



## Meeting Minutes

SRJC Career Education  
Architecture Advisory Committee Meeting  
Date / time: February 26, 2026 3-4:45pm  
Meeting via [Zoom](#)

### **Attendance, Advisory Committee (Quorum Met):**

Levelle, Peter, SRJC (ex-officio)  
Arenales, Michel, Tangible Design Studio  
Guitierrez, Paola, Signum Architecture  
Bisbee, Nate, Bisbee Architecture + Design  
Weigl, Justine, QKA (proxy for Nick Stephenson)  
Walker, Stacey, TLCD

### **Not in Attendance, Advisory Committee:**

Nick Stephenson, QKA

### **Attendance, Other:**

Smith, Rachel, SRJC Career Education  
Tam, Victor, SRJC Dean, STEM  
Dodd, Doshia, SRJC  
Freed, James, SRJC Interior Design  
Galindo, Mackenzie, SRJC Counseling  
Mansfield, Ann, SRJC Career Advisory

### Purpose:

The primary purpose of the local program advisory committee is to assist and provide recommendations to the district in establishing, operating, and evaluating programs which serve the needs of students, business and industry, and to provide expertise pertaining to technological and subject matter changes.

### Objectives:

- to provide an opportunity for discussion among educators, business and industry
- to focus on how to improve Career Education (CE) opportunities
- to strive to improve the alignment between CE, business and industry
- to provide expertise to the program by reviewing curriculum, technology, facilities, budget, student competency, and student placement in related occupations

Call to Order: 3:09pm

### *Welcome and Introductions*

### *Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting (Action item)*



### Program update-P. Levelle

- Peter’s background: ~20 years in AEC (construction → construction management → architecture), teaching since ~2008/2009, master’s work focused on making architectural education more accessible.
- Core challenge: **architecture studio culture** is central to learning but traditionally depends on dedicated studio space—hard to replicate in community colleges and not equivalent online.
- Key equity issue identified: community college students are often expected to **take models/projects home**, which assumes transportation and adequate workspace at home.

### **Model that inspired the solution:**

- Peter described a precedent (architecture school that lost studio space and adopted a “hotel-style” studio) where students use shared desks and store projects in **transparent storage** so work remains visible and community/studio culture is preserved.

### **What SRJC has implemented so far:**

- SRJC now uses studio spaces in the STEM building and has grown an active studio cohort (students also formed an **Architecture Club**).
- With Strong Workforce support, the program acquired **industrial-grade transparent storage carts** with individual student trays—enabling a rotating studio while keeping work visible.
- A local architect/philanthropist, **Larry Simons**, funded **naming rights** and created an endowment specifically for the architecture program.
  - First use of the endowment: buy materials/tools in bulk so students **don’t have to purchase core materials** (foam core, chipboard, tools, tracing paper, cutting mats, etc.).
- Marketing/outreach assets under development:
  - Mobile-friendly website being built.
  - Program video produced (needs accessibility updates like alt language).

### Degree Update

- **SRJC A.S. in Architecture** approved by the Chancellor’s Office in **December** and expected to be available **Fall 2026**.
- Ongoing issue: architecture transfer is **portfolio-based and nuanced**; ASSIST alignment/articulation still needs work even though many course numbers are UC/CSU transferable.

### **California licensure pathway change (major discussion)**



- Peter noted a state change (effective **Oct 1, 2025**) that allows an **associate's degree** to count toward licensure (counts as **2 years**), and unaccredited schools can count for **4 years**—shifting the traditional “accredited professional degree” advantage.
- Feedback:
  - Nate: more pathways is a good thing; CA already has more flexible licensure policies than most states.
  - Stacey: questioned why someone would spend extra time/money for the 5-year professional path unless for passion/prestige.
  - Justine (licensing advisor): alternative pathways exist in a minority of jurisdictions; professional degrees are more portable across states; NCARB is looking at expanding alternative pathways nationally.

### Student advising implications

- Mackenzie (counselor) asked what to recommend: associate → bachelor's? Peter emphasized **case-by-case**:
  - Architecture has many roles (design, technical, drafting, CA, etc.), and not all students want/need the same endpoint.
  - Bachelor's can improve competitiveness, but total path to licensure often still looks like **~8 years** in various combinations (e.g., 5+3, 4+4, 2+6).

### Apprenticeship idea

- Mackenzie raised the possibility of an **apprenticeship-style pathway**; discussion acknowledged internships are a lift for firms, and any apprenticeship model would need to reduce burden for employers.

