



FACULTY SENATE – MEETING MINUTES

October 9, 2024

3:00 PM – Student Center Ballroom, third floor

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, C. Collins, M. Collins, B. Conti, V. DePaoli, K. Fuller, M. Gallagher, J. Gatica, P. Lopes Gerum, A. Goodsett, T. Greer-Medley, C. Heyward, J. Kahler, W. Kang, E. Lehfeltd, J. Marino, J. Matthews, P. McGinty, A. O’Connor, J. Plecnik, A. Price, R. Raimer, E. Raushert, H. Richter, A. Severson, Y. Shen, D. Smith, A. Tayyara, J. Vitali, A. Voight, N. Zawahri; **Administrative and Corresponding Members** L. Bloomberg, N. Sridhar, J. Gordon, A. Kersten, R. Carnell, M. Gruys, S. Zachariah, J. Samsa; **Ex Officio Limited Members** G. Dyer, M. Heath, T. Heus, M. Wiitala, and L. Quinn.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Zoom indicated a peak of 85 participants.

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

- I. Approval of the Agenda for the October 9, 2024 Meeting
The agenda was unanimously approved by voice vote.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of the September 11, 2024 Meeting
A. September 11, 2024
The minutes of the September 11, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved by voice vote.
- III. Report of the Senate President
Senate President Olszewski began her remarks by thanking the attendees for all their hard work. She commented on the new arrangement of the meeting room and asked those who speak to first introduce themselves and who they represent. Senate President then read a prepared statement about the need for civility when engaging in conversations on campus with those who may have differing opinions, to put our best forward.

Senate President Olszewski then addressed two items. The first was that the work of the ad hoc committee on Core Curriculum continues and that additional people are still needed, especially those who are familiar with general education and core curriculum requirements. A one hour workload credit will be given to those who serve on the ad hoc committee. Contact Marcus Schultz-Bergin or Carol Olszewski if interested in serving.

The second item concerned aligning Faculty Senate standing committees and President Bloomberg's leadership groups to increase the shared governance experience at CSU. For example, the Electronic Learning, Academic Technology and Library committees would be aligned with the technology transformation leadership group, because all include technology as a focal point. As more information becomes available it will be shared.
(Report No. 6, 2024-2025)

IV. Report of the President of CSU

President Bloomberg first noted that a message would be going out shortly about Indigenous Peoples Day and other upcoming holidays. The message would include the announcement that campus will be closed for an additional two days at the beginning of winter break.

Present Bloomberg noted that she tries to attend as many School of Music performances as she can, including the Thursday noon series, and encouraged everyone to check out the School of Music's calendar and, if possible, take in a performance or two.

President Bloomberg noted that the Mandel Honors College was sponsoring a City Club event to mark the 10th anniversary of the college and thanked Dean Rachel Carnell for leading that effort.

President Bloomberg then talked about the athletics budget and beginning discussions in relation to the University's organizational resilience and financial stability efforts. Now that the academic year has begun, and Athletic Director Kelsey Harkey has returned from maternity leave, in-depth analysis and discussions are scheduled to consider making budget reductions to athletics.

President Bloomberg's last remark was about the State of the University address. She thanked those who attended. She commented that when she meets with alumni, they often share stories about CSU and the faculty members who made an impact on their educational experiences; those stories have led to the *If Not For CSU* campaign. She then played the [If Not For CSU video](#) and mentioned that #IfNotForCSU is also being used.

CSU's Strategic Plan: 2025-2030

Together, Faculty Senate President Olszewski and President Bloomberg provided an update on the work of the strategic planning task force. President Bloomberg provided the timeline, and of the progress made since last spring. She explained that the mission statement doubles down on what we already know to be true – we are unequivocally Cleveland's University. She explained that the charge of the task force is to work with people across campus (faculty, staff, students, and alumni), and at every step, the task force has listened and made changes. She noted that she has personally read every comment provided. The task force meets every Tuesday morning and considers the feedback as the process moves along, from mission, vision and values, to priorities, objectives and metrics. **(Report No. 7, 2024-2025)**

Senate President Olszewski highlighted the changes that have been made to the SWOT analysis based on the feedback received. President Bloomberg chimed in that the rewritten mission statement was actually provided as anonymous feedback during the survey.

Senate President Olszewski presented the first priority – advance academic offerings, delivery, and scholarship to foster success, and highlighted pieces of the objectives, noting that experiential learning encompassed all the different forms of internships, co-op, and so forth.

