

**Minutes – April 1, 2024 – 3:05 p.m.**

**Online through WebEx**

**CCSU Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Present:** Acharya, K.; Adair, S.; Al-Masoud, N.; Alkabasi, Arena, J.; Bantley, K.; Bigelow, L.; Boncoddio, R.; Boone, N.; Boscarino, N.; Bray, A.; Cantor, J.; Cohen, S.; Conte, C.; DeCapua, A.; Criscola, J.; Duquette, J.; Efremoff, T.; Emeagwali, G.; Evans Zalewski, S.; Farrish, K.; Foster, P.; Gamache, J.; Garbovskiy, Y.; Hazan, S.; Hernandez, J.; Jacobs, C.; Jacobson, L.; Jarrett, J.; Kaczmarek, M. Kapper, M.; Kara-Soteriou, J.; Kean, K.; Kelly, D.; King, A.; Kulesza, M.; Langevin, K.; Lee, C.; Liu, R.; Mahjoob, M.; Martin, K.; Matzke, B.; Mealy, M.; Nicastro, M.; Ning, W.; Orange, M.; Paolino, J.; Prather, B.; Recoder-Nunez, L.; Rivera, T.; Rutherford, J.; Santilli, M.; Savatorova, V.; Schenck, S.; Schnobrich-Davis, J.; Smith, R.; Spear, B.; Styrzula, S.; Sylvester, C.; Tellier, A.; Urban, D.; Ward, K.; Watson, S.; Werblow, J.; Wood, R.; Zhao, S.; Zhou, B.; Zongxian, M.

**Ex-Officio:** Alkabasi, H.; Burkholder, T.; Frank, L.; Jackson, M.; Minkler, S.; Wolff, R.; Talty, P.

**Parliamentarian:** Dimmick, C.

**President of the Senate:** Latour, F.

**Guests:** Abadiano, H.; Blitz, D.; Bucher, L.; Byrd Danso, K.; Caruso, K.; Cintorino, S.; Claffey, G.; Dahn, J.; Destefani, J.; Givens, G.; Kirk, B.; Larsen, K.; McGrath, K.; Merenstein, B.; Mulrooney, J.; Moore, N.; Pincince, T.; Robinson, C.; Taylor, M.; Thompson, T.; Tucker, P.; Tully, J.; Vectoria, C.; Votto, S.; Wethje, C.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes of February 26 were approved as submitted. The minutes of March 4 were approved as amended.

2. Announcements

- a. AAUP (T. Burkholder)
  - i. About 50% of those eligible to vote on the wage reopener voted and 99.8% of voters voted in favor of the Tentative Agreement on FY25 salary increase. The next step is legislative approval.
  - ii. The legislature will be releasing its budget within a week or so. That will be their statement on what the State should spend next year. AAUP will be at the legislature the week of April 15 to encourage approval of the Appropriations bill, which is supposed to include an increase for CSCU. More information will follow.
  - iii. There will be an in-person chapter meeting soon. It is being scheduled now. Liaisons are getting back to Tom now about departmental availability. He will try his best to select a time convenient to most. There will not be an option to attend online.
  - iv. A statement was from the President and Secretary of CSU AAUP was read. ([link to the letter.](#))
- b. SUOAF-AFSCME (L. Bigelow)

- i. SUOAF overwhelmingly approved the Tentative Agreement concerning a FY25 wage increase. 234 of Central's 251 SUOAF members voted. 233 (93%) voted in favor. At the local level, 817 of 929 members voted and 99.4% of voters voted in favor of the TA.
  - ii. At Central, 3 members out of the 12 SUOAF members eligible for the Retirement Incentive took the incentive.
- c. SGA (H. Alkabasi)
  - i. Seasonal greetings were extended to everyone.
  - ii. SGA e-board elections begin at 10 a.m. tomorrow for 48 hours. General elections are open now; they are open until Monday.
- d. FAC (M. Jackson)
  - i. BOR and the FAC have been busy in last few weeks.
  - ii. NCHEMS, the consulting firm hired by OPM, is planning on meeting with different stakeholders starting this week. Their report will be out in October. They previously did a report on Western. An RFP was sent out last year and cancelled in the fall, and they were hired anyway. FAC has been talking with system office to get more diversity in the stakeholders. Reported goals:
    - Evaluation of Connecticut State Colleges and Universities ("CSCU's") current organizational structure, as well as the organizational structure of its component institutions and their physical footprints to meet projected enrollment demand.
    - Comparisons between CSCU and its peers, with an eye towards possible improvements to financial sustainability for the CSCU System Office (hereinafter referred to as "the System Office"), the CSCU four-year universities, CT State, and Charter Oak College.
    - Recommendations of solutions to scale and restructure the CSCU to meet projected enrollment demand while considering improved student outcomes and workforce needs by the state.
    - Short and long-term financial and operational plans that will support CSCU's long-term sustainability.
  - iii. The BOR has created a new subcommittee on IT following its common practice: no faculty or FAC rep. The FAC is making a request to add an ex officio member to that body. The FAC is making other recommendations, including all contracts with a value of \$1M or more require approval by the BOR (currently the limit is \$5M) and that a report of all contracts should be provided semiannually at BOR meeting and that all new management increases be approved by the BOR.
  - iv. The Equitable Access textbook initiative saw some interesting events:
    - 1. March 13 Finance Subcommittee – a lot of questions were raised, particularly by new BOR members; it was apparent that they had not considered the impact of OERs or the fact that there was a movement toward OERs in the past years. Once it got to the full BOR meeting on March 24, there was quite a bit of discussion about it. Many people in the System Office did not seem aware of the Biden administration's concerns about the Opt Out process. The BOR voted the initiative

