



**FACULTY SENATE—MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 31, 2024**  
**3:00 PM – Student Center Ballroom, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**PRESENT: Faculty Senate Officers** A. Kumar, D. Hubbard, and A. Smith; **Faculty Senators** J. Ausherman, M. Baumgartner, J. Bolt, A. Borosov, S. Brockhaus, B. Browning, M. Buckley, B. Conti, D. Davisson, V. DePaoli, B. Ekelman, K. Fuller, J. Jenkins, C. Kothapalli, E. Lehfeldt, J. Matthews, P. McGinty, H. Pearson, J. Plecnik, T. Porter, A. Price, R. Raimer, E. Rauschert, H. Richter, T. Runner, J. Sawicki, A. Severson, D. Smith, J. Sola, A. Sonstegard, J. Vitali, R. Whitbred, and N. Zingale; **Administrative and Corresponding Members** L. Bloomberg, N. Sridhar, J. Gordon, R. Carnell, R. Schoepoester, K. Morris, K. Neuendorf, T. Nikitina; **Ex Officio Limited Members** G. Dyer, M. Heath, T. Heus, S. Rose, and M. Wiitala.

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** Zoom indicated a peak of 68 participants.

Senate President Kumar gaveled the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

I. Approval of the Agenda

Michelle Heath proposed amending the University Curriculum Committee's consent agenda to include 10 integrated degree proposals. The agenda was approved as amended by voice vote.

II. Approval of the Minutes of the December 6 Meeting

Senator Hannah Pearson suggested that the minutes of the December 6 meeting be amended to clarify that the full-time library employees referred to in the report of the Budget and Finance Committee were librarians, curators, and archivists. The December 6 minutes, as amended, were approved by a voice vote.

III. Report of the Senate President

Senate President Kumar noted the passing of President Emeritus Michael Schwartz, the fifth president of the University. President Kumar said that President Schwartz had been a transformative figure for Cleveland State University, characterizing him as a builder. President Kumar cited the replacement of University Center with the Student Center, the construction of Euclid Commons, the creation of the International School, and the demolition of Viking Hall as notable changes to the University's physical space during President Schwartz's term. President Kumar reflected on the interestingness of his interactions with President Schwartz and said that there was always something to talk about with him. President Kumar then called for a moment of silence to remember President Schwartz.

President Kumar referred to an article in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* describing President Schwartz's belief that general education was crucial for democracy, after which President Kumar called attention to current curricular innovations at CSU, including the proposed core curriculum and integrated majors, stating that these were essential for the viability of the university.

President Kumar noted that the Library was changing the platform that hosts its services during 2024-2025 and that the Library was seeking a faculty member for the steering committee for this project.

President Kumar stated that the University was participating in a program that could help with student success and retention. He said that he had invited Vice President Tachelle Banks to talk about these projects at an upcoming meeting.

President Kumar concluded by saying that the process for electing Senate officers and appointing faculty members to committees would soon start. He stated that the positions of Senate President and Senate Secretary would be open and that he would not seek re-election.

#### IV. Report of the President of CSU

University President Bloomberg began her report by thanking faculty. She called particular attention to Senate President Anup Kumar and to Senator Judy Ausherman for their effective representation of faculty on the Board of Trustees and to Dr. Birch Browning for his leadership of the CSU wind ensemble and for his ongoing recruitment interactions with high school students.

President Bloomberg next reported about the current phase (Phase II) of Organizational Resilience and Financial Stability. She reiterated that EY Parthenon was consulting for the University about both near-term actions and strategic priorities for a financially viable and academically thriving future. She stated that part of this work involved examining performance metrics to ascertain the extent to which the university was achieving its mission, and provided a timeline for the work to be done by EY Parthenon.

Concerning strategic priorities, President Bloomberg discussed circulating rumors about a possible relationship between Cleveland State University and Notre Dame College. President Bloomberg said that there had been three meetings at which a relationship had been discussed and that a relationship could include a merger or acquisition. President Bloomberg said that Notre Dame had provided a lot of data to EY Parthenon to inform consultation about such relationships.

President Bloomberg concluded her report by calling attention to and encouraging attendance at several upcoming events. The first was a Black History Month exhibit, Protest to Progress 1964-2024, on Black resistance, protest, and progress through the 60-year history of CSU. Second, noting that the upcoming Saturday (February 3) would be National Girls and Women in Sports Day, President Bloomberg urged attendance at the women's basketball game vs. Green Bay. President Bloomberg stated that Cleveland would be hosting the Women's Final Four this spring.