President Bloomberg then presented the second priority - reimagine community partnerships to increase opportunities, and highlight how we can make a university/community interface that supports the work we do.

Senate President Olszewski presented the third priority – restructure operational and financial models to enhance our mission-focused work, and the three associated objectives.

Finally, Senate President Olszewski called for feedback, specifically for additional metrics for the priorities. She noted the last survey received 448 responses, which was a great response.

Senator Anne Price asked whether the survey goes to staff as well. President Bloomberg responded in the affirmative, that the highest response rate has been from staff, as well as a high response from students.

President Bloomberg added that it would be valuable to have scholars look at the metrics and provide feedback on what measures are more effective.

V. University Curriculum Committee

C. Consent Agenda (**Report No. 8, 2024-2025**)

Committee Chair Michele Heath noted that each of the proposals on the consent agenda now includes a brief description, and that two items, UST 410 and UST 475 were removed from consideration. The consent agenda was unanimously approved.

- UST - 200 - Cleveland: The City: Updating UST 200 to meet the new Inquiry Core Curriculum requirements for the category: Society & Human Behavior.
- UST - 201 - Building Cleveland: Architecture, Planning, and Society: Updating UST 201 to meet the new Inquiry Core Curriculum requirements for the category: Human Culture & Creativity.
- UST - 202 - Cleveland: The African-American Experience: Updating UST 202 to meet the new Inquiry Core Curriculum requirements for the category: African American History & Culture.
- UST - 205 - Public Service Careers: Course updated to meet the new Inquiry Core Curriculum requirements for the category: Society & Human Behavior.
- UST - 206 - Global Cities: Updating UST 206 to meet the new Inquiry Core Curriculum requirements for the category: Global Human Perspectives.

- UST - 207 - Ohio Government: Course updated to meet the new Inquiry Core Curriculum requirements for the category: Society & Human Behavior. Course description was updated.
- UST - 215 - Women Lead: Course updated to meet the new Inquiry Core Curriculum requirements for the category: Diversity in Society.
- UST - 232 - Belonging in the City: Creation of a new course - UST 232: Belonging in the City. The course will be a Category 2: Methods of Inquiry course in the category - Diversity in Society.
- UST - 250 - The City in Film: Updating UST 250 to meet the new Inquiry Core Curriculum requirements for the category: Human Culture & Creativity.
- UST - 290 - Urban Geography: Course updated to meet the new Inquiry Core Curriculum requirements for the category: Data & Digital Literacy. Course description was updated.
- UST - 304 - Policymaking for Social Change: Meet requirements for writing across the curriculum designation. Add pre-requisite.
- UST - 309 - Urban Planning: Updating course per new WAC requirements. Updating prerequisites to reflect new core curriculum.
- UST - 436 - Urban Sustainability: Updating course per new WAC requirements. Updating prerequisites to reflect new core curriculum.
- SOC - 317 - Sociology of Gender: The course is being modified to reflect the new WAC requirements.
- BUS - 201 - Applied Business Statistics - The course is revised to comply with the inquiry core course curriculum requirements.
- Mechanical Engineering, Accelerated Master's BME/MSME - 1120 - Spring 25 - The 9 credits of 500-level coursework completed during undergraduate studies will be applied to both the bachelor's degree and the master's degree.
- ECN - 201 - Principles of Macroeconomics - Submitting ECN 201 for CSU Inquiry Core Curriculum.
- ECN - 202 - Principles of Microeconomics - Submitting ECN 202: Principles of Microeconomics for inclusion in CSU's Inquiry Core Curriculum.
- OSM - 202 - Introduction to Business Analytics - The course is revised to comply with the inquiry core course curriculum requirements.
- Diversity Leadership and Change Management, Graduate Certificate - 1110 - Fall 24 - Add the following course to the required list: UST 575 - Social Justice and the City.

D. Discussion Agenda (**Report No. 9, 2024-2025**)

Committee Chair Heath opened the floor for comments/questions; there were none.

The discussion agenda was unanimously approved.

- Broadcasting Minor - 1120 - Spring 25- Minor in broadcasting

VI. Admissions and Standards Committee

Approval Item

Committee Chair Wiitala presented the proposal DPT Admissions change - 1150 - Spring 26 (<https://csuohio.curriculog.com/proposal:8199/form>) which drops the GRE requirement.

