



MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE

January 29, 2025

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, M. Buckley, C. Collins, M. Collins, B. Conti, P. Daiker-Middaugh, V. DePaoli, Y. Fu, K. Fuller, M. Gallagher, J. Gatica, P. Lopes Gerum, A. Goodsett; T. Greer-Medley, J. Kahler, W. Kang, C. Kothapalli, E. Lehfeldt, J. Marino, J. Matthews, P. McGinty, B. Nagy, A. O’Connor, J. Plecnik, A. Price, R. Raimer, E. Raushert, H. Richter, A. Severson, A. Smith, D. Smith, A. Tayyara, J. Vitali, A. Voight, B. Yusko, and N. Zawahri; **Administrative and Corresponding Members** L. Bloomberg, N. Sridhar, J. Gordon, R. Schoephoerster, R. Carnell, M. Gruys, K. Neuendorf, N. Imam, and J. Samsa; **Ex Officio Limited Members** G. Dyer, M. Heath, L. Quinn, and M. Wiitala.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Zoom indicated a peak of 64 participants.

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

- I. Approval of the Agenda for the January 29, 2025 Meeting
Michele Heath, chair of UCC moved to add an item to the UCC discussion agenda, the removal of data in digital literacy from core requirements.
Motion was approved by voice vote.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting
A. December 4, 2024
The minutes of the December 4, 2024 meeting were approved by voice vote.
- III. Report of the Senate President
Senate President Olszewski began her remarks by thanking everyone for their work during the fall semester and welcoming everyone back for the spring 2025 semester. She also wished everyone a happy Lunar New Year. She provided some brief comments about SB1 and the recent federal executive orders and the need to be responsive, as opposed to reactive. She reminded everyone that the deadline for internal funding applications is Monday, February 3 and to leave enough time to get the required signatures. (**Report No. 31, 2024-2025**)

Senate President Olszewski presented the roster updates to fill various openings.

Roster Updates (informational)

- John Brentar to the Academic Misconduct Committee for Suzanne Giuffre who is on PLOA (Spring semester 2025)
- Laura Wertheimer to UFAC for Win Weizer (through August 15, 2025)
- Shawn Ryan appointed as Chair of the Distinguished Faculty Award Committee
- Pedro Lopes Gerum to the Undergraduate Student Success Committee for Eddie Lam (through August 15, 2026 and pending Academic Steering appointment)

- Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Program Improvement and Evaluation
 - Arts & Sciences—Jose Sola (representing Arts/Humanities) and Albert F. Smith (Maths/Sciences)
 - Health—Judy Ausherman
 - Public Affairs and Education—Jeff Bolt
 - Business—Abdullah Oguz
 - Engineering—Jorge Gatica
 - Graduate College—Jim Marino

IV. Report of the President of CSU

President Bloomberg began her remarks by thanking those who attended the spring semester kickoff and launch of the strategic plan, Cleveland State United the previous afternoon in the ballroom. Regarding SB1, President Bloomberg noted that she has concerns and opinions but that the focus is on advancing our mission. A Cleveland State United dashboard is being developed which will track progress on our strategic priorities and objectives through various metrics.

President Bloomberg thanked those who gathered the previous day. The plan is to create a consistent budget for Employee Resource Groups (ERG).

President Bloomberg announced the fundraising sprints for priority initiatives as part of Cleveland State United. There is capital funding for the innovation lab initiative and we're looking for philanthropic support to create a learning environment around the innovation lab. The largest philanthropic gift to CSU will be announced at the Radiance celebration. Funds were specifically designated to renovate the area between the library and the student center. She noted that there are talks with Arts & Sciences about creating a new gallery at East 13th to replace the space lost at Playhouse Square.

President Bloomberg noted that they are working on how to align the President's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee with the faculty senate committee.

President Bloomberg provided an update on the search for the director of the Center for Civis, Culture and Society. A group of faculty met with the candidates and their feedback was taken into account. An offer is being extended.

President Bloomberg spoke about the cuts to athletics recently approved by the board.

President Bloomberg also spoke about the status of Fenn Tower. The engineering analysis is complete, finding significant structural problems. The board approved the recommendation to save this beautiful, historic building. The timeline for the repairs is yet to be determined.

In closing, President Bloomberg thanked those who attended the fall commencement and urged faculty to attend the spring commencement. (**Report No. 32, 2024-2025**)

V. University Curriculum Committee

Approval Items

Committee chair Michele Health presented the consent agenda. The items were brought forth and received no discussion; however they did not get formally approved. At the next meeting of the Senate on February 26, 2025 they will be formally approved by voice vote.

B. Consent Agenda (**Report No. 33, 2024-2025**)

- 12 Hour Reading and Literacy Core Curriculum Revision (Undergrad)
- Accelerated BA/Master's Degree Admission Requirements
- Business Economics, B.B.A.
- Computer Science, B.S.C.S.
- Data Science, B.S.D.S.
- Data-Based Decision Making, Advanced Graduate Certificate
- Entrepreneurship, Graduate Certificate
- Ethics + Computer Science - Integrated Degree
- Film & Media Arts, B.A.
- Finance Minor
- Finance, B.B.A.
- Mortgage Banking Certificate
- Museum Studies Specialization
- Social Work, B.S.W.
- Social Work, B.S.W.

