

Minutes – September 23, 2024 – 3:05 p.m.
VAC 105

CCSU Faculty Senate Meeting

Present:

Senate President: Adair, S.

Senate Vice President: Smith, R.

Senate Secretary: Bigelow, L.

Parliamentarian: Latour, F.

Senators:

Acharya, K.; Aguilar, J.; Bigelow, L.; Block, S.; Boscarino, N.; Bray, A.; Cantor, J.; Clay, E.; Contrata, A.; Day, B.; Elfant, A.; Evans Zalewski, L.; Farrish, K.; Ferraroti, K.; Foshay, J.; Foster, P.; Garbovskiy, Y.; Hernandez, J.; Huang, Y.; Jacobs, C.; Jarrett, J.; Kaczmarek, M.; Larsen, K.; Leonidas, E.; Liu, R.; Mahjoob, M.; Mahony, M.; Matzke, B.; Ning, W.; Orange, M.; Prather, B.; Rivera, T.; Rojas, R.; Savatorova, V.; Schenck, S.; Scoggins, M.; Seamans, S.; Shahid, N.; Sterling C.; Styrzula, S.; Tellier, A.; Vogeler, R.; Werblow, J.; Wood, R.; Zadi, S.; Zhao, S.; Zongxiang, M.

Alternates:

Corbera-Lopez, S.; Gamache, J.; Grant, L.; Kjell, B.; Martin, K.; Smith, J.; Sogurno, S.; Sohn, Y.; Turenne, L.; Wang, H.; Wang, W.; Williams, T.

Ex-Officio: Burkholder, T.; Frank, L.; Kandiah, J.; Kostelis, K.; Minkler, S.; Mueller, A.; Talty, P.; Toro, Z.

Guests: Bantley, K.; Bucher, L.; Byrd-Danso, K.; Cintorino, S.; Claffey, G.; Hines, J.; Kirby, Y.; Merenstein, B.; Tucker, P.; Votto, S.; Wethje, C.

1. Amendment of the Agenda: S. Adair moved a motion to add item 5d, Membership of the Board of Regents Teaching Award Committee, to the agenda. Motion passed.
2. Minutes
 - a. The minutes of the September 9, 2024 meeting were approved as amended.
(Burkholder/Mahony)
3. Announcements
 - a. AAUP (T. Burkholder)
 - i. There will be a Chapter meeting on Friday, September 27 at 12:15 p.m. in Barnard Hall Community Room. On the agenda: the contract negotiation process and AAUP's priorities for those negotiations.

- ii. Members of AAUP will notice that a 4.5% raise was included the last paycheck. This is a result of the SEBAC wage negotiations that took place when the current contract was negotiated.
 - iii. There will be an event on October 16th. More information will follow.
- b. SUOAF-AFSCME (L. Bigelow)
 - i. No announcements.
- c. SGA (L. Palardy)
 - i. Logan Palardy, SGA President, will be unable to attend Faculty Senate meetings this semester due to a scheduling conflict with a lab.
 - ii. The SGA began this year with a Senate consisting of 15 members, including 13 senators and no Treasurer. They are actively recruiting and have recently hosted several tabling events in the Student Center lobby, launching their fall election cycle. Currently, there are 20 candidates running for senator positions and 4 for Treasurer, all of whom are actively campaigning. The campaign period will run until October 1st, with voting scheduled for October 2nd. The recruitment process will conclude on October 8th with the swearing-in ceremony.
 - iii. SGA partnered with SA/LD to host the second Devil's Den at 10 p.m. event, organizing a paint-and-sip night with mocktails. The event drew a great turnout with 186 students in attendance and led to the recruitment of several new candidates.
 - iv. Due to the absence of a Treasurer at the beginning of the academic year, the SGA Finance Committee experienced a slight delay in starting. However, with Interim Treasurer Favor Uwaya now in place until the newly elected Treasurer is sworn in on October 8th, the committee is operational.
 - v. SGA has been collaborating with SA/LD and Student Affairs to prepare the club lounge. SGA is drafting requirements for clubs to use the new lockers for storage, with the goal of making the space fully operational by the end of the week.
 - vi. The SGA participated in the annual involvement fair last Wednesday. Although the candidate declaration period had already passed, they engaged students by distributing sunglasses and candy at their table.
 - vii. Due to the current size of the SGA, the organization will postpone appointing students to Faculty Senate Committees until additional members are onboarded. They aim to fill these positions by mid-October.
- d. FAC (M. Jackson)
 - i. No report.
- e. Senate President (S. Adair)

i. No announcements.

4. **Brief Presentation on CCSU's new clinic and the College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences** - Prof. Kathy Bantley, Prof. Kerri Langevin, and Dean Jayanthi Kandiah provided an overview of the Central Community Health Education Clinic. They introduced the faculty board and invited anyone interested in joining to participate. They also highlighted how students and faculty from various academic disciplines are involved in clinic-sponsored activities.

The presenters reviewed past programs, including workshops on nutrition, cognitive health, mindfulness, body composition, and balance. Flyers featuring a sample of the current semester's offerings were distributed, and it was noted that new programs, sponsored by Counselor Education and Family Therapy, are available. All workshops and programs are by appointment only and tend to fill quickly, so participants were encouraged to sign up.

A summary of the clinic's community outreach efforts was also provided.

Prof. Langevin shared details about the weekly nursing activities at the clinic. Weekly clinics are held every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon, with a slide presented to show the scope of screenings, educational sessions, and other services offered. She also discussed some of the one-on-one interdisciplinary services available to community members and encouraged faculty and staff to visit the clinic as patients, providing nursing students with practical experience.

