

Department Chairs Committee

The semester is off to a busy start for the Senate Department Chairs Committee. We are pleased to welcome Bridgette Robinson, the new Assistant Chair of English, and Justice Isaacs, the new Assistant Chair of History, who is leading Ethnic Studies. Jo Hsao rejoined as she began a new term as Chair of Design Technology, along with Emily Silver, the new Chair of the Art Department.

Department Chairs have been actively engaged in discussions on several important issues, including challenges and delays part-time faculty hiring and onboarding, providing feedback to college leadership on the new waitlist and enrollment management processes, and reviewing nonattendance and participation practices and policies. The committee has also explored departmental practices that support student success while ensuring compliance with Title V and Administrative Regulations. In addition, Chairs are thoughtfully considering the questions and challenges in the implementation of SMC's upcoming participation in the CVC Exchange.

Department Chairs play a critical role in advancing the college's Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) goals. Serving on the SEM Academy team, Keith Graziadei and Chanté DeLoach are helping to support a more strategic, data-informed approach to class scheduling that centers student needs and equity. To inform this work, Keith and Chanté have developed a survey for Department Chairs that will gather valuable feedback on current scheduling processes, as well as identify the resources and support needed to strengthen scheduling practices across the college.

Looking ahead, the Senate Department Chairs Committee remains committed to promoting collaboration across departments, ensuring that the operational realities of academic programs are considered in campus-wide decisions, and serving as a trusted bridge between departments and college administration. These efforts are especially important as the college works through ongoing budget challenges and leadership transitions.