

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE FACULTY SENATE
OCTOBER 7, 2020**

PRESENT: M. Adams, J. Ausherman, C. C. Bowen, W. Bowen, R. Carnell, B. Cavender, B. Conti, D. Davisson, G. Dyer, B. Ekelman, P. Falk, D. Forte, L. Francis, Z. Gao, J. Gatica, D. Geier, S. Gingerich, J. Goodell, D. Hamilton, K. Hamlen-Mansour, C. Hansman, J. Hostutler, Y. Hung, K. Judge, D. Kalir, S. Kaufman, J. Kilbane, R. Krebs, A. Kumar, J. Kwiatkowski, J. Marino, W. Matcham, B. McClain, T. Porter, R. Ramier, E. Rauschert, B. Richards, H. Richter, Y. Shen, A. Slifkin, A. Sonstegard, A. Su, R. Tighe, G. Toneff-Cotner, J. Visocky-O’Grady, N. Zingale. A. Ahmetaj, R. Anglin, J. Belovich, R. Betterson, M. Biehl, M. Bond, R. Dunn, S. English, F. Faison, T. Gaspar, E. Grigore, J. Holcomb, Z. Hurd, K. Kahn, E. Lehfeltd, D. Lodwick, E. McKinney, S. Nunley, C. Orahoske, J. Rehm, A. Robichaud, H Sands, S. Zachariah, J. Zhu. S. Kent, M. Schultz-Bergin, A. F. Smith.

OTHERS

PRESENT: M. Bleeke, M. Boboc, C. Bracken, S. Greybar-Milliken, J. Hughes, J. Stimple. Zoom indicated a peak of 213 participants.

I. Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 PM on Zoom. The agenda was revised--with a motion from Senator Albert “Fred” Smith to add a motion to New Business about a Pass/Fail option--and approved by voice vote. Minutes for April 1, 2020 and September 9, 2020 were accepted by affirmation.

II. Report of the Faculty Senate President

President Robert Krebs reported that CSU had made a good start on CSU 2.0, which has resulted in productive conversations among faculty and about potential college reorganization options. How the ultimate decision will be made is yet to be determined, he observed. President Krebs insisted that outside contract/consultant input not be given priority over faculty input, which is still being gathered. He acknowledged that faculty are worried, that we need to listen carefully to each other, and that we should be careful not to form lobbying cohorts. He also acknowledged the importance of the staff viewpoint.

President Krebs further stressed the need for faculty to keep focusing on our research/creative work, even as we juggle all these extra service responsibilities connected with reorganization. Professor Krebs mentioned, from the vantage of his separate role as chair of the CSU 2.0 task force, that many faculty members are still wondering what the rationale was for starting this process, other than financial considerations. He stressed the need for faculty to have time to digest the solicited input, with almost 300 responses received already this week. Speaking again as Senate President, Senator Krebs mentioned that the curricular and programmatic ramifications are one of the essential pieces of Faculty Senate responsibility.

III. Report of the President of the University

President Harlan Sands began by thanking the faculty for their continued hard work. He referenced President Krebs that reorganizing the colleges doesn’t mean a change or loss in programs. He explained that the CSU 2.0 process involves over 30 faculty just on the academic

task force and more on other task forces. President Sands stressed that change is hard and that this is a process with a lot of feedback.

President Sands gave an update on budget, enrollment, and pandemic response. He complimented everyone's effort in keeping the campus safe; he encouraged everyone to get a flu shot. He also mentioned the new COVID dashboard, soon to be coming to the CSU website, and the random surveillance testing that started last week. He complimented the Ohio Governor's leadership on the pandemic, which includes regular listening sessions with the Ohio university presidents. He mentioned extra state funding has been provided for mental health counseling for our students.