Dean Kandiah introduced herself to the Senate and discussed the academic programs now housed in the College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. She briefly mentioned some of the networking meetings she has attended since arriving on campus in July and outlined the goals of the new college. Dean Kandiah extended an open invitation for everyone to learn more about the college and become involved.

5. New Business

- a. **Representation on Promotion and Tenure Committee** – S. Adair provided a summary of the historical composition of the committee. He discussed the current membership, placing it in the context of both the present members and the upcoming Fall 2024 election. Adair emphasized the need to account for the new college, which may affect the number of members on the committee. He presented and reviewed three possible options for addressing these changes (see linked document).

Motion: *To amend the Promotion and Tenure Committee Bylaws with [blank].* (Moved by Foster, seconded by Burkholder)

Motion: To adopt Option 1: Equal representation (2 seats), with the lower vote-getter serving a one-year term.

Friendly Amendment (S. Seamans): To designate in advance which CHRS seat (Full or Associate Professor) will serve the one-year term, with the Full Professor receiving the one-year term and the Associate Professor receiving the two-year term.

Vote on Amendment Passed.

Motion: *To fill in the blank in the original motion with "Option 1, as amended."* Passed.

Motion: *To amend the Promotion and Tenure Committee Bylaws, as outlined in the previous motion.* Passed.

- b. **Faculty Senate Steering Committee** – S. Adair announced his proposed membership for the Senate Steering Committee: S. Adair, R. Smith, L. Bigelow, J. Foshay, R. Liu, K. Ferrante, A. Tellier, T. Burkholder, and M. Jackson (guest).

Motion: *To add M. Orange to the list of nominees.* Motion passed.

Motion: *To approve the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, including M. Orange.* Motion passed.

- c. **Mediation Committee** – Proposed changes to the bylaws were presented to reference the current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

Motion: *To amend the Mediation Committee's Bylaws to include reference to the current CBA.* (Moved by Wood, seconded by Burkholder). Motion passed.

- d. **Membership of the Board of Regents Teaching Award Committee** – The committee's membership was set at 4 members (one from each school) and 2 at-large members. A problem was noted: current membership includes 3 members from the School of Business and 1 from the College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. To ensure representation from the other schools, it was proposed to increase the membership to 7 for this year only.

Motion: *To temporarily increase the membership of the BOR Teaching Award Committee to 7 members for this year only.* The motion passed with the required two-thirds vote.

5. **President's Report (S. Adair)**

- a. **Change in Promotion and Tenure Guidelines** – It was noted that a change to the Promotion and Tenure (P&T) guidelines, passed by the Senate in 2011 and signed by President Miller, was never incorporated into the official guidelines. This change is significant as it further clarifies the process for addressing disagreements during discussions (see section 4c). Specifically, it allows for communication to ensure that differing points of view are understood.
- b. **Board of Regents Identifies Pillars for Central** - The Board of Regents has recently identified three pillars for Central: completion, accessibility, and talent. Each campus has to determine a process to evaluate those three pillars. Initially that will go to the University Planning and Budget Committee which will try cross-reference them with measurements of achievement that correspond with the strategic plan. After that, it will come to the Senate.
- c. **Bill on Departmental Mergers and Splits** - At the end of last year, the Senate passed a bill on mergers and splits for practical reasons. President Toro did not approve that policy. S. Adair met with President Toro and arrived at a compromise. That will likely come back to

the Senate shortly. The original bill came out of an *ad hoc* committee, but S. Adair does not intent to reconvene that committee.

- d. **NCHEMS Meeting** - Last week S. Adair and R. Smith, as representatives of the Senate, met with NCHEMS, which was hired by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to review the system. Their recommendations will go to OPM and be shared with the System Office. Ultimately they will be shared broadly. There are several concerns: tension, trust issues, and disagreements between the System Office and constituent units; concerns about the State's level of management over its higher education system (relative lack of oversight and relationship between CSCU and UConn) and questions about the finances of the System Office and, undoubtedly, the charge from OPM is to find savings.
- e. **Task Force on Dual and Concurrent Enrollment** - President Toro has convened a task force on dual and concurrent enrollments. Over the course of the year there will be some degree of policy defining those.
- f. **AcademicUsers Listserv** - A discussion was held regarding the AcademicUsers Listserv, which currently lacks a monitor and established rules of engagement. It was noted that the Faculty Senate has its own listserv, which faculty can opt out of, governed by netiquette rules and procedures for handling complaints, which is managed by the Senate Steering Committee (SSC). The UniversitySenate listserv was created as an alternative to the Academic Listserv due to increasing tensions over the years.

The Senate Steering Committee will be asked to consider a policy that, if faculty members opt out of the Senate listserv, they are not automatically re-enrolled the following year.

A broader issue was raised regarding the future of the AcademicUsers Listserv: Should the Senate take responsibility for it, and if not, who should? Several alternatives were discussed, including shutting it down, proposing rules, or finding a monitor. It was also noted that emeriti and some students have gained access to the AcademicUsers Listserv, the latter raising additional concerns.

President Toro emphasized the importance of maintaining a civil, safe, and respectful environment in all university communications. She stated that she is prepared to make an executive decision on the matter if necessary.

This forum served as an opportunity for faculty input on potential solutions, including shutting it down, identifying a volunteer to monitor the listserv and/or developing a set of rules to govern its use.

- 6. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.