



MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE

MINUTES

May 7, 2025

3:00 PM – Wolstein Center, 4th Floor

PRESENT: Faculty Senate Officers C. Olszewski, D. Hubbard, and J. Jenkins; **Faculty Senators** M. Adams, J. Ausherman, M. Baumgartner, J. Bolt, S. Brockhaus, M. Buckley, C. Collins, M. Collins, B. Conti, P. Daiker-Middaugh, V. DePaoli, K. Fuller, P. Lopes Gerum, A. Goodsett, T. Greer-Medley, C. Heyward, J. Kahler, W. Kang, E. Lehfeltdt, J. Marino, J. Matthews, J. Plecnik, A. Price, E. Raushert, A. Severson, A. Smith, D. Smith, A. Tayyara, A. Voight, and B. Yusko; **Administrative and Corresponding Members** L. Bloomberg, N. Sridhar, R. Schoephoerster, A. Kersten, B. Kosteas, M. Gruys, S. Zachariah, J. Samsa, and K. Neuendorf; **Ex Officio Limited Members** G. Dyer, M. Heath, and M. Wiitala.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Zoom indicated a peak of 72 participants.

Prior to the meeting being called to order, an in memoriam presentation was shown celebrating those faculty who passed away this year. (**Report No. 50, 2024-2025**)

Senate President Olszewski called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

- I. Approval of the Agenda for the May 7, 2025 Meeting
The agenda for the May 7, 2025 meeting was approved by unanimous consent.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting
The minutes of the March 26, 2025 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.
- III. Report of the Senate President
Senate President Olszewski began her remarks by thanking her colleagues from music therapy for their assistance and support. She also thanked the faculty for the conversations, committee work, service work, and their dedication to the university and community. She then thanked Senate Officers D. Hubbard and J. Jenkins and the Senate admin assistant for their support. She also thanked the outgoing senators and congratulated those continuing to serve next year as well as the incoming senators.

Senate President Olszewski presented two business items. The first item was the elections for the Faculty Senate Budget & Finance Committee, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees, Copyright Review Committee and Patent Review Committee, for which yellow ballots were distributed to current senators to cast their vote. Additional elections will be held before the fall semester. Sen. Dyer asked for clarification as to who was voting and Senate President Olszewski

confirmed that the current (24-25) senators were electing those on the yellow ballots, and for the other elections, emails would be sent to eligible voters.

The second item was in regard to SB1 and the likelihood that work will need to be done over the summer, including a possible special meeting of the Faculty Senate. **(Report No. 51, 2024-2025)**

IV. Report of the President of CSU

President Bloomberg began her remarks by recognizing the many obligations of faculty over the course of an academic year. She then reported on two items with a shared theme. She referred to the May 6, [Top of Mind](#) video, where she spoke about current changes to legislative policy. She noted that while there are opportunities to respond, there may also be times when it is best to remain silent; and she explained that was why the AAUP petition would not be signed. She further explained that the administration will not hesitate to speak on specific instances, such as the Provost announcing specific cost reductions. She also noted that there are other areas where the administration must speak, such as free speech.

President Bloomberg enthusiastically reported on the upcoming commencement ceremonies; she hopes that there will be a large participation by faculty, noting that faculty attendance is impactful to students and their families. Her commencement address will focus on student preparation for their careers, and will include how American universities have fueled the development of world citizens. She noted that she hopes to hear a similar sentiment across the country in the coming weeks. **(Report No. 52, 2024-2025)**

V. Free Speech On Campus—Reaffirming CSU’s Joint Faculty Senate and Administration Resolution

Together, Senate President Olszewski and President Bloomberg presented the 2019 Statement on Free Speech and asked that Faculty Senate and administrators reaffirm it. **(Report No. 53, 2024-2025)**

Non-faculty administrators affirmed by voice vote.
Faculty affirmed by voice vote.

VI. University Curriculum Committee

Committee chair M. Heath presented the consent agenda. **(Report No. 54, 2024-2025)**
The consent agenda passed by voice vote.

