

Minutes – February 26, 2024 – 3:05 p.m.

Online through WebEx

CCSU Faculty Senate Meeting

Present: Acharya, K.; Adair, S.; Al-Masoud, N.; Arena, J.; Austin, J.; Bantley, K.; Barata, C.; Barr, B.; Best, F.; Boone, N.; Boscarino, N.; Bray, A.; Cantor, J.; Clay, E.; Cohen, S.; Corbera-Lopez, S.; Decorti-Tonge, A.; Dobbs-McAuliffe, B.; Duquette, J.; Efremoff, T.; Elfant, A.; Emeagwali, G.; Evans Zalewski, S.; Farrish, K.; Foshay, J.; Foster, P.; Gamache, J.; Garbovskiy, Y.; Hazan, S.; Hernandez, J.; Hernandez, R.; Jacobs, C.; Jarrett, J.; Kapper, M.; Kean, K.; Kelly, D.; King, A.; Kulesa, M.; Langevin, K.; Lee, C.; Liu, R.; Mahjoob, M.; Martin, K.; Matzke, B.; Mealy, M.; Meng, P.; Mulcahy, C.; Ning, W.; Ofray, J.; Orange, M.; Paolina, J.; Phillips, E.; Prather, B.; Rahman, M.; Recoder-Nunez, L.; Rein, T.; Rivera, T.; Rutherford, J.; Savatorova, V.; Schenck, S.; Smith, R.; Spear, B.; Styrzula, S.; Tellier, A.; Urban, D.; Ward, K.; Watson, S.; Werblow, J.; Zabihimayvan, M.; Zhao, S.; Zhou, B.

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

Parliamentarian: Dimmick, C.

President of the Senate: Latour, F.

Guests: Austad, C.; Blitz, D.; Bucher, L.; Byrd Danso, K.; Cintorino, S.; Claffey, G.; DeCapua, A.; Kirby, Y.; Kasamba, E.; Larsen, K.; Latina, J.; McGrath, K.; Merenstein, B.; Moore, N.; Mulrooney, J.; Pincince, T.; Robinson, C.; Russo, M.; Taylor, M.; Tucker, P.; Tully, J.; Voloria, C.; Votto, S.; Wethje, C.; Wilkie, D.; Wu, S.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes of February 12, 2024 were accepted after one correction was made.

2. Announcements

- a. AAUP (T. Burkholder)
 - i. AAUP is in the final stages of signing off on a SEBAC agreement with the Governor's Office regarding a FY25 wage increase. An announcement may be made later in the week.
 - ii. Retirement Bonus negotiations are continuing. The BOR is moving slowly. More updates to come.
 - iii. There is a Higher Education subcommittee meeting tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. in Room 1C of the Legislative Office Building. Specific people have been asked to testify. Everyone is welcome; please wear red T-shirts.
 - iv. A schedule of AFT CT Regional Legislative Meetings were announced and people were encouraged to attend a meeting in their area to talk about what is happening in higher education.
 - v. There is a survey from the Contract Negotiations committee circulating now to get your input on what is and isn't working with the contract. People were encouraged to submit the survey.

1. K. Bantley called attention to the survey item about clinical faculty.
 2. F. Latour noted that the next contract covers working conditions for the next 4 years, but doesn't include retirement and medical care. T. Burkholder noted that if something isn't raised by either side, it doesn't get changed, but potentially anything in the contract could be raised.
 3. M. Jackson noted that the travel allocation hasn't increased since he arrived at Central. T. Burkholder noted that is already on AAUP's list of items to tackle.
 4. Sen. Jarrett asked whether AAUP notified the BOR of their intention to reopen salary negotiations. T. Burkholder noted that took place last August,
- vi. Eastern reports that there is proposal from the System Office regarding automated billing for textbooks. Students will be charged \$18.75 per credit every semester for renting their books for the semester. There will be a way for students to opt put. Eastern students have circulated a petition regarding it. This is a serious concern. This is being advertised as an equity initiative, but ignores open educational resources.
1. Sen. Barr called on everyone to opposed this initiative based on the financial burden it put on students.
- b. SUOAF-AFSCME (J. Gamache)
- i. No announcements.
- c. SGA (H. Alkabasi)
- i. Students were thanked for the testimony they gave to the Appropriations Committee last week.
 - ii. SGA is currently in the declaration period of elections. Faculty were asked to encourage students to run for office.
 - iii. SGA is sponsoring Black History Month events; copies of the posters for the events were shared.
- d. FAC (M. Jackson)
- i. M. Jackson called attention to the fact that the 2023 FAC Report to the Legislative Committees related to Higher Education and Governor has been submitted.
 - ii. FAC has been working on and is very interested in the automatic textbook billing initiative. This is an initiative that has been in place for a while. This type of billing was authorized during the Obama administration, so it has been in existence for 9 years. UConn implemented this in Spring 2023. The FAC and Union just got this last week, quite late considering it has been in existence since May 2023. The Biden administration is contemplating changes; those changes would take place next year. This item is on the agenda for the next FAC meeting. The University of Central Florida is doing a workshop on OERs this

week and on Wednesday there is a seminar on opting in (as opposed to opting out, as is the case with the CSCU proposal.)

- iii. The Chairs of FAC will be meeting with NCHEMS (a consulting firm) which has been hired by OPM to look at CSCU. Mark posted in the chat the questions that NCHEMS has developed to guide the discussion.

- 1. S. Adair asked about the cost of the NCHEMS survey. M. Jackson did not have that answer.
 - 2. President Toro clarified that OPM hired this consultant and included a \$250K item in the State budget for this. She said that there is another company (Social Venture Partners) was hired by the System, but it is not charging the System for their services.

- e. Senate President (F. Latour)

- i. There is an Open Forum this week, February 28 at 3 p.m. in Torp Theatre.
 - ii. We are at the point in the semester where we have consecutive meetings. There will be another meeting next week.
 - iii. The FAC's report to the legislature has already been posted to today's agenda.
 - iv. There will be an Open Forum for the first candidate for the AVP for Community Engagement on Wednesday in the Community Room of Memorial Hall.
 - v. A special link will be sent for next week's Senate meeting.

3. Committee Reports

- a. Ned More gave the Curriculum Committee Report.

MOTION: To add the Writing in the Disciplines requirement to our Gen Ed requirement, as stated in The Proposal section of the Curriculum Committee report. Motion passed.

MOTION: To fill the blank with Model 2. Motion passed.

MOTION: To replace the existing Gen Ed category set-up with Model 2. Motion passed by more than 50%.

MOTION: To approve the proposal to rename CCSU 103 to Thriving in College, to modify the description of SK4 to align with this change, and to increase the credit limit to ensure that students who take many dual enrollment courses will be able to take a first year experience course. Motion approved.

- 4. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.