

Minutes – November 13, 2023 – 3:05 p.m.

CCSU Faculty Senate Meeting

Present: Acharya, K.; Al-Masoud, N.; Arena, J.; Bigelow, L.; Blitz, D.; Boone, N.; Boscarino, N.; Bray, A.; Cantor, J.; Chen, Y.; Cole, E.; Decorti Tong, D. Duquette, J.; Elfant, A.; Emeagwali, G.; Evans Zalewski, S.; Farrish, K.; Foshay, J.; Foster, P.; French, J.; Gamache, J.; Garbovskiy, Y.; Hazan, S.; Hernandez, J.; Hernandez, R.; Horrax, S.; Jarrett, J.; Kapper, M.; Kean, K.; Kirby, Y.; Langevin, K.; Larsen, K.; Lee, C.; Liu, R.; Martin, K.; Matzke, B.; Mealy, M.; Mei, Z.; Meng, P.; Mitchell, D.; Nicastro, M.; Ning, W.; Ofray, J.; Orange, M.; Paolino, J.; Recoder-Nunez, L.; Rivera, T.; Salama, T.; Savatarova, V.; Schenck, S.; Smith, R.; Spear, B.; Sylvester, C.; Tellier, A.; Watson, S.; Werblow, J.; Wood, R.; Zabihimayvan, M.; Zhao, S.; Zhou, B.

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

Parliamentarian: Dimmick, C.

President of the Senate: Latour, F.

Guests: Abadiano, H.; Adeniyi, T.; Bonfiglio, T.; Brindisi, D.; Bucher L.; Byrd Danso, K.; Claffey, G.; Cugno, C.; Gawlak, M.; Jones, S.; Kasamba, E.; Kirby, Y.; Kirk, B.; Lewis, M.; Medina, J.; Moore, N.; Mulrooney, J.; Pincince, T.; Robinson, C.; Sandvliet, G.; Thompson, T.; Tully, J.; Veloria, C.; Wethje, C.; Wright, C.

Dionna; Favor; Miriam; Myles W

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes of the October 30 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. Announcements

- a. AAUP (T. Burkholder)
 - i. The BOR has a special meeting this Wednesday to hear Academic Planning Process presentations. They will also present/discuss the budget mitigation plans. AAUP is asking people to show up for that meeting in their red shirts. Arrive at 9 a.m. at 61 Woodland Street.
 - ii. On Friday in the Connecticut Room there will be a post-mortem on the APP/budget mitigation plan. We will be discussing the next steps. The presentations are likely to lead to program cancellations (not at CCSU), suspensions, etc.
- b. SUOAF-AFSCME (L. Bigelow)
 - i. No announcements
- c. SGA (H. Alkabasi)

- i. Faculty were encouraged to announce to their students that the application portal for AY24-25 CCSU Foundation Scholarships is now open and will close December 15.
 - ii. FAFSA will be opening in December, later than usual. It is now shorter and will be available in an additional 11 languages.
 - iii. Spring Registration has begun. Academic Affairs Committee is hosting a forum to hear about concerns about concerns about concerns about the registration process. The forum has been tentatively scheduled for November 28 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. It is open to any/all students.
- d. Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) to the Board of Regents (D. Blitz)
 - i. There is a BOR meeting on Wednesday. It will be good for people to show up in red shirts. There are no public comments at this meeting because it is a special meeting. Opening comments will be presented by President Cheng, followed by presentations by the System Office CFO Lloyd Blanchard and the college/university presidents and their CFOs.

The campus presentations will be in the order of largest deficit first. It has already been mentioned that a tuition increase is being considered, as well as program cancellations and a decrease in the faculty and staff, through natural attrition or retirement incentives, and possibly layoffs (which would require a declaration of fiscal exigency). The Board is exploring the possibility of declaring fiscal exigency at a single institution.

