year.