### Loan/profession question

- Michel asked about architecture no longer being considered a profession for loans under a “big, beautiful bill.” Group understanding: impact is mainly at **graduate** level (not undergrad), though the language can be confusing.

### Public Comments

- Trades Job Fair announcement (Ann Mansfield)
  - **Trades Job Fair on Wednesday, April 15, 11:00–1:30**, at **Ludibus** (no cost; seeking more employers, including construction/engineering/related).
  - Peter will forward the flyer to the group.

### Proposed New pathways (Discussion)

Peter floated adding **three** new offerings in addition to the new A.S. in Architecture:

1. **Interior Architecture A.S. (proposed)**



- Built from a mix of Architecture studios/history + Interior Design + some software skills (Peter suggested Revit may be more appropriate than Rhino for interiors).
- Discussion highlights:
  - Support from attendees; Stacey shared she has an interior architecture degree and described it as more architectural/materials-focused than some interior design programs that skew residential.
  - Nate cautioned: if it's called "interior architecture," it should be aligned to real transfer/professional pathways to avoid being misleading.
  - Mackenzie recommended using electives or multiple "tracks" to better align with several transfer schools and avoid adding extra semesters for transfer-bound students.

## 2. Drafting certificate (shorter, ~2 semesters)

- Intended for quick workforce entry: more production-focused Revit/CAD + Adobe + intro to construction industry.
- Emphasis: drafters don't necessarily need design-thinking coursework; they need industry/process fluency and tool competence.

## 3. "Project Support" associate degree (proposed)

- A hybrid of **design studios + light Revit/CAD + professional practice/Adobe + construction management fundamentals** (sequencing, materials/methods, jobsite comfort).
- Intended for versatile roles (CA support, project support, jobsite-literate staff) and especially attractive for reentry/local students.
- Feedback:
  - Strong support: seen as useful across **small to large firms**, and potentially adjacent fields (engineering offices, contractors, design-build).
  - Stacey suggested CAD vs Revit may need "either/or" flexibility depending on firm.
  - Naming brainstorm: "AEC Project Support" was suggested; Peter noted potential concern about using "engineering" in the title.

### Outreach and Recruitment Discussion

- James asked about coordinated outreach and not duplicating efforts across Architecture + Interior Design + Construction Management.
- Peter: currently building assets; open to collaborating.
- James shared prior outreach to local high schools ("dog and pony show") and offered to refresh it post-pandemic; Peter offered to help coordinate future efforts.
- Noted that students value meeting local professionals at events
- Peter noted that visibility of the studio (glass walls, models on display) is a form of on-campus marketing.



### Action Items

- Peter: Coordinate with James (and Sherry) to refresh and potentially co-present outreach presentations to local high schools about the architecture and interior design programs.
- Peter: Continue building and updating the architecture program website, including ensuring video accessibility (alt language) and filling content gaps.
- Peter: Schedule and organize a follow-up working meeting this semester to further review and polish proposed certificates and degrees, inviting all relevant advisory group members (including Justine).
- Ann: Send the trades job fair flyer and employer list to Peter, and notify Peter if any engineering or construction firms (e.g., MCM, ZFA) are attending.
- Peter: Forward the trades job fair flyer to the advisory group after receiving it from Ann.
- Mackenzie: Consult with Peter (and other coordinators) on aligning proposed degree pathways and electives with multiple transfer schools, including advice on structuring tracks and electives for transfer and workforce outcomes.
- James: Work with Peter and potentially other faculty to consider updating/revamping interior design program classes to better align with transfer requirements and non-residential design focus, possibly by adjusting SLOs or course content.
- Peter and team: Consider renaming the "Architectural Project Support" degree/certificate to "AEC Project Support" or similar, based on group feedback.
- Peter: Continue coordination with Rachel and others regarding grant opportunities and support for program materials and outreach.
- Peter: Organize the upcoming lecture series event, including logistics for models in the lobby and arranging parking passes for attendees as needed.

### Comments / Wrap Up:

- Group generally agreed the proposed degrees/certificates seem on the right track.
- Reminder: upcoming **lecture series** with the first speaker **Thursday 5–6pm**; Peter offered parking passes.
- Curriculum development for **Advanced Design Studios**.
- Build multiple degree pathways and strengthen articulation/transfer agreements.
- Create a **Larry Simons Award** (about \$1,000) for top studio work to support resumes/transcripts.
- Architecture Club aims to join Cal Poly's **Design Village** competition (build/hike/sleep-in structure; judged by faculty; also a recruiting opportunity).

### Next Steps

- Peter proposed another working meeting later in the semester (online preferred by some; hybrid possible).

Adjournment: 3:45pm