

To: Planning and Budgeting Council

From:

- Academic Senate President, Gampi Shankar
- Vice President of Instruction, Chialin Hsieh

Date: April 16, 2025

Subject: Final Recommendations for Funeral Services Education Program

Process Summary

The Funeral Services Education (FSE) Program Improvement and Viability (PIV) Task Force concluded its review and recommendation of the FSE to the Instructional Planning Council (IPC) on March 7, 2025. IPC made its final recommendation on [March 21, 2025](#). The Task Force's Recommendation was shared at the Academic Senate on [March 27th, 2025](#). The final recommendation that incorporated IPC's feedback was approved by the Academic Senate on April 10, 2025.

We extend our gratitude to the PIV Task Force members for their dedication and rigor:

- **Chair:** Doug Hirzel
- **Counselor:** Sandra Mendez
- **Faculty/Staff:** Candice Nance, David Eck, Gina Hooper
- **Administrators:** Dean Ameer Thompson, Dean Karen Engel

These recommendations align with accreditation challenges, labor market data, fiscal realities, and institutional priorities, while addressing concerns raised by all stakeholders.

Approved Recommendations

1. **Discontinue the A.S. Funeral Services Education Degree**
2. **Discontinue Both Certificates of Specialization**
 - Certificates do not lead to living-wage jobs in the Bay Area, and entry-level funeral service roles (e.g., funeral arranger, crematory operator) do not require certification. According to the industry advisory board, the certificates, on their own were not very helpful.
3. **Explore Alternative Pathways**
 - Some detail on other pathways. See [IPC Recommendation](#).

Conclusion

Both IPC and the Academic Senate strongly support these recommendations.

Academic Senate President and Vice President of Instruction, we also agree with the majority view of the task force to discontinue both certificates because of the cost of continuing to run the program, the entry-level jobs in the Funeral Services industry don't require certifications and don't provide a living wage for the Bay Area, the potential confusion for students if the College continues to offer the Certificates of Specialization but not the A.S. degree, and the challenge of developing a program that lacks a full-time faculty member.

Next Steps

Governance Approvals:

- College President's approval.
- Curriculum Committee's approval (for any curriculum changes).
- Board of Trustees' approval.

Key Resources:

- [Funeral Service Education PIV Task Force Report](#)
- [Instructional Planning Council \(IPC\) Recommendation on the FSE PIV Report](#)
- [Program Improvement and Viability Process: Cañada College](#)
- [Academic Senate March 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)
- Academic Senate April 10, 2025 draft Meeting Minutes