

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

April 30, 2026

TO: Michael Spagna, President, Sonoma State University

FR: Stacey Bosick, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Chair of University Budget Advisory Committee;

Jeff Wilson, Interim Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Administration and Finance and Vice Chair of University Budget Advisory Committee

Dear President Spagna,

On behalf of the University Budget Advisory Committee (UBAC), we are writing to provide an update regarding the approved UBAC SSU Commitment funding recommendation to extend contracts for five faculty members for two years to support the development of interdisciplinary academic tracks, General Education teaching, and liberal arts minors.

Two of the five faculty members identified for contract extension have declined reappointment, particularly in the Philosophy and Women and Gender Studies areas. As a result, \$791,000 of the funds allocated to this initiative will remain unexpended.

Given this development, we recommend proceeding down the ranked list of previously approved funding proposals to ensure the remaining funds are used effectively and in alignment with legislative priorities and guidelines. We also propose applying this approach to any additional unexpended funds among the prioritized recommendations, allowing funds from initiatives that do not move forward to be reallocated to the next highest-ranked proposals. This approach maintains the integrity of the shared governance process and ensures continued support for high-priority initiatives.

Proposed Reallocation of Funds

Consistent with the committee's ranked recommendations, the following initiatives will receive funding pending additional spending details and compliance with applicable policies and standards.

Funding for Feminist Center (3rd floor of Stevenson Hall)	\$ 10,000
Provide one-time support for faculty-led outreach and transfer pathway development, such as partnering with community college faculty on curricular alignment, discipline-based advising sessions, and collaborative academic events that strengthen enrollment pipelines without relying on marketing budgets.	\$ 200,000
Provide one-time funding for temporary analyst support or faculty fellowships to collect and analyze data on student demand, program growth, and enrollment impacts of restored offerings—ensuring planning capacity is strengthened by people rather than new systems.	\$ 24,000
Establish a short-term Program Restoration Working Group (Academic Affairs, Finance, CFA, Senate) to evaluate pilot outcomes and recommend which restored academic offerings merit long-term investment.	\$ 6,000
Fund department-based community-building programming (major welcome events, skill workshops, interdisciplinary meet-ups) to strengthen academic home identity and major retention.	\$ 95,000
Fund a Faculty-in-Residence for Belonging program where faculty design and lead academic engagement events (pop-up lectures, research nights, reading groups, workshops).	\$ 100,000
Pilot academically integrated learning communities (more first year as well as transfer, re-entry, and other relevant groups) combining GE courses with faculty-led belonging seminars and/or peer-mentored academic success pods.	\$ 60,000
Fund a faculty–student mentorship & advising initiative that compensates faculty for mentoring cohorts of students and strengthens academic belonging and persistence. - tied to enrollment & retention	\$ 100,000
Increased funding for Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)- tied to enrollment & retention	\$ 100,000
Increased funding for Associated Students to support clubs & childcare – tied to enrollment & retention	\$ 96,000

In light of the proposed reallocation of funds and the need to compile and provide the requested follow-up information associated with these recommendations, we respectfully request an extension for submission of this information through September 18, 2026. This additional time will ensure adequate coordination, analysis, and preparation of the requested materials.

We welcome any guidance you may have and are prepared to move forward upon your approval.

Thank you for your continued support of UBAC's work.