

Minutes – April 3, 2023 – 3:05 p.m.

Online through WebEx

CCSU Faculty Senate Meeting

Present: Acharya, K.; Al-Masoud, N.; Amaya, L.; Andreoletti, C.; Baratta, C.; Bartone, M.; Best, F.; Bigelow, L.; Boone, N.; Boscarino, N.; Bray, A.; Broulik, W.; Cistulli, M.; Chakraborty, S.; Cole, E.; Donohue, P.; Duquette, J.; Elfant, A.; Emeagwali, G.; Fallon, M.; Farhat, J.; Flinn, B.; Foshay, J.; Foster, P.; Gamache, J.; Garbovskiy, Y.; Gonzalez, K.; Hernandez, R.; Horrax, S.; Jackson, M.; Karas, R.; Kean, K.; Kelly, D.; King, A.; Langevin, K.; Love, K.; Martin, K.; Matthews, S.; Meng, P.; Mitchell, D.; Moriarty, M.; Ning, W.; O'Connor, J.; Ofray, J.; Orange, M.; Oyewumi, Y.; Paolina, J.; Phillips, E.; Rahman, M.; Rodgers-Tonge, D.; Ruhs, T.; Savatorova, V.; Schenck, S.; Schmidt, S.; Smith, R.; Spinelli, A.; Sylvester, C.; Tellier, A.; Villanti, S.; Zadi, S.; Zhao, S.; Zhou, B.

Ex-Officio: Blitz, D.; Burkholder, T.; Frank, L.; Kostelis, K.; Minkler, S.; Toro, Z.; Wolff, R.

Parliamentarian: Dimmick, C.

President of the Senate: Latour, F.

Guests: Blair, N.; Cintorino, S.; Claffey, G.; Kirby, Y.; Merenstein, B.; Moore, N.; Pincince, T.; Robinson, C.; Russo, M.; Suski-Lenczewski, A.; Thompson, T.; Voloria, C.; Votto, S.; Wilson, M.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes of March 6, 2023 were accepted as presented.

2. Announcements

- a. AAUP (T. Burkholder)
 - i. Reminder: Nominations are open for the four officers for the CCSU AAUP chapter. One delegate at-large, who serves on the Executive Committee, and four CCSU AAUP representatives to the CSU AAUP Council. Nominations close on Friday, April 7. Elections will be soon thereafter. Elections will take place over the course of two weeks.
 - ii. There are some issues with the CSU funding request. The co-chairs of the Appropriations Committee are not happy with what the Higher Education Committee sent to them. It is fairly substantial criticism; Appropriations is now asking higher ed units to cut/reduce their requests. AAUP is planning to have a presence at the capitol to talk with folks on Appropriations on Wednesday morning. If we cannot change the course, reduced funding will impact enrollment and our students will suffer. If you would like to become involved, contact John O'Connor.
 - iii. The tentative date for the end-of-the-year social will be forthcoming. The venue will be Alvarium Brewery.
- b. SUOAF-AFSCME (L. Bigelow)

- i. SUOAF has a record number of grievances (nearly a dozen) pending at the moment, most of which have to do with SUOAF members who are working above and beyond their job classification and pay grade.
 - ii. The next Chapter meeting is April 13, at noon, on Teams.
 - iii. SUOAF is hosting a social event on May 12. Ted's Steamed Burger truck will be on campus for a SUOAF lunch.
 - iv. The SUOAF Annual Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 12
- c. SGA – No announcements.
- d. Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) to the Board of Regents (D. Blitz)
 - i. The administrative point of view on the WCSU issue was presented at last Thursday's BOR meeting. The recording is available at [youtube.com/connscu](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=connscu)
 - ii. D. Blitz and C. Sesanker, Vice Chair and Chair of the FAC, have now met several times with the new CSCU Provost. Conversations have been going well regarding collaboration and cooperation between the FAC and System Office. That is different from their role as ex-officio members of the BOR itself. Collaboration was rare and isolated during the Ojakian administration. With the new administration, there is a process of renewal.

Last Friday there was an announcement that Alice Pritchard, former Chief of Staff, is leaving CSCU for a position at the Department of Administrative Services. That is a significant event, as she was a proponent of the Students First initiative. There are some possibilities for renewing lines of cooperation. D. Blitz is cautiously optimistic.

- e. President of the Senate (F. Latour)
 - i. The report of the Task Force on the Proposed College of Health and Rehabilitative Sciences was supposed to be ready for presentation at today's meeting. That presentation has been pushed back to April 17.
 - ii. It is almost time to conduct Spring elections. F. Latour will be in touch with the Elections Committee. There are close to 100 seats to be filled. Some seats are very specific to a particular constituency. Individuals willing to serve can self-nominate or be nominated by someone else.
 - iii. Y. Kirby was asked to speak about the upcoming NECHE report. Y. Kirby said that the link to the standards was posted in the Chat; feedback can be submitted by clicking on the link. She is working on trimming responses to the standards to be able to devote more coverage to other items, including the strategic plan. Comments submitted are anonymous and welcome.
 - 1. M. Rahman asked what organizations accredit graduate programs. Y. Kirby: NECHE accredits the entire university, looking at fiscal, enrollments, staffing, etc. Counseling, Education, the MBA and other

graduate programs are accredited by other agencies. Y. Kirby invited M. Rahman to write to her with specific questions.