down; it was not unanimous, but close to that. A special meeting is scheduled for April 9 at 9 a.m. They made it clear they are not going to be considering the current proposal. President Toro sent a message to CCSU last week saying this will not be implemented at Central next year.

- v. Recognition was given to D. Blitz and his efforts the past two years, which by all accounts appear to have been effective.
- e. Senate President (F. Latour)
  - i. There are 5 weeks left in the semester. There are three senate meetings left: April 1, April 15 and April 29. If you have something that you would like to bring to the Senate this year, time is running out. Please contact the Steering Committee as soon as possible because the agendas for upcoming meeting will be packed with committee reports.
  - ii. Committee elections for committees elected by the Senate and the faculty as a whole are coming up. A lot of the committee elections are done by School and we will have a new school in the fall, so we need to make sure the right number of people get elected to represent the right schools.

### 3. Elections

- a. Election of President – S. Schenck announced two nominees on the ballot – Stephen Adair and Kathy Bantley – and made a call for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a Motion was made to close nominations. **Motion** passed.
  - i. The candidates were invited to make statements.
    - 1. S. Adair presented his statement of candidacy. He made a note of being in favor of returning to in-person Senate meetings.
    - 2. K. Bantley presented her statement of candidacy. She also made a point to agree with S. Adair on returning to in-person Senate meetings.
- b. Election of Vice President - S. Schenck announced one nominee is on the ballot – Robbin Smith – and made a call for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a **Motion** was made to close nominations. Motion passed.
- c. Election of Secretary - - S. Schenck announced no nominees on the ballot and made a call for nominations from the floor. R. Smith nominated L. Bigelow, who accepted the nomination. A **Motion** was made to close nominations. Motion passed.

The electronic survey that was to have been used for the vote failed, derailing the plan to do an electronic election during the Senate meeting.

**MOTION:** To postpone the vote for 24 hours, allowing the survey to be deployed when the system is restored. Voting will be open until 7 p.m. tomorrow, April 2, 2024. Motion passed.

### 4. Committee Reports

- a. Curriculum Committee (N. Moore)

N. Moore presented the Curriculum Committee Report circulated with the agenda.

The report was accepted.

b. Academic Standards Committee (R. Boncoddò)

R. Boncoddò presented the Academic Standards Committee Report circulated with the agenda. She highlighted 3 proposals for action.

i. Graduation Honors for Baccalaureate Degree

MOTION: Change the residency requirement for Graduation Honors for the Baccalaureate Degree from 60 to 30. (It impacts about 100 students and would go into effect in Fall 2024.)

1. Sen. Smith encouraged the committee to ensure the policy is equitable for both transfer students as well as students who begin their program of study at Central.

MOTION: to amend the proposal to change the 30 credits to 45 credits.

SUBSIDIARY MOTION: to refer this back to the committee. Motion passed.

ii. Dean's List & President's List

MOTION: To reduce the credit hour requirement for full- and part-time students to be eligible for Dean's List and President's List from 12 to 9. Motion passed.

iii. Second Undergraduate Major and Second Degree Policy

MOTION: To clarify policy by removing Major (because it is not an awardable credential) and replacing it with "a second degree in a different major area of study." Motion passed.

iv. Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing

MOTION: To approve the application and admission requirements for the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Discussion was ended by a MOTION to call the question. Motion passed.

The original motion passed.

c. Committee on Academic Advising (G. Givens)

i. Resolution on Priority Registration

MOTION: To pass the Resolution on Priority Registration submitted with the agenda. Motion passed.

ii. Resolution on Registration PINS

MOTION: To pass the Resolution on Registration PINS submitted with the agenda. Motion passed.

d. Committee on Committees (A. Bray)

- i. A. Bray presented the report circulated with the agenda, including its recommendations to affected committees of the changes that need to be made to their bylaws. The proposal was received by the Senate.

5. Unfinished Business

- a. Textbook Policy – a request was made to postpone this to the next meeting. By then, the BOR's upcoming emergency meeting may provide further details.

6. New Business

- a. Retirement Bonus, revisited – D. Blitz request this item be deferred to the next meeting due to the hour and declining attendance.

7. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.