



FACULTY SENATE--MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2024
3:00 PM – Moot Court Room LB 101

PRESENT: Faculty Senate Officers A. Kumar, D. Hubbard, and A. Smith; **Faculty Senators** J. Ausherman, M. Baumgartner, J. Bolt, A. Borosov, S. Brockhaus, B. Browning, B. Conti, D. Davisson, V. DePaoli, B. Ekelman, K. Fuller, C. Heyward, J. Jenkins, E. Lehfeldt, K. Mansour, J. Matthews, B. McClain, P. McGinty, B. Nagy, H. Pearson, T. Porter, A. Price, R. Raimer, E. Rauschert, H. Richter, T. Runner, A. Severson, D. Smith, J. Sola, A. Sonstegard, J. Vitali, and R. Whitbred; **Administrative and Corresponding Members** L. Bloomberg, N. Sridhar, J. Gordon, M. Gruys, R. Carnell, B. Kosteas, K. Morris, K. Neuendorf, T. Nikitina; **Ex Officio Limited Members** G. Dyer, M. Heath, T. Heus, and M. Wiitala.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Zoom indicated a peak of 82 participants.

Senate President Kumar gavelled the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

I. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the January 31, 2024, meeting were approved by voice vote.

III. Eulogy for Professor Emeritus James A. Lock

Professor Petru Fodor of the Department of Physics read a eulogy for late Professor Emeritus James Lock (https://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/James_Lock_Eulogy.pdf). Professor Lock's wife, Dr. Vida Lock, was present.

IV. Report of the Senate President

Senate President Kumar provided updates on several Senate and University matters. He called attention to upcoming elections for Senate President and Secretary, and identified Senators Chandra Kothapalli, Aaron Severson, and Bruce McClain as the Nominating Committee. President Kumar stated that the committee preference survey would soon be distributed to faculty. He noted also that the library was seeking a committee member from the faculty to serve on the steering committee for the migration of library operations from its current library services platform, Sierra, to a new one, Alma.

President Kumar noted that the Core Curriculum Committee had produced a resource book to guide faculty in proposing courses for the new core curriculum, and said that the committee will continue its work in guiding the development of the core curriculum.

President Kumar expressed concern about the process being used by EY. He referred to one of his favorite movies, *The Efficiency Expert*, in which a consultant appreciates that his client is the company for which he is consulting, not solely management. This leads the consultant to interactions with everyone in the company. President Kumar suggested that EY should have a broader stakeholder conversation than it seemed to be having, and that it appeared that the conversation was not as broad as it might be. President Kumar said that this led him to be somewhat skeptical of the process.

President Kumar expressed concern about the potential cancellation of summer classes, and emphasized the need for care in doing so and in particular optimizing the timing of doing so.

President Kumar introduced Board of Trustees Chair David Reynolds, who made remarks concerning University President Laura Bloomberg (who had just had a brush with the possibility of being appointed President of the University of Minnesota) and on the project being conducted by EY Consulting for the University. Trustee Reynolds said that he was happy to welcome President Bloomberg back from her visit to Minnesota with open arms; that he was elated to have her back; and that he and the Board were looking forward to working with her. Concerning the work being done by EY, Trustee Reynolds noted that higher education was in choppy waters and said that EY was assisting the University in evaluating what we have and would assist us in choosing the best path forward.

V. Report of the President of CSU

University President Bloomberg stated that she was not seeking to leave CSU. She explained that the presidency of the University of Minnesota was unique in attracting her interest, and that she was glad to have risked being a candidate for that position. She stated that taking risks is growing and that she wanted our students to understand that.

President Bloomberg expressed appreciation of Professor Fodor's beautiful tribute to Professor Jim Lock, and stated that she was grateful that we took time to remember colleagues. She commented on the beauty of the remembrance event for President Emeritus Michael Schwartz that had been held in the Student Center Ballroom on February 8. President Bloomberg called specific attention to the sun that flooded into the Ballroom as the blinds were raised at the end of the ceremony.

