



CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING September 8, 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, B. Ekelman, P. Falk, L. Francis, J. Gatica, J. Goodell, S. Gore-Panter, T. Guzman, D. Hamilton, K. Hamlen-Mansour, J. Hostutler, D. Hubbard, Y. Hung, A. Jousan-Westlund, W. Kellogg, C. Kothapalli, M. Kwiatkowski, J. Marino, B. McClain, B. Mikelbank, T. Porter, A. Price, R. Raimer, E. Rauschert, A. Resnick, A. Severson, G. Shukla, D. Smith, A. Sonstegard, A. Su, G. Toneff-Cotner, and N. Zingale; **Corresponding Members** R. Anglin, M. Barnard, L. Bloomberg, M. Bond, J. Holcomb, C. Orahoske, S. Zachariah. **Ex Officio Limited Members** W. Bowen, M. Schultz-Bergin, and J. Sola.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Zoom indicated a peak of 103 participants.

I. President Krebs called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

II. Approval of the Agenda for the September 8, 2021 Meeting

The Agenda, modified to reflect the absence of the university president, was approved by acclamation.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 28, 2021

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted into the record by acclamation.

IV. Report of the Faculty Senate President

Robert Krebs

President Krebs offered highlights of the important events in the university since the last meeting, including the arrival of the new provost, Laura Bloomberg. He thanked the faculty involved in that search for that successful result. Senator Krebs mentioned that the CSU 2.0 restructuring is ongoing; he alluded to necessary changes to by-laws which will fill the docket of the University Faculty Affairs Committee.

President Krebs suggested that communication between administration and faculty was less than ideal over the summer, with faculty not being informed in advance of many changes, including the outsourcing of the IS&T helpdesk, changes in parking policy, etc. He also mentioned that he

hoped faculty senate will in future have an opportunity to approve the final versions of memos about vaccine policy and other matters concerning teaching and interaction with students.

President Krebs voiced concern about faculty and particularly staff retiring in droves (with VSIP) and leaving the rest of the faculty and staff to pick up the slack. He also asked for the negotiating teams (both administrative and faculty) to provide a clear update as to why we do not yet have a bargaining contract. He expressed further concern about cooperative employees (vaccinated ones) being asked to work harder to compensate for uncooperative students and employees.

V. University Curriculum Committee Marcus Schultz-Bergin

Dr. Schultz-Bergin, UCC chair, introduced the consent agenda, which was approved unanimously by voice vote.

(Report No. 1, 2021-2022)

Consent Agenda

A. Dance, BA

B. International Relations, BA

Dr. Schultz-Bergin then introduced the two items on the discussion agenda, which were voted on separately:

Discussion Agenda

C. Applied Social Research Accelerated 4+1 Program

This motion carried by unanimous voice vote

D. Property Management Major

This motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

VI. Report of Student Government Association Martin Barnard

Martin Barnard, president of SGA, began by thanking the faculty and introducing himself. He acknowledged that SGA has already met (having put its leadership team in place at the end of spring semester rather than waiting for fall) and that students across campus have expressed concerns about COVID-19 and about starting a new semester without the lenient P/F (S/U) option available last year (under COVID-19 protocols).

VII. Report of Graduate and Professional Student Assn Cody Orahoske

Cody Orahoske, president of the GPSA, provided an update of the organization's plans for the year, with particular attention to professional networking through building alumni connections. He described a planned event with Plexus, an LGBTQ+ professional organization, as well as several social events. The GPSA also intends to focus on the mental health and well-being of all students and faculty.

VIII. University Faculty Affairs Committee

Joanne Goodell

- E. Senator Goodell, chair of UFAC, asked for faculty assistance with the redesign of the committee structures required by the reorganization outlined by CSU 2.0. She also described the role and duties of UFAC and the process by which changes are made to Senate by-laws and the Green Book.

IX. Budget and Finance Committee Report

William Bowen

- F. Senator Bowen, chair of Budget and Finance Committee, described the duties of the committee, according to the Green Book. He also mentioned that the new Senior Vice President of Business Affairs and CFO David Jewell will be meeting with the Senate Budget committee. Senator Bowen also alluded to Jewell's commitment to convening regularly the joint faculty and administration PFAC (Planning and Finance Advisory Committee) equivalent to the committee previously called PBAC.

Senator Bowen gave a report based on having attended the recent Board of Trustees Financial Affairs Committee meeting, making note of some change in the presentation of the financial data, which he is still trying to understand. He noted that the balance sheets for FY20 and FY 21 are both positive. However, the CSU 2.0 implementation budget has not yet been finalized, according to President Sands. Senator Bowen expressed his hope that appropriate faculty committees, including PFAC and Senate budget, be involved in those budgetary allocations.