The proposal was unanimously approved.

VII. Budget and Finance Committee

Committee Co-chair Ausherman presented on behalf of the committee and noted: a new Moody's Outlook credit rating for CSU; answers received to PFAC questions; and instructions for accessing the online CSU Budget Book. (**Report No. 10, 2024-2025**)

VIII. Ad Hoc Committee on SEI Thijs Heus

Course Feedback Survey (**Report No. 11, 2024-2025**)

Committee Chair Heus presented a draft of the course feedback survey, stating that most of the principles in the instrument have already been approved by Faculty Senate. He explained that student feedback is valuable and that the committee was trying to address the current bias and that the biggest issue is the poor response rate.

Senator Pedro Lopes Gerum noted that the response rate is a problem, but that another problem is the bias, that a more difficult class is more inclined to get a worse rating whereas an introductory class may get a better rating. He also asked how the survey would be used in faculty performance reviews. Thijs Heus responded that the focus of the survey is on asking the student what things were helpful to them, what things were not helpful, and therefore focused on qualitative feedback.

Senator Aaron Severson asked whether students will complete both the survey and the existing Blue survey instrument. Thijs Heus responded that it is open for thought; that the pilot needs to be at a large scale. He explained that the current thinking is to double up with a certain subsection of the university to test the mechanics of the survey, identify unexpected answers, but that they are open to other ideas, such as replacing Blue with the new instrument for an entire college.

IX. Discussion Items

Unified Academic Coaching Model

Provost Sridhar and VP Tachelle Banks presented an update on the Unified Academic Coaching Model initiative. (**Report No. 12, 2024-2025**)

VP Banks began by introducing Associate VPs Nicholas Petty and Jeff Johnston, and TRIO Director Alisa Lawson-McKinnie from the Student Belonging and Success Leadership team. Next she provided an overview of the work already completed, which included reviewing the white paper with the President's Cabinet, reporting to the Dean's Council, meeting with the academic deans, reporting out to Academic Steering, and two community meetings. She noted that the interest extends beyond the advising community and that a third meeting is scheduled for October 14th for additional comments. She added that they are working to develop job descriptions and a timeline for implementation. Dr. Banks noted that those who will be directly impacted have been involved in the process and have had the opportunity to provide feedback.

Provost Sridhar began by thanking Academic Steering for the detailed conversation. He commented on the role of faculty under the unified model, noting that specific degrees have different levels of faculty advising. He noted that this culture will not change under the unified model, faculty who currently advise students can continue. He explained that with the unified model, each student will be assigned a coach and will stay with that coach through their academic journey at CSU.

Senator Emily Rauschert expressed concern about the removal of the assistant deans from the advising model. Provost Sridhar responded that the assistant deans are not being removed, they will continue to be engaged in the advising process, that it is the supervising responsibility that the assistant deans currently have that will be reassigned. He explained that placing academic coaching under one unit provides for one standard of care, while also providing flexibility to move coaches from one college to another to address student needs and better balance advising loads. He added that outcomes indicate a need for a structural change and the unified model is a best practice, which other universities have gone through. Dr. Banks affirmed this structure referencing the Student Belonging and Success organizational chart, and to address further comment from Emily Rauschert added that students will begin with an academic coach in their college.

Senator James Marino asked how many external comparators were simultaneously changing their general education. Provost replied that the core curriculum redesign is a fairly large change, to make it simpler and easier to understand but that additional support in terms of technology is needed. He commented on the value of the degree maps and degree audit, and that technology support would also help with these things and with the new integrated degrees. He noted that he and Dr. Banks are working on this parallel task of technology support.

Senator Judy Ausherman provided comments about students being misadvised, the number and age of the citations in the white paper, the role of faculty in student belonging and success, especially for COVID students, and asked whether faculty will be involved in hiring new tutors and advisors. Dr. Banks thanked her for the comments and stated that student success starts in the classroom but that does not negate the barriers that occur outside of the classroom, and that the data indicate a change is needed and that we can learn from our successes, from those of similar and different universities, from national organizations who specialize in student success, to arrive at improved experience in and outside of the classroom. Provost Sridhar added that the Experience Project, which is currently running a pilot of 25 faculty members, looks to increase a sense of belonging in the classroom by administering surveys, collecting information about what students feel. He noted that so far, 500 or so surveys have been completed, and that the goal is to get 100 more faculty engaged in this project and then next year double it so that half our faculty have gone through the process. He explained that the Experience Project looks at what can be done in classrooms to improve outcomes, while the Unified Coaching model relates to what can be done outside of the classroom that add to the student experience.

