



CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
MARCH 3, 2021

PRESENT: **Faculty Senate Leadership** R. Krebs, G. Dyer, and R. Carnell; **Faculty Senators** J. Ausherman, W. Bowen, C.C. Bowen, M. Buckley, B. Conti, D. Davisson, B. Ekelman, P. Falk, D. Forte, L. Francis, Z. Gao, J. Gatica, D. Geier, S. Gingerich, J. Goodell, D. Hamilton, K. Hamlen-Mansour, C. Hansman, Y. Hung, K. Judge, D. Kalir, S. Kaufman, J. Kilbane, A. Kumar, M. Kwiatkowski, J. Marino, W. Matcham, B. McClain, K. McIntyre, T. Porter, R. Raimer, E. Rauschert, B. Richards, H. Richter, Y. Shen, A. Slifkin, A. Sonstegard, A. Su, R. Tighe, G. Toneff-Cotner, J. Visocky O’Grady, and N. Zingale; **Corresponding Members** A. Ahmetaj, R. Anglin, J. Belovich, R. Betterson, L. Fisher, T. Gaspar, E. Grigore, K. Kahn, E. Lehfeltd, E. McKinney, S. Nunley, C. Orahoske, A. Robichaud, H. Sands, S. Zachariah, and J. Zhu; **Ex Officio Limited Members** W. Bowen, J. Goodell, A. Gosselin, S. Kent, J. Marino, W. Matcham, K. McIntyre, S. Patterson, M. Rubado, M. Schultz-Bergin, J. Sola, and A. Smith.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Zoom indicated a peak of 225 participants.

I. Meeting was called to order at 3:00.

Approval of the Agenda for the March 3, 2021 Meeting

Motion by Senator Carnell to add “HLC Self-study for Re-accreditation Update” to agenda, was approved by voice.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 3, 2021; accepted by acclamation with no changes.

III. Report of the Faculty Senate President

Robert Krebs

President Krebs recommended to faculty that they should provide their students information about protocols in case of any zoom bomb event; he recommends ending the session immediately and emailing students a new link in order to resume class.

Senator Krebs also reminded Senate committee chairs that annual reports of Standing Committees are scheduled to be distributed by March 31.

He announced Senators Gary Dyer, Beth Ekelman, and David Forte will serve on the special nominating committee for the position of Faculty Senate Vice President; all interested senators should contact one of them. In addition, an electronic committee preference sheet for other faculty service opportunities will be available next week and all faculty will be sent a notice.

The 2021-2022 Faculty Senate meeting schedule was distributed and will be posted online.

President Krebs pointed out that he has received emails about the negative publicity in the *Plain Dealer*, a topic that President Sands will address. He also mentioned that CSU 2.0 plans will not be rushed and implemented before the start of Fall semester 2021; no college reorganization will occur before next fall.

IV. Report of the President of the University Harlan Sands

President Sands thanked all faculty individually and collectively for their effort to instruct and engage the students during the pandemic. He expressed enthusiastic support for the recent success of the men's and women's basketball teams, both of which have made it to the final four in the Horizon League. He also announced an in-person commencement at Progressive Field on May 15, to be held with safety protocols in place.

President Sands observed that our campus infection rate remains one of the lowest in the country and is optimistic about our fall campus footprint. For the fall 2021 semester, first-year applications are up and admissions have increased from this time last year. The Giving Day fundraiser brought in substantially more gifts than last year. Referencing CSU 2.0, President Sands announced that Task Force conclusions will be circulated soon. He also reiterated Cleveland State's significant role in the new Jobs Ohio grant.

President Sands voiced his disappointment with the *Plain Dealer's* recent coverage of the human resources director hiring and took issue with the newspaper's use of the word "lie" to characterize his communication with the faculty. He assured the faculty that the *Plain Dealer's* speculation about any political quid pro quos was entirely unfounded.

He then introduced Vice President Jeanell Hughes, who shed some light on the procedures and timeline in the search process for the HR director who was hired last fall. She acknowledged, and apologized for, a procedural error on her part, in not officially reopening the search last summer, but pointed out that she had no knowledge of any of the issues involving politics in Cuyahoga County.

