

Minutes – October 30, 2023 – 3:05 p.m.

Vance Academic Center, Room 105

CCSU Faculty Senate Meeting

Present: Acharya, K.; Adair, S.; Al-Masoud, N.; Arena, J.; Best, F.; Bigelow, L.; Blitz, D.; Boone, N.; Boscarino, N.; Bray, A.; Cantor, J.; Chen, Y.; Duquette, J.; Efremoff, T.; Evans Zalewski, S.; Farrish, K.; Foshay, J.; Foster, P.; French, J.; Gamache, J.; Garbovskiy, Y.; Ghodsi, R.; Hernandez, J.; Hernandez, R.; Horrax, S.; Jarrett, J.; Kapper, M.; Kelly, D.; Langevin, K.; Larsen, K.; Lee, C.; Lentino, J.; Liu, R.; Matzke, B.; Mealy, M.; Mei, Z.; Meng, P.; Mitchell, D.; Ning, W.; Ofray, J.; Orange, M.; Paolino, J.; Patterson, Y.; Prather, B.; Rahman, M.; Rivera, T.; Rosete, A.; Savatarova, V.; Smith, R.; Styrzcula, S.; Tellier, A.; Urban, D.; Ward, K.; Watson, S.; Werblow, J.; Wood, R.; Zadi, S.; Zhao, S.; Zhou, B.

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

Parliamentarian: Dimmick, C.

President of the Senate: Latour, F.

Guests: Blair, N.; Bucher L.; Claffey, G.; Latina, J.; Merenstein, B.; Mulrooney, J.; Pincince, T.; Robinson, C.; Tully, J.; Wethje, C.; Wright, C.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes of the October 16 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. Announcements

a. AAUP (T. Burkholder)

- i. More details about the system-wide budget mitigation efforts will be made available prior to the BOR meeting on November 15. There will likely be some type of activities planned to coincide with the Board meeting.

b. SUOAF-AFSCME (L. Bigelow)

- i. L. Bigelow has been appointed President of SUOAF Local 2836, the SUOAF union that covers the four state universities and System Office.

c. SGA (H. Alkabasi)

- i. Undergraduate Open house – SGA participated.
- ii. Welcomed new senators and assigned them to committees.
- iii. Currently planning winter retreat (Eboard).

d. Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) to the Board of Regents (D. Blitz)

- i. There was a Board meeting on October 10. A few of the items:

1. A question about the true copy of the June 26 resolution on remediation measures was discussed. The resolution was amended three ways at the Board meeting and they have not, three months later, produced a true copy of the resolution including the amendments.
2. System Office leadership continues to use the June 26 figures for the deficits/surpluses at the various institutions. Their figures indicate a surplus for CCSU for '24, a deficit for '25 and a larger deficit for '26. Dr. Toro will clarify those are now outdated. CCSU is now projecting a surplus in '25. They are continuing to use these numbers to continue to spread the message of doom and gloom. Both Cheng and Blanchard stated they would not update the numbers and that they will only use the numbers they had at the date the FY24 budget was approved.
3. Public comments included two very good ones. An adult student from Manchester Community College pointed out the serious problems they have there. The President of the 4Cs was slated last, and he blasted the Board.
4. If we don't distinguish between the legislative committees and the governor and the governor and OPM, there is little room for strategy to improve our situation.
5. There are two new members the Board: Ted Yang, engineer from MIT and entrepreneur and also Marty Guay, Vice President of Business Development at Stanley Black & Decker. Both are being added to the Finance Committee to join regents Balducci, Stewart, and Santiago.
6. There is a November 15 Board meeting. It is a special meeting, and therefore, there will be no public comments. Attendance (in red shirts) was suggested.

e. President of the Faculty Senate (F. Latour)

- i. President Latour acknowledged technical difficulties with the video screen in the room and expressed thanks to Sen. Tellier for apprising him of the problem prior to the meeting.
- ii. The new University website includes a new website for the Faculty Senate. Documents are being migrated to the new site. F. Latour will be contacting deans to confirm that department bylaws have been approved by the respective dean prior to posting them.
- iii. K. Bantley will attend the November 27th meeting of the Senate to provide an update on the new College.

3. Elections

- a. The Elections Committee is currently running the Fall election for standing committees of the Faculty. Different people have different ballots; this is determined by what committees can be elected by what constituency. The ballot closes at 6 p.m. this Thursday, November 2.

4. New Business

- a. A summary of the Academic Planning Process (APP) proposals from each of the four schools, as presented with the agenda, were discussed. President Toro and Provost Kostelis narrated the presentation circulated with the agenda (slightly revised).
 - i. Proposed Resolution endorsing the CCSU Presentation that will be made to the Board at the November 15, 2023 meeting.
 - 1. MOTION: To pass the proposed resolution, as presented during the meeting. (Latour/Best) Motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. Any feedback on the presentation should be sent to F. Latour by 9 a.m. tomorrow.
- b. Follow-up on the *ad hoc* committee to create a policy on department mergers and splits
 - i. N. Al-Masoud, E. Clay, P. Foster, X. Hou, D. Sweeney, J. Werblow, a representative of AAUP and a member of the School of Business to be appointed by F. Latour, will constitute the *ad hoc* committee.
 - 1. MOTION: To approve the *ad hoc* committee membership.
 - a. MOTION: To amend the proposed membership to include a representative of the SOB. Motion passed.
 - 2. MOTION: (1) to approve the constitution of the committee, (2) to request that the committee have something to report to the Senate by the end of the semester, and (3) to request that the administration postpone additional mergers and splits until there is a policy in place.
 - a. MOTION: to divide the question, postponing item 3 to the next meeting so that it can be brought to the departments. Motion failed.
 - b. MOTION: to pass the original motion. Motion approved. (41:1)
- c. Faculty Handbook Update
 - i. Chapter 5: Policies. This is the heart of the Faculty Handbook. It is supposed to provide a reference to the policies that affect the operation of the university. In most cases, it can link to policies published elsewhere on the university's website. Others are more difficult to simply provide a link and/or the link could immediately be out of date.

5. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.