



## FACULTY SENATE--MEETING MINUTES

May 1, 2024

3:00 PM – Student Center Ballroom, third floor

**PRESENT: Faculty Senate Officers** A. Kumar, D. Hubbard, and A. Smith; **Faculty Senators** J. Ausherman, M. Baumgartner, J. Bolt, A. Borosov, S. Brockhaus, B. Browning, M. Buckley, B. Conti, D. Davisson, V. De Paoli, B. Ekelman, K. Fuller, J. Jenkins, E. Lehfeldt, K. Mansour, J. Matthews, H. Pearson, T. Porter, A. Price, R. Raimer, E. Rauschert, T. Runner, A. Severson, D. Smith, J. Sola, A. Sonstegard, J. Vitali, R. Whitbred, N. Zawahri, and N. Zingale; **Administrative and Corresponding Members** L. Bloomberg, N. Sridhar, J. Gordon, R. Schoephoerster, R. Carnell, M. Gruys, A. Kersten, B. Kostea, A. Hunt, K. Neuendorf, T. Nikitina, C. Hansman; **Ex Officio Limited Members** G. Dyer, M. Heath, T. Heus, S. Rose, and M. Wiitala.

### OTHERS

**PRESENT:** Zoom indicated a peak of 135 participants.

Senate President Kumar gavelled the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

- I. Approval of the Agenda  
The agenda was approved by consensus.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of the April 3, 2024, Meeting  
The minutes of the April 3, 2024, meeting were unanimously approved by voice vote.
- III. Report of the Senate President

Senate President Kumar reviewed some activities and accomplishments of the academic year, paying particular attention to the new core curriculum and integrated majors. President Kumar thanked all of the faculty who had worked on these curricular innovations, noting that these are good developments that should distinguish the university and have the potential to increase enrollment. He noted that what was important to having these fulfill their promise was the public communication that has to be undertaken to promote these. He urged the Administration to work with faculty to develop public communications concerning these curricular efforts.

President Kumar reflected on University finances and the challenges of fully understanding the University budget. He commented on the report by outside consultant EY Parthenon and on the availability of the Gray DI software platform that provides analytic insights about the cost of instruction in various programs as well as market demand for those programs. President Kumar stated that he hoped that the administration, department chairs, and faculty would work collaboratively on decisions concerning program viability and a plan to “right-size” the university.

President Kumar stated that a small university was not a bad thing, but that what was important is a culture of academic excellence measured by student achievement and scholarly and community engagement, and that faculty scholarly productivity has an impact on prospective students.

President Kumar noted that the Steering Committee had not yet identified candidates for President and Secretary, in part because the full roster of the incoming Senate was not yet complete. He urged eligible faculty to consider running for election to these positions. He also stated that shared governance is dependent on a strong faculty participation and the Senate committee structure.

#### IV. Report of the President of CSU

President Bloomberg first expressed condolences to President Kumar on the passing of his mother. She also asked everyone to join her in thanking President Kumar for his leadership of the Senate.

President Bloomberg commented on organizational resilience and financial stability work, including a voluntary separation incentive plan (VSIP), academic program review, and other cost cutting measures, noting that Professor Deborah Smith, Chair of the Senate Budget Committee, would be a member of the working group.

President Bloomberg said that she would be testifying the following week to the Ohio Senate Higher Education and Workforce Committee and was prepared to testify about the University's capital needs, the university's organizational resilience work, and the current status of the Center for Civics, Culture, and Society.

President Bloomberg stated that we also need to focus on what we want to be going forward, and that an emphasis during coming months would be to breathe life into the big picture that would be established by the Trustees at a retreat in May. She noted that CSU 2.0 was intended to sunset in 2025 and that now was the time to redefine the direction of the institution.

President Bloomberg noted that problems with the FAFSA could impact fall enrollments, but cited Janet Stimple as recommending that returning students be encouraged to register now for fall. President Bloomberg stated that Kelsie Gory Harky would be continuing as interim athletics director, praising the work that she had already completed in this role.

#### V. University Curriculum Committee

Committee Chair Michele Heath thanked the committee for their work throughout the year, which involved reviewing an unusually large number of proposals. She brought a consent agenda from the committee. The consent agenda was approved with one abstention. **(Report No. 40, 2023-2024)**

- Applied Communication Theory and Methodology, MACTM - 1110 - Fall 24
- Applied Predictive Modeling, Graduate Certificate - 1110 - Fall 24
- BIO - 448 - Biogeography

