

Minutes – October 7, 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.; Al-Masoud, N.; Best, F.; Bigelow, L.; Boncoddio, R.; Boscarino, N.; Bray, A.; Burkholder, T.; Cantor, J.; Cox, S.; Day, B.; DeMauro, N.; Elfant, A.; Farrish, K.; Foshay, J.; Foster, P.; Garbovskiy, Y.; Hernandez, J.; Huang, Y.; Jacobs, C.; Kaczmarek, M.; Kapper, M.; Knox, C.; Larsen, K.; Leonidas, E.; Liu, R.; Mahjoob, M.; Mahony, M.; Matzke, B.; Orange, M.; Pearson, F.; Prather, B.; Savatorova, V.; Scoggins, M.; Seamans, S.; Spear, B.; Styrzula, S.; Tellier, A.; Vogeler, R.; Wang, H.; Wood, R.; Zadi, S.; Zhao, S.; Zongxiang, M.

Alternates:

Adams, A.; Alarie, D.; Cox, S.; Gamache, J.; Lee, W.; Paolino, J.; Sogunro, O.;

Ex-Officio: Frank, L.; Jackson, M.; Kostelis, K.; Minkler, S.; Mueller, A.; Talty, P.; Toro, Z.

Guests: Abadiano, H.; Conte, C.; Hines, J.; Kirby, Y.; Mulrooney, J.; Pincince, T.; Tucker, P.; Tully, J.; Wethje, C.

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes of September 23, 2024 were approved as presented.

2. Announcements

- a. AAUP (T. Burkholder)
 - i. On October 16 AAUP will hold an Assembly to discuss shaping the future of public higher education in Connecticut. It will be held from 3-5 p.m. in the Constitution Room of Memorial Hall.
 - ii. Negotiations with the Board of Regents for the successor contract have commenced, with discussions currently focused on agreeing to the ground rules.
- b. SUOAF-AFSCME (L. Bigelow)
 - i. SUOAF Chapter Officer elections take place in October of even years. Nominations for chapter officer positions will be on the agenda for the October

18 Chapter meeting, taking place at noon, on Teams.

c. SGA (L. Palardy):

- i. The SGA election cycle concluded this past Friday. Nineteen new members were welcomed to the student Senate. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the SGA team, they now have a full organization.
- ii. SGA has elected a new Treasurer, Matthew Cavanaugh, a senior finance student, who will oversee SGA finances for the remainder of the academic year. Gratitude was expressed to Interim Treasurer Favor Uwaya for her outstanding work in managing the committee during this transition; the SGA could not have operated effectively without her.
- iii. On Wednesday, October 9, SGA will hold a swearing-in ceremony to officially welcome new members.
- iv. On Friday, October 11, SGA will conduct a training session to bring new senators up to speed on their roles. The SGA is aiming to seat student representatives on Faculty Senate committees in the coming weeks.
- v. SGA's Social Affairs Committee Chair, Malachi Collins, has been representing SGA on the Pep Rally Committee. SGA has contributed significantly to the funding for this event, and several senators will be volunteering. The pep rally is scheduled for Thursday, October 10, from 7:30 to 10:30 PM.
- vi. SGA is collaborating with Phi Delta Theta, Central Activities Network, and the Car Club for a Halloween movie night. This drive-in event will feature *A Quiet Place*, with optional donations benefiting the Live Like Lou Foundation for ALS. This event will be taking place on Monday, October 28, from 7:00 to 10:00 PM.
- vii. SGA is also excited to support the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity in hosting a resume-building workshop on October 16 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. This will be a fantastic opportunity for students to prepare for job opportunities!
- viii. SGA had plans for a blood drive with the Red Cross in November but has decided to reschedule it to April to avoid conflicting with the Nursing Association's blood drive in January.

d. FAC (M. Jackson)

- i. In August, the Board of Regents (BOR) identified three priorities for the year: accessibility, completion, and talent (ACT). To support these priorities, they are gathering input from management on three goals within each priority. When this was presented to the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) in August for discussion in September, the BOR indicated an intention to engage a broad group. However, it appears that only management has been involved thus far. The FAC is currently creating a survey to gather input. They have also noted the absence of a comprehensive plan for the universities and are developing a strategy to collect feedback from faculty across all universities. The only

deadline is that this should be accomplished by November. The next FAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 11.

President Toro clarified that the process that will be followed by the universities will be to utilize the shared governance structures already in place. At Central, the plan will first be sent to the University Planning and Budget Committee (UPBC) for review and recommendations on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each of the nine goals. After UPBC input is received, the recommendations will go to the Senate for consideration. Following the Senate's review, the outcomes will be submitted to the Integrated Planning Council (IPC). This is the process being followed at Central, and similar processes are being used at the other CSU institutions. This approach was mentioned during the State of the University address and was discussed with the Senate president a few weeks ago. The process has not changed.

M. Jackson noted that he will bring this information to the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) at its meeting on October 11.

e. Senate President (S. Adair)

- i. Senate officers have been invited to a meeting with Chancellor Cheng on October 30. No topic has been set; the Chancellor said the aim is to increase transparency and communication. The goal is to have these conversations twice each semester.
- ii. On Thursday, a call for nominations went out for the Fall elections. It came out through the Office of Academic Affairs. Nominations are due October 11. This needs to be a strict deadline because we need to seat the Promotion & Tenure committee as soon as possible because there is a mid-year tenure case. If there is not a full slate on October 11, Article 2.15 of the Senate Bylaws will be put into effect (convert vacant school-specific seats into at-large seats). S. Adair encouraged senators and alternates to take this back to their departments and encourage people to nominate themselves or others. He stressed that everyone's cooperation is needed.

3. Old Business

- a. Rules and Netiquette for Postings on the University Senate Listserv – S. Adair reviewed three proposed revisions to this document. He noted that in light of losing the Academic Users listserv, these rules have become even more important.
 - i. IT will not automatically re-enroll someone who has opted out.
 - ii. Emeriti faculty have not previously been permitted to participate, but will now be allowed to do so by opting in.
 - iii. The former point five has been split into the new 5 and 6. The intention is to provide clarity.

Attention was called to the due process to be followed when the Senate Steering Committee receive a complaint.

MOTION: To approve proposed changes (Foster/Burkholder.) Motion passed.

- b. Senate Updated Recommendations for Faculty Senate to Consider Regarding Departmental Mergers and Splits
 - i. Last spring, the Senate passed a bill with a set of recommendations for mergers and splits of departments, but it was not approved by President Toro. In a recent meeting between the University and Senate presidents, the topic was revisited with the aim of reaching common ground. President Toro's suggestions, primarily changing "guidelines" to "recommendations," were presented.
 - ii. Item 3: A significant change was proposed by management, and S. Adair read the new proposed language for Item 3.

A request was made to clarify the term "consult." President Toro responded by stating that there should be substantive consultations, with careful consideration of the input from the involved department chairs.

MOTION: To approve the revised Senate Recommendations for Faculty to Consider Regarding Departmental Mergers and Splits.

Friendly amendment: The language was amended to specify that "deans should have substantive conversations." The amendment passed.

MOTION: Approve the document, as amended. Motion passed.

4. New Business

- a. Approval of Ad Hoc Committee on Generative Artificial Intelligence and Academic Integrity.

This item was deferred to the next Senate meeting as the list of potential members is still being formed.

- b. DEC Hardship – This item was postponed to next meeting.

5. President's Report (S. Adair)

- a. None.

6. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Marie Bigelow, Secretary