MEETING OF THE FACULTY SENATE

MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2026
3:00 p.m. – Student Center Ballroom

PRESENT:

Faculty Senate Officers: J. Bickel, B. Yusko, and E. Avram.

Faculty Senators: H. Ahmed, S. Allena, J. Bolt, S. Brockhaus, B. Browning, B. Conti, M. Crawley, Y. Fu, Z. Gao, J. Gatica, P. Gerum, J. Goodell, A. Goodsett, M. Heath, C. Heyward, B. Hoffman, E. Jennings, S. Kent, A. Lammers, J. Marino, K. Pataki, A. Patil, J. Plecnik, A. Price, L. Quinn, H. Richter, A. Severson, G. Shukla, A. Slifkin, A. Smith, J. Sola, M. Soliman, B. Su, A. Vincent, J. Vitali, W. Wang, R. Whitbred, and N. Zawahri.

Administrative and Corresponding Members: L. Bloomberg, N. Sridhar, R. Carnell, R. Henry, A. Kersten, S. Zachariah, L. Paul, and A. Burri.

Ex Officio Limited Members: S. Giuffre, T. Heus, and M. Horvath.

OTHERS PRESENT: Zoom attendance peaked at 47 participants during the meeting.

Meeting called to order at 3:01 p.m.

I. **Approval of the Meeting Agenda—October 7, 2026**
The meeting agenda for October 7, 2026 was approved

II. **Approval of the Minutes of the September 2, Meeting**
The minutes from the September 2, 2026 meeting were approved

III. **Report of the Senate President**
Report No. 9, 2026 – 2027
Dr. Bickel announced that room reservations are once again free for faculty, staff, and students (this does not include room setup fees). She thanked everyone for their efforts toward Title II compliance, acknowledging that this is a heavy lift and that the deadline is quickly approaching (April 26, 2027). The Office of Instructional Excellence is holding many casual drop-in sessions, offering technical support and food. Unfortunately, the promised PDF remediation tool is not working as well as was initially hoped, and people are encouraged not to wait.

Dr. Bickel reminded faculty to meet with their Department Chairs to discuss plans and goals and to submit their faculty development plans to their chair.

Dr. Bickel requested volunteers to serve on the Graduation and Convocation Committee (representatives are requested from the College of Health, the Washkewicz College of Engineering, and the Arts/Humanities branch of the College of Arts and Sciences). Two faculty

volunteers (a committee member and an alternate) are also requested to help develop CSU's Employee Code of Conduct.

IV. **Report of the University President**

President Bloomberg reminded the community to wear green on Wednesdays and to enjoy lunch in the Viking Marketplace for only $10 on Wednesdays. She also encouraged people to attend the special Board of Trustees meeting Friday morning (Friday, October 9, 2026 at 8am) for a consequential discussion and vote. The plan to be discussed could have a transformational impact for students with financial barriers to attending college. There will also be a press conference later in the day on Friday. Members of the community were encouraged to amplify social media messages that come out on Friday, to the extent they are comfortable and able.

President Bloomberg informed the community that there will be a campus visit day on Saturday. People are encouraged to check the public spaces around their offices to ensure information is up to date. If you are planning on being on campus that day, you are encouraged to have open doors and smiling faces to welcome the prospective students.

V. **Faculty Senate Standing Committee Reports**

a. University Faculty Affairs Committee

Report No. 10, 2026 – 2027

Senator S. Brockhaus presented the census data for Faculty Senate. Colleges are encouraged to elect Senators on time in the Spring. He announced that the committee is working on revising the rules for chair selection and the Faculty Personnel Policies. Updates to these policies will be shared at a future date.

b. Admissions and Standards Committee

Proposed Articulation Agreement: LCCC 2+2 BS EET at CSU

Report No. 11, 2026 – 2027

Chair A. Smith presented a new articulation agreement: LCCC 2+2 BS EET at CSU. Concern about the number of credits required for this degree was brought up.