- BIO - 450 - Evolutionary Biology
- Biology, Accelerated Master's - 1110 - Fall 24
- Business, Accelerated MBA Program, Online - 1110 - Fall 24
- Business, Executive MBA Program - 1110 - Fall 24
- Chemistry, Accelerated Master's BS/MS - 1110 - Fall 24
- Communication Minor - 1110 - Fall 24
- Counseling, Chemical Dependency, Graduate Certificate - 1110 - Fall 24
- Economics, B.A. - 1110 - Fall 24
- Global Business, Graduate Certificate - 1110 - Fall 24
- Global Sustainable Business Practices, Graduate Certificate - 1110 - Fall 24
- Health Sciences, Accelerated Master's BS/MPH - 1110 - Fall 24
- Journalism and Public Relations, Accelerated 4+1 BA/MACTM - 1110 - Fall 24:
- Journalism and Public Relations, B.A. - 1110 - Fall 24
- Marketing Analytics certificate - 1110 - Fall 24
- Marketing Analytics, Graduate Certificate - 1110 - Fall 24
- Mathematics, MS - 1110 - Fall 24.
- MKT - 607 - Product Management
- MKT - 608 - Global Marketing
- MKT - 640 - Field Experience Abroad
- Property Management Major, B.A. - 1110 - Fall 24
- Psychology, MA - 1110 - Fall 24
- Software Engineering, Graduate Certificate - 1080 - Fall 2
- Software Engineering, MSSE - 1080 - Fall 23
- SWK - 302 - Human Behavior and Social Environments – Micro
- Psychological Science, Accelerated Master's BA/MA

VI. Admissions and Standards Committee

Dr. Michael Wiitala, Chair of the Admissions and Standards Committee, proposed approval of permanently extending the waiver of ACT/SAT requirement for undergraduate admission. (**Report No. 41, 2023-2024**). The item was approved by voice vote with one abstention.

VII. University Faculty Affairs Committee (UFAC)

UFAC Chair Gary Dyer presented for second reading, on behalf of the committee, a revision of Personnel Policy 3344-16-07 Retirement. Following a brief discussion, minor vocabulary changes were suggested and accepted. The proposed revision was approved. (**Report No. 42, 2023-2024**)

VIII. Budget and Finance Committee

Committee Chair Deborah Smith reported on the recent meeting of the Planning and Finance Advisory Committee (**Report No. 43, 2023-2024**).

IX. Library Committee

Senator Hannah Pearson presented “Collections Priority & Strategy FY24-FY25 (preliminary)” about the library’s new approach to collections management and library strategic priorities during a time of intense institutional austerity. She noted that we need to define what is the least amount that the library can offer while still permitting us to function as a research university. A brief discussion occurred and feedback from Senators was requested on: the resource tier

system, tier definition, and the make-up of each tier; the minimal viable collection; FY25 budget strategies; and long term budget strategies. **(Report No. 44 and 45, 2023-2024)**

X. Student Government Association (SGA) Report

SGA representative Anastasia Hunt reported on SGA Election Results. She summarized SGA accomplishments of the year, which included creating an SGA website, funding student organizations, opposing a potential equity access contract with Follett, modernizing SGA operating documents, restructuring organizational leadership, and gathering donations for a winter clothing drive and a hygiene drive.

Other accomplishments included addressing security issues and wi-fi issues and working to extend dining hours during Ramadan.

Ms. Hunt read a statement regarding former CSU student Mohammed Abdul Arfath.

XI. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Provost Sridhar began by thanking everyone for the caring and concern that had been expressed for him after his accident four weeks earlier and stated that he was recovering (although not yet fully recovered). He stated that his dog, who was injured in the same incident, was also doing well.

The Provost reviewed proposed new programs, including biomedical engineering, construction management, and integrated degrees, and programs that had already been approved by Senate for discontinuance or closure. He also noted that admission was being paused for summer and fall for a set of programs that have few new or existing students and suggested that thought should be given to what is next for those programs.

The Provost said that he was recommending that Senate establish an ad hoc committee to provide advice on program evaluation, program improvement, and program review; that the Academic Steering Committee had asked him to draft a charge for such a committee; and that he would do so.

Referring to the new core curriculum, the Provost said that there had been a great deal of interest from faculty for participating in summer workshops for modifying courses to fulfill the criteria of inquiry-based instruction and for developing inquiry-launch courses and signature assessments.

The Provost also reported about the student experience project, a national project focused on upgrading and improving the student experience (e.g., writing meaningful and inclusive syllabi). Provost Sridhar said that he would be participating in this while teaching CIS 260 this fall.

XII. New Business

There was no new business.

Senate Secretary Smith thanked President Kumar for his leadership, for his impressive knowledge, and his thoughtfulness. Senate Vice President Hubbard also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to have worked with President Kumar and for his integrity, humility, empathy, compassion, and sense of humor. President Kumar appreciated these observations and thanked his colleagues in Senate leadership. The Provost also complimented President Kumar.

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, and following a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**APPROVED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2024**

Albert F. Smith

Faculty Senate Secretary