



## **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE**

June 30, 2025

**3:00 PM – Remote Meeting Via Zoom**

**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, M. Collins, B. Conti, P. Daiker-Middaugh, V. DePaoli, Y. Fu, K. Fuller, M. Gallagher, J. Gatica, C. Heyward, J. Kahler, C. Kothapalli, J. Marino, J. Matthews, P. McGinty, K. Mika, A. O'Connor, T. Paoletta, J. Plecnik, A. Price, E. Raushert, H. Richter, A. Severson, Y. Shen, A. Smith, D. Smith, J. Vitali, A. Voight, B. Yusko, and N. Zawahri; **Administrative and Corresponding Members** L. Bloomberg, N. Sridhar, S. Brooks, J. Gordon, M. Gruys, A. Kersten, R. Schoephoerster, C. Broering-Jacobs, B. Kosteas, C. Hansman, H. Schlosser, **Ex Officio Limited Members** E. Avram, G. Dyer, S. Froehlich, M. Heath, and L. Quinn.

### **OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Zoom indicated a peak of 121 participants.

Senate President Olszewski called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

- I. Approval of the Agenda for the June 30, 2025 Meeting  
The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- II. Senate President Updates  
Senate President Olszewski thanked all for attending. She noted that the meeting was called in response to the passing of SB1 and the Provost would be providing some updates. She also noted that there were a couple items from UCC and one from Admissions & Standards.
- III. University Curriculum Committee (UCC)  
**(Approval Items)**
  - A. Approval of Broadcasting Proposal – We are requesting formal approval of the Broadcasting program proposal previously submitted. Approved
  - B. Core Curriculum Title Change – We propose changing the title of the core curriculum category "*Diversity in Society*" to "*Complexities of Pluralistic Society.*" *Approved*
  - C. Course Replacement in Core Curriculum – We request that the *African American History and Culture* core curriculum category be replaced in the core curriculum by the *American Civic Literacy* core curriculum category.

Committee Chair Heath read a statement on behalf of the UCC. **(Report No. 59, 2024-2025)**

"The UCC Committee approves the replacement of the African American History and Culture core curriculum category with the American Civic Literacy core curriculum category under a collaborative agreement with the administration. The Committee affirms CSU's longstanding commitment to providing students with a rich introduction to African American history and culture and will advocate for such a core curriculum category should future circumstances permit."

Sen. Bolt asked if the timeline was for fall 2025 and Chair Heath confirmed. Senate President Olszewski explained that there are a few existing courses that will fit within these categories and there may be additional courses in the works. The existing courses will be transitioned to meet the requirements.

Sen. Matthews asked whether the civic courses would stay in the College of Arts & Sciences or move to the new civics center. Provost Sridhar explained that the core curriculum category goes beyond the one civics course required by SB1, and that there are existing courses that satisfy this requirement. He also explained that the reason that this is happening so quickly is because ODHE modified the OT36 to remove the DEI requirement. Provost Sridhar noted that all public universities in Ohio are required to have a civics course in OT36, whether or not they have a civics center, and that CSU just happens to also have a civics center.

Sen. Daiker-Middaugh asked whether students who took African American history and culture would receive credit. Provost Sridhar noted that all students who begin a new program starting fall 2025 will be in the new core curriculum, and explained that there is no impact on students who have already taken Gen Ed courses and that students can continue to take Gen Ed courses as those courses have been mapped to the new arts and humanities category in the core curriculum.

Sen. Brockhaus asked whether the degree maps need to be updated for the fall. Vice Provost Jackson confirmed that the degree maps need to be updated for students starting fall 2025.

Sen. Yusko asked whether students already enrolled in AACH courses would be advised to drop those courses and whether there will be a sufficient number of civic courses to satisfy the resulting demand. Provost Sridhar explained that students who are enrolled in an AA course that satisfies an A&H requirement, will need a civic course, and that there are existing courses which have been approved as part of the core. Provost Sridhar also provided assurance that the Provost's office have been working closely with advising coaches on this issue.