Finally, President Bloomberg reminisced about her relationship with President Emeritus Schwartz, praising his friendship and mentorship, and announced that there would be celebration of his life on February 8.

President Bloomberg invited questions. Senator Judy Ausherman asked about the numerous recent resignations from leadership positions in the University, primarily in the area of student services, and about positions in CSU Health and Wellness services that resulted from a University contract with MetroHealth to provide health services.

President Bloomberg replied that there had been many departures but that she was committed to ensuring student belonging and success. President Bloomberg stated that the administration was looking at various models for the structure of Student Belonging and Success.

Concerning MetroHealth, President Bloomberg stated that providing health care is not the University's core business, but that MetroHealth is a great community-oriented partner and that the University had entered into a short-term partnership with MetroHealth to provide health-care services without there having been a request for proposals (RFP) from other potential partners. President Bloomberg said that an RFP would be forthcoming for future provision of health-care services. **(Report No. 21, 2023-2024)**

#### V. University Curriculum Committee

The Chair of the University Curriculum Committee, Michele Heath, brought the amended consent agenda from the committee. (The consent agenda had been amended by addition of 10 integrated degree proposals at the beginning of the meeting.) The consent agenda was approved by voice vote with no dissenting votes. **(Report No. 22, 2023-2024)**

- Africana Studies Minor - 1110 - Fall 24
- Africana Studies, B.A. - 1110 - Fall 24
- Bachelor of Science Degree - Information Systems - 1110 - Fall 24
- Bachelors of Science in Construction Management - 1110 - Fall 24
- Civil Engineering, with Specializations, Accelerated Master's BCE/MSCE - 1110 - Fall 24
- Classical Studies Minor - 1110 - Fall 24
- Community Planning, B.A. - 1110 - Fall 24
- Computer Science, Accelerated Master's BSCS/MCS - 1110 - Fall 24
- Dance Minor - 1110 - Fall 24
- Electrical Engineering, Accelerated Master's BEE or BCE/MSEE - 1090 - Spring 24
- Health Sciences, Accelerated Master's BS/M.Ed in Exercise Science - 1110 - Fall 24
- Health Sciences, MSHS - 1110 - Fall 24
- Medieval Studies Minor - 1110 - Fall 24
- Memorandum from Clinical Psychology M.A. specialization
- Nonprofit Administration, B.A. - 1110 - Fall 24
- PHY - 520 - Computational Physics
- PHY - 565 - Image Processing
- Public Policy and Management, B.A. - 1110 - Fall 24
- Religious Studies, B.A. - 1110 - Fall 24
- School Requirements - School of Urban Affairs
- Social Studies, B.A. proposal
- Social Work, MSW - 1110 - Fall 24
- Theatre and Dance, B.A. - 1110 - Fall 24
- UST - 207 - Ohio Government
- Governance, Risk Management, and Compliance (GRC), Graduate Certificate
- IST - 360 - Data Analysis with Python and R
- Dance, B.A.
- Theatre and Dance, B.A.
- EET - 460 - Senior Design A
- MET - 470 - Senior Design A
- Social Work - CSU & Tri-C AAS
- Introduction to Africana Studies since the 1880s
- The History of the African Diaspora Certificate

- Environmental Engineering Certificate Program
- Religious Studies, B.A. - 1110 - Fall 24

**Integrated Degrees**

- Computer Science + Electrical Engineering
- Business (Sales) + Engineering
- Computer Science + Design
- Computer Science + Mathematics
- Computer Science + Physics
- Design + Psychology
- English + Computer Science
- Mechanical Engineering + Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering + Physics
- Music + Computer Science
- Psychology + Criminology

Professor Heath invited Professor Shelley Rose, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Core Curriculum, to answer questions about the Core Curriculum proposal. In response to questions, Professor Rose stated that signature assignments were intended to address core competencies and should be part of course proposals; that pathways would include three core curriculum courses and that it was hoped that faculty would propose pathways; that the inquiry pathway was expected to be a model for pathways; and that for current courses to be included in the core curriculum, proposers would have to clarify their inquiry orientation. **(Report No. 23, 2023-2024)**

Provost Nigamanth Sridhar stated that he was encouraging research centers to propose courses for the core curriculum; that a lot of course development would be required; and that the target date for implementation was Fall 2025.