In the financial update, President Sands mentioned the \$12 million already received from federal funding. He also explained that because our retention and admissions rates have been strong, the financial shortfall has been smaller than initially anticipated at the start of the pandemic. Only three universities in the state have better enrollment numbers than Cleveland State. The anticipated deficit is about half what was expected, although we still have a \$14 million budget gap. President Sands spoke highly of CSU's newly appointed trustee, Vanessa Whiting. He also complimented CSU's Lift Up Vikes! food pantry, which was recently relocated to the first floor of Berkman Hall, right in the middle of campus. This pantry was generously supported by a \$1 million gift from Char and Chuck Fowler to Life Up Vikes! last year.

President Sands also flagged two academic items important to him: first, the pass/fail option added to new business. He also mentioned possible changes to the Spring calendar, in line with safety precautions.

President Sands then introduced Vice President Forest Faison to demonstrate the new COVID dashboard, soon to go live. VP Faison offered a full update of CSU's ongoing pandemic response.

Senator Judy Ausherman asked President Sands when the faculty would be given the reports from the non-academic task forces, so that faculty could respond and comment on them and use that data to inform their own efforts in helping to determine the best new college structure (as they were attempting to do during the week of this Senate meeting, in responding to a questionnaire, with a due date of October 9). In his response, President Sands mentioned mid-November, a target date for the non-academic task force reports.

Senator Chieh-Chen Bowen emphasized that faculty are here for the long run and demanded to know the goals set for the college reorganization that we can assess success or failure. She insisted that goal should be tied to metrics.

President Sands responded by insisting that the process was transparent and that we have to let the process play out and that the process is working itself out, during which we will define the reasons and make the case for change. He promised that faculty would be allowed feedback on viable options when they emerge, without explaining at this time how such viability would be determined.

Senator Forte asked a question about campus hotspots and was told by VP Faison that there are none. Senator Beth Ekelman asked why the timeline for college reorganization was so short

and whether it was possible to extend it. President Sands said that one driver was the \$14M budget gap. The second driver, he observed, is that “this sort of effort can collapse under its own weight.” He acknowledged that the big challenge is to focus on things that have the most impact, make the most sense and have the most “buy in.” He requested that “we all work together on opportunities.” He mentioned that comparing us to our peer institutions shows that our administrative costs are too high.

Senator Kumar asked about the types of testing done on campus. VP Faison said we are doing only the more reliable nasal tests. Senator Andrew Slifkin asked about potential costs for college reorganization. President Sands did not have an immediate answer but acknowledged the importance of this desire for specific numbers and reiterated the importance of Senator C. C. Bowen’s request for metrics, without offering any metrics in his reply.

IV. University Curriculum Committee

UCC Chair Marcus Schultz-Bergin introduced the items on the consent agenda.

A. Consent Agenda: (Report No. 8, 2020-2021)

1. DAN 493: Senior Project
2. Music, B. Music
3. SPN 494: Spanish Capstone

These were approved by voice vote.

B. Discussion:

1. Property Management Minor (**Report No. 9, 2020-2021**)
2. Dual Resident Education Program (**Report No. 10, 2020-2021**)

These both passed by voice vote.

V. Admissions and Standards Committee

Senator Albert “Fred” Smith, chair of Admissions and Standards, presented these items, which are detailed in Curriculog.

A. Rust College of Law 3+3 Agreement (Report No. 11, 2020-2021)

Passed by voice vote

B. New Academic Misconduct Procedures (Report No. 12, 2020-2021)

Joanne Goodell introduced a motion to amend the motion from Committee to indicate that the faculty member needs to “communicate” to the student the misconduct either in a meeting or by email. Motion carried by 25 to 17

With the amendment, the procedures passed by voice vote

C. Waiver of the requirement that GRE or GMAT scores be submitted

with applications for graduate programs that normally require them for admission in Summer 2021 and Fall 2021 (**Report No. 13, 2020-2021**)

Passed by voice vote (with 1 audible nay)

VI. University Faculty Affairs Committee

Senator Joanne Goodell, chair of UFAC, introduced two items:

A. Statement on Spring 2020 Peer Evaluations (Report No. 14, 2020-2021)

The motion that Senate approves this recommendation should be sent out.

