

2025 CIS Advisory Meeting Minutes

Date: May 6, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Chaffey College

Chair: Professor David Nimri, CIS Coordinator

Call to Order

Professor David Nimri called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Attendees

Chaffey College Faculty and Staff:

- Professor David Nimri – CIS Coordinator
- Dr. Yolanda Friday – Dean of CIS
- Professors: Sharon Solis, Haz Novoa, Joseph Lee, Dionne Henderson, Wei Wang, Andrew Salazar, Dee Thompson, Dr. Tracey Kocher
- Steve Siedschlag – Adjunct Professor
- Dr. Felix Zuniga – Adjunct Professor
- Ann Lara – Transfer & Career Center
- Karen Preciado – Director of Transfer Career Center
- Maria Rodriguez – Apprenticeship Organizer
- Gabriel Goltz – IT Apprentice

Industry and Institutional Representatives:

- Christopher Laasch – Cal Poly Pomona, Director of Information Security
- Erik Perez, James Callahan, Luis Mota, Timothy Morgan, Tuan Nguyen – General Atomics
- Ryan Burgess, Raul Fierros, Timothy Alvarez, Clarissa Alvarez, Claire Salvres – San Bernardino County Public Health
- Ivan Jacobo – Ontario Montclair School District
- Rachel Hemond – Acorn Technology Services

Agenda Highlights

1. Introduction & Faculty Updates

- Introduction of four new faculty members.

- Notable achievements shared, including the launch of an AI degree in Fall 2026.

2. Curriculum Overview

- Programs span Computer Science, CIS, Cybersecurity, and Cloud Computing.
- Key certifications: A+, CCNA, and planned micro-certifications in AI.
- Emphasis on hands-on learning, interdisciplinary instruction, and alignment with industry standards.
- New course titles and numbering (IT IS-####) streamline curriculum and support articulation with 4-year universities.
- 1.5 unit courses eliminated in favor of 3-4 unit formats for better alignment with dual enrollment.

3. Artificial Intelligence Degree (Launching Fall 2026)

- Includes core courses: Intro to CIS, Programming, AI Prompt Engineering, AI & Ethics.
- Offers stackable micro-certifications (12–15 units) applicable across all majors.
- Students will learn to build and train their own large language models (LLMs).
- Ethical considerations and real-world applications emphasized.

4. Curriculum Development: Data Science (Spring 2026)

- Curriculum under development using UC Berkeley framework.
- Collaboration with UCR for tutoring and mentorship.
- Led by Dr. Kocher and Prof. Solis.

5. Computer Science & Emerging Tech

- XR/VR development using Oculus headsets.
- Raspberry Pi labs for hands-on experience.
- Focus on modern, job-relevant skills.

6. Cybersecurity Program

- Advanced labs and competitions.
- Chaffey placed 68th out of more than 5000 teams in recent National Cyber League competition.
- Courses include configuring virtual environments and penetration testing.
- Cybersecurity Center offers speaker series and career-building experiences.

7. Apprenticeships & Industry Alignment

- Planned for Fall 2026.
- Paid apprenticeship opportunities; aligned with NIST and Launch standards.
- Use of Handshake starting Fall 2025.
- Emphasis on dual learning (classroom + job site).

8. Labor Market & Industry Trends

- Inland Empire data shows positive outlook for CIS-related fields.
- Industry demand aligns with curriculum expansion in AI and Data Science.

Industry Feedback & Discussion

Erik Perez (General Atomics):

- Emphasized AI's broad application, including aviation.
- Supports developing multi-disciplinary skillsets (engineering + coding + IT).
 - SCADA & at-host systems

Ryan Burgess (San Bernardino Public Health):

- Advocates for safe, validated innovation in AI.
- Encourages leadership and ethical responsibility among candidates.
- Industry certs and positive attitude are more important than bachelors
- Basic entry level IT/helpdesk (PSC starting at \$25 an hour and hire) & middle skills like network support is in demand (Analysts)
 - Vacancies today
 - PSC (intro) - 2 vacancies
 - AST (Tech)- 3-5 vacancies
 - ASA (Analyst) – 1 vacancy

Christopher Laasch (Cal Poly Pomona):

- Recommends incorporating auditing skills into the curriculum
- Addition to networking, cybersecurity, cloud computing, programming

Tuan Nguyen (DOD contracting):

- Stressed importance of cybersecurity, governance and data privacy.
- We need analysts that can do wear multiple hats, someone that can code, design cloud systems and do systems deployment

Rachel Hemond (Acorn Technology Services):

- Notes industry shift to skills-first hiring.
- Commended focus on industry certifications not degrees

Dr. Felix Zuniga:

- Applauds proactive approach to AI education.
- Project management is key
- Encourages focus on adaptability and continuous learning.
- Employees that can be handle multiple job roles (devops)

- Cloud computing is growing

Ivan Jacobo (Ontario Montclair School District):

- Supports integrating AI tools with students' personal styles.
- Encourages openness and creativity.

Luis Mota (General Atomics):

- Highlights need for professional and ethical skills in young employees.
- Urges students to maintain clean personal and financial records.

Professor Joseph Lee & Others:

- Discussed proctoring certifications and AI policy integration.
- Recognized leadership and initiative as key employability traits.

Closing

Professor Nimri thanked attendees and proposed a return to an in-person event for 2026.