The Core Curriculum proposal was passed with one abstention. The announcement of the result was followed by applause.

The Core Curriculum committee will continue its work, attending now to implementation.

VI. Admissions and Standards Committee

Admissions and Standards Committee Chair Michael Wiitala reported that the committee had considered developing a syllabus statement concerning the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI), but that due to the plethora of ways in which faculty might encourage, discourage, or prohibit the use of AI, the committee had concluded that no single statement would satisfy all needs. Dr. Wiitala provided a link to a website [here](#), at which hundreds of AI syllabus statements have been collected.

Dr. Wiitala presented for first reading proposed changes to the 3344-21-02 Policy on Academic Misconduct. These include updates that address explicitly the use by students of AI and a change in the definition of cheating from using materials “not explicitly permitted by the instructor” to using materials “explicitly prohibited” by the instructor. **(Report No. 24, 2023-2024)**

On behalf of the Committee, Dr. Wiitala moved approval of the Tri-C/CSU Social Work agreement. This was approved by voice vote.

VII. Budget and Finance Committee

Committee Chair Deborah Smith provided information from a meeting of the Planning and Finance Advisory Committee on the previous Friday. At that meeting, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer David Jewell had reported that enrollment is down 2% from Spring 2023, but 9% over budget. Professor Smith stated that there was continued discussion of the issue of cost saving vs. lost revenue by restricting use of part-time faculty, and that specific questions were asked about how to optimize decisions about scheduling.

Professor Smith, like President Bloomberg, stated that EY Parthenon was reviewing the alignment of CSU's competencies and resources with the University's mission. Professor Smith emphasized that this was important because financial rating institutions and investors attend to the alignment of performance with stated mission.

Professor Smith described a special projects group for continuous improvement, CSU Delta, that reports to Mr. Jewell and is deployed to work on whatever projects require attention. According to Professor Smith, they are working with EY Parthenon and on conversion of PeopleSoft and PeopleAdmin to UKG. Professor Smith described the VikeNet financial reporting system developed by CSU Delta that is accessible to individuals with CSU credentials and that is intended to increase financial reporting transparency.

VIII. Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluation of Instruction

Committee chair Thijs Heus reported on the progress of the committee. He stated that the committee had surveyed students, faculty, and administrators and PRC members and had agreement between faculty and administrators/PRC members on the relative value of different SEIQ items. Professor Heus stated that the committee proposed that methods to increase response rates be pilot tested this spring, and invited faculty volunteers to work with the committee on this. The motion to undertake these pilot tests passed without dissent or abstentions. **(Report No. 25, 2023-2024)**

IX. SGA Report

SGA President Kayland Morris discussed student concerns about dining hall access, particularly for students observing Ramadan with night classes. She noted that students were concerned about the availability of the ride escort service, and that the Police Chief was looking into this. She noted that previously articulated student concerns about WiFi service were being investigated, and noted that students were concerned about changes to the policy on minimum number of students required for a class.

X. Report of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Provost Sridhar began his remarks by reflecting on his relationship with President Emeritus Schwartz, a relationship established when Provost Sridhar was Senate president.

Provost Sridhar thanked the Core Curriculum committee for its work and praised the committee for the speed with which it had carried out its work.

The provost said that he had been proud to present proposals for professional leaves of absence to the Board of Trustees.

Provost Sridhar discussed briefly the Complete College America College Completion Accelerator and AASCU Student Success Equity Intensive programs in which CSU is participating. The provost said that the goal of these initiatives was to improve outcome measures and procedures and processes for student success. The provost acknowledged the work of Vice President Tachelle Banks and her team, and encouraged faculty to observe this initiative over two to three years.

Provost Sridhar encouraged everyone to use VikeNet to look at budget spreadsheets.

Several questions were addressed to the Provost: Professor Kim Neuendorf asked about restoration of research profiles for emeritus faculty; the provost said that he would ensure this. Senate President Kumar commented on the need for more clarity in the cost-benefit thinking concerning cancellation of courses that would be taught by part-time faculty.

XI. Question Time

XII. New Business

There was no new business.

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, and following a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**APPROVED FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

Albert F. Smith  
Faculty Senate Secretary