



MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

March 26, 2025

3:00 PM – Student Center Ballroom

PRESENT: Faculty Senate Officers C. Olszewski, D. Hubbard, and J. Jenkins; **Faculty Senators** M. Adams, J. Ausherman, M. Baumgartner, J. Bolt, S. Brockhaus, B. Browning, M. Buckley, C. Collins, M. Collins, B. Conti, V. DePaoli, Y. Fu, J. Gatica, P. Lopes Gerum, T. Greer-Medley, C. Heyward, J. Kahler, W. Kang, E. Lehfeltdt, J. Marino, J. Matthews, P. McGinty, A. O'Connor, J. Plecnik, A. Price, E. Raushert, H. Richter, A. Severson, A. Smith, D. Smith, J. Vitali, B. Yusko, and N. Zawahri; **Administrative and Corresponding Members** L. Bloomberg, J. Gordon, M. Gruys, R. Carnell, and K. Neuendorf; **Ex Officio Limited Members** G. Dyer, M. Heath, and M. Wiitala.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Zoom indicated a peak of 56 participants.

Senate President Olszewski called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

- I. Approval of the Agenda for the March 26, 2025 Meeting
Senate President Olszewski announced two changes: postpone item IX and remove item X. The revised agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting February 26, 2025
The minutes of the February 26, 2025 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.
- III. Report of the Senate President
Senate President Olszewski began her remarks by thanking faculty for their attendance and for their continued dedication. She then provided several announcements.
 - The task of updating the committee charges has been tabled to provide additional time for changes and to review the process to ensure compliance.
 - The question regarding graduate contracts heard during the February meeting has been addressed, and she urged faculty to contact the College of Graduate Studies directly when issues arise so they can be addressed expeditiously.
 - The May Senate meeting will include an in memoriam to honor colleagues. Faculty Senate maintains an in-memoriam page and information can be sent to the Senate office.
 - SB-1 was just approved, noting that the union plans on filing and that SB-1 still requires the Governor's signature.

Senate President Olszewski then spoke about the qualifications needed for chair appointments. She noted that the Greenbook is silent, and the policies and procedures are silent, that college bylaws may or may not provide direction. She noted that junior faculty are not recommended.

Senate President Olszewski concluded her remarks by encouraging faculty to participate in commencement. The last call to order regalia at the CSU bookstore is Friday, March 28th.

IV. Report of the President of CSU

President Bloomberg began her remarks by reiterating that SB-1 has passed out of the Senate and on its way to the Governor for his signature. She noted that with SB-1 and recent Presidential Executive orders, there has been a lot of chaos which is stressful. As a glimmer of good news, she explained that she learned yesterday that the Supporting Effective Education Development grant program was reinstated after temporary injunction. She noted that some changes are being challenged in the courts. She noted that CSU students have been spending time in Columbus. Levin students were there learning about the legislative process when Sen. J. Plecnik testified.

President Bloomberg also mentioned that roughly 100 students attended listening sessions hosted by President Bloomberg, Provost Sridhar, Vice Provost Jackson, and VP and General Counsel Wilson. They have offered to hold additional sessions.

President Bloomberg noted that there are some amazing things happening on campus. That work continues.

President Bloomberg assured faculty that Board of Trustees (BOT) representatives Linda Quinn and Carole Heyward represent faculty well. Recently, they attended the BOT dinner which included a pre-dinner student musical performance and presentation by Dr. Mark Souther.

President Bloomberg then circled back to SB-1 for further comments. She summarized the major themes of the bill and noted that when something becomes law, CSU will comply. She explained that once signed, there is a timeline for implementation. CSU will continue its work and will not compromise its mission as Cleveland's university, serving a community where the majority of people identify as a minority group. She then read a passage from "Understanding Academic Freedom" by Henry Reichman.

President Bloomberg announced that Lieutenant Governor Tressel would be on campus March 27th as he is addressing workforce development around the state. He will spend time in the President's office talking about the strategic plan, CSU United and initiatives. He will also tour the engineering college, which has launched a new construction management program. You can expect media coverage.

President Bloomberg concluded her remarks by challenging faculty to fill Waetjen auditorium for the President's Concert featuring CSU music students on April 25th, starting at 7pm. Sen. B. Browning noted the first hour would be student-led chamber ensembles and the second hour would be a wind band concert.