C. Discussion Agenda (**Report No. 34, 2024-2025**)

Committee chair Michele Health presented the first two items, which received no discussion; however they did not get formally approved. At the next meeting of the Senate on February 26, 2025 they will be formally approved by voice vote.

- General Studies, B.A. - 1140 - Fall 25
- Master of Accountancy and Analytics - 1140 - Fall 25

Committee chair Michele Health presented the third item--Removal of "Data & Digital Literacy" requirement from Core. (**Report No. 35, 2024-2025**)

- Provost Sridhar noted that he was disappointed that a requirement for the new curriculum was being considered for removal and suggested a temporary hold instead.
- Senate Vice President Hubbard asked whether the proposal was due to a lack of courses.
- Marcus Schultz-Bergin affirmed there was a lack of course proposals submitted for digital literacy and explained that there were proposals submitted for Social and Behavior Science, and that one element that treats this as temporary is for the two categories to merge so a course can choose to be either digital literacy or informational literacy.
- Linda Quinn echoed the Provost's concern. She noted that there are similar courses and wouldn't want students to take multiple, similar courses. There are courses that could be data literacy but there is a domino effect involved in adapting an existing 300-level course to a 200-level course.
- The discussion continued between Marcus Schultz-Bergin, Senate President Olszewski and Linda Quinn about alternative approaches of considering digital literacy.
- The discussion continued between Sen. Lehfeltdt, Provost Sridhar, and Sen. Lopes Gerum about the possibility of identifying existing courses that could fit this category.
- Sen. Yusko and Marcus Schultz-Bergin spoke about how to meet the OT36 category and digital literacy competency.

- Sen. Rachel Carnell noted that at the high school guidance counselor breakfast, the new core was a topic of interest and there were questions about whether the new core included an AI component.

Senate President Olszewski called for a vote on the motion. The motion was rejected.

Senate President Olszewski suggested UCC and the Ad Hoc committee on Core Curriculum consider some of the options voiced. Provost Sridhar offered assistance and thanked the senate for recognizing the importance of this issue.

- VI. Budget and Finance Committee
Committee Chair Judy Ausherman thanked Nicole Addington and Provost Sridhar for providing the slide deck which was presented at the Jan 23rd Board of Trustees meeting and discussed at the Jan 16th PFAC meeting. She presented the PFAC meeting dates and highlights from the Jan 16th PFAC meeting. She commented on the FY25 budget and the need for more information for cost reduction in certain areas, and the cuts to athletics recently approved by the board. (**Report No. 36, 2024-2025**)
- VII. Core Curriculum Update (**Report No. 37, 2024-2025**)
D. Inquiry Core Curriculum
Core Approved Courses (**Report No. 38, 2024-2025**)
Core Curriculum Online Resources
Marcus Schultz-Bergin provided a status update on the development of the core curriculum, including the number of proposals already approved, and those still in the Curriculum Management System (Curriculog). He spoke about the timeline, specifically the need to have courses show up properly in the system and available to academic coaches on Feb 26th with open registration starting March 10th. He also presented an update to the core curriculum website, explaining how the three different webpages serve course developers, faculty, staff and students.
- VIII. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer
Provost Sridhar began his remarks by thanking those who created core curriculum courses, acknowledging that the process has been quite fast given that the core proposal was approved eleven months ago.

Provost Sridhar then provided comments about the recent Presidential executive orders, specifically the freeze on all federal grant and loans, which will have a direct impact on our work. Although the executive order has been rescinded, we need to keep paying attention. Terri Kocevar is the point person at SPRS for questions about grant funding.

Provost Sridhar provided some comments regarding the update from the Budget and Finance Committee. The capital spending has been very slow in past years but will spike in FY 26 with the Fenn Hall lab renovations. More details will come over the next several weeks, including a faculty group to be involved in the design process.

Provost Sridhar acknowledged that there are facilities in need of attention. There is currently an HVAC issue at the Union building, although the timeline for repairs is unknown. Arrangements for an alternate location for people are being made. There are also issues with the music building. The Board has approved mechanical and electrical upgrades across campus.

Provost Sridhar then noted that workload letters are being prepared this week and the Provost's office is working with the Deans to determine how much of the curriculum we can afford and what the needs are for part-time instructional staff. Instructional budgets are being determined so that sections can be closed or hidden before students register, which is a significant change in how curriculum has been managed in the past.

Provost Sridhar reminded faculty about the project with Interfolio to link our FAAR with our faculty profiles. Draft profiles are being reviewed and encouraged faculty to review their profiles and provide feedback to Ray so issues can be addressed. The new profiles won't be published until there is a reasonable amount of satisfaction.

Provost Sridhar then thanked those who volunteered to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Program Improvement and Evaluation. The first part of business is the ODHE report which needs to go to the Board in May.

Provost Sridhar reminded faculty of the Dean's challenge, where deans and student compete in free throws on Feb 12th. This year, the incentive is a CSU Hawaiian shirt. In closing, Provost Sridhar noted that student athletes with 3.0+ GPA were recognized last week.

