CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

ACADEMIC SENATE

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

REPORT TO

THE ACADEMIC SENATE

AP-026-256

New Self-Support Counterpart of the Master of Science in Computer Science

Academic Programs Committee – Date: 2/18/2026

Executive Committee – Date Received and Forwarded: 04/08/2026

Academic Senate – Date: 04/15/2026

First Reading

BACKGROUND:

The proposed self-support Master of Science in Computer Science (MSCS), offered through CPGE, will be delivered fully online. The program will maintain the same curriculum, learning outcomes, and faculty as the existing state-supported MSCS program. No additional instructional resources are required.

This proposal responds to increasing demand for flexible graduate education. A survey conducted by the Computer Science department found that 57.1% (N=56) of graduating seniors preferred a fully online Master's program. Key reasons included flexibility for work schedules, reduced commuting time, geographic constraints, and improved time management.

The program is designed to serve working professionals, including alumni and students who are unable to attend in-person classes. It is expected to complement the existing state-supported program by expanding access rather than replacing it.

The curriculum consists of 30 units. A designated program coordinator will oversee advising, admissions, scheduling, and program administration. Enrollment is projected at 25 students per cohort, with potential growth to 35 students.

RESOURCES CONSULTED:

Amar Raheja, Professor and Chair, Computer Science

Daisy Tang, Professor, Computer Science

Deans and Chairs, campuswide consultation.

DISCUSSION:

With this new fully online offering, the CS Department aims to target domestic students both in-state and out-of-state (with agreements) who work full -time, and therefore, cannot attend the in-person classes, including the alumni working in the Silicon Valley. Overall, the CS Department believes that the two programs are complementary, and that, between the two programs together, they can extend their reach to a larger number of students overall.

The Committee reviewed the proposal and noted that the online program must maintain the same curriculum and academic standards as the state-supported program. The program is intended primarily for domestic students, while local domestic and international students will continue to enroll in the state-supported program.

The Committee discussed instructional delivery methods and recommended incorporating elements to enhance flexibility for working professionals. The use of recorded lectures was encouraged.

Additional considerations included scheduling flexibility and potential weekend offerings. Faculty availability for program coordination was confirmed.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Academic Programs Committee recommends approval of the new self-support Master of Science in Computer Science program, with consideration given to delivery flexibility for working professionals and enrollment planning as discussed.