V. University Curriculum Committee

Approval Items

Committee chair Heath thanked the committee for their work and announced the committee would be holding an additional meeting in April to address the backlog of proposals in Curriculog. Committee chair Heath then presented the consent agenda. The consent agenda passed by voice vote. **(Report No. 45, 2024-2025)**

Consent Agenda (see attached)

- Construction Management, B.S. - 1140 - Fall 25
- Urban Education, Ph.D. - 1140 - Fall 25
- Biology, MS - 1140 - Fall 25
- Computer Engineering, B.C.E. - 1140 - Fall 25
- Mechanical Engineering Technology, B.S.M.E.T. - 1140 - Fall 25

VI. Budget and Finance Committee

Committee chair Judy Ausherman provided highlights from the March 17th PFAC meeting, including meeting Director of Institutional Research, Katie Corcoran, who is creating the new enrollment dashboards. She noted that enrollments are healthy, and the committee recommended looking at, and protecting high enrollment programs. She also noted that the draft budget is to be presented to the committee at the April PFAC meeting. Committee chair Ausherman stated that the committee has not yet received the requested information about the cuts to the athletics programs. She announced the BOT meets May 8th and May 15th. She agreed that BOT representatives Linda Quinn and Carole Heyward represent faculty well and pointed out, that considering SB-1, faculty are reviewed many times. **(Report No. 46, 2024-2025)**

President Bloomberg clarified that the \$32 million lab renovation represents funding from the state specifically for renovations. Additional money for the atrium will be raised philanthropically.

Senate President Olszewski suggested having a rendering of the building at May Senate meeting.

VII. Admissions and Standards Committee

Approval Items (Report No. 47, 2024-2025)

[Undergraduate Grade Dispute Policy Update - Cleveland State University | Curriculum](#)

Approved by unanimous consent

1. [Update to Graduate Catalog Grade Dispute Policy - Cleveland State University | Curriculum](#)

Approved by unanimous consent

2. [Graduate Catalog Admission Criteria Update for CSU Global Programs - Cleveland State University | Curriculum](#)

Approved by unanimous consent

3. [Graduate Program Dismissal Policy](#)

Approved by unanimous consent

VIII. Ad Hoc Committee of the Student Evaluation Instrument (Course Feedback Survey)

Action Items

Final Course Feedback Survey Report **(Report No. 48, 2024-2025)**

Sen. A. Smith presented an overview of the history and the process taken to develop a new instrument, which follows the best practices from AACU, and addresses issues with the current instrument, including bias, low response rates, redundancies, and high correlations among questions. The new instrument represents a shift from quantitative results with dubious meaning,

to asking students to identify what aspects of the course were helpful and providing feedback. Sen. Smith also presented the questions on the course feedback survey.

Sen. Vitali asked how the committee removed the bias. Sen. Smith clarified that the bias was not removed but was reduced. He explained that an analysis of SEIQ responses using regression techniques showed instructor characteristics were predictors of SEIQ responses, and with the pilot study with the new instrument, this bias was reduced. He noted that the committee was charged with delivering a product that would improve and address deficiencies of the current product.

Sen. E. Rauschert commented that this is a remarkable shift and suggested the questions about time spent could be shown as a number instead of percentages, with perhaps an example of time spent. Sen. Smith clarified that the survey would show the specific numbers depending on the credits of the course

Sen. Ausherman asked whether the committee looked at how to motivate students to fill out the survey. Sen. Smith responded that the brevity of the survey, and therefore the speed at which the survey can be completed will help. He noted that other ideas are discussed within the committee's report.

Sen. P. Gerum asked whether the impact of the average grade of the class was analyzed, or the disconnect between grades and learning. Sen. Smith noted that grades are separate data and were not analyzed. Senate President Olszewski noted that the proposed tool does not ask for the expected grade such that the current tool does. She explained that the questions are very different, and the new instrument does not focus on the instructor but on aspects of the course. Sen. A. Tayara asked whether there was an opportunity to add a question about the level of the course. Sen. Smith responded that the instrument is focused on specific behavior types of the course instead of difficulty of course. Senate President Olszewski suggested difficulty is reflected in the amount of time spent on the course.

Sen. B. Yusko inquired about implementation, or whether the committee was just proposing the instrument. Sen. Smith suggested the implementation be done through Qualtrics and be done as fast as it can be done well. Sen. Yusko noted that the instrument provides a formative assessment about the quality of teaching and is not a comparative quantitative tool. President Bloomberg noted that its use will be carefully analyzed.