Senator Aaron Severson noted that TRIO, honors and athletics are highlighted as benchmarks but the ratios are very small, especially compared to arts and sciences where ratios are in the range of 700 to 800 students, and asked whether any work was done on the ratios, or whether it is just that more advisors are needed. Dr. Banks responded that these are pockets of excellence from which we can learn about the importance of the relational experience. She noted that the trend is to move to unified models to help students and improve the outcomes, as well as providing flexibility to more professional advisors across colleges. Provost Sridhar clarified that the

movement of advisors would be thoughtful, perhaps evaluating caseloads each semester or on an annual basis to level out the caseload.

Senator Anne Price asked how the LGTBQ+ Director and other resources will be included. Dr. Banks responded that there have been a lot of changes and that the centers are still functioning and will function better with a revised vision and new director, that there will still be space for intersectional identities. Evie DuVernay was the Assistant Director for the Women's Center and has moved into the role of Program Director, directing programs across the centers.

Senator John Plecnik said that the College of Law has the "Learn Law. Live Justice." award and that students benefit from recognition for their participation on campus. Referencing the Golden Apple award for staff and faculty, he suggested something similar for students involved in student groups, helping on campus, or helping in the community.

X. SGA Report

SGA President, Justin Samsa, introduced himself and noted that SGA is facing a shortage of members. He is interested in enhancing art and green spaces on campus for the student community. Asking for faculty support of student government initiatives, it was suggested that SGA provide a short video or other description of what they would like faculty and students to volunteer for.

XI. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Provost Sridhar began by clarifying the Moody's A2 rating reported by the Budget and Finance Committee has remained unchanged, but that the outlook was downgraded, and can be revised back to STABLE in the future

Provost Sridhar then commented on the process to be used for the student speaker at commencement, whereby the five colleges will have a valedictorian on the platform but only one will speak.

Provost Sridhar reported that the job description for the Director of the new Center for Civics, Culture, and Society, has been posted.

Provost Sridhar stated that every three years, CSU has to submit a report on low enrolling and duplicated programs. He noted that that work has already begun and thanked the chairs.

Provost Sridhar announced that this month is workload season, and that faculty should be having conversations with their chairs to plan for next year. Each faculty must receive their workload by January 30.

Provost Sridhar also announced that the Honors College was sponsoring a City Club event on Thursday, October 10th, that this event marked the 10th anniversary of the college. He thanked

Dean Rachel Carnell for her work on Leading Through Stories and thanked the founding dean, Dr. Liz Lehfeldt.

Faculty Senate President Olszewski called for a motion to move new business ahead. Motion was moved and approved.

XII. New Business

Microsoft Teams for Calling

Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) Telephone Services

Wasem Helou, Chief Information Officer talked about the initiative to replace the existing phone systems, to a flexible VoIP system. He noted that there are 30-40 people currently piloting the VoIP system and the implementation is planned for between this fall and next spring. For further details, refer to website FAQ, call or email. **(Report No. 13, 2024-2025)**

XIII. Question Time

Senator Judy Ausherman asked how best to get ex-officio members to attend Senate standing committee meetings. Faculty Senate President Olszewski replied that committee chairs should reach out, send meeting reminders and then noted that committee rosters would be sent out again after new ex-officio members are added. Provost Sridhar added that his Chief of Staff, Michael Artbauer, could help by sending out committee meeting reminders.

Senator Ausherman suggested SGA contact CSU Grounds Superintendent, Tim Square, about the tree tour.

Senator Janterria Mattews asked whether we are budgeting for sustainability. Provost Sridhar replied that the \$3.5 M in the budget report is the existing amount for academic advising, coaching, so forth, that with the unified model, we will identify resources for priorities. Faculty Senate President Olszewski asked how can we increase enrollment, and then noted that that's a topic for discussion in November. President Bloomberg added that VP of Enrollment, Randall Deike, has extensive experience for strategic recruitment plans.

XIV. Adjournment

Faculty Senate President Olszewski adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p.m. and noted that the entire slide deck from the meeting would be shared via email **(Report No. 14, 2024-2025)**.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Jenkins
Faculty Senate Secretary