Passed by voice vote

B. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement and Rubric (Report No. 15, 2020-2021)

1. Motion to accept UFAC report –

2. Motion to endorse the use of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement and Rubric in faculty search committees -

The two motions passed simultaneously by voice vote (with one abstention).

VII. Budget and Finance Committee (Report No. 16, 2020-2021)

Senator William Bowen, chair of Budget and Finance, gave a budget update, pointing out that asking the academic sector to become leaner cannot be done in isolation from the budgets of athletics and the other units that, he suggested, affect the budget and the academic mission of the university.

Senator W. Bowen also reported that the administration has decided to address declining enrollments by increasing online enrollments. They hope to follow the model of Arizona State University (ASU). Consultants from ASU will be visiting CSU to do an assessment of our online capacity. There have been no substantive conversations with AP since the last academic year, Senator Bowen pointed out, but the ASU consultant visit offers another opportunity to explore such a potential future option.

Senator Ausherman asked a question about the athletics budget, which Senator W. Bowen pointed out derives from student fees, not the larger academic budget stream. Senator Bowen mentioned the need to distinguish fungible funds from non-fungible.

VIII. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Provost Jianping Zhu thanked everyone for a successful semester, which is largely running smoothly, he observed, as we near the midpoint. He reminded senators of the importance of giving midterm grades for first- and second-year students. He also emphasized the need for increasing enrollment; he stressed that the administration is interested in gaining expertise from ASU to motivate our own faculty to grow our online programs. He thanked the faculty for their

high level of engagement and input. He reassured the faculty that any curricular or programmatic changes will go through the appropriate channels of faculty governance. He followed up with the importance of possible changes to the Spring calendar, which could conceivably start one week later than originally scheduled and eliminate spring break, as a pandemic safety precaution. He concluded by thanking the faculty for their dedication and great work.

IX. Report of SGA (Report No. 17, 2020-2021)

SGA President, Renée Betterson, gave an update on how the SGA is functioning under COVID, most notably with the introduction of a “virtual front desk.” She mentioned a planned student civic engagement rally as well as a month-long effort for students to “make a plan to vote.” She noted that our SGA has partnered with Ohio State University’s SGA to increase sustainability on both campuses. She also referenced the SGA request for an extension of the Pass/Fail option, mentioning the hundreds of students who have encouraged them to bring this option.

X. Report of Graduate and Professional Student Association (Report No. 18, 2020-2021)

President of Graduate and Professional Student Association, Cody Orahoske, reported on efforts to increase student engagement to counteract mental health issues associated with isolation. He also spoke in support of graduate Pass/Fail option with the amendments.

XI. Question Time

Senator Ekelman asked the Provost what the target budget outcomes and costs are for CSU 2.0. The Provost answered that the hope was that the initiative would recover \$10M out of the \$15M budget deficit. Senator Gao asked for the rationale for change first and a statement of CSU’s strengths first before proceeding. The Provost explained that this process is following up on the earlier strategic priorities task force and reports, particularly our role as an anchor institution in health.

XII. New Business

- 1) Senator and Admissions and Standards Chair Albert “Fred” Smith introduced a motion for extending a P/F option for fall semester that had been reviewed by the members of the Admissions and Standards Committee. The proposal allows a P grade to replace only C grades or higher for undergraduates, and B grades or higher for graduate students.
(Report No. 19, 2020-2021)

A motion to amend the motion by Donna Davisson to also change a C grade rather than just a B for graduate students failed by voice vote. The original motion brought by Senator Albert Smith then passed by voice vote.

- 2) Andy Slifkin and Anup Kumar moved that Senate endorse a statement of the Ohio Faculty Council recognizing that faculty have an essential role in any college reorganization. **(Report No. 20, 2020-2021)**

The motion passed by voice vote.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Professor Rachel Carnell
Senate Recording Secretary

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