Senator Bowen also alluded to a continuing lack of data about college level revenue and cost data—data usually are only available for the full university, not broken down per college.

X. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Laura Bloomberg

Provost Bloomberg began by conveying a message of gratitude to the faculty (also thanking the SGA representative's welcome gift to her) and acknowledging the difficulty of day-to-day teaching in a global pandemic. She urged everyone to take care of themselves and their mental health. She thanked faculty in advance for helping her learn what she needs to know about the university. She emphasized that the need for better communication is high on her radar. She also acknowledged her understanding of how stretched thin the staff feel. She observed that "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, but the next best time is today."

Provost Bloomberg alluded to her research on problems and paradoxes as being played out in real time: do we centralize or decentralize services; do we plan for the short or long term? (The answer to both is paradoxically, yes). She recognizes that we are living out the act of finding this balance in real time, and the need to find the right balance is uppermost in her mind. She recognizes that we need to plan for the long-term while simultaneously addressing the urgent problems of the day.

Provost Bloomberg spoke about CSU 2.0, particularly the team focusing on academic and student success. She acknowledged the excellent work done by the CSU 2.0 teams over the summer, even while recognizing the need now to involve a broader swath of the faculty in these conversations and decisions. She believes that achieving college reorganization by next fall is feasible but that not all details will be fully resolved.

She then spoke of the email sent out late on Friday 9/5/21 mentioning the peer-to-peer vaccine campaign in lieu of a vaccine mandate. She said that the timing of the email was not intended to bury the announcement. She also apologized for not having run the final version of the email past the Faculty Senate officers.

As a policy scholar, she spoke of the unintended consequences of mandates, which are only effective when enforced at 95% or higher (according to research in some areas). She also spoke of the distrust of the medical profession among communities of color. She says that she does not believe we are at the point of needing a mandate.

XI. Question Time

A senator asked a question about the COVID-19 dashboard, which does not seem include necessarily all the data that faculty and students want to know: a low incidence of COVID cases may reflect low rates of testing. Provost Bloomberg acknowledged the need for full data.

Another senator pointed out that Faculty Senate's by-laws mandates approval of merging or abolishing colleges and departments.

A third senator pointed out that in not having a vaccine mandate, we in essence have the mandate of exposing faculty and staff to the unvaccinated and the unintended consequence of creating a less medically safe environment than at other local universities (harming our more diverse student body). Provost Bloomberg responded that she did not have the data on the relative safety of other universities.

A fourth senator pointed out the impact on faculty colleagues of having to cover classes for faculty with pandemic related child-care (and ill child) issues, given that there is no system for substitutes or payment for such.

In response to questions about COVID and vaccines, VP Forrest Faison offered further information about the decision not to impose a vaccine mandate, focusing on the exclusions in the mandates rolled out by other universities. He pointed out that other universities' experience is that requests for exemptions are high, and the number of new vaccinations is low. He also observed that the CSU community is doing a great job following the mask protocol and that many students and staff are resisting the vaccine out of fear. He also pointed out that the number of cases at CSU is quite low. He also noted that there are laws going into effect prohibiting Ohio institutions from asking about vaccination status. He said that 5% of the student body is asked to get tested voluntarily every week (vaccinated students do not need to undergo the test).

Another senator asked VP Faison about how the numbers of students who test positive outside of the testing protocol are included on the dashboard. VP Faison referred to about 14 cases since students moved to the dorm, but evidence does not point to those infections having arisen on campus.

Another senator asked about what data or what event would trigger a change in COVID policy. VP Faison referred to the potential need to change policy in the event of upward trends.

XII. New Business

Senator Linda Francis expressed concerns on behalf of the CLASS Senate caucus members for some changes to CSU COVID-19 protocols; specifically, she delineated that caucus's requests that the university

1. Put teeth into testing.
2. Show us the numbers; build in real transparency.
3. Strengthen and make explicit procedures to follow if a student exposes a class to COVID.
4. Clarify and push the information students need if exposed to COVID-19.
5. Revisit accommodations accounting for the Delta variant.
6. Institute a vaccine mandate.

Senator Francis then introduced the following motion, which was seconded by Senator Dana Hubbard.

Motion: Faculty Senate endorses a vaccine mandate.

This motion carried by voice vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON OCTOBER 6, 2021

Professor Rachel Carnell
Senate Recording Secretary