



INSTRUCTIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES OF March 20, 2026 9:15 am-11:30 am, Zoom/9-154

Members Present: Chialin Hsieh, David Eck, Paul Roscelli, Lisa Palmer, William Tseng, Rebekah Taveau, Allison Hughes, Karen Engel, Lindsey Irizarry, Adriana Lugo, Alex Claxton, Jinmei Lun, Erik Gaspar, Kiran Malavade

Members Absent: Marco Raymundo, Jose Zelaya

Guests: John Perez, Lezlee Ware, Meredith Lanska, Bob Lee, Jaime Barajas, Alison Field, Jessica Marshall, DeVon Scott, Alex Kramer, Diana Tedone-Goldstone, Jasmine Jaciw, Ameer Thompson

A. Adoption of Agenda

Motion – To adopt the agenda. M/S: Lisa Palmer, Chialin Hsieh.

Discussion – none

Abstentions – none

Approval – unanimously approved

B. Approval of Minutes

- March 6, 2026

Motion – To approve minutes of March 6, 2026. M/S: Lisa Palmer, Chialin Hsieh.

Discussion – none

Abstentions – none

Approval – unanimously approved

C. Proposed Spring Deferral Option for Tenure-Track Faculty Departments to Submit Comprehensive Program Reviews

- [Proposed addition](#) to the [Comprehensive Program Review Deferral Options](#): For departments that only have tenure-track faculty, allow them to submit Spring Comprehensive Program Reviews so that they do not have to complete a program review in the same semester as they are evaluated for tenure-track.
- Background: The current process only allows for one-year deferrals, which means that the work always occurs in a Fall semester.

IPC discussed a proposal to introduce a spring submission option for comprehensive program reviews for departments composed solely of tenure-track faculty. This proposal aims to alleviate the workload on faculty who are often required to complete program reviews during the fall semester while simultaneously undergoing tenure review, particularly in their first year. The

proposed adjustment would allow departments to submit in the spring semester while maintaining their regular review cycle, serving as an alternative to the current one-year deferral process with minimal structural changes.

It was noted that resource requests should continue to be submitted in a timely manner, either through annual updates or within the appropriate academic cycle, to ensure proper system processing. Alex Claxton raised a technical consideration regarding the importance of aligning submissions with the correct cycle to ensure inclusion in system exports. During the discussion, several members emphasized the need to increase awareness of existing deferral and extension processes and highlighted the challenges faced by tenure-track faculty managing competing responsibilities. There was broad support from IPC members and guests in attendance, including deans and fellow faculty, who underscored the workload demands on early-career faculty and the benefits of redistributing program review responsibilities.

A question was raised regarding departments with no tenured faculty available. It was discussed that this situation could be addressed through existing deferral processes, and the proposal should be revised to clarify this scenario. IPC discussed the next steps for the proposal. Karen Engel clarified how the proposal would proceed through the governance process: 1) IPC recommendation, 2) Academic Senate, 3) Program Review PBC Sub-Committee, and 4) PBC.

- **Motion** – To forward proposal through the governance process with a minor language revision to address departments with only tenure-track faculty available. M/S: Lisa Palmer, Allison Hughes.
- **Discussion** – none
- **Abstentions** – Kiran Malavade
- **Approval** – approved

D. Program Review Presentations

The following programs presented their six-year program presentations to IPC:

Presentations are available on the [IPC website](#).

- 1. Communication Studies**
 - a. Presenter: John Perez
- 2. Economics**
 - a. Presenter: Paul Roscelli
- 3. Political Science**
 - a. Presenter: Lezlee Ware
- 4. Psychology**
 - a. Presenter: Meredith Lanska
- 5. Sociology**
 - a. Presenter: Bob Lee

6. Ethnic Studies

- a. Presenter: Jaime Barajas

7. History

- a. Presenter: Alison Field

8. Anthropology

- a. Presenter: Jessica Marshall

9. Philosophy

- a. Presenter: Dave Eck

10. Cañada's Social Sciences: Awards and Looking Ahead

- a. Presenter: Bob Lee

Presenters were recognized and appreciated for their hard work and thorough presentations, and programs were celebrated by those in attendance.

E. Agenda Item Requests/Suggestions for Future IPC Meetings

- Agenda requests can also be made by emailing the IPC co-chairs Chialin Hsieh (hsiehc@smccd.edu) and Dave Eck (eckd@smccd.edu)
- When building IPC agendas, the co-chairs consider the [IPC bylaws](#) as well as general time constraints.

F. Important Dates:

- a. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 17, since the first Friday in April is during Spring Break.

G. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.