IX. Unfinished Business

E. Voice Over Internet Protocols (**Report No. 39, 2024-2025**)

Informational follow-up from October Senate meeting

Senate President Olszewski provided a quick update about the VoiP project noting wired headsets are available upon request.

X. New Business

Senate President Olszewski reminded committee chairs to review their charges. Changes need to go to UFAC in March.

UFAC chair Gary Dyer noted that UFAC reviewed various charges last year and suggested changes should be limited to function and purpose. Senate President Olszewski confirmed changes related to charges.

Sen. Ausherman asked how administrators are taught to work with committees.

F. [FPP 3344-13-03 Standing Committees](#)

- Asking all Faculty Senate Standing Committees to review language regarding functions and purposes.
- **Proposed revisions should be sent to UFAC by March 5 or as soon as possible** (in order to have first and second readings of the changes, with a final approval at the May 7, 2025 Senate meeting).
 - NOTE: In order to meet this timeline, after the first reading, if possible, the changes need to be posted for public comment by the last week of April or sooner.
- Standing Committees should also send their meeting dates to the Senate officers and office if you haven't already done so.

XI. Question Time

Sen. Ausherman brought up the issue of wayfinding from Julka Hall around Fenn Tower, which was further complicated by the gym door repairs. Provost Sridhar and President Bloomberg said that the issue will be addressed.\

Sen. Ausherman asked why the three athletics programs are being cut. President Bloomberg explained that the calculation was based on the work of the task force and considers the prioritized guidance principles. The Board unanimously voted for the cuts and CSU will remain in title 9 compliance.

Sen. Lehfeltdt noted that previously there had been cuts proposed to the wrestling program, but students voted to increase the athletics fees to support the program. President Bloomberg clarified that the increase in the athletics fees was for all athletics and women's scholarships. Senate President Olszewski asked what was left given that the seven recommendations were approved. President Bloomberg responded that the sport program cuts was one recommendation, and that several recommendations have proceeded to the department.

Sen. Greer-Medley asked for guidance to respond to students and parents regarding executive orders and SB1. Provost Sridhar noted that they are working to provide good information in a timely manner, but that they need to first figure out what can be done, legally. President Bloomberg added that we should be concerned and that the message to students should be that we remain focused on their education. She acknowledged that some people are going to feel anxious, and by pacing ourselves, we can create more calm in the midst of anxiety.

Sen. Ausherman brought up the issue that there are broken weblinks, specifically for the Office of Disability Services, and asked for the timeline for fixing student resource links. Provost Sridhar noted that there are two issues, broken links and staff replacements, which he will address with Marketing. Senate President Olszewski asked where broken links could be reported. Chief Marketing Officer, Roy Gifford noted that that would be him. Sen. Rauschert suggested updating the contact sheet.

Sen. Severson mentioned that the Dean's free throw challenge is always held at a men's game, and suggested it could be held at a women's game. Provost Sridhar noted the consideration for next year.

Sen. Severson also mentioned that the removal of the phones from the labs is a safety issue, considering there are dead zones. Tony Mansour from IS&T noted that there are Team's certified phones and the needs for these are being identified.

Sen. Severson asked whether it was possible to deselect everything when creating the new faculty profiles and then select only items that we want on our profiles. Provost Sridhar confirmed the approach is possible and suggested spending some time with Vice Provost Ray Henry to figure out how to set up the system.

Senate Vice President Hubbard asked for clarification on what we can do privately on social media. Linda Quinn asked whether she meant when we speak out as individuals or as in academic free speech. President Bloomberg noted that before the election we reminded what you say in the classroom, what you wear in the classroom, are part of academic free speech. Provost Sridhar and Senate President Olszewski both noted that these policies should be brought to people's attention. Gary Dyer noted the question was about private space. Provost Sridhar noted SB1 needs to be analyzed, and that private communication is separate from communication in your teaching capacity. Gary Dyer asked about faculty expressing their view. Provost Sridhar acknowledged the issue of using position and title when expressing your position.

Sen. Quinn noted that AAUP will be issuing a statement to address the provisions in SB1 and SB6 that impact faculty and that there may be people in support of pieces. She suggested the faculty senate may also want to release a statement.

Mays Turabi, News Editor of the Cauldron asked President Blomberg a question regarding DEI and Senate President Olszewski asked the question to be taken offline.

Sen. Matthews asked whether you needed insurance for the wellness recuperation days. President Bloomberg responded that this is a good-will gesture.

Sen. F. Smith asked the Provost to comment on how the Grays platform is being used to reshape the programming of curriculum. Provost Sridhar said it is being used extensively for new program development and program evaluation. It is also being used in the context of seeing which courses are seeing enrollment. It was used effectively last year to prepare for this year, but it hasn't been updated. We are now on a path to updating it such that it can again inform decisions. All of us will have access to all. The daily enrollment report is available again.

XII. Adjournment

Senate President Olszewski adjourned the meeting at 5:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Jacqueline Jenkins

Faculty Senate Secretary