New articulation agreement was approved

Committee Annual Goals and Priorities

Report No. 12, 2026 - 2027

Chair A. Smith presented the committee's goals and priorities for the year which include continued timely review of proposals, considering admissions policies for the Graduate College, making recommendations on the procedures for grade disputes, and fulfilling an advisory role for the Chief Officer for University Enrollment

c. University Curriculum Committee

Report No. 13, 2026 – 2027

Chair S. Allena presented the consent agenda.

Consent agenda was approved

1. BS in Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering, Integrated - 1170 - Fall 26
2. Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science (90 credits) - 1200 - Fall 27
3. Biomedical Engineering, BS BME - 1200 - Fall 27
4. CIV 201: The Quest for Justice - Cleveland State University

5. Change to Honors requirements in CSU Core Curriculum - Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Honors College
6. Chemical Engineering, BS ChE - 1200 - Fall 27
7. Civil Engineering, BSCE – 1170 – Fall 26
8. Civil Engineering, BSCE - 1200 - Fall 27
9. Computer Science, Accelerated Master's BSCS/BSDS+MCS – 1140- Fall 25
10. Computer Science, MCS - 1140 - Fall 25
11. Exercise Science, B.S. - 1170 - Fall 26
12. Gerontological Studies, Graduate Certificate - 1170 - Fall
13. Health Sciences, B.S. – 1200 – Fall 27
14. Human Resources Management, MHRM – 1200 – Fall 27
15. Mechanical Engineering, BSME - 1200 - Fall 27
16. Music Therapy and Health Sciences, Accelerated Master's BS in Music Therapy/MS in Health Sciences - 1170 - Fall 26
17. Nonprofit Administration, B.A. - 1170 - Fall 26
18. Political Science Minor - 1170 - Fall 26
19. Political Science, B.A. - 1170 - Fall 26
20. Public Administration, MPA – 1170 – Fall 26
21. Public Policy and Management, B.A. - 1170 - Fall 26
22. Rename the Policy Studies Specialization in the Urban Education Ph.D. Program to Leadership and Policy Studies - 1170 - Fall 26
23. Sociology, B.A. - 1170 - Fall 26
24. Taxation Minor - 1170 - Fall 26
25. Urban Geographic Information Systems Certificate - 1170 - Fall 26
26. Urban Planning Development, MUPD – 1170 – Fall 26
27. Veterinary Social Work, Graduate Certificate – 1200 – Fall

Committee Annual Goals and Priorities
Report No. 14, 2026 – 2027
Chair S. Allena presented the committee's goals for the academic year which include timely and efficient curriculum review, clarity and consistency in review, and continuous process improvement. The committee will also consider university-wide curriculum priorities including review of the Speaking Across the Curriculum (SPAC) requirement, core curriculum, and AI literacy.

Chair S. Allena received a question about alignment of the core curriculum with the expectations and needs of employers. President Bickel encouraged individual departments to review their curriculum and consider the needs of employers. Provost Sridhar cited the flywheel of innovation analogy and emphasized the recent revision of the core curriculum, development of integrated degrees, implementation of the no record policy, and development of the Talent Hub. These were emphasized as university-wide innovations that apply to all students. The table is now set for departments to reflect on their curriculum and explore opportunities for creativity and innovation. The Provost promised to find resources to support departments making novel and innovative curricular changes.

d. Budget and Finance Committee
Committee Annual Goals and Priorities
Report No. 15, 2026 – 2027

Senator B. Browning presented the committee's goals for this year which include seeking opportunities for meaningful participation in the University budget process, enhancing the understanding of the University's financial position and budget priorities, and to support transparency.

