



FACULTY SENATE—MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2023

3:00 PM – Student Center Ballroom, 3rd Floor

PRESENT: **Faculty Senate Officers** A. Kumar, D. Hubbard, and A. Smith; **Faculty Senators** F. Abou-Ghalioum, J. Ausherman, M. Baumgartner, J. Bolt, S. Brockhaus, B. Conti, V. De Paoli, B. Ekelman, K. Fuller, C. Heyward, E. Lehfeldt, K. Mansour, J. Matthews, P. McGinty, B. Nagy, G. Nelson, C. Olszewski, H. Pearson, J. Plecnik, A. Price, R. Raimer, E. Rauschert, A. Severson, D. Smith, J. Sola, A. Sonstegard, J. Vitali, R. Whitbred, N. Zawahri, **Administrative and Corresponding Members** L. Bloomberg, N. Sridhar, R. Carnell, S. Zachariah, R. Schoepoester, K. Neuendorf, B. Kosteas, M. Gruys, K. Morris, T. Nikitina; **Ex Officio Limited Members** G. Dyer, M. Heath, M. Wiitala

OTHERS

PRESENT: Zoom indicated a peak of 55 participants.

I. Approval of the Agenda for the October 11, 2023 Meeting

Senate President Kumar called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He noted that a quorum was present and the agenda was approved by a voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting

The minutes of the September 13, 2023, Faculty Senate meeting were approved by a voice vote.

III. Report of the Senate President

Senate President Kumar noted that this was the second Senate meeting of the academic year, that Senate committees had agendas and were operating, and that lots of things were happening on campus.

President Kumar noted that the University's Budget for the current fiscal year had been approved and stated that he would leave a detailed discussion of this for the Budget committee chair.

President Kumar devoted most of his report to a description of consulting for the University by Gray Associates, a firm that assists universities in making data-informed decisions. Gray Associates supplies tools that assist universities market programs and evaluate the cost and efficiency of programs. Deans have been provided with training on using the tools supplied by Gray Associates, and chairs are being trained. President Kumar said that he expected that chairs will talk about this. He stated that he hoped that the University would benefit from this.

President Kumar noted that Shelley Rose was the new chair of the Core Curriculum Committee, replacing Marcus Schultz-Bergin who has become the Director of Core Curriculum. He noted that development of a new core curriculum was an example of how we were trying to innovate our way out of challenges.

President Kumar concluded by noting that an Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluation of Instruction was in business and that the agenda contained a report from that committee.

IV. Report of the President of CSU

University President Bloomberg began her report with some remarks about the situation in Israel. She noted that flags at the University were at half-staff, as ordered by the Governor. She reflected on what she was called to do in her role as a University president, and stated that her primary duty was to offer support to members of the University community who need support. She stated that she had asked members of her cabinet to personally reach out to offer support to individuals in their areas of responsibility who might need support. **(Report No. 4, 2023-2024)**

President Bloomberg referred to the Kalven Report, adopted by the University of Chicago in 1967, that proposed that the role of the University is to be a container and provide a venue for discussion of a variety of views, and that this role had to be preserved for the long term.

Noting that it was weird to pivot to marketing, President Bloomberg pivoted to marketing. She stated that the Board of Trustees had recommended an investment in marketing and had approved an additional million dollars for this purpose. President Bloomberg outlined the strategy and timetable that would be used. The purpose of this investment is to raise the profile of and awareness of the University. In response to a question, President Bloomberg stated that fixing glitches in the University's website was a priority.

President Bloomberg stated that she was creating the President's Equity Roundtable to replace the President's Diversity Committee, and explained her reasons for doing so.

President Bloomberg concluded her report with a discussion of government affairs. She stated that the General Assembly's work on higher education had been paused while its attention had turned to redistricting; that the house had not passed the most recent version of SB 83; that some work was being done on a capital budget bill; and that the University was following the letter of SB 117 because it is the law, and that the challenge was to follow the law in a way that both conforms to the law and to shared governance.

V. Update on Student Evaluation Instruction (SEI) Committee

On behalf of committee chair Thijs Heus, Senator Liz Lehfeldt provided a report from the Student Evaluation of Instruction Committee. She reported that the committee had so far met three times and had been looking at the current instrument asking, in particular, how it is used, what are the questions, and how are collected data used in decisions. She stated that the committee planned to survey faculty, administrators, and students concerning SEI issues. **(Report No. 5, 2023-2024)**

VI. University Curriculum Committee

The chair of the University Curriculum Committee, Michele Heath, brought a consent agenda from the committee and asked whether any items need be discussed individually. No items were separated for individual discussion. The consent agenda was approved by voice vote with no dissenting votes. **(Report No. 6, 2023-2024)**

