



FACULTY SENATE—MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2023

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

PRESENT: Faculty Senate Officers A. Kumar and A. Smith; Faculty Senators J. Ausherman, M. Baumgartner, J. Bolt, S. Brockhaus, B. Browning, B. Conti, V. De Paoli, B. Ekelman, K. Fuller, C. Heyward, C. Kothapalli, E. Lehfeldt, K. Mansour, J. Matthews, B. McClain, P. McGinty, G. Nelson, C. Olszewski, H. Pearson, A. Price, R. Raimer, E. Rauschert, H. Richter, J. Sawicki, A. Severson, D. Smith, J. Sola, J. Vitali, R. Whitbred, N. Zawahri, N. Zingale; **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 65 participants.

I. Approval of the Agenda for the November 8, 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 October 11, 2023, Faculty Senate meeting were approved by a voice vote.

III. Report of the Senate President

Senate President Kumar began his report with further discussion of the potential impact of budget issues on the CSU curriculum, suggesting that if faculty do not pay attention to ongoing discussions of how to resolve budget issues, faculty cannot contribute to the discussion. He noted that chairs have been trained on the analysis tools supplied by Gray Associates, the firm retained by the administration to assist in making data-informed decisions, reiterating that Gray Associates supplies tools that assist universities market programs and evaluate the cost and efficiency of programs. President Kumar suggested that chairs should share with faculty what they are learning by using the Gray Associates tools, and that faculty should provide feedback and make recommendations.

President Kumar stated that some faculty committees have reported feeling that their ex officio members are forcing the committees to make particular decisions. President Kumar suggested that the University Faculty Affairs Committee could assist with addressing these concerns.

President Kumar announced that the Student Evaluation Instruction (SEI) Committee had invited an expert, Dr. Regan Gurung of Oregon State University, to speak by zoom on November 28 and encouraged faculty to attend that presentation.

IV. Report of the President of CSU

University President Bloomberg began her report with some expressions of gratitude. In particular, she thanked those who were at the Veterans Day recognition event for attending; students with whom she had shared meals for their stories about the profound impact of faculty on those students; and faculty. She also stated that she was grateful for shared governance and its implementation at CSU.

President Bloomberg then discussed the work of the Organizational Resilience and Financial Stability Task Force. She said that in planning for a resilient future, faculty input was needed. She spoke about the need to identify long-term priorities and strategies, and suggested that in planning for a resilient future, the data analysis tools provided by Gray Associates and the recommendations of the Organizational Resilience and Financial Stability Task Force would play a role.

President Bloomberg noted that different institutions appeared to be taking varying approaches to their budget issues. She contrasted the addition of athletic programs at Northern Kentucky University to the closings of some private institutions, and suggested that we might talk about mergers and acquisitions and providing safe landings for students who lose their institutions.

President Bloomberg said that she, the Trustees, and her leadership team were in the process of identifying a higher education consultant, not to make decisions for us, but to help quickly analyze data for both near-term decision making and assessment of longer-term trends. President Bloomberg said that she hoped to pay for such a consultant with outside support and that this approach had been encouraged by the Board of Trustees.

Concerning student actions regarding the ongoing war in the Middle East, President Bloomberg stated that she was proud of students' engagement and that clashes have been respectful. President Bloomberg stated that the role of the University was to enable a respectful place for students to have a voice.

President Bloomberg asked Vice President David Jewell to comment on the University's six-year capital plan. Vice President Jewell emphasized that the institution planned to take a stronger approach to addressing deferred maintenance, noting that there was a deferred maintenance backlog of over \$200 million. He said that the University would be seeking flexibility in spending so as to be able to reorder the priority of projects as necessary.