 - ii. Attention was called to a recent Connecticut Mirror article on the deficit reduction plan in which Regent Balducci was indirectly quoted.
 - iii. There is a second Board of Regents meeting this week on Friday, November 17, from 1-2 p.m. online. It is a joint meeting with the FAC.
 - iv. Data from Open Payroll shows that the BOR shifted positions from campuses to the BOR, bringing the 2023 number to 508. In the area of Management & Confidential positions, the System Office went from 8 in 2017 to 34 in 2023, a nearly 500% increase. In the CT State Community College System Office (located at the former UTBSD building), numbers went from 1 in 2019 to 19 in 2020, 27 in 2021, 33 in 2022, and 38 in 2023. These are Management & Confidential positions at the level of Dean and above.
 - v. At one point under the Ojakian administration, three regional community college president positions were created. The positions were later eliminated, but the three incumbents are still on payroll for a total of \$761K in 2023. The total spent on terminated individuals, some of whom never functioned or held the positions for which they were hired, totaled \$3,274,000 in 2023.
- e. President of the Faculty Senate (F. Latour)

- i. C. Wright was asked to speak about an upcoming event. Dr. Wright noted that there will be a Unity Peace Walk on Wednesday, November 15 at 5:15 p.m. It will begin in front of Welte Hall. The purpose of the walk and candlelight vigil will be to stand in support of peace and underscore Central being a safe learning environment where all can learn together. Faculty were invited to attend. Follow-up questions were asked and answered.

3. Committee Reports

- a. Curriculum Committee Report – N. Moore presented the Curriculum Report circulated with the agenda.
 - i. Proposed Changes to Gen Ed: CCSU's Gen Ed is the largest in the state. Our requirement is not balanced across Behavioral & Social Sciences, Science (including Math), and Arts & Humanities, as recommended by NECHE. We have ten separate "buckets" in our Gen Ed requirements. Three proposals which merge some of the buckets were presented. All make Gen Ed a little bit smaller. Existing programs that have exemptions from our Gen Ed would not be grandfathered.

Three proposals to reduce the Gen Ed footprint were presented and discussed. Ned noted the proposals will be brought to the Gen Ed subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee. Anything net positive will go to the full Curriculum Committee and the Senate, where they could be ranked. Feedback was invited. Ned will visit any department or chairs meeting he is invited to attend.

In closing, Ned noted that this report satisfied the notice requirement in the Curriculum Committee's Bylaws. He also noted that any group on campus can submit a proposed change to the Curriculum Committee.

- ii. TAP Agreement: Everyone was encouraged to review section 4.0 of the Curriculum Committee Report. The System Office has given the campuses very little time to review and approve or reject a proposal that does not fully align with our curriculum. Ned advocated for rejection. He then showed a report from a system-wide faculty committee that Ned sat on. In the committee he indicated what was being proposed does not work, but it was pushed forward anyway. Ned summarized the proposal saying it is overwhelming, with a number of tentacles and how to describe it to the Senate succinctly escapes him. There are some areas, like admission policies, which seem beyond the scope of the Curriculum Committee.

F. Latour suggested to Ned that he is asking the Senate to create a briefly serving ad hoc committee to assist Ned in drafting a CCSU response to the proposal. Volunteers were sought but nominations were not taken in order to give people time to review the proposal. Fred will meet with Ned in the coming days to craft a plan for moving this forward and identify people who might have something to contribute. FAC Rep. Blitz noted this is similar to what was done

at the community colleges. He underscored that CCSU has full autonomy over its admissions policy, governance structure, and curriculum. He noted that if the System Office is going to be determining the changes, it is a violation of the integrity and autonomy of our institution.

MOTION: To approve the Curriculum Committee report. Motion passed.

4. New Business

- a. Resolution from Eastern Connecticut State University – F. Latour introduced and discussed two proposed motions: endorsing a resolution passed at ECSU concerning its ongoing search for their next president and a CCSU resolution on presidential searches.
 - i. MOTION: To endorse the ECSU Resolution. (Latour/Foster) Motion passed.
 - ii. MOTION: To pass a Resolution on Presidential Searches. (Latour/Foster) Motion passed.
- b. First-Year Experience – Sen. R. Smith and B. Kirk, Coordinator of First Year Programs, narrated the presentation on CCSU's First-Year Experience program circulated with the agenda.
 - i. Action items from the prior Task Force's report were reviewed.
 - ii. Subcommittee outcomes and recommendations were reviewed.
- c. Update: ad hoc committee to create a policy on departmental mergers and splits

F. Latour noted that there have been some additions to the Ad Hoc Committee on Departmental Mergers and Splits: Wujun Wang and Sean Gallagher from Art and Design (which was impacted by a recent merger), and Michael Gendron have been added.
- d. Faculty Handbook Update
 - i. F. Latour deferred this item to the next meeting.

5. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.