



School Of
**ARTS &
SCIENCES**
C H A N N E L
I S L A N D S

**Arts & Sciences Chairs Meeting
February 4th 9:00 – 10:30 AM
Meeting Minutes**

- **Meeting Minutes:**

- [Chair's Meeting Minutes 01-21-25.pdf](#)
- [Approved](#)

- **General Discussion Items**

- Summer HIP vs SURF
 - Interim Dean Hampton discussed the continuation of the HSI Smart Grant for the summer, with the possibility of broadening the program to include all students, not just STEM students.
 - There was a discussion about the possibility of students benefiting from the work done in the program by having it count as an elective.
- Advisory Committee for Interim Associate Dean
 - Interim Dean Hampton provided an update on the Advisory Committee Search. Open forum taking place Friday, February 7, 2025

- Tenure-Track Hiring
 - Interim Dean Hampton announced that there would be no tenure-track hiring due to the current hiring freeze and fiscal challenges
 - The chair's discussed the potential impact of early retirement on degree programs and the need for sustainable practices.
- Supporting our Students
 - Interim Dean Hampton discusses various initiatives to support undocumented and LGBTQ+ students at CI, including distributing "Know Your Rights" cards and organizing resource workshops. He mentioned that Chief Massey is the designated contact for ICE officials on campus.
 - The Chairs raised concerns about the impact of recent political changes on DEI work and research, particularly regarding transgender issues and data availability.
 - They sought reassurance that faculty can continue their DEI-related work without restrictions. The discussion touches on the importance of maintaining academic freedom and supporting all students, especially considering CI's mission as a Hispanic-Serving Institution.

- Hyflex Technology
 - Interim Dean Hampton discussed the availability of a hyflex technology, such as an owl and webcams, for faculty to use in supporting students who prefer online classes. He encouraged faculty to reach out for training and assistance in setting up these technologies.
- Check-In
 - Interim Dean Hampton facilitated a check-in session with the department chairs, where several key topics were discussed. These included addressing student stress and uncertainty, the process for GE course submissions, and the potential discrepancies in the list of approved courses.
 - The Chairs stressed the importance of faculty representation in meetings and emphasized the need for sensitivity when discussing complex issues. They raised concerns about the balance between academic programming and political discourse in the classroom, as well as the potential for censorship.
 - The session concluded with them expressing hope for a favorable response from the administration and the need for further clarity on these matters.

- Budget Update
 - Interim Dean Hampton provided an update on the recent budget meeting and discusses ongoing financial challenges. The school is facing an operating budget deficit, and programs are being asked to reduce their budgets, particularly in supplies and services.
 - A 40% reduction was requested, with most programs complying, but there is still a gap of \$20,000 to be addressed.
 - The possibility of sweeping unspent funds from certain budget line items is being considered.
 - He also mentions potential restrictions on travel funding, with discussions ongoing about defining essential travel. Interim Dean Hampton announces the temporary suspension of the spotlight on research and faculty excellence awards due to budget constraints, hoping to secure alternative funding for the future.