

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE FACULTY SENATE
NOVEMBER 4, 2020**

PRESENT: M. Adams, J. Ausherman, C. C. Bowen, W. Bowen, M. Buckley, R. Carnell, B. Conti, D. Davisson, A. Dixit, G. Dyer, B. Ekelman, P. Falk, D. Forte, L. Francis, Z. Gao, J. Gatica, D. Geier, S. Gingerich, D. Hamilton, K. Hamlen-Mansour, C. Hansman, J. Hostutler, Y. Hung, D. Kair, S. Kaufman, J. Kilbane, A. Kumar, J. Marino, W. Matcham, B. McClain, K. McIntyre, T. Porter, R. Raimer, E. Rauschert, B. Richards, Y. Shen, A. Slifkin, A. Sonstegard, A. Su, R. Tighe, G. Toneff-Cotner, J. Visocky-O'Grady, N. Zingale. A. Ahmetaj, R. Anglin, J. Belovich, M. Biehl, M. Bond, C. Faison, L. Fisher, T. Gaspar, E. Grigore, J. Holcomb, K. Kahn, E. Lehfeltd, D. Lodwick, E. McKinney, C. Orahoske, H. Sands, H. Shaheen for R. Betterson, S. Zachariah, J. Zhu. M. Rubado, M. Schultz-Bergin, A. F. Smith.

OTHERS

PRESENT: M. Bleeke, M. Boboc, D. Bruce, S. Greybar-Milliken, J. Stimple. Zoom indicated a peak of 180 participants.

I. Approval of the Agenda for the November 4, 2020 Meeting

Called to order at 3:01P.M. A motion to approve the agenda was moved.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 7, 2020

Senator Chieh-Chen Bowen moved to amend the October 7 minutes to include a fuller statement of a question she posed to President Sands in that meeting.

The motion and the amended minutes were approved by voice vote.

III. Report of the Faculty Senate President

President Bob Krebs announced that Violet Lunder, longtime CSU employee and Administrative Coordinator for the Faculty Senate, will be retiring, and Jane McCrone has accepted a part-time administrative assistant position in the Faculty Senate office.

He mentioned that reports from the CSU 2.0 task forces are due to be released to the campus soon, and noted that the Task Force specific to college reorganization is meant to provide options to the administration, and will not affect final decisions. He reported that the Board of Trustees Financial Affairs Committee had met earlier in the day, and that while the financial stress facing the university is not as severe as once feared, we still face budgetary constraints that will require belt-tightening. He voiced support to avoid cutting faculty and support staff.

He observed that the university may not need as many colleges as we have had, in part because the demographics of first-year, first-time students in the region are declining. He also urged our administrative leadership to think carefully about past precedents. For example, in previous

college restructuring instances, changes have been primarily faculty-driven, and where procedures are not specifically governed in bylaws, past-precedents should be followed.

IV. Report of the President of the University

President Harlan Sands noted that our fall semester enrollment has declined slightly, but that other universities in Ohio are facing much steeper declines. He thanked the faculty for everything they are doing to help to retain students, including working together with student leadership to approve a new policy to allow students an expanded Pass/Fail option.

President Sands remarked on the current set of COVID-19 protocols in place on campus seem to be working well, and he hopes that they will continue to be effective through the rest of this semester and spring semester. He acknowledged that this year has been challenging on all fronts, but that there have also been faculty and student successes to celebrate, some of which were included in the recent State of the University address. President Sands spoke about future plans for the University, and why post-COVID investment in the region needs to include Cleveland State, as outlined in his recent opinion editorial in Crains Cleveland, *Post-COVID-19 Cleveland plan starts with CSU*.

He noted that the Spring semester calendar was changed, eliminating the Spring break week that is traditionally scheduled in March, and moving it to January before the first day of Spring semester classes. He has received some complaints about the change; however, he stands by it as necessary to protect the university community against COVID. Winter commencement, scheduled for December will be virtual, but any interested students will be allowed walk across the stage in person in the future, whenever we return to in-person ceremonies.

President Sands pointed out that the budget gap is not as dire as initially feared; moreover, the University's long-term credit rating was recently reaffirmed by Standard and Poor's with an A+ rating.

