



CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

MINUTES

October 6, 2021

3:00 P.M. – Moot Court Room LB 101

PRESENT: **Faculty Senate Leadership** R. Krebs, A. Kumar, and R. Carnell; **Faculty Senators** M. Adams, J. Ausherman, M. Bayachou, B. Browning, M. Buckley, B. Cavender, D. Choi, B. Conti, D. Davisson, S. Dracar, B. Ekelman, P. Falk, L. Francis, J. Gatica, D. Geier, J. Goodell, S. Gore-Panter, T. Guzman, K. Hamlen-Mansour, Y. Hung, A. Jouan-Westlund, W. Kellogg, C. Kothapalli, M. Kwiatkowski, J. Marino, B. McClain, P. McGinty, B. Mikelbank, K. O’Neill, T. Porter, E. Rauschert, B. Richards, J. Sawicki, A. Severson, G. Shukla, D. Smith, A. Sonstegard, A. Su, G. Toneff-Cotner (G. Stead), and W. Zhao; **Corresponding Members** R. Anglin, M. Barnard, J. Belovich, L. Bloomberg, M. Bond, L. Fisher, J. Holcomb, K. Kahn, E. Lehfeltd, C. Orahoske, E. Palmer, A. Robichaud, H. Sands, S. Zachariah. **Ex Officio Limited Members** W. Bowen, M. Schultz-Bergin, and J. Sola.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Zoom indicated a peak of 91 participants.

- I. Approval of the Agenda for the October 6, 2021 Meeting Robert Krebs
The meeting was called to order at 3:00; the agenda was approved by acclamation.
- II. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 8, 2021 Robert Krebs
The minutes were approved by acclamation.
- III. Report of the Faculty Senate President Robert Krebs

President Krebs referred to the ongoing faculty efforts in implementing CSU 2.0 and thanked Joanne Goodell, as chair of UCC, for the hard work that committee is actively engaged with this year. He suggested that communication between administration and faculty has improved slightly since the summer, but he voiced continuing faculty concerns about technology—both the outsourced Help Desk and the poor student support from the Blackboard help line.

President Krebs reported that at Steering faculty and students again continued to express their preference for a vaccine mandate. He nevertheless urged faculty not to become so overwhelmed by the Covid crisis that they forget to continue seeking solutions to other urgent problems. He read out a list of units on campus with new leadership, calling attention to the difficulties of functioning in this context of lost staff (through VSIP) and high turnover at the managerial level. President Krebs referred to a congratulatory memo from President Sands, about the positive momentum on many fronts, but he is not certain whether the faculty share this view of forward progress. He asked sincerely for faculty input to him about matters other than Covid, particularly

their view of “progress” or “momentum.”

IV. Report of the President of the University

Harlan Sands

President Sands began his remarks by thanking those who sent him well wishes during his recent bout of Covid. He also apologized for cancelling the Faculty Senate reception at University House. President Sands thanked the faculty for their work in helping increase enrollment and graduation rates. He then introduced several new vice presidents, including David N. Jewell, Senior Vice President of Business Affairs and Chief Financial Officer, and Dr. Phillip “Flapp” Cockrell, Vice President for Campus Engagement, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

President Sands then referred to the university’s ongoing response to Covid, affirming that he has heard the faculty and student concerns. In response to President Krebs’ request for faculty input about unsolved issues on campus, President Sands urged faculty to bring their concerns to Senator Krebs and to bring those to the provost and president *before* the next Senate meeting.

President Sands spoke of various bills in the Ohio statehouse, one that limits how institutions can implement vaccine mandates and another that limits discussion of “divisive” concepts. President Sands affirmed that he and the provost are fighting hard to protect our right to educate students without intellectual shackles or censure.

President Sands also referred to the number of new faculty we hired last year and the number we will hire this year as evidence of the momentum to which he has referred. By contrast, other institutions have been implementing budget cuts and layoffs.

President Sands also spoke to our doubling the number of students enrolled from the Cleveland Municipal School District. He mentioned the enrolment increases needed and our plans to meet the goals for CSU 2.0. He also referred to the upcoming Master Plan process, to ensure we can build out the campus to meet the demands of increased enrollment. President Sands concluded by asking the faculty for their continued assistance with CSU 2.0, particularly college mergers.

V. Admissions and Standards Committee

José Sola

A&S Committee chair Sola introduced the following item which passed unanimously by voice vote.

