

Senate Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2023

11:15am -12:30pm

University Center 260

& via Microsoft Teams

Attendees (senators denoted in bold): Antoinette France-Harris, Antoinette Miller, Arianne Adams, Asia Hauter, **Augustine Ayuk**, Brian Goldman, Bridgette McDonald, Carin Lightner-Laws, Carol White, Ceimone Henderson-Strickland, Christie Burton, Christina Grange, Craig Hill, David Williams, Deborah Deckner Davis, **Dennis Miller**, Dwayne Hooks, **Eric Bridges**, **Erin Nagel**, **Everod Davis**, Feechi Hall, Francine Norflus, **Hae Ryong Chung**, Jada Mitchell, Jeff Jacobs, Jonathan Harris, Joshua Meddaugh, **Kate Cotter-Reilly**, Keith Miller, **Ken Nguyen**, Kevin Demmit, Kimberley Campbell, Kimberly Johnson, Kitty Deering, **Larry Menter**, Mandy Lusk, Mario Norman, Mary Lamb, Melanie Poudevigne, **Michael Lindsay**, Nichelle Gause, Paul Melvin, Penelope Cliff, Pinar Gurkas, **Rebecca Morgan**, Reza Kheirandish, Romesa Davis, Rosann O'Neill, Sara Harwood, Shannon Cochran, **Sharon White**, Sheryne Southard, Shuju Bai, **Stacey Reynolds**, Thomas McIlwain, Lazarus Thompson, Karen Young, Royal Baxter, J. Celeste Wally-Jean, Charlie Harris, Rhonda Burnough, Kimberly McLeod, and Georj Lewis

1. Remarks from SGA President, Lazarus Thompson:

We're now mainly focusing on recruitment to delegate tasks. They will set up a weekly input table for the community to give their feedback. Would like to host a festival during homecoming or the like and wants to connect with fast food restaurants to connect with the laker card/dining so that students could go to those establishments and just swipe their Laker Card there too.

Looking to create a better culture and wants to implement a well-dressed Wednesday or feel fresh Friday (potentially to receive extra credit within classes for participation).

How can the Laker Navigators get in on those days? Would love to get together and collaborate on it and take pictures, etc.

2. Remarks from Clayton State University President, Dr. Georj Lewis:

Would like the community and faculty to be mindful of the student found dead recently. She was an influencer and students maybe affecting by this incident. Also, to keep in mind the murders in Jacksonville, students might be having trouble with that (perhaps our colleagues as well.)

Concerning the budget from State and USG there is a board meeting on the 8th where we are likely to find out what we need to plan for which will be based off of a significant credit hour deficiency from last year. We haven't received anything official, but should get something after the meeting on the 8th. Had to submit a plan for 3% additional funds just in case available.

Right now we are planning for cuts and reviewing the strategic alignment and looking at administrative functions. How can faculty/senate be involved in recommendations? Please think strategically—these cuts need to be strategic, not just a percentage. We are trying to play offense and increase enrollment and grants for research. Investment will be part of the plan.

We are approaching the 6k goal (5770 this morning) Next wave is very important to get that 6,000 goal. We need help from faculty working with our students to teach 8 week classes—please be flexible.

Anonymous comment box will be up by next week for anyone to give feedback to the president's office.

Toolkit for recruitment for staff and faculty is being developed and should be available soon (no date yet).

A lot of the president's work is external because he has a great team. He met with Clayton County Baptist ministers, met with mayors, interacting with development authorities and corporations, started Leadership Atlanta this weekend. We have a lot of work to do in the southern crescent and we can be a catalyst for that. Meeting with a high school today.

Highlight Dr. Leon Prieto as new Chair of the Management History division for the Academy of Management.

Dr. Dwayne Hooks asked to speak at Washington

Are there talks about campus police boosting presence after Jacksonville stuff? Yes, conversations have already been had with public safety and there will be emergency situation training happening. Trying to be proactive rather than reactive.

Budget cuts suck, but we didn't close our doors can we recognize that? Budget cuts hopefully won't be as bad as what we plan for, hopefully, but the Next Wave is so important because this fall will impact us two falls from now and if we can push enrollment this fall that will help get us through, deal with it for a year, and then start really growing again—upward motion.

Are short term cuts being looked at what their long term effects will be (seem good now, but affect us badly later)? Is that being addressed? Talking to and looking at the data for 10 years down the road and how we are preparing our students for where we're all going to be and what we need to invest in; go where our collaborations make sense to do what we need to do to move forward; we need to allocate to our strengths CBO and our processes for contract review and purchasing items are now draconian and need to be updated and reviewed. —Yes, he is looking at that and processes need to be looked at and updated in general as well as priorities—what needs to be handled now?

Faculty senate might have ideas about what needs to be handled now; we need to have dialogue as to what needs to be changed and if there's a better way to do things.

3. Remarks from Vice President of Academic Affairs & Provost, Dr. Kimberly McLeod:

Wants to be clear that we have a team that truly does believe in transparency and collaboration—everyone needs to participate so blind spots are identified.

Has invited the Faculty Senate chair to all of provost meetings to help keep doors and communication with faculty open and build relationships; we are in this together and need to grow into the infrastructure of working together.

As covid increases has talked to Polly Parks at University Health Services about her statement to the CSU community in line with CDC.