Senator B. Browning led a discussion on how tuition dollars should be attributed, whether the dollars follow the student, the department, the college, or the unit. It was emphasized that additional information is needed to make an informed decision including how money has been allocated historically. Additional considerations that need to be weighed include online vs in person course offerings, graduate vs undergraduate tuition, certificate and non-degree programs, laboratory classes with variations in credit hours and contact hours, and cross-disciplinary courses.

e. Committee on Athletics
Committee Annual Goals and Priorities
Report No. 16, 2026 – 2027
Chair M. Crawley presented the committee's goals for this year which include efforts to continue strengthening the partnerships between faculty and athletics, recognizing and promoting faculty contributions to student-athlete success, and fostering communication and collaboration around student-athlete support.

f. Student Life Committee
Committee Annual Goals and Priorities
Report No. 18, 2026 – 2027
Chair M. Horvath presented the committee's goals for this year which include reviewing the functions of the committee and establishing workflows. The committee is still in need of student members. SGA President L. Paul emphasized SGA's commitment to ensuring student representation on committees. President Bickel also asked faculty to recommend students who may be interested in these opportunities and to email either SGA President Paul or Faculty Senate President Bickel with contact information for interested students.

g. Library Committee
Committee Annual Goals and Priorities
Report No. 18, 2026 – 2027
Ex officio member S. Vine presented the committee's goals for this year which include collecting data on inclusive access information and hurdles and supporting the Michael Schwartz Library's Strategic Plan. S. Vine reported that the committee is also looking for student representatives. He also provided updates on the Rhodes Tower asbestos abatement and construction (Floors 4 and 5 are still under construction), the hiring of an archivist, and the new library website. Vine also reminded faculty to apply for a Textbook Affordability Grant – applications are due by October 21, 2026.

h. Committee on Academic Space
Committee Annual Goals and Priorities
Report No. 19, 2026 – 2027
Chair S. Giuffre presented the committee's goals for this academic year which include working on space related policies and procedures, assisting with communication regarding

space changes, and assisting with space audits. Provost Sridhar announced that there will be a number of space changes in the near future, some mandated by the continued asbestos abatement of Rhodes Tower. He assured faculty and staff that all moves would be scheduled at times when classes and student work is not disrupted, and that there will be increased communication around any changes.

i. Academic Technology Committee
Committee Annual Goals and Priorities
Report No. 20, 2026 – 2027
Chair S. Giuffre presented the committee's goals for this academic year which include providing the faculty perspective on technology updates including Stellic, Simple Syllabus, Compass, and Title II, they will monitor computer refresh project with updates from IS&T, consider new policies on the use of artificial intelligence, including faculty perspectives, and responding to other academic technology issues as they arise.

j. Electronic Learning Committee
Committee Annual Goals and Priorities
Report No. 21, 2026 – 2027
Chair C. Heyward presented the committee's goals for this academic year which include assisting faculty with remediating all digital course materials for accessibility and evaluating the use and function of Simple Syllabus. Chair Heyward encouraged faculty to review the eLearning webinar on best practices for making PDFs accessible.

k. University Petitions Committee
Committee Annual Goals and Priorities
Report No. 22, 2026 – 2027
Chair E. Avram presented the committee's goals for this academic year which include fair, consistent, and timely review of all petitions, maintaining clear documentation of committee decisions and appropriate communication of outcomes to relevant stakeholders, and monitoring petition trends and identifying recurring issues that warrant policy clarification or procedural improvement.

l. President Bickel thanked all of the committee members and chairs for adapting to the new policy requiring committees to present their annual goals by the second meeting of the academic year. She encouraged feedback and conversation about the goals and plans for each of the committees.

VI. **Report of the SGA**
Report No. 23, 2026 – 2027
SGA President L. Paul reiterated a commitment to identifying student representatives for the standing committees. She stated that student senators are currently meeting with the deans from each of the colleges and that each senator will have a project to complete this year. The SGA has implemented a new activity to their senate meetings called Campus Connections where faculty and staff are invited to present and share, reach out to SGA President Paul if you are interested in presenting. SGA is also reviewing funding requests, they are looking for projects with a clear purpose and student impact. The CSU community is encouraged to follow SGA on social media.