UCC items were approved, with 1 abstention.

#### IV. Admissions and Standards

The proposal for Modifications to the WCE doctoral qualifying exam was considered, and it was noted that the item has been approved by the college's faculty.

Senate President Olszewski presented the approval item on behalf of Committee Chair Wiitala.

Approved by unanimous consent.

#### V. Report of the Provost

An informational report was provided by the Provost, related to the passage of SB1 and public universities in Ohio, and with guidance from Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Provost Sridhar began his remarks by noting that he provided an update on SB1 at the last meeting of the Faculty Senate and that the most updated guidance is available online, providing

the address in the chat. <https://highered.ohio.gov/educators/academic-programs-policies/sb1/sb1>. He explained that the administration's initial understanding was that Board-approved policies were needed as SB1 became law. However, ODHE modified the calendar such that Board-approved policies are due December 2025, thus providing additional time. Provost Sridhar added that the Chancellor will provide additional guidance by September 30. Provost Sridhar then provided the following comments regarding the deliverables and due dates that are posted online.

- September 25, 2025 Program Elimination.  
Provost Sridhar noted that there are 7 or 8 programs that fall into this bucket, and that waivers can be requested but only after enrollments are suspended.
- September 25, 2025 DEI Prohibitions Policy.  
Provost Sridhar noted that the Board has to approve a policy that prohibits DEI activities. He also noted that webpages are being reviewed, and references to past initiatives will be removed if they are no longer current, or labeled as “no longer active” (for example the faculty leaders advancing gender equity in stem—FLAGS project).
- September 30, 2025 American Literacy Plan.  
Provost Sridhar noted that the director of the Center for Civics, Culture and Society, Dr. Peter Koritansky, has been in conversation with several faculty members as he works on plans and will submit a curriculum proposal for approval.
- December 31, 2025 Faculty Annual Performance Evaluation Policy, Faculty Workload Policy, Five-Year Institutional Cost Summary Report, Faculty Tenure Policy, Post-Tenure Review Policy, Retrenchment Policy.  
Provost Sridhar noted that the post-tenure policy is highly prescribed in the law and the retrenchment policy is closely linked with the program elimination requirement. He noted that the only language that has been identified is in Article 16 of the collective bargaining unit. There is no plan to talk about faculty retrenchment at this time.
- June 30, 2026 Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Report, Syllabi Compliance Report.  
Provost Sridhar noted that while the deadline is in a year, work to address compliance needs to start now; the syllabus template currently housed on the Senate website, needs to be updated. He also noted that the administration is working out how best to get students access to the syllabi, and added that having syllabi accessible before the start of the semester is good practice and will satisfy the requirements. The requirement for including the instructor's name and qualifications prior to the beginning of classes will be a bit of a problem because of the high number of courses taught by instructors. One option being considered is to provide the syllabus for the course, and then add the instructors as they are finalized; no decision has been finalized and the topic will be discussed at a dean/chairperson leadership meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

Sen. Yusko asked if there will need to be a syllabus for every section of every class, for every semester. Provost Sridhar said yes, because the instructor needs to be included on each syllabus.

Sen. Marino asked about the possibility of an “uber” major, and if low-enrolling programs could merge into one major. Provost Sridhar explained that the 7 or 8 programs identified for elimination does not include the world language programs; the new major in world languages and culture went through the approval process, and is awaiting Board-approval to continue with the next steps. Provost Sridhar added that the law excludes new programs.

Sen. Brockhaus noted that many instructors include a syllabus statement to note that the details included on the syllabus are subject to change; he asked whether such statements will be allowed. Provost Sridhar noted that such guidance should be included on the Faculty Senate approved template. He suggested that the template be developed by the Senate's Undergraduate Student Success Committee. Provost Sridhar added that the SB1 law has 4 things that must be included: instructor, qualifications, topics, and readings. He added that the intent is to make sure students will find value and Faculty Senate should provide guidance. Senate President Olszewski confirmed.

