



CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
Faculty Senate

Minutes of the Meeting
December 2, 2020

PRESENT: **Faculty Senate Leadership** R. Krebs, G. Dyer, and R. Carnell; **Faculty Senators** M. Adams, J. Ausherman, W. Bowen, M. Buckley, B. Cavender, 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, J. Hostutler, Y. Hung, D. Kalir, S. Kaufman, J. Kilbane, A. Kumar, M. Kwiatkowski, J. Marino, W. Matcham, B. McClain, K. McIntyre, T. Porter, R. Raimer, E. Raschert, B. Richards, H. Richter, A. Slifkin, A. Sonstegard, R. Tighe, G. Toneff-Cotner, and J. Visocky O’Grady; **Corresponding Members** A. Ahmetaj, R. Anglin, J. Belovich, Re. Betterson, M. Biehl, M. Bond, R. Dunn, F. Faison, T. Gaspar, E. Grigore, J. Holcomb, Z. Hurd, K. Kahn, E. McKinney, C. Orahoske, J. Rehm, A. Robichaud, H. Sands, S. Zachariah, and J. Zhu; **Ex Officio Limited Members** W. Bowen, J. Goodell, J. Marino, K. McIntyre, M. Schultz-Bergin, and A. “Fred” Smith.

OTHERS

PRESENT: Zoom indicated a peak of 132 participants.

I. Approval of the Agenda for the December 2, 2020 Meeting.

Meeting called to order at 3:02. The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 4, 2020

The minutes were approved by acclamation.

III. Report of the Faculty Senate President

Robert Krebs

President Krebs introduced new member of Faculty Senate, Professor Aimin Zhou, representing the College of Graduate Studies; Dr. Zhou is a professor in the Chemistry Department.

He then offered various updates for the faculty and commended them for their participation on the CSU 2.0 task forces. The Task Force on Reorganization has now submitted its report to the upper administration; other task forces are still finishing their reports. Temporary salary reductions are likely to continue because of ongoing financial concerns. Professor Krebs observed that before the university begins contract negotiations with the CSU-AAUP, it is necessary to have a clear understanding of the University’s financial situation.

President Krebs has been fielding questions about the format of spring semester teaching and reiterated that faculty will not be forced to teach in a mode or location that makes them feel uncomfortable. He hopes that faculty are looking to improve techniques for online teaching and

learning, and encourages senators and faculty members to write to their chairs to document the extra time commitments required by online teaching and how those may be impacting their research agendas.

He noted that since going remote, the Senate has not had time for the collegial eulogy tradition; there is a special senate session scheduled for April 7 entirely devoted to the passing of former colleagues. He asked senators to let him know the names of faculty members who are deceased and may not have been recognized during this period.

Senator Visocky O'Grady suggested that such a memorial service be made open to a larger portion of the university community, including current and former students, and potentially the public.

IV. Report of the President of the University

Harlan Sands

President Sands recognized the strong attendance and participation in Faculty Senate meetings since switching to the Zoom format. He mentioned that he and other university presidents are pushing for another federal stimulus that would direct more funds to universities, pointing out that the safety of our University footprint throughout the campus repopulation was dependent on federal funding.

He acknowledged that our updated spring semester schedule, with the later start date, no spring break, and two reading days, is similar to spring schedules at other universities around the country. He recognized Senior Vice President for Research & Innovation and Chief Healthcare Strategy Officer F. Faison to give a campus update.

Vice President and Chief Healthcare Officer Faison reported that the increased incidence of COVID-19 in Cuyahoga County is likely to climb. Campus has returned to mostly remote, and students living on campus have been tested. Most positive cases have occurred with students living off campus. Only essential classes and research will continue on campus for the moment. VP Faison referred to various contracts the university has entered into to ensure adequate testing capacity. He also mentioned the shortened quarantine period now recommended by the CDC. He thanked the faculty for their agility to adapt as needed to the changing pandemic numbers.

President Sands provided an enrollment update: we are down slightly in undergraduate enrollment for Spring (down 5%) and up in graduate enrollment (7%) compared to last year.

He reported that the 2-for-1 Tuition Promise will be extended for the Fall 2021 semester; with a wider and earlier marketing window, it could help with enrollment efforts of first-year students. The University is also doing outreach to encourage families to fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

President Sands mentioned the university budget deficit as hovering about 3% overall and that decisions are being made with the Board of Trustees as to how best to resolve that gap.

He seconded President Krebs' recognition of the 35 faculty who contributed countless hours to all the task forces involved with CSU 2.0. President Sands assured Faculty Senate that the task force reports will be reviewed in a thoughtful and purposeful manner, to make sure that decisions are well-thought out and forward focused. The Faculty Senate meeting dedicated to discussing CSU 2.0 has been moved back from December 9 to January 13, 2021, and could possibly be postponed again beyond that date.

He asked faculty to consider what aspects of remote/hybrid teaching and advising we should continue to deploy once the current pandemic has ended. He concluded by encouraging faculty to enjoy the holidays but cautioning them to not take any unnecessary risks.