Consent Agenda

- Community Planning, B.A. - 1140 - Fall 25
- Criminology, B.A. - 1140 - Fall 25
- Environmental Studies, B.A. - 1140 - Fall 25
- Nonprofit Administration, B.A. - 1140 - Fall 25
- Organizational Leadership, B.A. - 1140 - Fall 25
- Public Policy and Management, B.A. - 1140 - Fall 25
- Public Safety Management, B.A. - 1140 - Fall 25
- School Requirements - School of Urban Affairs
- Statistics and Analytics, Accelerated Master's BA or BS/MS - 1140 - Fall 25

- Updates to the Plan of Study for Doctoral Students in Engineering
- Africana Studies Minor - 1140 - Fall 25
- Africana Studies BA – 1140 – Fall 25
- Clinical-Bioanalytical Chemistry, PhD - 1110 - Fall 24
- Computational Biology Certificate - 1140 - Fall 25
- Computational Biology Minor - 1140 - Fall 25
- Computational Biology Certificate - 1140 - Fall 25 25-26 GRAD New Certificate
- Math Course Repeat Policy - Washkewicz College of Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering, B.M.E. - 1140 - Fall 25
- Music Performance, Professional Studies Graduate
- Biomedical Engineering, B.S. in BME - 1140 - Fall 25
- Philosophy Minor - 1140 - Fall 25
- Philosophy, B.A. - 1140 - Fall 25
- Computer Science, Ph.D. - 1140 - Fall 25
- Dual Resident Education Program, M.Ed.
- Exercise Science, B.S. - 1140 - Fall 25
- Sport and Entertainment Management, MSEM - 1140 - Fall 25
- Health Sciences, B.S. - 1140 - Fall 25
- History, B.A. - 1140 - Fall 25
- Mathematics Minor - 1170 - Fall 26
- Electrical Engineering, B.E.E. - 1140 - Fall 25; 25-26 UGRD Major, Certificate, Endorsement or
- Licensure Change:
- World Languages and Cultures - 1140 - Fall 25 Form: 24-25 UGRD New Major Program
- Biomedical Engineering, Accelerated BS/MS BME - 1140 - Fall 25 25-26 GRAD New Major Program

VII. Admissions and Standards Committee

Committee chair Wiitala presented three proposal for consideration.

Credit for Prior Learning Policy Updates - Registrar | Curriculum

Sen. S. Brockhaus proposed a friendly amendment to add “per college policy” to the sentence about the college’s ability to impose a different maximum (refer to pages 5 and 7). Provost Sridhar explained that the sentiment is the same, that the language is general enough without requiring each college to have a policy. He explained that there is no requirement for a college to have such a policy. Sen. Brockhaus noted that there could be a college policy. Provost Sridhar agreed and added that any new rule needs to go through the curriculum approval process. Senate President Olszewski asked who needed to be aware of such changes. Kevin Neal noted that the Registrar’s office needs to be aware of everything that affects the student who is graduating and added that a college policy could be submitted as a curriculum proposal as an adjustment.

Sen. E. Rauschert noted that it makes sense to update this policy but shared her concern about who would review the portfolio. Kevin Neal suggested stipulating a faculty panel in the applicable department or unit (see page 5 #3).

Sen. B. Yusko asked about where the limit of 90 credits comes from. Kevin Neal explained that 30 credits must be completed in residence, leaving 90 credits which could be external. Sen. B. Yusko followed up with a comment about the potential for pressure from students and legislators about quick degrees, such as 3-year degrees, unless there is a rigorous process in place. Kevin Neal agreed that a rigorous process is needed.

Provost Sridhar added that the budget bill includes requirements for credit for life experience and 3-year programs and added that faculty within the department is the best way to review portfolios.

Kevin Neal added that some students transfer a lot of credits, but they don't all apply directly to a program and that the Registrar's office does not override the residency requirements, program requirements or other requirements.

Sen. A. Smith asked whether there is a place to learn how to construct a portfolio. Provost Sridhar responded that the arts and sciences college is looking at this topic since the BA General Studies will be the primary target as it invites students with a wide range of experiences to earn a degree. He noted that they will be evaluating a tool that allows for this type of portfolio assessment but noted that faculty will be needed. He added that credit for life experience and work experience is very different from the process of transfer credit.

Sen. P. Daiker-Middaugh asked about how many students would be expected. Provost Sridhar noted that in the region, there are 360,000 people with some college and no degree and that a credible pathway is needed.

Sen. A. Smith asked if one institution provided credit would the credit transfer. Kevin Neal explained that how it is recorded on the transcript will matter and that the policy doesn't specifically address credit transfer, but that might change in the coming years.

Sen. Yusko stated that the idea of a rigorous process, whether done college by college, should involve advisors so that they are knowledgeable about how the process works.

The policy as amended to include "...a faculty panel in the applicable department or unit..." was approved by voice vote.

