



CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate

MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2022
3:00 PM – Moot Court Room LB 101

PRESENT: **Faculty Senate Officers** A. Kumar, M. Bayachou, D. Hubbard; **Faculty Senators** J. Ausherman, B. Browning, D. Choi, P. Daiker-Middaugh, D. Davisson, G. Dyer, K. Fuller, J. Gatica, J. Goodell, T. Greer-Medley, T. Guzman, D. Hamilton, C. Heyward, N. Zawahri, W. Kellogg, C. Kothapalli, R. Krebs, S. Kumar, J. Marino, W. Matcham, B. McClain, P. McGinty, C. Olszewski, H. Pearson, J. Plecnik, T. Porter, A. Price, R. Raimer, E. Rauschert, A. Severson, G. Shukla, A. Smith, D. Smith, J. Sola, A. Sonstegard, R. Whitbred, Y. Xu; **Corresponding Members** N. Sridhar, S. Reddy, C. Orahoske, R. Schoephoerster, R. Carnell, S. Zachariah; **Ex Officio Limited Members** M. Gordon Pershey, L. Quinn, J. Jenkins

OTHERS

PRESENT: Zoom indicated a peak of 67 participants.

I. Approval of the Agenda for the September 14, 2022 Meeting

Senate President Kumar called the meeting to order at 3:00 and the agenda was approved by acclamation.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of April 27 and June 29, 2022

Asking if there were any revisions or corrections to the minutes, Senate President Kumar called for the approval of the minutes, which were approved by voice vote.

III. Senate Vice President Election

Dr. Kumar announced that the three candidates for the Senate Vice President position were Mekki Bayachou (Chemistry), Bruce McClain (Accounting), and Albert (Fred) Smith (Psychology); he thanked them for volunteering and asked that voting faculty senators complete their ballots.

Dr. Chandra Kothapalli of the Senate Nominating Committee assisted with the collection and counting of the ballots.

Dr. Kumar announced that Mekki Bayachou was elected to the Vice President position and asked him to join the officer's table.

IV. Report of the Senate President

Senate President Kumar welcomed senators and thanked them for their service, noting that most of the standing committees have full rosters, but some volunteers are still needed. Other topics included in his report touched on:

- The Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) review is ongoing.
- As CSU 2.0 continues moving forward, Faculty Senate has an important role in communicating faculty concerns to the administration.
- Five-year trends of enrollment decline are a concern at the University, and could affect overall financial viability. The administration is working to address the issue through a number of initiatives. Faculty and staff should also be aware and consider how they may contribute to assisting efforts or recommending ideas. A number of factors have impacted enrollment including lack of staffing in student-facing offices, the pandemic overall, and relaxed academic standards during the pandemic.
- Student success is integral to the mission of the university, and faculty play an integral role.
- Global CSU has made a positive impact on enrollment, however, there are areas where deeper understanding of the program should be studied. Recruitment and retainment; number of faculty who teach in-demand classes, and the campus environment for international students.
- Class attendance is one area that is impactful for student success, see the article in the Chronical of Higher Education.
- While financial stress is a concern and the University must have a student-centered approach, it is wise to also recognize that a faculty-centered approach is also necessary.
- The location of future Faculty Senate meetings will be changing, and information will be sent as soon as it is finalized.

V. University Curriculum Committee

Committee chair Jacqueline Jenkins (Civil Engineering) reported that curriculog is open now and accepting new proposals

VI. Admissions and Standards Committee

José O. Solá (History) is returning as committee chair and reported the group will soon be holding their first meeting.

VII. University Faculty Affairs Committee

Linda Quinn (Math and Stats) was elected to chair the committee and reported that the group will continue to review the green book this year. The committee decided to withdraw the second reading of changes to the bylaws that were presented at the April, 2022 meeting. She anticipates having a re-submission of changes soon.

VIII. Undergraduate Student Success Committee

Dr. Gatica reported that he is representing the committee, he is not chairing the committee, and that the group will meet soon to plan the upcoming year.

IX. Budget and Finance Committee Report

Tatyana Guzman (Urban) is the committee chair and welcomes questions and/or ideas from faculty colleagues; the committee has met amongst themselves and will be meeting with the University CFO, David Jewell, soon.

X. Student Government Association Report

SGA President, Shashank Reddy, introduced himself and thanked Faculty Senate for the opportunity to represent students at the meetings. He acknowledged the importance of a strong faculty and student collaboration.

XI. Graduate and Professional Student Association Report

GPSA President Cody Orahoske spoke on the proposed 60-second lecture series that the group is involved with and would appreciate faculty help in promoting the initiative; thanked the administration for enhancement to the graduate assistant contract extensions, and noted that the group has a full cabinet of student volunteers. The group would like to include community service in their plans for the year with a focus on a “CSU alumni identity”—what does it mean to have graduated from Cleveland State University?

XII. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Int. Provost Nigamanth Sridhar reported that President Bloomberg was unable to attend today’s meeting, and is participating remotely via Zoom. He acknowledged the amount of work and time needed to participate in Faculty Senate and he thanked Senate leadership and members for their dedication and commitment to shared governance—he pledged to support shared governance from the Provost’s office.

His report included

- Recent faculty research include grants from the NSF, NIH, and ODE.
- A recent collaborative community effort included CSU students helping design and build an electric 4-wheeled mountain bike, for an urban indoor bike park.
- CSU 2.0 reorganization and building new cultures within the new college; recognizing that there is still work to be done.
- The president’s office website includes a link to organizational charts for the president and provost offices.
- Enrollment decline is an important issue; it is a top concern for the university.
- CSU Global is an important component to address enrollment; the university is considering how to address the challenges of faster than anticipated growth and faculty expectations, especially in two specific majors/programs. A town hall was held to listen to students from Global CSU. A goal is to create a better experience for both students, faculty, and staff.
- Recently, partnerships with KeyPath and Collegis have been established to help CSU with marketing and better delivering online programs to a wider range of prospective students.
- The University has had recent success with student retention, however the pandemic hurt us and other universities in these efforts. The University is working to improve retention which is one of the important indicators of student success. John Holcomb is working on a report looking at retention issues.
- Restructuring of the Provost’s office includes a new position, Provost for academic excellence, and thanks to Dr. Marius Bobac is moving out of the Provost’s office after an important and successful stint through the University reaccreditation.
- The general education curriculum (GenEd) will be reviewed and updated to reflect changes over the past 15-ish years. The provost is asking for help/feedback from faculty with ideas about what the new core curriculum might look like.
- CFO David Jewell is looking at University space issues and current needs and opportunities.
- President Bloomberg’s investiture is scheduled for Friday, October 7, and he’d like to invite faculty to participate.

XIII. Question Time

Faculty participated in question time with the Provost.

XIV. New Business

There was no new business.

XV. Adjournment

There being no further business, Senate President Kumar adjourned the meeting at 4:34pm

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED ON OCTOBER 12, 2022
Dana Hubbard, Faculty Senate Secretary