

Link to slides: [Spring 2025 CS Town Hall Slides](#)

Q&A notes

- How does the department ensure that TAs are held accountable to do the work they are hired and paid to do, and not pawn off the work to Learning Assistants or other responsible TAs?
 - LAs have certain restrictions
 - Cant do grading
 - Have certain tasks that they signed up to do and get credit for
 - If a TA is not carrying load, contact staff or fill out evaluations
- Is professor Millstein stepping down as chair
 - Yes, currently going through a process of choosing a replacement
- With the increasing use of generative AI, is the department deciding on a set methodology to address generative AI in education and adapt to new technologies?
 - There is a committee with Professor Eggert looking into how to adapt
 - Discouraged in lower div classes like CS 31/32 to encourage learning
 - From a Meta study: Gen AI doesn't do well in project courses, but works well with more STEM courses
 - Possibly thinking about pushing it more in the STEM courses
 - Would it be possible to get student input for the committee?
 - Yes, email Professor Eggert
 - Exploring more effective ways to use AI through creating practice problems/personal tutor for CS 181
 - Is it plagiarism? Is it cheating?
 - Currently deciding, but can't and shouldn't stop students from using tools
 - Thinking about redesigning courses to have AI as a supplement
- Updates on funding situation for CS clubs (UPE + ACM)
 - Currently no definitive answer on the budget, but it is a priority to ensure that student orgs get ample funding
- What motivated the removal of CS 118?
 - ABET requirements will still be covered, but not necessarily through a quarter long class
 - Stanford is flexible, MIT is more rigid, trying to find where on the spectrum they want to be
 - Not dropping the class, but giving students the opportunity to choose their electives
- How will hiring freeze + external factors impact department plan to change curriculum
 - Some faculty hired last year that will be teaching this year
 - New electives are going to be added
 - Is there a timeline? Some are already offered this quarter, some will be offered next quarter
 - All faculty hired are required to teach a course
- With the new fall catalog, why remove sci-tech?

- A lot of focus on a required set of classes, the hope was the sci-tech was supposed to give you more breadth
 - In comparison to other engineering majors, cs take more electives
 - Logistical reason: harder to enroll into classes and graduate on time with too many elective requirements
 - M148 wont count as an elective anymore, why?
 - Intended as a bootstrapping process to get into data science
 - More of a bridge class, but cs students were creating a knowledge divide
- Why was ESAP GPA raised to 3.75?
 - Masters program has a 1-2% acceptance rate
 - Raising GPA was to reflect that rate and give non-UCLA CS students more flexibility in joining the program
- Given political activity, does department anticipate effects on CS education
 - Uncertainty is more about federal funding, which may affect undergraduate researchers, but not much of an impact on undergraduate CS education
- Can we include Verilog in CS M51A?
 - Happy to talk to faculty in charge and see what they think
 - Concerned about flow from M51A to M51B
- Can classes have syllabi for courses available before enrollment?
 - Faculty was keen, concern was modifying classes
 - Can be offered, but keep in mind that syllabi would be tentative
 - Newer elective syllabi would most likely not be available
- Process for evaluating and improving TAs
 - New faculty member who took over TA training class
 - Hopefully results will be seen in the coming years
 - Training more aggressively
 - TA selection is hard as difficult to map TAs to courses, but ensure TA is well-versed with material
- Thoughts on UC push to standardize the semester academic calendar?
 - Different opinions
 - Most likely not happening any time soon due to logistics with changing courses to semester
- There were efforts to hire professors in Fall/Winter, are they still hired and what will they be teaching?
 - 2 new faculty starting
 - 1 is teaching 35L in the fall, and more courses in winter and spring
 - Hiring priorities, what kind of courses?
 - Research faculty: Find areas that are synergistic or fill in gaps
 - Teaching faculty: people with a track record who are excited to teach their class
 - Interested on hiring ML topics, human-AI interactions
- High demand AI courses are only in specific quarters, has department considered offering more frequently
 - 163 only offered once - only one faculty who is able to teach it

- Piloting a new survey to cs majors to address subjects students are interested in
 - Can we consider adding more sections to high-demand grad courses?
 - Petition to take grad courses – number of petitions can lead to more seats being added
- Can LA program create shared drives for LA-supported courses to ensure course materials don't vanish?
 - Google drive restrictions don't allow shared drives anymore, so as soon as a student graduates it disappears
 - Different file sharing options, like Box
- What are diversity initiatives the CS department is undertaking
 - New EDI chair, wait and see what initiatives are school wide
 - Prop 209 - race, gender, etc. are not considered when hiring
 - EDI has taken new political connotations, but UCLA initiatives will not change
- When is ABET accreditation for CE major going through?
 - It already passed
- Does department have timeline on when computational biology course will be offered again?
 - Planning to be taught in the winter
- Has it been considered to consolidate CS-related majors - does engineering in the title really change anything?
 - Currently in talks, asking for student opinion
 - CSE almost identical to Fall 2023 CS catalog
- Can academic advising be changed to only be mandatory in your first year?
 - This is actually faculty advising
 - Really only required in your first three years – schoolwide requirement
- Will greater restrictions be imposed for switching into CS/CSE from any major
 - Raising GPA to 3.7 and requiring at least a B- in CS 31
 - 3.7 threshold based off of data
 - Target ratio from transferring into vs admitted into
 - No target, but noticed that ratio has been going up
 - Not sustainable and raises a fairness issue
 - Historically students from engineering majors transferring into CS were given more leeway, but that will no longer apply
- Has CS department considered collecting internship data for undergraduates?
 - Currently collect data, but done through the senior exit students
 - Have let undergraduate department office know that this is something that is being considered
- Who will teach 35L in the future?
 - Professor Eggert and a new faculty that is not officially announced yet
- Is it possible to incentivize discussion attendance by making it an optional part of the grading scheme?
 - Up to the instructor
 - Way too many discussions conflict
 - Is it possible to change discussion days to something other than Friday?

- No, logistical issues, competing with other departments for popular times
 - Is it possible to have discussions recorded?
 - Sections are more interactive w/ worksheets or group work
- Can more classes have recorded lectures
 - Brought it up to faculty
 - Some on board if there's broadcast, some see it as discouraging people from coming
 - Online classes have to go through approvals