Duolingo Cutoffs for Graduate Admission - Cleveland State University | Curriculum
Approved by voice vote

Graduate Credit Transfer Policy Revision - Cleveland State University | Curriculum
Approved by voice vote

VIII. Budget and Finance Committee

Committee Chair J. Ausherman presented a summary of the April 14th and 30th PFAC meetings, which included an overview of the budget building process and the resulting pivot tables. She also provided an update on the athletic fees, referencing the CSU Bursar's webpage and potential

differences between the non-binding referendum language and the motion that was approved by the Board of Trustees. **(Report No. 55, 2024-2025)**

IX. Undergraduate Student Success Committee

2024 results of the National Survey of Student Engagement

Laura Northrop, Director of Research and Assessment presented the 2024 results of the National Survey of Student Engagement. Dr. Northrop encouraged faculty to reach out with questions or if they wanted to learn more about the survey. She also offered to come to department meetings or faculty sessions to provide more details about the survey and results. **(Report No. 56, 2024-2025)**

X. SGA Report

SGA President J. Samsa reported on the good work of the student government over the year, and he introduced incoming president Alysha Syed. He noted that his term is ending, he will be graduating, and he thanked faculty for their expertise and for advocating for student success. He also thanked them for being accessible to their students.

XI. Unfinished Business

Updated information on Computer Refresh

IT Customer Service and Operations Tony Ryno, presented an update on the Computer Refresh project. He thanked many administrators who have pushed for the project to move forward and to date, there have been 23 requests. He noted that further requests can be submitted through the [portal](#); the portal includes display options, hardware specifications, and a FAQ section. The project also includes a review of the best practices for security and a planned communication for the implementation process. **(Report No. 57, 2024-2025)**

XII. New Business

New Library System Launch

Sen. M. Goodsett provided information on planned changes to the CSU Library systems over the summer. She explained that CSU is part of the Ohio consortium, which is moving to a new cloud-based system that will provide a new search interface. From May 23rd through June 13rd there will not be any access to OhioLink. All OhioLink materials must be returned by July 7th to go through the new system. Beginning June 14th, new requests for items that have gone through the new system can be submitted. The library is aware that students may need additional instruction. Senate President Olszewski suggested that information be added to Blackboard courses. **(Report No. 58, 2024-2025)**

Radiance

President Bloomberg announced that at the Radiance fundraising gala, CSU will accept and celebrate a gift of \$15 M from the estate of Katherine and Walter McComb, noting that it is the largest philanthropic gift CSU has received. She explained that most of the funds will be put into an endowment to help students, except for partial funds that will be used to renovate the plaza in front of the library, which will be named in the McComb's honor.

XIII. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Provost Sridhar recognized Mandi Goodsett (Performing Arts and Humanities Librarian and elected Senator) for receiving the President's Leadership award for staff.

Provost Sridhar gave a shout out to the engineering faculty for their work with the engineering senior design projects, with special thanks to Dr. Mike Adams (also an elected faculty senator) for his leadership.

Provost Sridhar announced that over 2,400 students submitted Spring 2025 graduation applications; ceremonies include doctoral (Friday), undergraduate and graduate (Saturday), and Law (following weekend).

The Provost reported that Viking Teach Week was a successful event which invited the community to visit a classroom for a day and included options for 40 classes.

He acknowledged Drs. Molly Buckley and Shelley Rose for their leadership of The Cleveland Teaching Collaborative and for having delivered the keynote at the Provost's Teaching Summit on April 10th.

He announced Summer Teach Week would be held in June, with the first 3 days focused on teaching in the new Core Curriculum and the last 2 days focused on teaching inquiry launch courses. The deadline to register is May 16th. Finally, Provost Sridhar announced that the Student Experience project would continue for fall 2025. There were 23 faculty participating last fall and 88 faculty this spring semester.

Provost Sridhar then gave remarks about SB1, which goes into effect June 27th. He presented four items that will impact faculty and answered questions.

- i. Provost Sridhar explained the requirement to post syllabi for all undergraduate classes, adding that SGA previously asked to have access to syllabi before the beginning of classes. He noted that an administrative team has been assembled to look at the technical solution and that he asked Faculty Senate to update the syllabus template to make sure it includes the required items. Implementation will be for the fall 2026 semester or when registration opens for spring 2026. Sen. A. Smith asked the meaning of calendar and the Provost responded that some terms need to be interpreted, adding that the order of topics is useful, but the individual dates are not. Provost Sridhar also added that including names and qualifications are difficult when there are part time instructors teaching courses. Dr. Kim Neuendorf clarified that only essential information will be provided, not details. Provost Sridhar agreed dates like exam dates are not applicable to anyone except those in the course. Sen. G. Dyer asked how the order of topics would be enforced. Sen. A. Price asked what happens when there is someone supervising sections of a course. Provost Sridhar clarified that it would be the instructor of record. Sen. A. Smith asked whether it would be feasible to have the required syllabus and a previous syllabus. Provost Sridhar explained that any program that has outside accreditation has general syllabus, and then instructors edit their syllabus for the current offering, and the requirement for SB1 is being interpreted as a general syllabus. Sen. A. Smith noted that students are interested in how they earn a grade.
- ii. Provost Sridhar explained the requirement for student evaluation of instruction, noting that the updated instrument was developed by the ad hoc committee on SEI over the last