V. University Curriculum Committee Marcus Schultz-Bergin

Dr. Schultz-Bergin presented the Consent Agenda which was approved by voice vote

Consent Agenda (Report No. 40, 2020-2021)

- A. Digital Marketing Certificate
- B. Gifted and Talented Learners (with licensure), M.Ed.
- C. Global Interactions, MA

VI. Report of Student Government Association Renee Betterson

SGA President Betterson thanked everyone for their participation at the forum with Judge Melody Stewart. She reported that elections for student leadership positions are in process. She asked faculty to encourage their talented students to apply for the position of student representative to the Board of Trustees. The SGA and GPSA recently partnered in a campus tabling event to engage students with the organizations.

Ms. Betterson closed her report with an update on the end-of-year tree dedication recognizing the classes of 2020 and 2021; the site for the trees has been selected and the wording for plaques is finalized.

VII. Admissions and Standards Committee José O. Solá

A&S Committee Chair Sola introduced the following items which were approved by voice vote

Decision Items (Report No. 41, 2020-2021)

D. Extension of GRE/GMAT waiver for Spring and Summer 2022 Admissions

E. Extension of ACT/SAT waiver for Spring and Summer 2022 Admissions

VIII. University Faculty Affairs Committee Joanne Goodell

Senator and UFAC Chair Goodell offered the second reading of the proposed language changes which were subsequently approved by voice vote

Decision Item (Report No. 42, 2020-2021)

F. Second Reading of amalgamation of three rounds of changes requested to Policy 3344-13-03 Standing committees

IX. Budget and Finance Committee Report William Bowen

Senator and Budget Committee Chair Bill Bowen reported that the committee is actively in conversation with Interim Chief Financial Officer Margie Spencer. The outlook for building trust between the administration and the faculty is positive and the committee also confirmed an improved budget outlook than formerly forecasted.

X. HLC Self-study Report Marius Boboc

Vice Provost Boboc offered a reaccreditation update, describing the process for the assurance argument (self-study) to be presented to the Higher Learning Commission.

XI. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer Jianping Zhu

Provost Zhu thanked the faculty for a smooth first half of the semester. He offered updates about the CSU 2.0 taskforce process, meetings are scheduled for further campus input from mid-March to mid-April. He also reported on the faculty searches in process, some of which may involve on-campus visits. He spoke to the likely increase of campus footprint for fall. He also mentioned discussions to recognize faculty research/creative achievement in a broader range of categories than are currently recognized, including for example, development of open-access textbook materials.

Asked was who exactly has been providing input to the CSU 2.0 process since the task forces completed their work last summer and fall. Provost Zhu and President Sands mentioned that those reports have been filtering into their discussions, as has other relevant information, for which they did not provide a specific source.

From engineering, a question about lab assistants whose hiring by new faculty members was postponed because of COVID-19; Provost Zhu responded that extensions for use of start-up funds will be arranged.

Also asked was when the CSU 2.0 process will be sent to the Senate and UCC for their advisory role and any vote in any college reorganization process; it was noted that there is a long precedent of a faculty advisory vote about any such college reorganization. Provost Zhu suggested that the UCC could consider offering input when the proposal is announced, but stressed the importance of keeping the process moving.

Another question related to possible new categories for faculty achievement and how they will affect tenure review descriptions in the CBA or the various college guidelines. Provost Zhu answered that a task force should look into recommendations. A question on any tuition increase for next year received notice by Provost Zhu that this was still being decided.

XII. Report of Graduate and Professional Student Assn. Cody Orahoske

GPSA Vice President Orahoske reported on partnering with the athletic department to support the women's and men's basketball teams, and a joint effort with SGA with campus information tabling events. He senses increased student optimism that campus life will soon return to normal and is enthusiastic for the in-person commencement ceremonies scheduled for May.

On behalf of international graduate students, VP Orahoske expressed concern about the costs of health insurance. The GPSA is also exploring ways to address the possibility of revising GA, TA, and RA contracts to be year-round to avoid the 6-week annual salary gap in the summer.

XIII. CSU Foundation Board Vickie Gallagher

As faculty representative to the Foundation Board, Professor Gallagher spoke about the efforts to fundraise for student scholarships, particularly the Radiance event. This year's Radiance scheduled for May 6 will be held remotely.

XIV. Question Time

Questions were posed regarding CSU 2.0 retirement incentives, the UCC and Senate's advisory role with college reorganization, University support of the Zoom platform and prevention of Zoom bombing, and the use of and associated costs for outside contractors.

XV. New Business

There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON MARCH 31, 2021

Professor Rachel Carnell
Senate Recording Secretary