



FACULTY SENATE MEETING

MINUTES

September 3, 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, Y. Fu, K. Fuller, J. Gatica, P. Gerum, A. Goodsett, T. Greer-Medley, M. Heath, J. Jenkins, E. Jennings, J. Kahler, W. Kang, P. McGinty, B. Nagy, A. O’Connor, K. Pataki, L. Quinn, E. Rauschert, W. Sarver, A. Severson, Y. Shen, A. Smith, J. Sola, A. Vincent, J. Vitali, R. Whitbred, B. Yusko, and N. Zawahri; **Administrative and Corresponding Members** L. Bloomberg, N. Sridhar, J. Gordon, R. Schoephoerster, B. Kostead, R. Carnell, S. Zachariah, A. Syed, A. Gibson; **Ex Officio Limited Members** J. Ausherman and G. Dyer.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Zoom indicated a peak of 60 participants.

Meeting Convened at 3:00 pm.

- I. Agenda for the meeting approved by acclamation.
- II. Minutes for the May 7, 2025 meeting and June 30, 2025 special meeting approved by acclamation.
- III. Report of the Senate President (Dr. Olszewski)

Senate President Olszewski welcomed elected faculty senators and administrators, and she thanked her colleagues and administrators for their work over the summer. She acknowledged concern from faculty over the changes to higher education in light of the passage of the SB1, and urged faculty to continue to be involved and engaged in issues regarding academic freedom.

Related to the implementation guidelines for compliance with SB1 and faculty workload, and the value of working collaboratively, Dr. Olszewski offered a quote by Ezra Taft Benson: “Pride is concerned with who is right; humility is concerned with what is right.”

- IV. Report of the President of CSU (Dr. Bloomberg)

President Bloomberg invited Mr. Scott Vine, the new director of the Michael Schwartz Library, to stand and be acknowledged. Prior to the meeting, they had visited with late President Schwartz’s widow, Dr. Joanne Schwartz. President Bloomberg encouraged faculty members to remember the core reasons that propelled the pursuit of the education profession (“remember your why”).

Data from a 2025 Gallup-Lumina survey on the state of higher education was presented, and the key findings included that respondents see a value in higher education and demand remains strong, among other findings. **(Report No. 1, 2025-2026)**

President Bloomberg shared her and her senior leadership team's FY26 Implementation Goals which are directly aligned with the Cleveland State United strategic plan (**Report No. 2, 2025-2026**). She reminded members of the University's mission statement, "Cleveland's University. Infinite Opportunity;" vision statement, "Where Everyone Thrives;" and "CSU Values," Collaborating with Community, Serving Students, and Unleashing Creativity.

Included in the goals is a plan to address deferred maintenance on campus and to fully incorporate those priorities into an ongoing budget development process, including a permanent dedicated budget line.

V. University Curriculum Committee (Dr. Heath)

UCC Chair Heath presented the consent agenda which was approved by voice vote. (**Report No. 3, 2025-2026**)

- Computer Science, MCS - 1140 - Fall 25
- Discontinuation of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies and reorganization of the Department of Political Science and the Department of History - College of Arts and Sciences
- ENG - 207 - African-American Literature
- ESE - 200 - Perspectives on Disability: Advocacy, Access, and Inclusion.
- Religious Studies, B.A. - 1140 - Fall 25
- UST - 200 - Introduction to Cities
- History, MA - 1120 - Spring 25
- P-5 Education, B.S. in Ed. - 1140 - Fall 25

VI. Budget and Finance Committee (Dr. Ausherman)

Committee Chair Ausherman discussed the PFAC's expectations and agenda for the year. (**Report No. 4, 2025-2026**)

- Reports on annual budget, including an expected loss due to reduced Student Share of Instruction.
- Data indicates an enrollment decline of approximately 400-500 students.
- A 3% tuition hike has been approved, however, previously enrolled students have a tuition-price guarantee and will not be affected.
- CSU Global enrollment has declined and CSU online enrollment has increased.
- The annual budget appears lower because it no longer includes the additional spending the Board of Trustees authorized for marketing in 2023.
- Many college budgets shrank, as money was transferred to Student Success & Belonging for the academic coaches and advisors, whose budget increased by over \$1 million. Dr. Ausherman requested transparency and shared benchmarks for Student Success & Belonging
- Explains the RTA bus pass issue, which has become an opt-in, subsidized by CSU but not by General Funds

VII. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer (Dr. Sridhar)

- Returns to Pres Bloomberg's phrasing of "finding a why"
- Provost Sridhar reported that the Higher Learning Commission will return to campus in October in order to fulfill an interim monitoring requirement. The visit is scheduled for October 13 and 14, and a more detailed report will be forthcoming at the October 1st Faculty Senate meeting.
- In alignment to the CSU United Strategic Plan, Provost Sridhar spoke of the implementation plans for creating a CSU Talent-Industry Hub to connect student talent with local employment needs.
- The University has hosted one Town Hall meeting for faculty regarding SB1, and another is planned for later in the week. He encouraged faculty to attend and to submit questions. Recordings of the Town Halls will be available to view if faculty were unable to attend.
- In response to a question regarding SB1, and classrooms and labs, the Provost clarified that the law forbids certain kinds of employee training, but faculty's own studies are not restricted.
- Explicates the UPASS program, which has been a General Fee program for all students (about 4000 students picked up stickers last year); this year CSU will collect more data on student usage of the program and plans for offering some variation in the future.
- Discusses planned renovations of Fenn.
- Provost Sridhar called on Vice Provost Ray Henry, who said that the identified problems with Interfolio are being addressed, and faculty should be able to post new faculty profiles soon. Faculty will receive more information soon.

VIII. New Business

- An election was held by paper ballot for three positions on the University Faculty Affairs Committee (UFAC). The nominees were: Sebastian Brockhaus, Robert Krebs, Rachel Wlodarsky, Anup Kumar and Joanne Belovich. After tallying the ballots, Senate President Olszewski announced that S. Brockhaus, R. Krebs, and R. Wlodarsky were elected. They will be notified following the meeting.
- An announcement was made that an electronic election for two faculty at-large positions on the University Peer Review Committee (two-year terms through August 31, 2027) will be held in the coming week, and faculty would receive notice by email.
- [Academic Support Hub: Where Students Connect with Tutoring and Academic Support Services.](#)
Chrissy Knapke (Director, Academic Support Hub) and Melanie Gagich (Director, First Year Writing) provided members with an overview of the services offered to students regarding various types of tutoring, success coaching, and supplemental instruction.

There being no further business, Senate President Olszewski adjourned the meeting at 4:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON OCTOBER 1, 2025

James J. Marino, Secretary