

Minutes – October 2, 2023 – 3:05 p.m.

Online through Webex

CCSU Faculty Senate Meeting

Present: Acharya, K.; Al-Masoud, N.; Arena, J.; Barr, B.; Best, F.; Bigelow, L.; Bray, A.; Cantor, J.; Cole, E.; Duquette, J.; Efremoff, T.; Elfant, A.; Emeagwali, G.; Evans Zalewski, S.; Farrish, K.; Foshay, J.; Foster, P.; French, J.; Garbovskiy, Y.; Ghodsi, R.; Hazan, S.; Hernandez, J.; Holt, R.; Horrax, S.; Huu, N.; Huang, Y.; Jarrett, J.; Kapper, M.; Karas, R.; Kean, K.; Kelly, D.; King, A.; Langevin, K.; Larsen, K.; Love, K.; Liu, R.; Martin, K.; Mealy, M.; Meng, P.; Mitchell, D.; Nicastro, M.; Ofray, J.; Orange, M.; Paolino, J.; Patterson, Y.; Prather, B.; Recoder-Nunez, L.; Rivera, T.; Rogders-Tonge, D.; Salama, T.; Santilli, M.; Savatarova, V.; Schenck, S.; Smith, R.; Spear, B.; Styrzula, S.; Tellier, A.; Urban, D.; Ward, K.; Werblow J.; Wood, R.; Zadi, S.; Zhao, S.; Zhou, B.; Zongxiang, M.

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

Parliamentarian: Dimmick, C.

President of the Senate: Latour, F.

Guests: Abadiano, H.; Aino, J.; Byrd Danso, K.; Claffey, G.; Cintonino, S.; Dahn, J.; Dreger, M.; Kaczmarek, M.; Kirby, Y.; Kirk, B.; McGrath, K.; Merenstein, B.; Meyer, K.; Mooreland, D.; Mulrooney, J.; Pincince, T.; Robinson, C.; Suski-Lenczewski, A.; Thompson, T.; Tully, J.; Voloria, C.; Votto, S.; Wethje, C.; Wright, C.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

2. Announcements

a. AAUP (T. Burkholder)

- i. A group from AAUP went to the Legislature on Tuesday to lobby for increased funding the next year. Good discussions were had with some members of the House and Senate. Thanks were given to those who participated.
- ii. Friday, October 6 from 3-6 p.m. there will be a Chapter Chat and Social in the Connecticut Room of Memorial Hall.

b. SUOAF-AFSCME (L. Bigelow)

- i. SUOAF held a teacher supply drive in conjunction with the Big Green Pizza Truck last week and collected two boxes of teaching supplies which were delivered to Smalley Elementary School in New Britain this morning.

c. SGA (H. Alkabasi)

- i. The SGAs set 3 goals for the Fall semester: 1) create a fundraising drive and process for students to raise funds to help students facing emergencies; 2)

assess and address commuter student needs and 3) raise awareness of the SGA and how it supports students.

- ii. SGA will be collaborating with CAN for the Spring Concert. The collaboration is underway, with SGA providing some funding.
 - iii. General election of Senators to represent first-year students, at large, and commuter senators is under way. Results will be announced after October 7.
- d. Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) to the Board of Regents (D. Blitz)
- i. D. Blitz gave a report on behalf of the FAC which included the following highlights:
 - 1. November 1 is the deadline for system presidents to submit their FY24 and FY25 deficit mitigation plans to the Chancellor's Office.
 - 2. A comprehensive student support program and academic program review is also being requested. All four universities have passed resolutions opposing a November 1 deadline for program review.
 - 3. The initial plan to use \$4M of System Office reserves for an outside study of the System was rejected at the September Board meeting. There is however a \$250K budget line item in the Governor's Budget for a System study.
 - 4. 185 Main Street, New Britain has been renamed the New Britain Center for Higher Education.
 - 5. Two system presidents have been appointed: a former community college president has been appointed as the interim president at Southern; the Dean of Graduate Studies at SCSU has been appointed the interim president at Western.
 - 6. There have been a number of personnel changes at the System office including the hire of Lloyd Blanchard as Interim Vice President for Administration and CFO and Jessica Paquette as Vice Chancellor for System Affairs and Chief of Staff. On October 11 it was announced that named Adam Joseph has been named Vice Chancellor for External Affairs.
 - 7. The System Office's consultation and communication with the constituent units is insufficient. Only on that basis can we have cooperation and where possible, coordination of activities. The practice of "command and control" seen in the Ojakian administration continues.
 - 8. The notion of "systemness" (aka centralization) lacks the understanding that we are a system of systems. We are not a subordinate of the System office. There is a distinction to be made between the two.

- e. President of the Faculty Senate (F. Latour)
 - i. An election that will be coming up soon. The Elections Committee has been reminded of the need to elect 6 new members of the Promotion & Tenure committee and a number of vacancies on other committees. If anyone is aware of vacant spots on committees, please send that information to Fred.
- 3. Elections Committee
 - a. Call for Nominations: Standing Committees of the Faculty
- 4. Committee Reports
 - a. Information Technology Committee – K. Meyer presented an update on Interfolio.
 - i. Instructions for using Interfolio can be found online at:
https://www.ccsu.edu/sites/default/files/2023-09/Candidate%20Electronic%20Portfolio%20Instructions%20Fall%202023_0.pdf
 - ii. Recommendation to candidates: use OneDrive folders and link folders to Interfolio. Sending an email with a link to a OneDrive folder is no longer acceptable.
 - iii. Candidates going up early need to be handled differently. The link to request a case be created is [here](#).
 - iv. The committee has received and forwarded to the Provost feedback on creating cases for professional assessment and promotion.
- 5. New Business
 - a. Update on University Strategic Plan 2030 and NECHE 5 Year Report (Y. Kirby)
 - i. Y. Kirby presented an update on the University Strategic Plan 2030 and the NECHE 5-year report.
 - 1. Attention was called to the new tab for the NECH 5-Year Interim Report on the NECHE website. The full report is now posted. Feedback is expected before the end of the semester. The 10-year report is due in 2028; work will begin on that no later than Spring 2026.
 - 2. There is also a 7/26/23 update to the Strategic Plan posted on the web. Metrics developed before the pandemic were reviewed and updated.
 - 3. The updated Action Plan now summarizes progress on the Strategies that support the five goals in the Strategic Plan.
 - b. Approval of Faculty Senate Steering Committee

- i. F. Latour nominated Matthew Orange from the Department of Physical Education and Human Performance within the School of Education and Professional Studies to be added to the Senate Steering Committee.

MOTION: (Latour/Foster) To add Matthew Orange to the Steering Committee. Motion passed.

c. Further Discussion of Academic Planning (F. Latour)

- i. F. Latour reviewed the timeline that was prepared by the University administration. There will be a discussion and vote on Academic Planning at the October 30 Senate meeting. The possibility of having this meeting in-person was raised. There will be an Open Forum on October 16, the same day as the next Senate meeting.

d. Faculty Handbook Update – The Faculty Handbook now exists in draft form. Throughout the semester, F. Latour will be presenting chapters of the Handbook. The Senate is asked to review the chapters and let him know if something needs to be changed, added or deleted. The following chapter were presented at this meeting

- i. Chapter 2: This chapter already existed. It is about the history of CCSU and of CSCU. The content of the chapter has been expanded to include a list of presidents of Central and a (short) history of CSCU. The purpose of the chapter is to provide new faculty with some information on the institution they just joined. Other ideas for expansion include content on the Faculty Senate and the various schools that have existed (i.e., School of Business, etc.) It was suggested to include information on Central's mission and vision statements.

6. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.