

Clayton State University Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: March 16, 2026

Time Called to Order: 11:17 AM

Location: UC 216

Presiding Officer: Dr. Michael Lindsay, Chair

Senator Attendance

Present:

Arts & Sciences: Antoinette Miller, Michael Lindsay (Chair), Erica Gannon, Eugene Ngezem, David Peña

Business: Stacey Reynolds (Vice-Chair), Kate Cotter-Reilly, Anthony Hannah, Christie Burton

Health: Hae Ryong "Harry" Chung, Kendolyn Smith

STEM: Ken Nguyen, David Williams, Stephen Burnett

Library: Adam Kubik, Erin Nagel

Absent:

Health: Crystal Marchant, Kimberly Campbell

STEM: Vivian Padin-Irizarry, Caroline Sheppard

General Attendance

Teams: Arianne Adams, Latonia Alexander, Andrea Allen, Cephas Archie, Dennis Attick, Shuju Bai, Stephen Burnett, Christie Burton, Shannon Cochran, Kate Cotter-Reilly, Shirnelle Council, Mesa Davis, Deborah Deckner, Kitty Deering, Chris Edwards, Martha Fairley, Elnora Farmer, Antoinette France-Harris, Michelle Furlong, Brian Goldman, Barbara Goodman, Nayab Hakim, Feechi Hall, Anthony Hannah, Jonathan Harris, Charlie Harris, Dwayne Hooks, Kimberly Johnson, John Keener, Ebrahim Khosravi, Mary Lamb, Michael Lindsay, Samuel Maddox, Joshua Meddaugh, Keith Miller, Jada Mitchell, Erin Nagel, Ken Nguyen, Mario Norman, Adel Novin, Louis Orchard, David Pena, Melanie Poudevigne, Jermaine Rolle, Board

Room, Jessica Rose, Hae Ryong, Matthew Sansbury, Patricia Smith, Kendolyn Smith, Randall Snell, Erica Taylor, Shontelle Thrash, Carol White, David Williams

Note: Names of those in Teams and attending in-person are provided in both areas. In person attendance sheet attached.

Agenda

1. Introduction of Senators

- a. Roll call of Senators; attendance noted and quorum reached

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes from 2/23 meeting will be approved at the next Senate meeting

3. Remarks and Q&A – Dr. Georj Lewis, President

- a. Enrollment
 - i. Good numbers on enrollment. Up in headcount and credit hours.
 - ii. Summer enrollment numbers also positive
- b. Advancement and External Affairs
 - i. Amended FY26 bill has passed. DREAMS and one-time supplement (\$2k) approved, unclear on when it will be disbursed
 - ii. FY27 passed the house, awaiting senate. CSU projects are still in the budget.
 - iii. The Faculty and Staff fund drive was very successful. Increase in giving from faculty and staff compared to previous year.
 1. Dollar amount was up but the participation is more important
 - iv. Laker Give Day coming 4/8-4/9
- c. Athletics
 - i. Women's Basketball lost the first round of playoffs; very good season.
 - ii. Track and Field off to great start as well
- d. Good News
 - i. Harry S. Downs wall breaking ceremony
 1. Had a large and diverse crowd of attendees, including politicians, architects, business leaders, community leaders, and others.
- e. Questions
 - i. Sen. Pena - Budget planning given economic outlook?
 1. Planning and discussing options and focusing on our costs and recruitment
 - ii. Sen. Ngezem
 1. How is the current atmosphere in international recruitment affecting our students or recruitment efforts
 2. We are not seeing our locations of recruitment being impacted in the manner that some USG institutions are. We are monitoring the situation, but we are not stopping partnerships or shying away from international recruitment

- iii. Sen. Miller
 1. An issue from prior meetings. Concerning compliance with ADA requirements. Noticed that the committee formed to address the issue has no faculty. Our courses are being evaluated at the same level as the website etc., and there has been no training or guidance issues. We are quickly approaching the deadline.
 2. We have received several emails. We will have a separate subcommittee that will be mostly comprised of faculty focusing on faculty requirements for compliance. Adjusted committee but wanted experts.
 3. Sen. Miller - when was the committee formed?
 4. Last Tuesday. Will be sending out a faculty survey to address faculty needs. We recognize the 4/24 deadline is coming and we recognize we will not have everything done by then.
 5. Celeste - Will be looking for a faculty senator to serve on the committee.
 6. Sen. Miller - what kind of coverage will we have if a student complains and a class is not ready and lodges a complaint?
 7. Celeste - We will do what we need to do to protect faculty and the institution.
 8. President - we recognize where we are in the process. We will not leave you out by yourself. We will need to communicate and support.
 9. Celeste - faculty should always be looking to update their classes and ensuring ADA compliance. Don't wait to start looking at courses, begin looking today.
- iv. Chair
 1. Dr. Drake sent an email addressing the issue and I neglected to send out that information.

