

**Minutes – March 4, 2024 – 3:05 p.m.**

**Online through WebEx**

**CCSU Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Present:** Acharya, K.; Adair, S.; Al-Masoud, N.; Arena, J.; Bantley, K.; Best, F.; Bigelow, L.; Boone, N.; Boscarino, N.; Bray, A.; Cantor, J.; Chen, E.Y.; Clark, B.; Cohen, S.; Corbera Lopez, S.; DeCapua, A.; 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.; Horrax, S.; Jacobs, C.; Jarrett, J.; Kapper, M.; Kean, K.; King, A.; Langevin, K.; Lee, C.; Liu, R.; Mahjoob, M.; Martin, K.; Matzke, B.; Mealy, M.; Meng, P.; Ning, W.; Ofray, J.; Orange, M.; Paolino, J.; Patterson, Y.; Prather, B.; Rahman, M.; Recoder-Nunez, L.; Rivera, T.; Santilli, M.; Savatorova, V.; Schenck, S.; Smith, R.; Spear, B.; Styrzcula, S.; Sylvester, C.; Tellier, A.; Tonge, D.; Urban, D.; Watson, S.; Zhao, S.; Zhou, B.

**Ex-Officio:** Alkabasi, H.; Burkholder, T.; Frank, L.; 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.; Dorsey, D.; Larkin, J.; Larsen, K.; Latina, J.; Lewis, M.; McGrath, K.; Merenstein, B.; Mulrooney, J.; Pincince, T.; Robinson, C.; Taylor, M.; Thompson, T.; Tully, J.; Veloria, C.; Votto, S.; Wethje, C.; Wilkie, D.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes of February 26 were not ready. They will be presented at the April 1 meeting.

2. Announcements

- a. AAUP (T. Burkholder)
  - i. There is a contract survey underway. AAUP members were encouraged to fill it out and encourage others to do so. The more information obtained, the better informed the negotiations committee will be. The committee plans to analyze it next week.
  - ii. SEBAC Update: from AAUP's perspective, the wage reopener is underway for FY25. The problem is nothing official has been announced. L. Williams and the attorney are working on a tentative agreement in line with other SEBAC unions. It will require a ratification vote.
  - iii. The union is unable to come to an agreement with the BOR regarding the retirement incentive. The last offer received by the Council was rejected (over 95% opposed). The vast majority of the Council also voted in favor of not providing a counter to the last offer.
    - 1. By not signing the agreement, retiring AAUP members are not eligible for the incentive. The decision was not made lightly. The BOR was not willing to make any guarantees about refilling positions. AAUP was

seeking a guaranteed refill for department's losing more than 25% of their members.

2. Neither AAUP nor the Board surveyed AAUP members to determine how many people would have retired.
  3. C. Austad asked if there an appeal process to AAUP national? T. Burkholder said there is not.
  4. D. Blitz shared his views on this matter, T. Burkholder responded making a distinction between the BOR and System Office, and D. Blitz rebutted his response.
- iv. On Wednesday there will be a Politics and Pizza event at 1:30 in the Carlton-Sprague Room. Enjoy lunch and talk with some of the local politicians. Students are also invited.
  - v. The AFT is holding regional legislative meetings starting on Saturday (for three consecutive Saturdays). This week's meetings are in New Haven and Niantic. E. Hartford and Coventry next and Middletown and Southington are scheduled for the third event. Please consider attending. Most members of AFT-Connecticut are K-12 teachers and it is good to have higher education people in attendance as well.
- b. SUOAF-AFSCME (L. Bigelow)
    - i. SUOAF will be hosting an in-person Chapter Meeting with a St. Patrick's Day menu on Tuesday, March 12 at noon. Members were reminded to RSVP.
    - ii. SUOAF has signed a tentative agreement on the wage reopener and will put it forward for ratification at the appropriate time.
  - c. SGA (H. Alkabasi)
    - i. SGA has a swearing-in ceremony for an interim Vice President, following the resignation of the elected Vice President.
  - d. FAC (M. Jackson)
    - i. Nothing to add since the FAC has not met since the last meeting.
    - ii. The one item on the agenda for the next meeting is the textbook issue being addressed in this meeting today.
  - e. Senate President (F. Latour)
    - i. The Free Speech Task Force is holding a workshop at 12:15 p.m. tomorrow in the Connecticut Room of Memorial Hall. People were encouraged to attend.
      1. R. Smith clarified that the event is open to faculty and staff; a student event may be organized for another time.
    - ii. Chancellor Cheng has made a request to attend a Senate meeting later in the semester.
    - iii. Next week is Spring Break. Good wishes were extended to all, most especially students, who are likely to be taking exams and finishing special projects this week.
    - iv. F. Best announced a program being co-sponsored by the Philosophy Department and African-American Studies Program. The event is happening later in the week.

- v. K. Bantley asked to make an update on the Health Education Community Clinic. She gave an update on what the clinic has been involved in since opening in January 2024. Questions can be directed to K. Bantley or L. McMahon.

### 3. Call for Nominations

A call for nominations was made for Senate officer positions (President, Vice President and Secretary) for a two-year term (AY24-25 and AY25-26). The election, conducted by the Senate Elections Committee, will be held on April 1. There is a two-term limit for the office of President and F. Latour has served two terms. Those interested in nominating themselves should send their name and name of the office they wish to run for to F. Latour. All nominees must be members of the Faculty Senate (not alternates). If you are nominating someone else, please confirm in the nomination email that you have checked with them and they agree to be nominated. All nominees should also send a nomination statement to F. Latour. Names and nomination statements will be posted on the Senate website. F. Latour offered to meet with anyone interested in running for President to discuss what is involved. The nomination deadline is the Friday before the Monday on which the election is held. Because March 29 is a holiday, the deadline will be Thursday, March 28 at 5 p.m. Nominations may also be taken from the floor at the April 1 meeting.

- a. Fred called for nominations. K. Bantley expressed interest in running for President.

### 4. New Business

- a. Update on the proposed textbook/bookstore policy (J. Mulrooney)

The Board of Regents proposed textbook fee was briefly discussed at the last Senate meeting. At the more recent Open Forum, J. Mulrooney said there was more to be learned. Provost Kostelis provided an update. Lisa Bucher indicated that there is a campus-based committee that is now evaluating the proposal and that more details are now being worked out. Anyone with questions or concerns can send them to Provost Kostelis or Dr. Jim Mulrooney, who is representing Academic Affairs on the committee. A suggest to add AAUP faculty to the committee was made. President Toro expressed a willingness to put that recommendation forward to the System Office.

- b. Central Reservation Office Information (S. Hazan) S. Hazan and J. Larkin walked everyone through the recently announced new process on how to use the Virtual EMS to book space on campus. Questions about particular instances were answered.

### 5. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.