



Shasta College

Faculty Excellence Committee

February 4th, 2026

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Room 264

MISSION STATEMENT

Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint Community College District empowers students and strengthens the diverse communities we serve. As a teaching-centered institution, we are committed to student success in the classroom and beyond. We strive to foster a sense of belonging and ensure that every student, regardless of background, has the resources they need to thrive. Through quality instruction and compassionate support, we offer career-oriented programs and transfer degrees to prepare students for meaningful professions and active engagement with our communities.

Committee Members Present					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Valerie Ambrose (co-chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Will Breitbach (co-chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bex Davis
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sonia Randhawa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ramón Tello	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer McCandless
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wade Stewart	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kele Fitzhugh	<input type="checkbox"/>	Megan Bonnin

1. Call to Order 2:05
2. Approval of Minutes: 12/03/25. Valerie motioned to approve and Ramón seconded. Motion carried unanimously with no abstentions.
3. Reports –
 - a) None.
3. Informational Items –
 - a) None.
5. Discussion/Action Items –

- a. Feedback on Strategic Educational Master Plan – Focus on Goal 3 (but feedback welcome on any section).
- The SEMP was shared with College Council the day before the FEC meeting, highlighted edits and recommendations were provided to FEC. After reviewing, minor edits were recommended by the FEC committee and are listed as follows: capitalizing the “S” in Star and clearly highlighting the aspirational goal.

Some discussion focused on the expansion of 8-week courses. Generally, 8-week courses are associated with higher retention and faster unit accumulation, which may shorten time to completion.

The group discussed whether alternative compressed formats (10-week courses) could be considered. This allows more time for those who feel 8-weeks is not feasible. It was noted that 12–14-week classes are sometimes scheduled based on demand and program needs. The group agreed that some courses/programs would be difficult to offer effectively in an 8-week format. Typically, 8-week courses assumes that students are enrolled in two courses at a time to be considered a Full-Time student.

Will reported that efforts are underway to support design principles for shorter-term courses. The possibility of providing faculty incentives or professional development for course design was discussed. Ramón recommended that the plan include language affirming the institution's ongoing support for faculty development within their discipline.

- A discussion was held regarding the effectiveness of practical courses and their connection to Guided Pathways. The conversation emphasized helping students better understand the relevance and application of what they are learning and a connection to “purpose”.

The group also discussed the distinction between retention and success. Retention was a highlighted focus because it measures how many students remain enrolled through the census date and complete the course with an evaluative grade (including FW or W), whereas success reflects course outcomes.

- The discussion shifted to student orientations and in-person engagement. The group discussed reinstating in-person orientations. Some categorical programs continue offer program-specific orientations but general orientations are currently virtual. It was noted that some students have expressed frustration about the lack of an in-person option. This suggestion was noted for follow-up with Student Services and the possibility of revamping and restarting in-person orientation events.

It was suggested that expanding in-person content, including counseling and orientation, could strengthen students’ connection to the college and improve awareness of resources. In-person orientations could also better support onboarding into systems such as Canvas.

The group also discussed the balance between online and in-person offerings. While in-person seats remain available, a lot of students are moving to the online format due to convenience.

It was noted that removing the requirement for students to take STU-1 college success coursework has also removed an opportunity for students to receive information about College resources early on.

- The group discussed whether goals related to in-person engagement should be reflected more in Goal 3 or 4, and recommended emphasizing the value of face-to-face interaction and community connection. Suggestions also included expanding hybrid options and considering whether AI may increase the need for certain in-person activities like test taking, paper writing, etc.

A request was made to consider including a four-year average for additional context. Current data uses the past three years due to pandemic-related disruptions. There was interest in examining longer-term trends for comparison.

- b. Welcome Back Day Fall 2026 –
 - a) Workgroup formation

The following volunteers were identified for the next workgroup, and scheduling will follow: Will, Mariah, Valerie, Bex, and Wayne. The Basic Needs report from College Council will be shared with FEC. It was suggested that a presentation be planned for Fall 2026 Welcome Back Day. The topic connects to the ongoing work related of PEAK.

It was recommended that outcomes related to the PEAK initiative be included on an upcoming agenda, along with results from the Welcome Back Day survey. Budget considerations were also discussed. With no current grant funding to support Flex Day, adjustments may be necessary, including possibly reducing preparation allocations and placing limits on certain expenses.

- b) Theme was discussed and there was a suggestion to continue the with Teaching and Learning.

6. Other – None.
7. Opportunity for public comment – There were no public comments.
8. Next Meeting: March 4th, 2026.
9. Adjourn: 3:16 PM.