- Education Deactivation/ Program Changes - Set of associated proposals will immediately suspend admissions into the identified programs and initiate a teach-out option for any active students remaining in the pipeline. Approved.
 - Early Childhood Generalist Endorsement (Grades 4-5) - 1080 - Fall 23
 - Elementary Education, Teacher Education, M.Ed. - 1080 - Fall 23
 - Literacy Development and Instruction, M.Ed. (Reading and TESOL endorsements available) - 1080 - Fall 23
 - Middle Childhood Education, M.Ed. - 1080 - Fall 23
 - Middle Childhood Mathematics Education, Graduate Certificate - 1080 - Fall 23
 - Middle Childhood Science Education, Graduate Certificate - 1080 - Fall 23
 - Secondary Education, M.Ed. - 1080 - Fall 23
 - Teacher Leader, Licensure - 1080 - Fall 23
- Catalog updates to PhD program in Engineering - Washkewicz College of Engineering Catalog update_ Graduate Program - 12 credit hours of course work in "electives" within their tracks. Approved
- Civil Engineering, Ph.D. - 1080 - Fall 23 - Program Change_ Graduate Adding the transportation track to the Civil Engineering PhD program. Approved.
- Computer Science, MCS - 1080 - Fall 23 - Program Change _ Graduate Add thesis defense as an exit requirement for thesis-option. Approved.
- Psychology Minor - 1080 - Fall 23 - Program Change - Now that the Department has introduced a fifth Core area. Approved.
- Revised First-Year Honors Requirements - Mandel Honors College - Ad hoc Proposal First-year Honors students will be required to take HON 102. Approved.
- Music, MM - 1080 - Fall 23 - Program Change Add MUS 560, MUS 531 and MUS 532 to Master of Music in Performance (Voice) degree track. Approved.
- Physics, MS - 1050 - Fall 22 - Program Change Deactivate the Medical Physics Specialization from the MS in Physics program. Approved.
- Physics, Medical Physics Graduate Certificate - 1050 - Fall 22 - Program Changes Medical Physics Graduate Certificate is being deactivated. Approved.

WAC Policy Review (Report No. 7, 2023-2024)

4. Separately from WAC policy, the UCC recommended that the teaching of WAC courses should be explicitly considered in workload discussions. Precisely how a specific department decides to handle the fact that WAC courses present an extra burden can be flexible. (Examples of how this may be done are provided on page 4 of the report)

VII. Admissions and Standards Committee

On behalf of the Admissions and Standards Committee, Committee Chair Michael Wiitala proposed changes in instructions for the writing sample to be submitted by applicants to the MSW program. The proposal was approved by voice vote with no dissent. **(Report No. 8, 2023-2024)**

VIII. University Faculty Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Gary Dyer announced that the Committee is asking all standing committees to review the sections of Personnel Policies 3344-13-03 that apply to them and to recommend corrections or revisions. Dr. Dyer asked that committees do this by November 15. **(Report No. 9, 2023-2024)**

IX. Budget and Finance Committee

Committee Chair Deborah Smith reported on the University Budget. She noted that by reducing expenses and increasing revenue, the originally reported budget deficit of \$34 million has been reduced to \$11.5 million to be covered by reserves.

Dr. Smith noted that the quality of budget projections depends substantially on the quality of enrollment forecasts, and stated that over the next five years, slight declines in overall enrollment are expected annually.

Dr. Smith stated that over the past several years, the efficiency with which budget-related reports could be generated had improved dramatically and that this should provide better support for financial decision-making. She also stated that the draft of the FY 24 budget appears user friendly and that the Committee looked forward to future reports of the Organizational Resilience and Financial Stability Task Force. **(Report No. 10, 2023-2024)**

X. SGA Report

SGA President Kayland Morris reported that the SGA had 30 new members, and the group is in the process of reviewing their bylaws. She also noted that campus safety concerns, for example lighting issues along walkways in the evening, are being discussed with the administration.

The group is also engaged in helping to promote the university on social media platforms like Instagram.

XI. GPSA Report

GPSA President Tatiana Nikitina noted that it was problematic for graduate students that CSU's Health and Wellness had only one doctor and stated that students don't understand their coverage.

XII. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Provost Sridhar began by adding to the discussion of Gray Associates that had been initiated by President Kumar. The provost stated that Gray Associates provided tools that permits us to visualize our own data, that time was now being invested in learning how to use these tools, and that ultimately these tools should be available to everyone on campus.

Provost Sridhar commented on concerns about student success advisors in online courses. He stressed that CSU Online is potentially a major area of growth, and to do this well requires that courses be adequately resourced, including services for both students and faculty. He stated that our goal is to serve faculty as best as we can while serving the needs of students.

The provost stated that the SB 117 working group intended to have a plan by November 2 for implementing the University's SB 117 responsibilities.

Provost Sridhar commented on open educational resources and on how we are going to encourage development and use of these. The provost said that he will continue to support this, and will continue to be supportive of efforts to provide students with the best access to course materials at the lowest cost. He remarked that the largest deterrent to student access to materials is that departments don't submit information about needed materials by the deadline. He noted that an astonishing number of courses did not have textbooks assigned by the end of the first week of classes.

The provost updated the Senate on the Levin College Dean search. He said that 10 semifinalists had been interviewed and that he anticipated campus visits by four finalists during the week of October 23.

The Provost stated that we have to try to manage work in the most efficient way possible and emphasized the need for curricular efficiency. He stated, in particular, that the work we are doing should change in a way that is commensurate with changes in the number of students we have, and said that we never want to repeat what we did this summer—being forced to make bad decisions at the last minute. He suggested that improving curricular efficiency is hard work and that it may require doing things differently than what we are used to.

Senator Sola asked about the cost of the services of Gray Associates. The Provost said that the cost was around \$150,000 for the first year and around \$50,000 for each subsequent year, but that he would obtain and share more precise values.

XIII. Question Time

Senator Judy Ausherman asked about artificial intelligence. Provost Sridhar responded that a focal point for institutional action would be by the Admissions and Standards Committee.

XIV. New Business

There was no new business.

XV. Adjournment

Following a seconded motion to adjourn, the meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON NOVEMBER 8, 2023

Albert F. Smith
Faculty Senate Secretary