

Department of Theatre and Fashion
Fashion Studies Program



Advisory Committee Meeting

November 10, 2025, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting held in person and via Zoom

[\(Recording of the meeting available here\)](#)

Meeting Minutes

Quick Recap

The Fashion Studies Advisory Committee held its first hybrid meeting, during which members introduced themselves and shared updates on industry trends and local activity. The committee reviewed current program initiatives, including collaborations with Marketing and Communications, community engagement events, and planning for the annual fashion show and design contest. The meeting concluded with discussion of curriculum development, including the potential integration of 3D design software and the need for additional resources and course offerings to expand student opportunities.

Next Steps:

- Emily: Purchase a third classroom cover stitch machine
- Emily: Purchase backdrop with three pull-down options and three studio lights in collaboration with Applied Photography program
- Emily: Develop a cataloging system for classroom library of 350-400 books
- Emily: Plan and organize workshops on garment finishing techniques for contest
- Emily and Lyra: Purchase additional classroom art supplies and garment construction supplies
- Lyra: Research and purchase scientific analysis machinery for textiles class
- Emily: Continue pursuing re-categorization of faculty break room to allow installation of industrial sink, washer, and dryer
- Emily: Update program curriculum to add a portfolio class
- Emily: Increase unit value on 70A and 70B from 2 units to 3 units
- Emily: Expand articulation agreements with San Francisco State and Long Beach State
- Emily: Complete paperwork for new associate faculty hires for Spring 2026
- Emily: Research CLO 3D institutional subscription options and reach out to educational institutions about their programs
- Vonnie: Provide Emily with contact information for CLO 3D
- Emily: Collaborate with the IT department to arrange a presentation from CLO 3D for institutional rates
- Vonnie: Research Style3D institutional rates for Emily

Was there a quorum Yes No (if no quorum, no official business shall be performed)

I. Call to Order:

- a. Debra Bee began the meeting at 4:03 PM with welcomes, introductions, and industry updates until two more voting members joined at 4:13 PM to achieve quorum.

II. Welcome/Introductions

- a. Voting members: Vonnie Anderson (Software Tailoring), Debra Bee (Fashion Design Instructor at Rancho Cotate High School), Hilary Heaviside (Fennel Designs), Heidi Johnson (Owner, The Wedding DeTailor), Andrea Kenner (Maison Djouf)
- b. Absent: Steffen Kuehr (TekTailor Inc.)
- c. Non-voting members: Emily Melville (Fashion Studies Program Coordinator), Lyra Bobo (SRJC Fashion Studies Associate Faculty)
- d. Guests and Administrative Staff: Melia Pavloff (SRJC Academic Affairs), Justin Smith (SRJC Interim Chair of Theatre Arts & Fashion Studies), Jennifer Tate (Owner, Fiber Snob), John Nite (Global Creative Director, Marmot)

III. Local Industry Updates from Advisory Members and Guests

- a. Hilary Heaviside:
Shared flyers for Fiber Snob fabric store, where she is teaching and selling patterns. Store is an excellent resource for SRJC students. Noted that CPShades, the garment manufacturer in Novato is closing. Hoping to invite the owner to the next committee meeting.
- b. Debra Bee:
All is well with her program at Rancho Cotate High School, feels very supported by the District and well-funded.
- c. Jennifer Tate:
Her new store, Fiber Snob, focuses on apparel fabrics and natural fibers in downtown Santa Rosa.
- d. Andrea Kenner:
Her Healdsburg retail store, formerly Tamarind, is now rebranded as Maison Djouf.
- e. Heidi Johnson:
Her business is doing an Instagram campaign, where they post about a wedding they assisted with on that date for each day of the year
 1. Recent highlights for her business this year include weddings in Saint-Tropez, Montana, and New York, with a big wedding upcoming in Texas in December.
 2. They have begun stepping back into alterations as well to continue passing the craft on to future generations.

IV. Program Updates Overview:

- a. Fashion students designed and sewed a back-to-school outfit for SRJC Mascot, Rosco (his first outfit), using a donation of 15 pairs of size 40 men's jeans. The outfit officially debuted at each campus's Welcome Day at the beginning of this fall semester

- i. This project was written up and featured by columnist Kerry Benefield in *The Press Democrat* which earned media exposure for the program.
- b. Fashion Studies Mending Bar at Green Living Fair, October 2025
 - i. Fashion students mended about 30 garments onsite for attendees and increased visibility for the program on the Santa Rosa campus.
- c. Fashion Club students sell upcycled scrap tote bags @ Lumafest
 - i. Small but active club, meets once per week in the Fashion Classroom
- d. Lyra Bobo Fashion Studies Fund, update for 2025/2026
 - i. Last year's donation was amazing, and this year's anonymous donation was for even more, at \$15,000. Seeking input on best ways to put these funds to use for the program.
 - ii. Last year, funds were used towards classroom sets of loaner textbooks, and a dye workshop for students; this year a third coverstitch machine is being purchased, and a collaborative classroom photography space is in the works in coordination with the Applied Photography Program.
 - iii. Also considering options for cataloging 350-400+ book fashion library
 - iv. Additional items for more scientific analysis of fibers were requested by Lyra Bobo
 - v. There is also a desire to replace shallow sink in "Faculty Break Room" with stainless steel industrial sink more appropriate for program needs with storage beneath
 - 1. Requires recategorization of the room as instructional space
 - 2. Sink will assist in lab activities with all sewing and textile classes.
 - 3. Currently, some items are having to be processed at instructors homes, would be better if they could stay on campus.
- e. Design Challenge Spring 2026, Black and White theme
 - i. Received a summer donation from a woman who had a high-end luxury line in SF that is the basis of this challenge, also based on recent runway trends; prizes are the Juki air threading machine and potentially another model from Village Sewing
 - ii. Planning to offer a workshop or class to help students work with the two weights of wool fabric for the show
- f. 2026 Fashion Show Scheduled for April 30th @6:30pm
 - i. Student produced show with many interdisciplinary collaborations with multiple departments.
 - ii. First year students produce the show for more advanced students to present their designs which provides valuable experience.

V. Old Business

- a. Emily: working on updating program curriculum to add a portfolio class which would include a digital portfolio; trying to get an AA path for transfer for program students by first increasing the unit value of FASH 70A (Clothing Construction 1) and 70B (Clothing Construction 2), though the final decision ultimately rests Chancellor's office
- b. Recently concluded a hiring process for new Associate Fashion faculty

VI. New Business/Discussion

- a. Exploring 3D digital design and patternmaking opportunities for students:
 - i. Vonnie Anderson uses CLO3D in her business, where 3D avatars and 3D body scans for slopers are used: students who have experience with this technology will benefit from it, so Emily visited the Applied Technology Lab with Vonnie recently to research obtaining the software and installing the program
 - 1. Vonnie: CLO3D is the industry standard, and it would really be a benefit for students to have training with it.
 - 2. John Nite: Asked about Browzware, another 3D platform, which Vonnie advised has a steeper learning curve. He also mentioned that Old Navy now approves first prototypes in 3D, without a physical sample.
 - 3. Vonnie: Advised this is the first year she has sold more avatars than patterns. Demand for 3D skills is growing.
 - 4. Emily: The next step is to reach out to more colleges to see who is teaching 3D and what programs they use. A drawback is that colleges may need to pay \$500 per seat for these programs, where students might pay half or less to subscribe to the software independently.

VII. Comments/Wrap Up:

- a. None

VIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

NOTE: The next Fashion Studies Advisory Committee meeting will be held in Fall 2026.