V. University Curriculum Committee

Marcus Schultz-Bergin

Dr. Schultz-Bergin presented the items in the Consent Agenda:

**A. Adult, Professional & Higher Education Program, M.Ed.
(Report No. 28, 2020-2021)**

Changes the name of the program, as well as modifying the program to include 3 specializations students choose from. This change requires shifting requirements around but does not alter the total number of required credits.

**B. Black Studies, B.A.
(Report No. 29, 2020-2021)**

Proposal revises Black Studies program requirements in light of program review recommendations. Aims to allow students a more well-rounded program that is also more measurable. No changes are made to total hour requirements. Existing courses are simply shifted around in the overall program.

**C. Clinical-Bioanalytical Chemistry, PhD
(Report No. 30, 2020-2021)**

Proposal deactivates the ‘specialization’ in Clinical Chemistry, as part of a broader plan to replace the specialization with a “Certificate in Doctoral Clinical Chemistry”, the creation of which is in a separate proposal.

This change is being done at the request of the accrediting agency for Clinical Chemistry.

**D. Health Sciences, MSHS
(Report No. 31, 2020-2021)**

This proposal aims to change the Master of Health Sciences program to allow students to move through the program more efficiently and meet the industry need for more specializations/concentrations.

It proposes to move a required course: HSC 503 – Research and Analysis to an elective course, reducing the core course requirements. It also proposes increasing the elective requirement from 9 to 12 credit hours. The attached comparison document reflects these changes. These changes allow for flexibility in specialization and in scheduling.

**E. Mathematics, MS
(Report No. 32, 2020-2021)**

Incorporates statistics courses into program for the Applied Statistics specialization, adding an alternative exit requirement related to statistics.

F. Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), Post Licensure Endorsement (Report No. 33, 2020-2021)

Updates program requirement to reflect removal of 2 courses and related reduction in program hours from 21 to 15, which is in line with the requirements at other Ohio universities.

The Consent Agenda was approved by voice vote.

Dr. Schultz-Bergin reported on updates and clarifications to the temporary general education status guidelines:

G. Temporary General Education Status Guideline (Report No. 34, 2020-2021)

At request of Faculty Senate, UCC reviewed its guidelines for assigning temporary general education status to existing courses. The guidelines were updated and clarified to emphasize two main things:

- The “special circumstances” that can justify temporary GenEd status should be understood broadly, with the onus on the originator to describe the relevant special circumstances. Although examples of special circumstances are given, these are not exhaustive.
- The guidelines allow for *existing* courses, typically a special topics course, to be granted temporary general education status. They do not permit the creation of new courses with temporary GenEd status.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

VI. Admissions and Standards Committee

Albert “Fred” Smith

Senator Smith introduced the following decision items:

- H. Motion to Amend** a Previously Adopted Motion of the Academic Misconduct Procedures-- In addition to incorporating the idea that communication with a student need not involve a meeting, this revision incorporates the idea that a faculty member may simultaneously apply a sanction and communicate this to a student, leaving open the possibility that the sanction may be reversed if subsequent communication with the student dissuades that faculty member from his or her belief in there having been misconduct.
(Report No. 35, 2020-2021)

The motioned was approved by voice vote.

- I. **Motion to** Extend the temporary Pass/Fail policy for undergraduates for Fall 2020 to Spring 2021.
(Report No. 36, 2020-2021)

The motion was approved by voice vote with three abstentions.

VII. Budget and Finance Committee Report

William Bowen

Senator Bowen reported that the committee met after the Board of Trustees meeting. Dr. Bowen mentioned the clean external financial audit, and that the University budget is solid, though still facing challenges.

VIII. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Jianping Zhu

Provost Zhu thanked the faculty for their tremendous effort and acknowledged the stress and sacrifices the faculty continue to endure. He noted that a list of resources is available through Associate Provost Bracken that address helping faculty to manage workload, life stress, and their research. He assured faculty that the administration is working to support faculty. Provost Zhu also acknowledged that the University is continuing to invest strategically in faculty hires. He thanked the faculty who worked on the hiring processes last year, and noted that additional faculty efforts will be needed this year to help attract new hires.

Provost Zhu mentioned a faculty-led cross-disciplinary team working on a report on remote and hybrid learning “lessons learned” and “best-practices”; the faculty are in the CLASS and CoEHS. He invited other interested faculty to reach out to the deans of either of those colleges.

IX. Report of Student Government Association

Renée Betterson

SGA President Betterson reported on the work being done to streamline processes for on-campus event planning and safety guidelines for student organizations.

She mentioned an initiative to bring in a broader spectrum of student voices, outside of SGA representatives, into student government activities. President Betterson also mentioned that the SGA will work with University Advancement on some fundraising efforts to address some student needs.

X. Report of Graduate and Professional Student Assn.

Cody Orahoske

Vice President Orahoske read ideas and feedback from graduate students in response to questions concerning remote course offerings and online learning. This group respectfully requests that faculty take advantage of all resources available to improve online teaching.

XI. Question Time – no questions were posed by senators at this time

XII. New Business

J. Albert “Fred” Smith -

Motion to Extend the pass/fail policy for graduate students for Fall 2020 to Spring 2021.
(Report No. 37, 2020-2021)

The motion was approved by voice vote with four abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 4:19

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED ON JANUARY 13, 2021

Professor Rachel Carnell
Senate Recording Secretary