



CalPolyPomona

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Dear Colleagues,

And so academic year 2023-2024 comes to a close. I am reminded of something that new parents are often told – the minutes pass slowly and years pass quickly. As a new dean, this year has certainly felt that way to me. I've almost forgotten all the things that in a "normal" year would have stood out as exceptional. Does anyone even remember the name of the hurricane that upended our fall convocation plans?

Despite all this, or perhaps of these challenges, I am grateful for our many successes and I remain honored and thrilled that I was invited to join CLASS as Dean. As I have said to many of you in our individual meetings, I see the Dean as the connector, the problem-solver, and the optimist – and you have given many great ideas to connect, plenty of problems to solve, and much to be optimistic about. As people often hear me say, "take the win" and we have many wins to celebrate.

Please take a minute to read this brief summary of a few wins that belong to all of us – because only through community can we achieve. A more substantial list can be found in the CLASS Kudos, which are posted [here](#). Please share with us your notable events and accomplishments all summer long at this [link](#).

Kind regards,

Cami

Aimed High

In January, CLASS led the submission of a proposal to be the host for the CSU Summer Arts program. In April, we were named as finalists with two other CSUs and we hosted a fantastic site visit in May. While we are still waiting to hear the results, our site visit and proposal package are things to be proud of, no matter the outcome.

Dr. Aishwary Kumar of the history department and Ahimsa Center recently received a \$325,000 Teagle Grant for *Democratic Visions: The American Ideals Core*. This interdisciplinary project focusing on fostering civic engagement particularly at a polytechnic institution places Cal Poly Pomona at the forefront of higher education.

Hired Tenure-Line Faculty and Staff

Eight new tenure-line faculty will be joining us in AY 2024-25: Dan Luo, Alexis Meza, Fang Yu Hu, Francisco Beltran, Cody Kuhn, Travis Miller, Sarah Wilf, and Laura Epperson. Thank you to the recruitment committees and departments for their careful and considered approaches to this important task.

Student Recruiting

Under the leadership of Associate Dean Brianne Davila, CLASS created and piloted a classroom visit option for incoming students. We are the only college to offer this to prospective students. We also created “Prospective Student” and “Admitted Student” webpages providing resources for students and sharing the benefits of becoming a CPP Bronco. We welcome hundreds of students at BroncoBound and hosted our first Major Exploration Day since COVID. While we will not have final numbers on students planning to matriculate in the fall, and the flawed FAFSA process has had an impact on student decision-making, the college has made substantial improvements in our recruiting efforts and intentionality and have a strong foundation on which to build.

Process Improvement

To reduce some of the friction, and uncertainty, around work in the college, we focused on improving processes. While there is a long list of ways that we can make things easier to do and more clear, a few changes are worth nothing.

Professional Needs/Development Funding. To make tracking, approvals, and reconciliations easier for staff (and faculty), a professional need/development funding form for *non-travel* was created. Routed through AdobeSign, the document made it easier to see what was and was not fundable, made clear deadlines for getting pre-approval (and what approvals were needed), and made reconciliations and reimbursements easier to process.

Teacher-Scholar. Responding to concerns voiced by nearly everyone involved in the process, the Teacher-Scholar award process was substantially revamped in 2023-24. A scoring rubric was developed and publicized. The instructions also included examples of how to demonstrate accomplishments related to specific criterion (examples for Music faculty will be added for 2024-25). Applications were redacted to remove as much personally identifying information as possible, were scored by 3 chairs and read by the Dean, and chairs did not read applications from their own departments. The results of the process are provided at this [link](#). We’ll solicit feedback next year before we launch the process.

Resource Guides. To create a single location for information useful to faculty and staff, a [Faculty Resources Sharepoint folder](#) was linked on our Contact Us page. It contains instructional guides to Concur, reimbursement processes and how to use start-up funds. The location of the folder will be assessed as part of this summer’s webpage review.

Staff

Staff continued to lead through events created by the S.M.I.L.E committee, including a morning happy hour and holiday events. The College continues to work to support staff in their professional development, including sponsoring department coordinators to attend the ACE Women’s Network Southern California conference, reclassifying four ASC I to the higher ASC II position, one ASA to an ASC I position, and moving one of our technical staff from 12 month part-time to 10 month full-time, providing a raise and allowing her to take on professional work away from campus during the summer festival season. We will continue these efforts next year.

Leadership Changes

We are pleased to that Neil Chaturvedi will be the next director of the Weglyn Chair. Information about his appointment can be found [here](#). Mary Danico retired in spring 2023 and we appreciate her continued support of the Weglyn Chair and activities during this transition. Four departments will welcome new chairs this summer: Anthony Ocampo (Sociology, deferred until Fall 2025), Kevin Autry (Psychology), Sarah Krainin (Theatre and New Dance) and Jason Turcotte (Communication) I am deeply grateful to Anjana Narayan, Nick von Glahn, Nell Horowitz, and Bernardo for their guidance and department leadership during the many leadership transitions in CLASS.