Enrollment is our backbone—not just getting students, but having the infrastructure for them to stay and graduate; faculty and retention; organizing pathways so that when students change majors they don't lose a lot of their credits in the process; exploring a dual degree/dual pathway.

New core curriculum from USG system is coming out so, we're looking into integrating that now.

Thank you Mary Lamb and Justin Mays for working on SACS—we're playing catch up for stuff that's due NEXT WEEK. If they reach out to you for stuff get it to them now!

Graduate school infrastructure needs its own identity and needs infrastructure for growth: how do we build a graduate program that becomes a magnet for the community to help people enter into the workforce?

PBI grant--trying to get supplemental funds of \$100,000 to strengthen our impact in Clayton and Henry Counties for dual enrollment and need for diversity in teaching workforce.

The university was approved for \$14,000,000 to renovate the nursing buildings.

How are we looking at strategic cuts to build for the future? If you look at careers to 2030 there is a strong need for STEM and health sciences.

What's in the best interest of the university building infrastructure for it to be easier to have dual degrees/dual pathways?

In order to add new programming we will need to prune the programs that aren't producing.

Will have further discussions at an open table with faculty.

A challenge in a previous report that we received was the entire report was about how do we advocate for whatever the program was, versus appropriate recommendations to move forward.

Double majors not encouraged in the past, but moving forward students will be encouraged to prosper and join the workforce prosperously.

Would it be worthwhile reviewing the curriculum for all of our core for all of our degree programs?

There is a strong need for students to know how to exercise their knowledge in a digital space. We want disciplines to strengthen our students, and faculty need to be part of this communication to identify the blind spots that we need to fix.

A new core curriculum is in a draft form. Other institutions were involved in creating it and it seems that there were people at CSU that participated as well.

4. Remarks from Staff Council President, Spencer Emerson:

We are now trying to build bridges instead of walls among the different areas of campus and the university. One area we are looking for is patience, but knowing that the work needs to be done. It's important and we need to hold each other accountable. New leadership is asking why don't we have things and usually the answer is because of costs.

Jacksonville—emergency preparedness training spoke to the chief about it and being proactive not reactive no date for training yet.

Trying to have more engagement opportunities on campus with each other faculty, staff, and students—Kaiser 5k is only \$5 not \$30 because USG is covering part of the fee. Student faculty fund drive starts tomorrow—let's support!

As we keep trying to reach out there is a history of silos among people and staff council wants to get all the staff in and get delegates to connect with each other.

Faculty Senate chair commits to attending the staff council meetings as possible (Vice Chair offered to attend in chair's absence).

5. Remarks from State Representative (District 77), Rhonda Burnough:

She has been in Clayton County since 1995 and not long after in Clayton County schools. Educators tend to be in their own little room and then wonder why things are just happening to them. She serves on a higher education committee in the county. Casinos will probably not be a thing here (one side doesn't want it and the other only wants it if money can go to education). People still don't know Clayton State. Nursing big and we need to make sure that we are relevant—we have to be innovative. Smaller schools are probably going to get more light on them because the new state speaker is a graduate from Georgia Southern. The community and county has not been good about talking about Clayton State and the university is not good about talking about itself within the community. Some students have to go home deal with the regular struggle everyday like they always have, but living on campus in the dorm their view shifts and they can see themselves actually as college students. We have to be more and talk to our students about where jobs are what's going to happen and how to be grown, move out, and support themselves. People need to see and know that we are producing all of these high quality nurses—all of the delegations need to know. We need to not be a secret anymore. We have to tell our story and have advocates to tell our story—contact your representatives and senators to let them know the good we are doing—talk it up get us out there! Talk to them now, not January, and ask them for what we want/need now. Higher education has 2 study committees that will start meeting this Wednesday; come if you can, but if not send her your questions and she will ask on our behalf. You can watch online; you don't have to be in person. Educators have to be engaged! Because we don't advocate for ourselves, we need to! Teachers are talented and versatile and need to not let people tell us that we are not, that we are not valuable.

Anyone can sign up for school district emails to know what's going on in the community. We are Clayton County (not clayco); advocate for yourself! How can we make Clayton State stand out? We need to innovate; Clayton County owns the airport land, but Atlanta owns the airport.

Meetings are at the COOB across from the capital downtown at 1:30pm dual enrollment and (other committee meets earlier).

Lieutenant governor wants to make some changes that could affect us.

Faculty Senate Chair will attend this week's meeting—send questions or comments to him to take to the meeting not later than Tuesday evening.

President—first faculty senate meeting where a representative has been present.

6. Report from Dr. Antoinette Harris, Co-chair of the Strategic Planning Initiative:

Next month will be focused on engagement, collaboration, and bridge building towards the goals of the university. They will reach out to stakeholders inside and outside of the university. The consulting group will be here Sept. 7th and 8th to meet with the president, steering committee, and students. Sept 14th and 15th there will be joint faculty and staff meetings—please sign up so that all voices are heard as we move forward. Should hear more from board of trustees in October. They are planning an open table event with local schools and academic affairs. Is available to give updates, but also working on a website to give updates starting next month

7. Election of senators to senate sub-committees for 2023/2024:

David Williams as senate rep for UCC

Maddox student affairs senate rep & graduate affairs

Larry Faculty Affairs

Academic policy committee Michal Lindsey

8. Adjourn—at 12:35pm