3. Committee Reports

- a. Curriculum Committee (N. Moore) – N. Moore presented the round 4 curriculum report circulated with the agenda. He also disseminated information about the Course Archival Policy. There is very long list of courses that have not been offered in years. Departments were encouraged to take a look at the list. There are policy changes pending to better align policy with NECHE expectations that we be more transparent in this area. A new scheduling label of “infrequently” is being added.

MOTION: To approve the curriculum changes included in the Curriculum Report presented. Motion passed.

- b. Updates on Student Mental Health (M. Russo) - M. Russo presented a report, *CCSU Student Mental Health: 2022-2023 Mid-Year Update*.

4. New Business

a. DEC Exceptions

- i. Music is seeking to have S. Jones (Mathematical Science) serve as a member of their DEC.

MOTION: To approve the requested DEC exception. Motion passed.

- ii. Student Wellness is seeking to have Cherie King (Counselor Education and Family Therapy) serve as a member of its DEC.

MOTION: To approve the requested DEC exception. Motion passed.

b. Faculty Senate Summer Issues (F. Latour)

- i. It happens very often that because our last meeting is in early May and the first meeting in the Fall is mid-September, the span between meetings is nearly four months. Also, there is often something that warrants the Senate’s attention during that four month period. The solution which has been used in the past is to call for a special meeting over the summer. The question is: is there a way to create a temporary shared governance structure that would meet regularly over the summer (that does not have the full authority of the Senate) that could discuss issues and determine whether a special meeting should be called?

1. The Parliamentarian stated he wished he had advance notice so he could research the issue. He knows the Senate has the authority to establish such a structure, but he doesn’t have a definitive answer at this time.
2. Question: would the Senate Steering Committee be the appropriate structure? Yes, but there might be a need for a meeting and someone on the Steering Committee might not be able to attend.

3. Sen. Jackson indicated that there is not necessarily a Steering Committee meeting during the 4 month hiatus of the Senate. This does leave a situation where the officers of the Senate have been established, but do not have the full support/benefit of a Steering Committee. He also noted that the Steering Committee should not be voting on matters that should come to the full Senate.
4. F. Latour asked, who is the Senate during the summer, since some senators' terms will have ended at the end of the Spring semester. Do the new senators take office at the end of the spring or beginning of the fall semester? It is not stated in the Senate Constitution or Bylaws.
5. C. Dimmick noted that the Senate President is continuous over the summer.
6. Sen. Best said this is an interesting question that deserves clarification.
7. Sen. Jackson said he mentioned several times that the point at which a Senate president takes office is obsolete since the terminology in the bylaws is of historical note going back to when the Senate president was elected in the Fall. It was changed to the Spring and reflects the practice that the incoming Senate President inherits the issues that may have taken place over the summer, so it makes sense that the new president be president over the Summer. He also noted that he is uncomfortable having the Steering Committee have too much power over the summer, but he feels better about that than giving the President the power to make an immediate decision by themselves.
8. Sen. Al-Masoud suggested that the Senate consider July 1st as the official start of the new president and new senator terms.
9. Sen. Best asked if there would be collaboration between the summer governance body and the full Senate? F. Latour said that the idea is that a full Senate meeting would only be called in an emergency, and it has only happened twice before in the history of the Senate. When that happened, there was confusion about whether a department should send their outgoing or incoming senator.
10. F. Latour said another possibility would be allow the summer structure to refer an issue to a vote of the full faculty, but he doesn't know if there is interest in pursuing that.
11. Sen. Jackson said the point about the Steering Committee is that it is also difficult for an incoming president since the bylaws state that the steering committee will not be created until the fall. He has opined in the past that the steering committee should be formed in the spring after the president is elected, so that the president has the benefit of the steering committee over the summer. He also stated that he bylaws

state that departments shall elect their senators in the Spring and that the Senate should hold departments accountable to that.

12. Sen. Best said it could be problematic if we establish precedence to have a representative body make decisions on behalf of the Senate.

13. Sen. Martin said that the Senate president is elected by the current Senate, even though some of those senators' terms will expire at the end of the Spring semester. She said she did not think it was a problem if a department sent an outgoing or incoming senator to a Summer meeting.

14. Sen. Smith seconded the chat comment by Sen. Bigelow that asked that this be referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

MOTION: to refer the proposal for the possible creation of a summer structure of the Senate to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Discussion:

Sen. Phillips asked what is the urgency? F. Latour said the point is to avoid a four month period where a meeting does not occur.

Motion passed.

c. Faculty Senate Budget (F. Latour)

It appears that the Senate has a budget. Sen. Jackson said he recalled a postage expense at one time. Sen. Best said he served for two terms and he could not recall having a budget. F. Latour said the question has arisen because a Senate committee has asked for funding to support an event. As far as he knows, no member of the Senate controls a Senate budget index. Sen. Jackson noted he believes the budget is through Academic Affairs. Provost Kostelis confirmed this. F. Latour invited comments from anyone regarding what the Senate's budget should/could be spent on.

5. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.