

**Minutes – February 27, 2023 – 3:05 p.m.**

**Online through WebEx**

**CCSU Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Present:** Acharya, K.; Al-Masoud, N.; Amaya, L.; Andreoletti, C.; Baratta, C.; Barrington, C.; Bigelow, L.; Boone, N.; Boscarino, N.; Bray, A.; Broulik, W.; Chakraborty, S.; Cistulli, M.; Cole, E.; Donohue, P.; Duquette, J.; Elfant, A.; Emeagwali, G.; Farhat, J.; Flinn, B.; Foshay, J.; Foster, P.; Gamache, J.; Garbovskiy, Y.; Gardner, P.; Gonzalez, K.; Gunter, M.; Heinen, E.; Horrax, S.; Jackson, M.; Langevin, K.; Karas, R.; King, A.; Martin, K.; Matthews, S.; Matzke, B.; Meng, P.; Mitchell, D.; Moriarty, M.; Nicastro, M.; Ning, W.; O'Connor, J.; Ofray, J.; Orange, M.; Oyewumi, Y.; Phillips, E.; Rahman, M.; Rivera, T.; Rodgers-Tonge, D.; Ruhs, T.; Savatorova, V.; Schenck, S.; Schmidt, S.; Seamans-Frizell, S.; Santilli, M.; Smith, R.; Spinelli, A.; Styrzcula, S.; Sylvester, C.; Tellier, A.; Villanti, S.; Zabihimayvan, M.; Zadi, S.; Zhao, S.; Zhou, B.

**Ex-Officio:** Blitz, D.; Burkholder, T.; Frank, L.; Kostelis, K.; Minkler, S.; Mulrooney, J.; Olamuyiwa, O.; Toro, Z.

**Parliamentarian:** Dimmick, C.

**President of the Senate:** Latour, F.

**Guests:** Boncoddio, R.; Bucher, L.; Byrd Danso, K.; Fallon, M.; Kirby, Y.; McGrath, K.; Merenstein, B.; Misra, K.; Mooreland, D.; Mulcahy, C.; Pincince, T.; Robinson, C.; Suski-Lenczewski, A.; Veloria, C.; Votto, S.; Wright, C.; Wu, S.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes of February 13, 2023 were accepted as presented.

2. Announcements

- a. AAUP (T. Burkholder)
  - i. There is a bill in the legislature (H.B. No. 6564 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNFUNDED PENSION LIABILITY PORTION OF THE FRINGE BENEFIT COST FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CONSTITUENT UNITS OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION) that is going to attempt to change how unfunded liabilities are handled. This impacts our ability to get grants. Because of how high the benefits costs charged to the university are, our grant proposals are not competitive. UConn is leading this charge. This will be heard at a hearing in the legislature this Thursday. If this has impacted your work, let T. Burkholder know if you are willing to testify. Those willing to testify must sign up by the end of the day tomorrow. Written testimony can be submitted until the hearing takes place.
  - ii. There will be a Politics, Pens, and Pizza event this Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Constitution Room. Three politicians will be attending and they like to meet students. Please bring your students if you can. We will talk about how the legislature works, how legislation moves through the legislature and what students can do to get involved at the Legislature.

- iii. Sense & Sensibility is being produced this weekend in the Black Box Theatre and Thursday is faculty night. Tickets are available through Sarah Atkinson in the Theatre Department. CCSU AAUP is paying for refreshments for that night.
      - 1. The Center for Africana Studies will host its Annual Conference March 2, from noon to 6 pm.
  - b. SUOAF-AFSCME (L. Bigelow or S. Villanti)
    - i. Our Sign & Dine event last week was successful and we will be delivering over 6,000 letters to the Appropriations and Higher Education committees later this week requesting more funding for the CCSU System than provided for in the Governor's Budget proposal.
    - ii. SUOAF will be hosting a Saint Patrick's Lunch for members again this year. It will take place on Friday, March 17.
  - c. SGA (O. Olamuyiwa)
    - i. O. Olamuyiwa acknowledged the sad news that a CCSU student passed away over the weekend. Condolences were offered to the student's family and friends. He stated SGA is here to help in any way they can. Students should also reach out to Counseling if they need someone to talk to. Please come together as a community to support each other at this difficult time.
    - ii. The panel discussion we held last week was a great success. The SGA is grateful for the support of everyone in attendance.
    - iii. The efforts made last week by the SGA and other students who testified in support of higher education was appreciated. It is critical to invest in higher education for the betterment of society. Every student deserves access to quality education and the SGA will continue to advocate for that.
  - d. Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) to the Board of Regents (D. Blitz)
    - i. The next meeting of the FAC is in a couple of weeks. There will be a full report after that.
    - ii. Both D. Blitz and C. Sesanker continue to meet with the President, Chair of the Board and System Provost to get a better understanding of how the System Office is seeing things and to put forward our viewpoint on the faculty role in pedagogy and curriculum, including the modality of courses.
    - iii. Last Thursday there was a gathering on campus for the one-year anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine. It was attended by a number of Connecticut dignitaries. The New Britain Polish community also attended in a show of support to their bordering neighbors in Ukraine.
  - e. President of the Senate (F. Latour)
    - i. There was a survey sent from the Academic Advising Task force last week. M. Jackson was asked to speak about it.
      - 1. M. Jackson is co-chairing the Task Force on Advising with P. Tucker and part of that involves this survey to gather feedback from the campus.

