

**Minutes – April 15, 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.; Bray, A.; Cantor, J.; Chen, E.Y.; Clark, B.; Cohen, S.; DeCapua, A.; Duquette, J.; Efremoff, T.; Elfant, A.; Emeagwali, G.; Farrish, K.; Foshay, J.; Gamache, J.; Garbovskiy, Y.; 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.; Nicastro, M.; Ning, W.; Ofray, J.; Orange, M.; Paolino, J.; Patterson, Y.; Phillips, E.; Prather, B.; Recoder-Nunez, L.; Rivera, T.; Rutherford, J.; Santilli, M.; Savatorova, V.; Schenck, S.; Smith, R.; Spear, B.; Styrzczula, S.; Sylvester, C.; Tellier, A.; Urban, D.; Ward, K.; Watson, S.; Wood, R.; Zabihimayvan, M.; Zhao, S.; Zhou, B.; Zongxian, M.

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

**Parliamentarian:** Dimmick, C.

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

**Guests:** Abadiano, H.; Austad, C.; Blitz, D.; Bucher, L.; Byrd Danso, K.; Caruso, K.; Cintorino, S.; Claffey, G.; Kirby, Y.; Larsen, K.; Merenstein, B.; Mulrooney, J.; Pincince, T.; Robinson, C.; Sommers, B.; Taylor, M.; Tully, J.; Voloria, C.; Votto, S.; Wethje, C.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes of April 1 were approved as amended.
- b. Minutes of February 26 were also approved as amended.

2. Announcements

- a. AAUP (T. Burkholder)
  - i. Thanks were given to those who attended the last Chapter meeting.
  - ii. Save the Date for April 24, CCSU day at the legislature. Purpose: to make sure everyone is on board for the salary reopener and that funding will be forthcoming. More information will be sent out shortly.
    - 1. D. Blitz took a point of personal privilege to responded to the April 1 letter from AAUP leadership.
    - 2. C. Austad thanked D. Blitz and asked for the AAUP to provide the Senate a report on what AAUP members won by AAUP's refusal to sign onto the RIP. T. Burkholder indicated he cannot respond on behalf of CSCU AAUP. He personally understands that the goal was to ensure the working conditions of those who remain employed would not become intolerable.
- b. SUOAF-AFSCME (L. Bigelow)
  - i. This Wednesday is AFSCME Council 4's day at the capital. SUOAF leadership will be there in force to continue to advocate for additional funding for higher ed.

- ii. State budget discussions about higher ed would fund the wage increase for salaries not covered by the block grant is getting uglier. AFSCME continues to support efforts related to a revenue intercept that could get past the spending cap and fiscal guardrails that OPM is so vehemently defending. The session ends at midnight on May 8.
  - iii. SUOAF's next chapter meeting is this Friday at noon on Teams.
- c. SGA (H. Alkabasi)
  - i. The results of the recent SGA Officer Election were announced:
    - 1. President: Logan Palardy; Vice President: Tolu Adeniyi; Treasurer: Leticia Castro
  - ii. SGA Senator Campaign Period is ongoing:
    - 1. Senators are campaigning until April 24th
    - 2. Voting period will start the next day
- d. FAC (M. Jackson)
  - i. No meeting last Friday, it was postponed to this Friday (because it conflicted with President Maduko's inauguration. More information will be shared at the next Senate meeting.
  - ii. See email sent out today with regard to alternative proposals with regard to textbooks. The FAC would like to propose alternatives, such as our bookstore becoming a co-op. While the universities will not be moving forward, COSC will be implementing it in the Fall. Their demands are different with the 8 week sessions; they decided to at least try it. Negotiations have fallen flat because there is not an opt-in system that could be offered. That is essentially no different than what we have now.
- e. Senate President (F. Latour)
  - i. Apologies for the technical difficulties at the last meeting related to the election were expressed. The results were shared by email. 63 ballots were cast. Stephen Adair received 37; Kathy Bantley received 23. There were 3 abstentions. For Vice President, Sen. Smith was elected. For Secretary, Sen. Bigelow was elected.
  - ii. Soon we will be conducting the Spring election for faculty committees. One of the items on the agenda today has to do with the committee structure for next year now that we are going from 4 to 5 schools. A call for nominations will come out soon.
  - iii. Our last meeting of the semester is on April 29, the Monday of the last week of classes. The steering committee will decide whether to have this as an in-person meeting.

### 3. New Business

- a. Proposal for the Committee on Committees
  - i. President Latour and Sen. Orange presented the proposal from the Committee on Committees circulated with the agenda, which is essentially an omnibus bill for temporary bylaws changes for affected committees.

MOTION: To approve the proposed temporary solution to the issue of representation for the new college for the various committees of the Senate (not including the P&T Committee). Motion passed.

b. Proposed amendment to the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate

F. Latour presented a proposed amendment to the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate which answers the question “when does the president elect of the Senate become effective?” Presently, that is the second week of the Fall semester (the first Senate meeting). That means the outgoing president is still president over the interceding summer, when the President of the University may need to consult with the Senate on matters extending into the future. This is awkward.

This cannot be voted on at this meeting because a proposal of this nature needs to be put forward for consideration with at least 7 days’ notice, which did not happen, and a proposal of this nature must be reviewed by the Constitution & Bylaws Committee.

Discussion:

- M. Jackson encouraged the Senate to make this correction.
- “Even years” was questioned since circumstances could require a mid-term change of leadership.
- President-Elect Adair indicated he and President Latour have had a discussion about this and he is in favor of this change.

This item was referred to the Constitution & Bylaws Committee. Sen. Efremoff, Sen. Jarrett and the Parliamentarian accepted the referral on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee.

Parliamentarian Dimmick reminded the body of his intention to retire as Parliamentarian after 20 years in this role.

c. Posthumous degrees

i. Elizabeth Lees

Dean Wolff deferred to Dr. Evelyn Phillips, who reflected on Elizabeth Lees, an Anthropology major who died prematurely.

MOTION: to approve the granting of a posthumous Bachelor of Arts degree for Elizabeth Lees. Motion passed.

ii. Graham Rode

Dr. Brian Sommers reflected on Graham Rode, a graduate student in Geography and son of a part-time faculty member at CCSU, and recommended that he receive a posthumous degree.

Sen. Duquette spoke in favor of the motion.

MOTION: to approve the granting of a posthumous MS Degree in Geography – Sustainability. Motion passed.

Dean Wolff thanked the Senate for their support of both of these posthumous degree conferrals.

4. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.