President Bloomberg reported that she had spent the preceding week in Naples, Florida, meeting with alumni, and said that to a person, those with whom she had met were proud of CSU and confident of the University's future despite its current financial struggles.

President Bloomberg provided an update on the work of EY. She reiterated (from her previous comments on this) that EY was making no decisions, but rather was digesting CSU's data, making comparisons to other institutions, and providing information so that the President, the Board, and University leadership could make decisions about financial stability. The President said that the EY had talked to administrators, some students, some faculty, and chairs, but said they couldn't or wouldn't talk to everyone. She noted that market analyses to be performed by EY were also crucial, and that we would have to apply our knowledge of this institution to decision making in the context of analyses and options provided by EY. The President again

described EY's two workstreams--Workstream 1 is to provide advice to solve the immediate budget deficit., and Workstream 2 is to identify areas in which small investments could provide substantial returns in enrollment growth.

VI. Admissions and Standards Committee

Dr. Michael Wiitala, Chair of the Admissions and Standards Committee, brought forth on behalf of the Committee, a revised graduate course repeat policy (**Report No. 26, 2023-2024**), a revision of the Academic Standing Regulations (**Report No. 27, 2023-2024**), and a change to the admissions policy for the Ph.D. in Urban Education. All were approved by voice vote.

Dr. Wiitala also presented for its second reading revisions of the 3344-21-02 Policy on Academic Misconduct. These include updates that address explicitly the use by students of AI and a change in the definition of cheating from using materials "not explicitly permitted by the instructor" to using materials "explicitly prohibited" by the instructor. This was approved by voice vote. (**Report No. 28, 2023-2024**)

VII. University Curriculum Committee (**Report No. 29, 2023-2024**)

Committee Chair Michele Heath brought a consent agenda from the committee. The consent agenda was approved by voice vote with one abstaining vote.

- ACT - 455 - Internal Controls and Risk Management
- Environmental Policy Minor - 1110 - Fall 24
- Environmental Studies, Accelerated 4+1 BA/MA - 1110 - Fall 24
- Environmental Studies, JD/MA - 1110 - Fall 24
- Health Care Management Minor - 1110 - Fall 24
- Healthcare Management Major, B.S. - 1110 - Fall 24
- Historic Preservation, Graduate Certificate - 1090 - Spring 24
- Information Systems Minor - 1110 - Fall 24
- Local Government Management, Graduate Certificate - 1110 - Fall 24
- Mathematics, Accelerated Master's BA or BS/MS - 1110 - Fall 24
- Nonprofit Administration Minor - 1110 - Fall 24
- Nonprofit Management, Graduate Certificate - 1110 - Fall 24
- Nonprofit Management, MNM - 1110 - Fall 24
- PhD in Transdisciplinary Health, Science & Technology (THST) - 1120 - Spring 25
- Physics, Accelerated Master's - 1110 - Fall 24
- Public Management Certificate - 1110 - Fall 24
- Sustainable Urban Development Certificate - 1110 - Fall 24
- Sustainable Urban Development Minor - 1110 - Fall 24
- Urban and Regional Studies Minor - 1110 - Fall 24
- Urban Economic Development, Graduate Certificate - 1110 - Fall 24
- Urban Real Estate Development and Finance, Graduate Certificate - 1110 - Fall 24
- Urban Studies/Urban and Regional Planning, MS with dual residency - 1110 - Fall 24
- UST - 202 - Cleveland: The African-American Experience
- UST - 475 - Social Justice and the City
- Nonprofit Management, Accelerated Master's BA/MNM - 1110 - Fall 24
- Certificate for Computer Science Teacher Education Endorsement

PhD Program in Transdisciplinary Health, Sciences & Technology (THST)

Professor Heath proposed approval of a Ph.D. in Transdisciplinary Health, Science, and Technology. Senator Hannah Pearson asked about resource sufficiency for this program and particularly whether library resources were sufficient for the program. Program representatives said that there were few new courses for this program and that the issue of library resources had not been closely examined. The proposal was approved by voice vote with one abstention.