VII. **Informational Presentation**

CSU Compass Update

Report No. 24, 2026 – 2027

Chief Information Officer W. Helou discussed the progress and timeline for the implementation of CSU Compass. They are now 10 months into this 18 month project. He emphasized the key highlights and takeaways from the Compass Showcase event, and promised more training sessions will be held in the future. The Change Network team is being established to support implementation efforts, including troubleshooting, and advocacy. This network will consist of 30 – 45 people from around campus who will be responsible for communicating information back to respective units. The new website is up-to-date and live: csuohio.edu/CSUCompass.

VIII. **Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer**

Provost Sridhar announced that the AAUP contract is finalized. Faculty can expect to receive a print copy of the collective bargaining agreement in their mailboxes soon. He emphasized that many departments are working expeditiously on salary adjustments including Finance, Human Resources, Payroll, and the Provost's Office. The Contract Implementation Committee will provide written communication regarding pertinent aspects of the collective bargaining agreement.

Provost Sridhar recognized the onerous work of implementing Title II, acknowledging that the first part is easy, but the last 10-15% is much more time-intensive. He emphasized that this work is necessary to comply with both state and federal law and that it is the right thing to do to ensure that students can access their course materials. Caryn Lanzo and Sajit Zachariah were personally thanked for their support and efforts regarding Title II compliance. He encouraged faculty to attend the workshops offered by the Office of Instructional Excellence and emphasized that these were times to come together to share your findings, ideas, and successes, while also receiving support from Caryn Lanzo's team from eLearning. All courses must be 100% accessible by April 26, 2027. He encouraged faculty to consider the real deadline to be the start of the Spring Semester. When questioned about what supports are being provided, Provost Sridhar recognized that there is no easy way to do this and no effective tools to fully automate this process. The best resources are your peers, so faculty were encouraged to share resources, ideas, and strategies.

Provost Sridhar discussed the Faculty Excellence Awards which recognize excellence in teaching, RSCA, and service for both tenure-track and non-tenure track faculty. He encouraged people to consider nominating their colleagues and assured that the process will be streamlined and easier to engage with this year. He also encouraged each department chair to submit at least one nomination.

Provost Sridhar announced the plan to revise the academic calendar to make it more manageable and accessible for students. The three Faculty Fellows (Elena Andrei, Dakota King-White, and Patty Stoddard Dare) are working on this project and integrating student and faculty voices in this decision-making process. The proposed timeline for these changes is in two years (Fall 2028), meaning that the calendar needs finalized by July 2027 to allow time for the Registrar's Office to implement the changes. Faculty and Staff were encouraged to participate in the surveys and listening sessions that will be held in the coming weeks. Considering all of the information gathered, a proposal will be generated and then moved through several committees (such as the Admissions and Standards Committee and University Curriculum Committee), collaboration will

also occur with the CSU Compass team. Currently, the proposal is to move to a 14 + 1 week semester, maintaining the instructional minutes mandated by the Ohio Revised Code. They are currently considering a 4-day week class structure potentially avoiding Mondays due to the number of Federal holidays (offering WF and TR classes). The 14 + 1 week schedule will allow for 3 identically structured semesters (Fall, Spring, and Summer).

President Bloomberg inquired about the status of the Equitable Access study (now called Total Access), and Provost Sridhar said this information is forthcoming after the November 15 deadline provided to the committees. The Student Success Committee, OER Committee, Graduate Council, and Michael Schwartz Library are all evaluating the implementation of this program of a flat fee per credit hour charged to students for their textbooks.

Provost Sridhar reminded the community about upcoming events:

- Board of Trustees Meeting, Friday, October 9, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.
- State of the University Address, Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
- Viking Teach Week, October 19 – 21, 2026

IX. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON NOVEMBER 4, 2026
Erin M.G. Avram, Faculty Senate Secretary