4. Remarks and Q&A – Dr. Jill Drake, Provost

- a. Only 1 announcement
 - i. Clayton County Convocation Center (Arena at Clayton County)
 1. Will be having a single ceremony at 10 a.m.
 - ii. Dr. Archie - Arena at Southlake is the location for this spring commencement. 5/9 at 10 a.m.
- b. Questions
 - i. Sen. Williams - What is the cost differential and why are we moving in that direction.
 - ii. Dr. Archie - our on-campus facility has limited guest capacity and feedback on dividing into 3 separate facilities has been identified as an issue. Cost savings from having to have 3 different days for vendors to come in. We did negotiate a rate for this single use. It is a reduced rate of \$25K for the spring ceremony. Reserved for both days 5/8-5/9
 - iii. Sen. Williams - I can appreciate the need to reduce from three events to one. Is there a cost reduction given the other services, is the

- ceremony going to be longer, parking, and changing areas for faculty? When will we get that information?
- iv. Dr. Archie - we have a committee that will be going through all of the components that are embedded in planning and executing graduation. Committee members reviewed the location before approval. Our contract puts our chief of police as a central point of contact/decision making for the event.
 - v. President - Had same questions. The committee is working very hard to pull this together. We will learn from this. This is the first time so I expect great things to come from this, but also learning opportunities. On campus ceremonies can be unsafe given the limited space and for the event. We will need to communicate clearly to everyone. I think you will be pleased with the venue and the change.
 - vi. Dr. Pena - Great opportunity to get into the community
 - 1. Dr. Spearman - Taking the lead from the arena. We are one of the first and the largest. The team has been working to get together for an announcement. Trying to not get ahead of the students but there are some moving parts that we are getting into place.
 - 2. Dr. Archie - we are also having to amend communication because we have shrunk from multiple speakers to one. So we are communicating with stakeholders have been informed. We are coordinating with the Arena so that timely announcements are made.
 - vii. Chair Lindsay - I've been hearing about a bill being floated that has passed in another state already. They are looking at
 - 1. President Lewis - Yes, there are discussions out there. I have not had any with any legislators or from Michael Little that this type of bill is gaining traction here in GA. We need to make sure our data is tight.
 - 2. Dr. Walley-Jean - USG already does a lot to inform students on earnings outcomes. We should be positioned well to address these concerns.

5. Standing Committee Reports

a. University Curriculum Committee

- i. Vote on UCC Items
- ii. Pena - moves; Gannon - 2nd
 - 1. Unanimous approval

b. Academic Policy Committee

- i. Have not met. Awaiting FAC feedback on academic complaint policy.
- ii. Have not received any additional charges to look at anything. Wanted to look at online policies but not given a formal charge or clarification on whether that is within our purview.

c. Faculty Affairs Committee

- i. Faculty Handbook
- ii. No report.
- iii. FAC has opportunity to review the policy. No feedback for the APC on complaint policy.
- iv. Asked to review the P&T and Handbook to make sure the requirements and regulations align.

d. Student Affairs Committee

- i. Got the charge to look at complaint policy. When we look at it Monday we will forward comments to FAC

e. Graduate Affairs Committee

- i. Currently looking at Path 2 subcommittees looking at GA bylaws and policy and procedures. Recently there was a policy change for academic progression. On academic probation, 6 hours or less. Created barriers to graduation. International students have to be full time for visa purposes. Students are not restricted while on Academic probation. Other mechanisms are used to help if they do not raise their GPA.
- ii. Updated graduate faculty status criteria. Trying to be more streamlined in how we evaluate graduate faculty who are not necessarily tenure track
- iii. Questions
 - 1. Dr. Spearman - Are we looking at this kind of change at the undergraduate level?
 - 2. Dr. Walley-Jean - Used undergrad policy in the past but it presents graduation and progression issues. We do not have data that shows restricting students provides benefits. We are now able to track it and produce data.

6. General Questions and Comments

- a. Sen. Miller - where are we on the AI color coding policy
 - i. Dr. Walley-Jean - We have not sent it into the system office yet. It is due in April. We incorporated feedback. The color-coded is done and the other parts are being revised with inputs.
- b. Sen. Miller - Where are we on the by-laws updates
 - i. Chair - the committee met recently, and we should be on track.
 - ii. Sen. Williams - We met prior to spring break. We are in the process of writing a full draft. We are meeting again this week. Hope to have a draft completed after the upcoming meeting.

7. Adjournment

Time Adjourned: 12:16 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by: Dr. David Peña - Secretary

3/16/26

Senate Sign-In

<u>Name</u>	Senator Y/N
Michael Lindsey	Y
Stacey Reynolds	Y
Nichelle Gause	N
Adam Kubik	Y
David Peña	Y
Antoinette (Gedit'shotinkwe) Miller	Y
Erica Gannon	Y
Eugene Ngezem	Y
Celmore Henderson Strickland	N
J. Celeste Walley-Jean	N
Takera L. Deen	N
Georg Lewis	N
Ashtee Spearman	N
Reza Kheirandish	N
Eric Bridges	N
Bridgette McDonald	N

Timeline

President's Report

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ENROLLMENT

- Spring 2026 headcount – **6,253** up 7% in Headcount & Credit Hour
 - 2nd session registration - open now
 - Add/Drop - March 16th & 17th
 - Drop - **Wednesday, March 18th**
- Summer 2026 headcount – 2,001 (up 13%) and 15% Credit hours

ADVANCEMENT & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

- Government Relations

- Amended FY26 budget passed
 - Included \$325m in funding for DREAMS need-based scholarships
 - \$2,000 in one-time pay supplement for state employees
- FY27 budget passed out of House last week
 - Included \$1.5m for Downs Center equipment
 - Included \$3.5m for infrastructure project
 - Full funding of formula increase (approx. \$218m)

- Development

- Faculty Staff Fund Drive
- Lakers Give coming up April 8-9

ATHLETICS

- Women's Basketball fell short of a win in PBC Quarterfinals
- Men's and Women's Track and Field off to a great start!
 - Both teams placed 2nd at the Savannah State Eye Opener
 - beaten only by Division I team South Carolina State

GOOD NEWS

Harry S. Downs “Wall-breaking” Ceremony



Provost's Report

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ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

- Spring Commencement Update

CLAYTON
STATE
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THANK YOU!