VIII. Ad Hoc Committee on Core Curriculum **(Report No. 30, 2023-2024)**

Dr. Jeffrey Bolt provided an update on the activities of the Core Curriculum Committee. He stated that the resource manual prepared by the Committee to assist faculty in developing or modifying courses for the core curriculum had been posted. He reported that the Core Curriculum Committee would be part of the approval process for courses proposed for the core curriculum and that this would expedite the process by providing a review step close to the beginning of the approval process. Dr. Bolt said that a further email would be forthcoming about implementation of the Core Curriculum.

Senate President Kumar noted that it was urgent that departments and programs attend to the task of proposing core curriculum courses to achieve Fall 2025 implementation.

Senator Emily Rauschert suggested that the proposed timeline was problematic and wondered if a more realistic timeline was possible. Provost Nigamanth Sridhar stated that there would be opportunities for flexibility in the timeline and that there would be support for faculty for the development of pathways for the core curriculum.

IX. Ad Hoc Committee on SEI

Committee Chair Thijs Heus was available to answer questions about the committee's report on its factfinding activities. He indicated that the next foci of the committee were going to be on improving student response rates and on data use. Concerning the latter, he said that data was now used almost exclusively for summative purposes and asked whether SEI data could be used more formatively. The report was approved as written, by voice vote. **(Report No. 31, 2023-2024)**

Senate President Kumar asked the Committee to meet with student leaders to keep them in the loop.

X. University Faculty Affairs Committee (UFAC)

UFAC Chair Gary Dyer presented for first reading, on behalf of the committee, a change in policy for distinguished faculty awards. The proposal is that all full-time faculty with at least six years of service be eligible for all distinguished faculty awards. (This would eliminate the need for a special distinguished teaching award for lecturers.)

Professor Dyer also presented for first reading proposed changes to the following university policies: 3344-12-10: Policies pertaining to courtesy appointments; 3344-13-01-A: Bylaws of the Faculty Senate to define college faculties; 3344-13-03-B-4: Student Members of Standing Committees; 3344-13-03-F-2: The Admissions and Standards Committee; 3344-13-03-A-7 and 3344-13-03-J:

Diversity and Inclusion Committee; 3344-13-03-N-1: Academic Technology Committee; and 3344-13-02 The Faculty Senate (pertaining to dates for apportionment and Senate elections).
(Report No. 32, 2023-2024)

XI. Budget and Finance Committee

Committee Chair Deborah Smith reported on the recent meeting of the Planning and Finance Advisory Committee, of which the Committee is a part and at which the Committee had the opportunity to obtain information from David Jewell, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Professor Smith spoke first about an effort to obtain funding for improving Rhodes Tower, with one plan under consideration being to convert Rhodes Tower into student housing. She noted that Mr. Jewell had assured the Committee that any plan for Rhodes Tower would include resources to move current occupants out of Rhodes Tower.

Professor Smith spoke next about a plan under consideration to contract with Follett implement a campus-wide equity access program through which students would pay a single fee for course materials which would then be available to them by the first day of an academic term. Professor Smith noted that Mr. Jewell had identified as benefits of this program that it would provide an upper limit for textbook costs, would permit students to plan book expenses, and would permit better tracking of textbook costs. Professor Smith stated that Mr. Jewell assured the committee that input was being sought about this plan.

Professor Smith stated that Mr. Jewell provided a description of the EY consultation project. She said that Mr. Jewell had said that EY is looking everywhere for potential cost reductions and maximizing revenue.