- year but that the new instrument has not yet been implemented. He added that the Chancellor is supposed to develop a minimum set of questions, and the evaluation must include a question about whether the faculty member creates a classroom atmosphere free of political, racial, gender and religious bias. The Provost explained that the Chancellor is preparing three questions, which will be added to the instrument approved by Faculty Senate.
- iii. Provost Sridhar explained the requirement for all undergraduate students to complete an American Civics course. The timeline for this begins with those graduating 2029-2030, meaning that those entering fall 2026 will need this course. He noted that at the July special meeting of the Board of Trustees, a plan for incorporating this course into the core curriculum will be presented. He added that there would be an exemption for those who completed an AP or CCPlus American History or American Government course.
 - iv. Provost Sridhar then explained the requirement for the Board of Trustees to approve a resolution on prohibitions of DEI. He added that the same statement on free speech that was earlier approved, will also be presented to the Board of Trustees with perhaps a few clauses added. Sen. G. Dyer noted that SB1 is a little vague about the meaning of intellectual diversity and voiced concern about how this would be enforced. Provost Sridhar noted that curriculum is the responsibility of faculty and that there is no limit as to what can be discussed in the classroom so long as it is pertinent to the course and student learning outcomes.

Sen. E. Lehfeltdt noted that the new required question to be added to the student evaluation of instruction will introduce bias; this should be considered when using the data for promotion and tenure decisions. She also asked about the civic course and the approval process. Provost Sridhar responded that the Board of Trustees will be asked to approve a plan to offer such a course, but the course will need to go through the curriculum approval process. He added that it is likely to be a political sciences course. Sen. A. Voight added that the course needs to be in the system for fall 2026.

Sen. A. Price asked about having orientation for part time instructors. Provost Sridhar noted that there are some nuances in getting part-time instructors the information for these things and noted that additional details will be provided to chairs. Sen. A. Tayyara asked about the credit for the civics class, and Provost Sridhar confirmed it would be 3 credits.

Provost Sridhar then moved on to explain four mandated new policies that pertain to faculty, and he encouraged faculty to read the entire law.

- i. Provost Sridhar explained that the Board of Trustees must approve a resolution that adopts a policy on faculty workload. He explained that they are waiting for guidance from the Chancellor and have requested a formal meeting of Faculty Senate during the summer so that he can provide further details on faculty workload.
- ii. Provost Sridhar then explained that the Board of Trustees needs to adopt a policy for faculty annual performance; and that policy will need to be adopted at the July meeting.

- iii. Provost Sridhar explained the need for a policy regarding post tenure review, noting that the “exceeds, meets, and does not meet” terminology used in the law needs to be defined. He added that they are waiting for guidance from the Chancellor. Sen. J. Matthews asked whether the faculty annual performance is different or the same as the student evaluation of instruction. Provost Sridhar replied that they are different but noted that the student evaluation is part of annual performance because 25% of the annual performance must be based on student evaluation. President Bloomberg noted the need for due process and Provost Sridhar added that each requires an appeal process. Sen. G. Dyer asked whether the administration believes the post tenure review process necessitates a change in dismissal or sanction decisions and Provost Sridhar replied that it does not.
- iv. Provost Sridhar then explained the need for a policy regarding tenure and retrenchment, which will need to be approved by the Board of Trustees in July. He noted that any policy put forth to the Board of Trustees will be posted for public review and comment.

Sen. P. Daiker-Middaugh commented that Sen. J. Plecnik did a great job testifying and responding to questions about SB1. She asked what happens if a student identifies that a faculty member has created a classroom with bias? Provost Sridhar replied that we will need to learn how to interpret the law. President Bloomberg added that imagining the worst-case scenario, it is difficult to believe that the courts would uphold a dismissal based on anonymous response on a student survey. Sen. J. Plecnik noted that the administration is being trusted with a range of powers and one of the most dangerous parts of this bill is to eviscerate tenure. He suggested setting a strong policy now so that future deans uphold the independence of faculty members. Sen. J. Plecnik then read a personal statement about CSU’s 60th anniversary and offered the statement and his seal to President Bloomberg to be included in the time capsule. Senate President Olszewski then suggested including the reaffirmed statement of free speech. President Bloomberg noted that Dr. Gifford would be taking the lead on building the time capsule.

XIV. Question Time

XV. Adjournment

Senate President Olszewski adjourned the meeting at 5:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

Jacqueline Jenkins
Faculty Senate Secretary