The President also mentioned that the reports of the CSU 2.0 task forces, and feedback on those reports, would be announced soon. He concluded with a thank-you to the faculty for their ongoing support of our students; he announced that the November 10 Veteran's Day ceremony will take place outdoors, noting that there are now 479 veterans enrolled at Cleveland State.

Senator R. Carnell asked about the duration of the faculty and administrative pay cuts. President Sands mentioned that there would likely be a decision on this in the next three weeks.

V. Admissions and Standards Committee

A. Professor Albert "Fred" Smith introduced the motion for

Automatic admission of students to Business master's programs if they graduate from the Honors College with a GPA of at least 3.5. (Curriculog.)
(Report No. 21, 2020-2021)

The motion was approved by voice vote.

B. Professor Smith introduced a motion to

Continue the temporary Spring/Summer 2020 rules concerning academic standing for Fall 2020 through Summer 2021, for undergraduates only.
(Report No. 22, 2020-2021)

The motion was approved by voice vote.

VI. Budget and Finance Committee

Budget Update **(Report No. 23, 2020-2021)**

Senator W. Bowen reported that the Budget & Finance committee met and discussed the costs associated with the CSU 2.0 plans, the athletic budget, and library budget. He reported that the CSU library budget has been historically smaller than those of other public universities in Ohio, and the Provost informed the Committee that there are no further planned cuts to the library's budget.

Senator Bowen also reported that the administrative leadership is interested in expanding our online program offerings and is consulting with Arizona State University on how we might move forward. The Provost is keeping the Budget and Finance Committee advised of these developments as they proceed.

VII. University Curriculum Committee

C. Professor Marcus Schultz-Bergin, introduced the motion for the

Neuroscience minor (interdisciplinary) to be housed in Psychology (Curriculog)
(Report No. 24, 2020-2021)

The motion was approved by voice vote.

VIII. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Provost Jianping Zhu thanked faculty for how well the semester is proceeding. He announced the virtual commencement will take place on December 13, with some slight changes to the format from the Spring. Programs and departments will not schedule the breakout ceremonies directly after the main ceremony, but in the week before.

He followed up on the new faculty hires mentioned in the President's State of the University address; plans are in place to recruit 40 new faculty in key research areas to align with the University's strategic priorities, and to enhance regional and national work force needs, like health sciences and cyber security. He also alluded to potential new hires in interdisciplinary research and to the value of diversity in the hiring efforts.

Provost Zhu also reported that more than 1,800 students are scheduled to graduate this fall; he thanked faculty for their contributions to that success.

He acknowledged the challenges that faculty have been facing under current teaching conditions and mentioned that there will be administration consideration when making workload assignments to provide needed resources.

Provost Zhu closed his remarks assuring the Senate that CSU 2.0 planning is being conducted with the best interests for future institutional growth, and improved efficiency, which will allow the university to be in a stronger financial position going forward.

IX. Report of the President of SGA (Report No. 25, 2020-2021)

SGA Vice President Hana Shaheen reported updates about the successful “Vike the Vote” student event October 30. She also mentioned a new student-led initiative to encourage sustainability efforts by posting photos of individual or group initiatives both on- and off- campus; the SGA is working on this with CSU Sustainability Director, Jennifer McMillan.

X. Report of Vice President, Graduate and Professional Student Association (Report No. 26, 2020-2021)

GPSA Vice President Cody Orahoske reported on various graduate student social events that were scheduled, noting that it has been difficult to engage graduate students to extra-curriculars during the pandemic. The group is planning a professional development session to help graduate students learn to present themselves more successfully on Zoom.

XI. Question Time – [occurred after New Business inadvertently]

Senator Sanda Kaufman asked for an update on the COVID Dashboard—which President Sands and VP Faison pointed out was live and updated regularly. Senator Meagan L Harless posted the link to the chat feature (<https://www.csuohio.edu/safe-campus/dashboard>).

XII. New Business –

D. Senator Bill Bowen moved a Resolution in Recognition of Violet Lunder – [attached] (Report No. 27, 2020-2021)

The Resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned 4:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON DECEMBER 2, 2020

Professor Rachel Carnell
Senate Recording Secretary