Professor Smith reported that although the Wolstein Center has an annual deficit, the University is unable to take advantage of opportunities to rent out this space due to uncertainties about when the facility is needed for athletic events. This year, the Wolstein Center has been rented out for one event, and it is possible that additional such contracts could close the Wolstein Center budget gap.

Senator Rob Whitbred asked whether the University would benefit financially from the potential Follett program. Provost Sridhar replied that this should be thought about as a student success issue, not as a financial issue. There was discussion of the financial implications of such a program for students and the need for clarity in how a student might opt out of the program.

XII. Student Government Association (SGA) Report

SGA President Kayland Morris spoke about issues of concern to and recent activities of the SGA, focusing primarily on textbook accessibility and affordability and the potential equity access contract with Follett.

She expressed, on behalf of students, concern about students paying more fees. She emphasized that if students were to be charged more fees, it was essential that scholarships be credited in time to pay those fees.

President Morris reported that after finding not credible the statistics with which she had been provided on average expenditure on textbooks, she surveyed students concerning textbook expenses and preferences about equity access at various price points. She reported finding that students reported lower textbook expenditures than those quoted by Follett, and that although preference for equity access over individual purchasing increased as the cost of equity access decreased, even at the lowest hypothetical equity access fee (\$100), there was still a strong preference among survey respondents for purchasing on one's own.

President Morris urged caution in proceeding with any equity access arrangement with Follett. She concluded by expressing appreciation for the opportunity to be heard and for the assistance that students receive from faculty.

The SGA's presentation by Ms. Morris was applauded by the faculty members of the Senate.

XIII. Graduate and Professional Students Association (GPSA) Report

GPSA President Tatiana Nikitina discussed concerns about building access, space for student organizations, and options for dining. In particular, she questioned the logic of which doors are open on various buildings and which require a key for entry; noted that student organizations need space for their activities and for storing things; and stated that there was a need for additional dining options that might include partnerships with local restaurants.

XIV. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Provost Sridhar began his report by addressing concerns about the potential for an equity access contract with Follett. He stated that we do not have a contract—we are asking questions.

The provost emphasized that overall, faculty are interested in improving teaching and serving students better.

Provost Sridhar congratulated the Core Curriculum Committee on its having assembled the handbook for developing and proposing core curriculum courses. Concerning core curriculum pathways, he stated that there would be a structured mechanism for pathway proposals, that we want a small number of well curated pathways, and that having dozens of pathways would defeat the purpose of the new core curriculum. The provost said that students would be included in the pathway review process.

Responding to a previous comment by Senate President Kumar about course format, the provost said that several of our new programs—the online JD program and the accelerated BSN program—were mostly online but with an on-campus component that permitted community building.

The provost stated that cancellations of summer courses had to be well timed so that students were protected from having classes canceled close to the beginning of a term. He discussed the process of schedule building and upcoming changes to the process. The provost reminded faculty concerning submission of midterm grades. He said that a memo about merit awards would be sent later this week and encouraged all faculty members to apply.

Senator Judy Ausherman asked about the University's plan for April 8, the date on which Cleveland would be in the path of a total solar eclipse. The provost said that classes are canceled, that clinical activities are expected to continue if the clinical sites at which students were working were open, and that staff who could work remotely from home would be encouraged to do so.

The provost was asked about Rhodes Tower, with concern being expressed about the academic implications of moving current occupants of Rhodes Tower. The provost had agreed that there had been mixed messaging on Rhodes Tower because to obtain funding for a Rhodes Tower purposing required that steps be taken before we are ready to do anything.

Senator Aaron Severson asked for an update on the Center for Civics, Culture, and Society, mandated by Ohio Senate Bill 117 to be established at CSU. The Provost said that a seven-member academic council has been identified that must be confirmed by the Ohio Senate, and that the council had not yet been confirmed.

XV. New Business

There was no new business.

XVI. Adjournment

There being no further business, and following a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON APRIL 3, 2024

Albert F. Smith

Faculty Senate Secretary