

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE FACULTY SENATE**

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

**PRESENT:** M. Adams, D. Allensworth-Davies, J. Ausherman, C. C. Bowen, W. Bowen, M. Buckley, R. Carnell, B. Cavender, B. Conti, D. Davisson, L. Dong, 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, J. Hostutler, Y. Hung, D. Kalir, S. Kaufman, J. Kilbane, R. Krebs, A. Kumar, M. Kwiatkowski, J. Marino, W. Matcham, K. McIntyre, T. Porter, R. Raimer, H. Richter, E. Rauschert, B. Richards, Y. Shen, A. Slifkin, A. Sonstegard, A. Su, R. Tighe, G. Toneff-Cotner, J. Visocky-O'Grady, N. Zingale.

R. Anglin, J. Belovich, R. Betterson, M. Biehl, M. Bond, D. Bruce, R. Dunn, F. Faison, T. Gaspar, E. Grigore, J. Holcomb, K. Kahn, E. Lehfeltd, D. Lodwick, S. Nunley, C. Orahoske, J. Rehm, H. Sands, S. Zachariah, J. Zhu.

S. Kent, B. Mikelbank, M. Rubado, M. Schultz-Bergin, A. F. Smith.

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** C. Bracken, J. Sawicki, N. Sridhar and 258 other participants on Zoom

**I. Approval of the Agenda for the September 9, 2020 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate President Bob Krebs at 3:01 p.m. No changes were offered to the Agenda, and it was approved by affirmation.

**II. Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of June 10 and July 15, 2020**

President Krebs acknowledged the minutes of the Senate meetings of June 10, 2020 and July 15, 2020. No corrections were offered; the minutes are now in the record and accepted by this body.

**III. Report of the Faculty Senate President**

President Krebs welcomed the new members of Senate and congratulated everyone on the hybrid reopening of campus. He reiterated our Senate mission of overseeing curricula and programs and affirmed that we are doing better than many other universities and encouraged us to keep moving forward. President Krebs mentioned his work as co-leader of the Priorities 2.0 Task Force, observing that the details will be released next week, and discussed at the next Senate meeting. He also recognized the faculty serving diligently on many committees during the summer, all volunteering without pay.

**IV. Report of Ad Hoc Committee on Persistent Institutionalized Inequality  
(Report No. 1, 2020-2021)**

President Krebs stressed the importance of the work over the summer of the ad hoc faculty committee on persistent institutional inequality. Professor W. Bowen moved that the Senate accept the committee report and post it on the senate website; President Sands offered the

administration's unqualified support of the same statement. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote, making this attached document a joint statement by the Faculty Senate and CSU Administration.

## **V. Report of the President of the University**

President Sands offered an update on a summer "like no other." He expressed collective thanks for everyone's hard work in helping maintain enrollments at numbers very close to last year's, observing that total headcount is only 1 to 2% lower than last year, despite the pandemic. He also thanked the faculty for the significant improvement in 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year student retention rate from 71 to 76%.

President Sands also spoke about how well the university's COVID protocols are working thus far, acknowledging the Faculty Senate's summer approval of classroom COVID policies and the work of student ambassadors in enforcing campus protocols. He mentioned his participation in a recent university presidents' call with Dr. Deborah Birx and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence as well as his regular conversations with Ohio governor Mike DeWine and other Ohio university presidents.

Vice President Forrest Faison responded to several follow-up questions about our COVID testing data, protocols, and statistical approach.

## **VI. University Curriculum Committee**

UCC chair Marcus Schultz-Bergin introduced the consent agenda, which was approved by voice vote.

### **Consent Agenda: (Report No. 2, 2020-2021)**

- A. Business, Executive MBA Program
- B. Communication Sciences and Disorders Minor
- C. Communication Sciences and Disorders, B.A.
- D. English, B.A.
- E. Music Minor
- F. Music, B.A.

## **VII. Admissions and Standards Committee**

### **Public Health, MPA (Report No. 3, 2020-2021)**

Admissions and Standards chair Albert "Fred" Smith introduced the motion from the Admissions and Standard Committee about streamlining admission requirements for the MPH. The motion was approved by voice vote.

## **VIII. University Faculty Affairs Committee (Report No. 4, 2020-2021)**

UFAC chair Joanne Goodell offered a second reading for the Proposed Revision to 3344-13-03 (B) (2) Committee Membership

This revision was approved by voice vote.

#### **IX. Budget and Finance Committee (Report No. 5, 2020-2021)**

William Bowen, chair, presented a budget update, reminding us that budgets are political documents reflecting an institution's values. He mentioned that the cooperation between his committee and the administration has been excellent. Professor Bowen suggested that the actual deficit in the operating budget is less bleak than initially feared at the onset of COVID; we are nevertheless still anticipating an operating budget deficit, despite cost-cutting measures in place.

#### **X. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer**

Provost Jianping Zhu thanked everyone present for the smooth start of the fall semester. He provided a brief overview of enrollment data and offered particular thanks to the over 380 instructors teaching on campus. He also recognized the time and effort faculty have put into enhancing their remote delivery skills. Provost Zhu also welcomed the 38 new faculty members hired last spring, highlighting our very successful hires, despite the pandemic.

The Provost announced the timeline for faculty input to the CSU 2.0 recommendations: The report will be released next week, and comments will be due October 9. He also explained the new coordination between Cleveland Marshall Law School and Akron Law School. He also alluded to the continued need to "grow" online programs, for budgetary reasons; he will continue to stay in touch with the Senate Budget and Finance Committee about any proposals that may involve outside companies.

Professor Joanne Goodell, Director of the Center for Faculty Excellence, thanked the Provost for his support of the Center's recent and ongoing workshops.

Law professor Patricia Falk objected to the Law faculty not being informed of the possibility of a merger with the University of Akron Law until two hours before the press release about the merger discussions. Professor Gary Dyer queried the need for such a public announcement during such a stage of preliminary discussions. In response, the Provost expressed the need to limit misinformation and rumors as the discussions began. Professor Falk commented that the way this was handled did not conform to the spirit of shared faculty governance. Professor Krebs agreed with Professor Falk on this point.

#### **XI. SGA President**

The new SGA president, Renée Betterson, was unable to report because of a schedule conflict and left the meeting early.

#### **XII. Graduate and Professional Student Organization (Report No. 6, 2020-2021)**

The newly elected vice president of this organization, Cody Orahoske, outlined his plans for outreach to students and the community, referencing the GPSA's motto of getting everyone engaged.

#### **XIII. Open Discussion Time**

**XIV. New Business**

- A. Motion in honor of Jerzy Sawicki (drafted by Professor Weyman with editing provided by Professor Marino). **(Report No. 7, 2020-2021)**

Professor Zhiqiang Gao introduced a motion to recognize Professor Jerzy Sawicki. Several faculty acknowledged the impressive changes Professor Sawicki effected in the Research Office and the support he has provided to faculty in the humanities as well as to faculty in STEM. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was approved and the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Professor Rachel Carnell  
Recording Secretary, Faculty Senate

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