Both teaching and administrative faculty were surveyed in last week's 5-question survey. The questions relate to the Task Force's charge. Please encourage faculty to complete the survey; it closes this coming Friday. The Task Force is also working on a student-centered survey that will be sent out soon. The Task Force is working with the SGA on that.

2. The Task Force will be meeting next Monday and would like the comments from the faculty survey to guide that meeting.
3. Something will come from the Task Force to the Senate shortly after Spring Break. This would include things that could be addressed prior to the end of this semester. Longer-term goals will be discussed at a later point.
4. The charge to the Task Force was shared. The charge includes reviewing current practices, looking at best practices, looking at the dual advising model and at whether different student populations deserved different advising models. Lastly, the charge includes making recommendations about the role and charge of the Committee on Academic Advising.
  - a. Question: Who formed the Task Force? F. Latour: It is a joint effort of the Provost and the Senate.
  - b. J. Gamache commented that the Task Force membership has not been published. F. Latour said he would add the charge document and the membership list to the Senate website.
5. The Senate meets seven times/semester. The timing of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting is always tricky. According to our schedule in the Bylaws, there are consecutive meetings this week and next week. After Spring Break three meetings remain. F. Latour said he has been meeting with a lot of people in the last week to get an idea of what will come to the Senate before the end of the semester. We will hear from the Task Force on the new college; we may also hear about a new strategic plan for athletics. If you are a chair of a committee, you will be asked to get your report in, ideally before the last meeting of the semester.
6. The University has just posted snow closure information for this evening and tomorrow. Classes beginning after 7:20 p.m. this evening are cancelled and tomorrow is a snow day.

### 3. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Standards Committee (R. Boncoddio)
  - i. [Admission Policies for World Language Certificates](#) – The Department put forth new admissions policies for two certificate programs.
    1. Question: What is the status of these programs? Have they been approved at Senate in a Curriculum report? S. Boncoddio – Academic Standards received this at the same time as Curriculum; she is not sure whether Curriculum has brought the programs to the Senate yet.

2. Question: Sen. Zadi said that the Senate has not yet approved the programs. F. Latour said everything that has come to the Senate from the Curriculum Committee has been approved with one exception. Given the timing of when it was passed in the department, it is likely that it will be in a forthcoming Curriculum Committee report.

- a. MOTION: To approve the proposed Admissions Policies for World Language Certificates. Motion passed.

F. Latour noted that the proposals are being approved by Academic Standards and Curriculum at the same time, which is how it is supposed to work.

- ii. [EDEL 115](#) – this existing course is being proposed as an admission criterion for students entering the Elementary Education Program.

1. F. Latour asked what part of this proposal Academic Standards is asking the Senate to approve. Response: because this is going to be an admissions requirement, Academic Standards voted on it and it was ultimately passed. The Dean of SEPS concurred.

- a. Sen. Foster asked if this course was going to be included on the asterisked list on Elementary Education program sheets. Response from the dean: Yes. R. Boncoddio clarified that this will be required for students coming in beginning in Fall 2023.

MOTION: To approve EDEL 115 as an additional requirement to the Elementary Education Program. Motion passed.

#### 4. New Business – None

- a. Question: What's the update on the Student Opinion surveys? F. Latour said he has been chatting with people, but has not yet met with the Chair of the Information Technology Committee. He will provide more detail after he has met with her.
  - b. Question: When will the UPBC report to Senate? F. Latour said he has been in contact with the Chair of the UPBC, who has a scheduling conflict with the Senate Steering Committee, but she did confirm that the UPBC will report to the Senate at the last meeting.
  - c. Question: Who was elected to the UPBC? F. Latour: J. Farhat was elected to the at-large seat. Wesley Henry was elected to fill the SEPS vacancy.

#### 5. Adjournment

- a. MOTION to adjourn (Blitz/Jackson). Passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.