



MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

October 1, 2025

3:00 PM – Student Center Ballroom

PRESENT: Faculty Senate Officers C. Olszewski, A. Voight, and J. Marino; **Faculty Senators** E. Avram, M. Baumgartner, J. Bickel, J. Bolt, S. Brockhaus, B. Browning, M. Buckley, M. Collins, L. Dong, Y. Fu, K. Fuller, J. Gatica, P. Gerum, T. Greer-Medley, J. Jenkins, E. Jennings, W. Kang, A. O’Connor, K. Pataki, J. Plecnik, L. Quinn, E. Rauschert, A. Resnick, H. Richter, A. Severson, Y. Shen, A. Smith, J. Sola, A. Vincent, J. Vitali, W. Wang, R. Whitbred, B. Yusko, and N. Zawahri; **Administrative and Corresponding Members** L. Bloomberg, N. Sridhar, J. Gordon, S. Zachariah; **Ex Officio Limited Members** J. Ausherman, G. Dyer, and C. Vander Weerd.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Zoom indicated a peak of 65 participants.

Called to order at 3:05

- I. Approval of the Agenda for the October 1, 2025 Meeting
Approved without objection
- II. Approval of the Minutes of the September 3, 2025 Meeting
Approved without objection
- III. Report of the Senate President
Dr. Olszewski began by thanking various worthy parties and asked faculty members to hang in there despite low morale. She asked a series of “what if?” hypotheticals about funding research, leveraging pedagogical creativity to attract students, and investing in people.
- IV. Report of the President of CSU
President Bloomberg discussed of upcoming Higher Learning Commission (HLC) visit, touted a number of new community partnerships, and praised various initiatives undertaken at CSU in the last few years. She discussed her hopes of imminently securing funding for a new student art gallery.

President Bloomberg discussed free speech issues and students’ questions about centers being closed or renamed for SB1 compliance. She noted that SB1 does not constrain student speech or student organizations and directed faculty attention to both <https://csuohio.edu/freespeech> and the Ohio State Code law on free speech of faculty. She invited participation in the upcoming State of the University event. **(Report No. 5, 2025-2026)**
- V. HLC Site Visit Update (Higher Learning Commission)
Vice Provost, Dr. Debbie Jackson explained the imminent mid-term accreditation visit and its focus on recruitment and hiring procedures. She noted that HLC has recently changed and reorganized its criteria. She thanked and acknowledged various colleagues for their contributions.

She encouraged faculty and students to meet the visiting accreditation team at either 10 am or 1:15 pm on October 13. **(Report No. 6, 2025-2026)**

- VI. University Curriculum Committee
Dr. Olszewski presented the items for UCC Chair Dr. Heath

Information Item

UCC Review of Items Submitted by Ex Officio Member

- Establish OT-36 and Core Competency requirements for the “American Civic Literacy” category—UCC Approved
- Permit any Inquiry Launch course to serve as a repeat for any other Inquiry Launch course—UCC Approved
- Establish policy that no major can *require* a specific Inquiry Launch course as part of their program requirements. They may be electives (i.e., a major may say “you should take this Inquiry Launch course but could take another”)—UCC Approved
- Eliminate the “Social Diversity Waiver” for students who transfer in 60+ credit hours—UCC Approved **(Report No. 7, 2025-2026)**

Approval Items

Consent Agenda

All three proposals pass unanimously (Report No. 8, 2025-2026)

- Business, MBA - 1140 - Fall 25
- Urban Real Estate Development - 1140 - Fall 25
- Communication Sciences and Disorders, MA - 1140 - Fall 25

- VI. UFAC
Committee Chair Dyer presented the First Reading of Proposed Revisions to Policy 3344-13-03 Standing Committees **(Report No. 9, 2025-2026)**

Two changes: correcting dates when committee memberships begin for the year
Removal of EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Committee to comply with SB1

- VII. Budget and Finance Committee
Committee Chair Dr. Ausherman reviewed the meeting schedule and invited faculty participation. She reported that enrollment has been relatively flat and that CSU has seen enrollment losses while some local peers have enjoyed gains. **(Report No. 10, 2025-2026)**

- VIII. Library Committee
Committee Chair Dr. Vander Weerd provided updates and introduced Scott Vine, the new Director of the Michael Schwartz Library. She announced a new agreement with Ohiolink to permit Open Access Publishing by faculty and a Textbook Affordability Grant that faculty may apply for; the deadline to declare intent to apply is November 12, and the final deadline December 3.

Director Vine described memorials for the late Anne Amrie Smeradli, his predecessor, thanked his interim predecessor, Marsha Miles, and updated the Senate on various new programs and programs in development.

IX. Committee on Athletics

Faculty Athletics Representative, Dr. Kleidman encouraged participation in the free “Teaching and Coaching Today’s Students and Student-Athletes” workshop. **(Report No. 11, 2025-2026)**

X. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer

- Provost Sridhar began by updating Senate about the Guardians game then in progress.
- He recognized Marsha Miles’s leadership as interim Library Director
- He discussed the upcoming HLC visit, and noted the CSU is likely the first 4-year college to be visited under new HLC criteria.
- He addressed a Cleveland.com headline about CSU eliminating 22 programs, noting that these were not new developments but had happened over the previous two-and-a-half years.
- He addressed the ERP update, explaining its full timeline and reasoning, and mentioned policy changes prompted by SB1, which would be open for public comment for 30 days and on the Board of Trustees’ November 20 agenda.

XI. Old Business

Senate President Olszewski announced the following information Items

- Robert Krebs and Wenbing Zhao elected to the UPRC Committee as Faculty At-Large representatives for two-year terms through August 2027
- Anup Kumar (two-year term through August 2027) and Joanne Belovich (one-year term through August 2026) have agreed to serve on the UFAC Committee.
- Adam Sonstegard appointed to the Admissions and Standards Committee to represent A&S (Arts/Humanities) for a two-year term through August 2027.

XII. New Business

Dr. Olszewski would like to centralize information about faculty awards, nominations, and deadlines on a single website and create a new set of agreed-upon guidelines for these awards.

XIII. Question Time

Topics:

- Academic freedom
- Issues of Campus Life and Experience Community of Practice
- Rollout of new SEI instrument and of inclusion of additional items mandated by SB1
- The faculty profile portal
- Upcoming changes to workload and credit banking
- Upcoming post-faculty review process
- Question of “divisive topics” under SB1 and professionally training students
- Upcoming changes to faculty performance reviews

XIV. Adjournment
Adjourned at 5:06 pm

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON OCTOBER 29, 2025
James J. Marino, Faculty Senate Secretary