Sen. A. Price asked whether questions about internships could be added. Sen. Smith clarified that the recommended questions are based on types of instruction and is not a one size fits all.

Sen. G. Dyer noted that there hasn't been any change made in terms of the rule that these play in P&T, that it may not be the "but" or "cause" for a decision.

Adopted by voice vote.

- IX. Undergraduate Student Success Committee
National Survey of Student Engagement, Laura Northrop, Director of Research and Assessment
Item is postponed until the May Senate meeting.

- X. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer
No report. Office is available to respond to questions.

XI. Unfinished Business

Centralized Computer Refresh, Dr. Wesam Helou (**Report No. 49, 2024-2025**)

CIO Helou began his remarks by congratulating CSU on how to centralize computers, then presented the timeline for computer replacements, and then introduced Tony Ryno, who created this process at Oberlin College and has re-created it at CSU. Director Ryno presented an overview of the work process, which included a survey of primary devices with the deans and other considerations based on the Faculty Senate committee recommendations. He noted that the expiry of Windows 10 has sped up the process. He explained the process includes standardizing budget access, increasing security, and improving the support process, noting the process is more efficient and will save money. He also explained that requests to replace secondary devices will be vetted by Provost's office, that the priority are the older, primary devices which cannot support Windows 11. He recommended reviewing the FAQ page, and welcomed inquiries by email or phone.

Kim Neuendorf, representing CSU Retiree Assoc asked whether the group who shares office space and has an antique computer are entitled to a replacement. CIO Helou responded that IS&T will work with this group to ensure continued access on campus. He recommended emailing the specific question so that they can respond with thoughtful information and find the best solution, noting that this situation is a great example of the nuances and complexities on the issue.

Sen. M. Adams asked about teaching labs, purchased with CSU funds. CIO Helou noted that this is another example of the nuances and recommended emailing the specific question. He explained that the question will be aggregated and discussed with the Provost and used to update the FAQ page, as they work through this complex process. Sen. Adams noted that there is a tool to check whether the computer can be updated to Windows 11. Director Ryno noted that faculty can submit a ticket and IS&T will check because even those machines that are old and can run Windows 11 may need to be updated.

Sen. A. Severson asked how long a computer will be allowed on the network if it cannot be updated to Windows 11. Director Ryno responded that a solution to this situation is needed. Sen. Severson noted that the computers for purchase are all with Windows 10. Director Ryno responded that this listing is for the historical charge setup and the process for replacements will be different.

XII. New Business

Senate President Olszewski announced that the faculty committee interest survey is open until midnight March 28th and suggested faculty consider how they would like to spend their service time next year. Steering will be looking carefully to ensure the rules are followed with respect to term limits and so forth.

Senate President Olszewski announced that a nominating committee is being put together for the upcoming election for Faculty Senate Vice-President and urged faculty to respond to inquiries.

Senate President Olszewski announced that the teaching council, which was previously created but not populated, would be looking for members. She explained the council would work like the research council but would be focused on teaching. The first task of the council will be to look at courses with high DFW rates. She encouraged faculty to self-nominate and added that she would be sending out invitations to those participating in the experience program.

XIII. Question Time

Sen. Ausherman asked Vice Provost Jackson whether there has been collaboration between the student experience project and the ad hoc committee of SEI (Course Feedback Survey). VP Jackson replied that there have been a few conversations but nothing specific about student feedback. She also noted that there were 25 faculty involved during the student experience project the first semester and now there are 88 faculty participating. Senate President Olszewski added that just because there is a student evaluation doesn't prevent an instructor from asking students for feedback. Sen. Ausherman noted that there are three surveys. Senate President Olszewski encouraged faculty to sign up. Debbie Jackson noted sign up will occur soon, just waiting for the budget.

Senate President Olszewski announced she received an email requesting Faculty Senate releasing a statement regarding SB-1. She noted that Senate leadership will discuss further.

XIV. Adjournment

Senate President Olszewski noted the next meeting is in May in Wolstein Center (4th floor East Wing), and adjourned the meeting at 4:34 pm.

APPROVED ON MAY 7, 2025

Respectfully submitted,
Jacqueline Jenkins
Faculty Senate Secretary