Provost Sridhar responded to Karen Sotiropoulos' concern about protection for faculty teaching courses on African American History, noting that some courses will draw more attention than others, and he assured that protection will be offered for faculty. Provost Sridhar added that CSU is bound by the law and at the same time has a responsibility as an academic institution.

Sen. Yusko asked whether the collection and posting of syllabi will be the responsibility of the Provost's office. Provost Sridhar responded that the intent is to merge the syllabus posting process with the scheduling process and noted further details will come as the implementation process is determined.

Provost Sridhar addressed Katherine Clonan-Roy's question regarding her concern about student-facing services. Provost Sridhar noted that we are making some changes to better support all of our students, including specialized attention for those who need it. He added that the administration will work with student groups and the intent is to support all of our students while following the law.

Sen. Matthews asked whether there are metrics being developed for the evaluation of faculty. Provost Sridhar noted that for the student evaluation of instruction, the law requires one specific question to be included and two additional questions to be provided by the Chancellor, which will be added to the tool that Faculty Senate approved earlier in the year. Provost Sridhar added that all faculty already submit an eFAAR each year, and that the informal evaluation done by chairs will be formalized.

Sen. Matthews asked about DEI scholarships. Provost Sridhar explained that the language in SB1 mirrors the scholarship requirements which came from a Supreme Court decision. Provost Sridhar added that such changes have already been made.

Senate President Olszewski commented on the student evaluation of instruction question about faculty continuously creating an atmosphere of bias. Provost Sridhar provided the three questions to be included and noted that at least 25% of the teaching evaluation must be the student evaluation. Provost Sridhar agreed to Sen. Vitali's comment that teaching a class of 10 students is different than teaching a class of 50.

Faculty Rep. to the Board of Trustees Quinn asked whether faculty would have input or just receive information. Provost Sridhar stated that faculty will be informed, and that he would seek input in the process. Provost Sridhar added that the Board has the prerogative to write their own policies and that they have asked the administration to do so, explaining that the administration will seek faculty input but that the policies are not faculty-owned documents.

Senate President Olszewski asked Benjamin Richard's question about whether faculty can post signage in offices about safe spaces. Provost Sridhar responded that he will find out.

Sen. Matthews asked what is being done for the health of our faculty to keep them engaged. Provost Sridhar responded that this is a hard question because the health of faculty is important and the administration and campus community will need to work harder to come up with ways to address these concerns; the campus does need to spend more time taking care of each other.

Provost Sridhar addressed Sara Froehlich's question about removing inclusive language from syllabi by noting that he didn't think that was required. Senate President Olszewski added that inclusive language is technically what we are going for.

Provost Sridhar confirmed program elimination is based on majors.

Sen. Browning commented that the administration should always endeavor to seek faculty perspective, even when not required to do so, even when hard decisions need to be made, and even when there is disagreement with decisions. Faculty will feel heard and appreciated. And, that including faculty feedback could result in better decisions and outcomes.

Provost Sridhar responded to Patty Stoddard Dare's question about whether a minor can be retained if the major is eliminated, noting that he would need to check. Vice Provost Holcomb confirmed, but noted that each case would be evaluated to determine what is best for CSU.

Senate President Olszewski asked whether the idea of integrated degrees would be entertained. Provost Sridhar acknowledged that possibility, though he added that we cannot continue to do things the same way—we need to do things better, and that may require us to walk away from some areas.

Senate President Olszewski asked the Provost whether when seeking input from faculty he was thinking about campus community sessions such as those that were held when the University's strategic plan was being developed. Provost Sridhar reiterated that he wants faculty input and suggested that Faculty Senate meeting times could be used, but that a dedicated town hall discussion format may also be considered.

Provost Sridhar closed his remarks by extending well wishes to those in attendance, and thanking members for their work. He noted that there are many interesting projects and new courses underway on campus, and he hopes that faculty are able to enjoy their summer recess.

#### VI. Adjournment

Senate President Olszewski adjourned the meeting at 4:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**APPROVED ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025**

Jacqueline Jenkins

Faculty Senate Secretary