- A. Approval of 3+3 agreement between Kent State and Cleveland Marshall Law **(Report No. 2, 2021-2022)**

VI. University Curriculum Committee

Marcus Schultz-Bergin

UCC chair Schultz-Bergin introduced the consent agenda which passed unanimously by voice vote. **(Report No. 3, 2021-2022)**

Consent Agenda

- B. Operations and Supply Chain Management Minor
- C. Physics, MS Applied Physics specialization
- D. Social Work, MSW changes to the program

Dr. Schultz-Bergin then introduced the following item in the discussion agenda, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion Agenda

E. Data Science, BSDS

VII. Student Government Association Report Martin Barnard

SGA President Martin Barnard reported on new student involvement with athletics and other associations on campus supported by student fees. He also spoke about students' need for data about how many students are vaccinated; SGA has recently been involved with the Provost's Covid surveys to gather this information.

SGA is also celebrating and educating students about diversity through a planned cultural festival for International Education Week. President Barnard is also planning on updating the governing documents of the SGA. He further reported on student concerns about some inflexible attendance policies, despite the persistence of Covid. He concluded with three questions: How does SGA help support faculty senate?; How does SGA help strengthen student-faculty relations?; What are each of us doing to help further the mission of why we are here—to achieve excellence?

VIII. Graduate and Professional Student Association Report Cody Orahoske

GPSA president Orahoske reported that the Graduate Student Resource Center is now open in a new space on campus—with study space, kitchen, and office. He also reported on a coffee hour and an October fest celebration, both well-attended, particularly by international students. He mentioned student enthusiasm for a vaccine mandate. He encouraged faculty to leave their doors open and listen to student concerns.

IX. Budget and Finance Committee Report William Bowen

Committee Chair Bowen reported on an excellent meeting with his committee and the new VP David Jewell, who is attempting to get a detailed handle on financial data from a range of units across campus—a non-trivial task. The committee fully supports him in that endeavor. VP Jewell also plans for regular meetings of the Planning and Finance Advisory Committee (PFAC). Professor Bowen confirmed that President Sands will consult with this committee in establishing the priorities for the CSU 2.0 allocation budget. Professor Bowen asked for suggestions to make sure that all faculty voices are heard in this process.

X. Undergraduate Student Success Committee Report Brian Mikelbank

Committee chair Mikelbank spoke about the email his committee sent urging faculty to complete the Starfish week 5 survey—which his committee believes is essential to student success. He welcomes faculty input about Starfish surveys and the committee's work to achieve student success.

XI. Academic Technology Committee Updates William Matcham

Senator Matcham, chair of the Academic Technology Committee, reported that the committee has been extremely active over the past 6 months, in its role of assessing and determining what needs to be addressed in academic technology. He referred to the difficulties because of staff departures.

Professor Matcham reported on several other challenges. Budget lines for software licenses have been hard to track—but some are underutilized and some are funded only by soft (tech fee) money which are program specific and limited. He reported on his committee’s work in finalizing a survey to get focused input on faculty computer needs; he urged faculty to complete that survey and/or email him with their needs and concerns.

XII. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Laura Bloomberg

Provost Bloomberg began by describing a staff and faculty alumni breakfast where she met a terrific and diverse group of alumni employees. She conveyed the need for new administrators to cherish and care about this university as much as the long-term faculty and staff do. Returning to Voltaire in the face of anti-intellectual forces in the Ohio statehouse, she came across his observation: “Appreciation is a wonderful thing; it makes what is wonderful in others ours as well.” She then expressed her appreciation for everything the faculty is doing for Cleveland State every day.

Provost Bloomberg acknowledged the significance of the faculty resolution in favor of a vaccine mandate at the previous senate meeting. She also pointed out that mandates with large gaps (opt-out options) may not be as effective as a promotional mind-changing campaign. The administration is now collecting data to track the effectiveness of our current promotional campaign and to determine if anything more than this campaign will be needed in future. Vice provost John Holcomb will be leading the pandemic response team along with the University Hospitals’ Dr. Sean Cannone.

Provost Bloomberg will send out a progress report on CSU 2.0 next week; she spoke of the plan for a dashboard with regular updates on this matter. She also pointed out that she is working to shift the faculty hiring calendar so that it aligns more with standard academic hiring calendars. In the meantime, she and her team are working hard to identify the faculty searches that some departments will be authorized to open this year. Further, she is attempting to identify some funds for faculty academic travel this year.

She expressed her desire to address any faculty concerns that are brought up at Senate, noting that it is helpful to bring them to her with some advance notice before the next Senate meeting.

XIII. Question Time

Faculty posed questions about the administrative structure of the new colleges under CSU 2.0 (deans, associate deans, chairs). Provost Bloomberg spoke of the need to first establish guiding principles. She acknowledged that there will be conversations about the advantages of smaller departments being merged into clusters, but that these decisions have not been made. Here again, she believes we should first establish guiding principles. So far, the teams have identified 10 areas in which decisions need to be made—the first of which will likely be curriculum, then administrative structure will emerge later.

XIV. New Business

There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON NOVEMBER 3, 2021

Professor Rachel Carnell
Senate Recording Secretary