V. 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. 11, 2023-2024**)

- Physics, MS - 1080 - Fall 23 – GRAD Program Change - Change in admission requirements.
- Physics, MS - 1080 - Fall 23 – GRAD Program Change – Addition and Deletions of Course and change in admission requirements.
 - Change the number of minimum required research/thesis credits from 6 to 5.
 - The admission requirements are updated to specifically request: (i) official transcripts; (ii) a personal statement; and (iii) 2 letters of reference.
- Electronics Engineering Technology, B.S.E.E.T - 1080 - Fall 23 – Program Change
Addition/deletion of courses: CHM 261 and CHM 266, replace by adding CHM 251 and CHM 256.
- Mechanical Engineering Technology, B.S.M.E.T. - 1080 - Fall 23 – Program Change -
Addition/deletion of courses: Delete CHM 261 and CHM 266 and replace by adding CHM 251 and CHM 256.
- Social Work, B.S.W. - 1070 - Summer 23 – UGRD Program Change – Change in admission requirements
 - Removing Biology requirement
 - Lowering the GPA from 2.2 to 2.0
- Social Work, MSW - 1070 - Summer 23 – GRAD Program Change – Change Admissions Prerequisites
 - Reduce required undergraduate GPA pre-requisite from 3.0 to 2.75 on a 4.0 scale overall.
 - Remove requirement for eight social science courses.
- Health Sciences, MSHS - 1080 - Fall 23 - Program Change – Admission
 - Remove GRE requirement from admission. Add personal statement.
- Special Education (with licensure), M.Ed. - 1080 - Fall 23 – GRAD Program Deactivation
 - This proposal is part of a set of associated proposals that would immediately suspend admissions into the identified program.
- MUS - 498 - Senior Project- Added clarification of course content to comply with new Capstone requirements.
- Marketing Minor - 1080 - Fall 23- UGRD Program Change – addition/ deletion course: add MKT488 to the list of electives.

VI. Budget and Finance Committee

Deborah Smith began her report from the Budget and Finance Committee by identifying the University's major expenses for purposes other than salaries and wages. Among the largest categories of such expenses are professional services, which include revenue sharing with Shore Light for international students; payments to Aramark, which operates the campus food service; and payments to Key Path and Collegis for services related to online programs. As the Budget Committee reported last month, the university budgets are now available online.

Professor Smith reported that at the November meeting of the Planning and Finance Advisory Committee, Vice President Jewell had shared a detailed list of needed major repairs for the University's capital assets. Repairs that could be accomplished within the next year would cost \$78 million. Vice President Jewell hopes that although the University usually gets an allocation from the state for such purposes of only around \$15 million that the detailed list will result in

more state funding. She also noted that efforts were being made to apply for tax abatements for University properties that were once used for for-profit purposes.

Professor Smith reminded the Senate that university budgets are online and can be found by opening myCSU and searching for “budget”. The Budget & Financial Analysis page will likely be the top ‘hit,’ and all the budgets are available at that link. **(Report No. 12, 2023-2024)**

VII. Ad Hoc Committee on the Core Curriculum Update

Jeffrey Bolt provided a brief update on the work of the Core Curriculum Committee. He stated that recent work had focused on developing the proposed core curriculum to be compliant with Ohio Transfer 36 (OT 36), a 36-credit set of general education courses guaranteed to transfer between institutions.

He announced that the Committee would be hosting a Town Hall via zoom on November 20 at noon at which the proposed core curriculum would be discussed.

It was also noted that the [ad hoc Core Curriculum Committee](#) now has a page on the Faculty Senate website, including a section for Core Curriculum Outreach, including information on the upcoming virtual townhall, department visits, and general feedback

VIII. SGA Report

SGA President Kayland Morris reported on student concerns regarding campus alarm systems that have malfunctioned, and on efforts to establish a “peace and well-being” team to support students who may have needs that need to be addressed or they do not know where to direct their questions.

IX. GPSA Report

GPSA President Tatiana Nikitina spoke briefly about student concerns about health insurance and stated that there would be a Diwali event on Monday, November 14.

X. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Provost Sridhar announced that a University-wide announcement would be made the next day that the Levin College dean search had culminated in the appointment of Professor Jill Gordon of Virginia Commonwealth University.

Provost Sridhar commented favorably on the work by the Core Curriculum Committee to ensure that a proposed core curriculum would be compliant with Ohio Transfer 36.

The provost indicated that he was available (and eager) to attend college meetings so as to make himself available to all faculty. He stated that faculty need to be more engaged in the budget process. He emphasized the need to create a trustful environment in which faculty and administration could work together to address budget issues. He noted that he had constructive regular meetings with CSU-AAUP leadership.

Responding to a question that had been posed at the previous Senate meeting, Provost Sridhar stated that the cost of retaining Gray Associates was \$135,000 for the first year and would be \$50,000 for each of years 2 and 3.

In response to a question about how the University was complying with Ohio SB 117, which mandates the establishment at CSU of a center for civics, Provost Sridhar said that the Board of Trustees had to appoint an academic council by December 31. The provost said that a working group consisting of Deans Fisher and Anglin, two faculty members, and three trustees had submitted a report recommending candidates for the academic council, discussing guiding principles for the center, and considering possible conflicts between the language of the legislation, the language of the personnel policies, and the language of the CSU-AAUP collective bargaining agreement.

XI. New Business

There was no new business.

XII. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON DECEMBER 6, 2023

Albert F. Smith
Faculty Senate Secretary