

Clayton State University Faculty Senate

24 April 2023

ATTENDEES

Senate members: Shakil Akhtar, Eric Bridges (Chair), Kate Cotter-Reilly, Deborah Gritzmacher, Anthony Hannah, Adam Kubik, Samuel Maddox, Larry Menter, Dennis Miller, Erin Nagel, Ken Nguyen, David Plaxco, Stacey Reynolds, Ann Showalter, Kendolyn Smith, Sharon White

Guests: Arianne Adams, Shuju Bai, Dmitriy Beznosko, Christie Burton, Hae Ryong Chung, Jacob Chacko, Shannon Cochran, Everod Davis, Keira Davis, Kevin Demmitt, Deborah Deckner Davis, Kitty Deering, Kevin Demmitt, Erica Dotson, Aubrey Dyer, Antoinette France-Harris, Sonya Gaither, Nichelle Gause, Brian Goldman, Christina Grange, Pinar Gurkas, Linda Hain, Nayab Hakim, Feechi Hall, Alexander Hall, Sara Harwood, Craig Hill, Lisa Holland-Davis, Jeff Jacobs, Andrea Jacques, Ebrahim Khosravi, Sanjay Lal, Mary Lamb, Michael Lindsay, Joshua Meddaugh, Paul Melvin, John Meyers, Antoinette Miller, Keith Miller, Kamran Moghaddam, Rebecca Morgan, Eugene Ngezem, Mario Norman, Adel Novin, Rosann O'Neill, Michael Sitvarin, Scott Stegall, Naquilla Thomas, Celeste Walley-Jean, David Williams, Karen Young

ORDER

The Senate chair, Dr. Eric Bridges, called the meeting to order at 11:00am.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Georj Lewis provided updates from the Board of Regents (BoR) board meeting on April 18-19: the University System of Georgia (USG) will continue its temporary waiver of admissions test requirements for the next two academic years; test optional policy will be extended to dual-enrollment students for the next two academic years; the USG approved principles that affirm the protection of academic freedom and expression for faculty, students, and staff at all institutions; and the BoR approved faculty access to a hearing if a negative promotion and tenure decision would lead to the faculty member's separation from the university.

The university has not received our budget allocation for the FY24, and the deadline to submit the university budget has been extended beyond May 1. This is because the USG is still in discussion with the state government related to the system-wide budget cuts that recently passed the legislature. In response to questions, President Lewis said that the university did have some carry-over funds from the previous fiscal year. He also stated that he anticipated some faculty and staff positions may be cut during the budget process this summer, though the specific details have not been hammered out. He acknowledged faculty concerns about not receiving sufficient information related to historic budget cuts, and he expressed openness to

recommendations for activities that might assuage faculty concerns. President Lewis mentioned on-going efforts to consider administrative reorganization as part of the budget cutting process and for general university efficiency.

President Lewis reminded faculty about interviews this week of candidates for the Provost position.

Finally, the President announced that Clayton State and the other USG institutions have received a request to provide details on diversity, equity, and inclusion activities. When asked about the motivations behind this request, President Lewis did not express concern about this, and he clarified that this request had come from the USG Board office.

PROVOST'S REPORT

Interim Provost Dr. Jill Lane provided an update on enrollment which is only down 75 students from the goal for summer and 140 students for fall. She described on-going efforts to get students registered, including summer and fall orientation events and the one-stop-shop effort, and encouraged faculty participation in these efforts. Faculty can find the full orientation schedule on the Admissions website.

Dr. Lane announced the opening of the student evaluation of instruction (SEI) surveys last week which will be available through May 1. She reminded faculty about the upcoming Student Success Conference on April 28 in the University Center and the spring faculty meeting on May 3 in SAC Ballroom. Finally, Dr. Lane stated that faculty seats at the Friday commencement ceremony were full but that there were still seats for the two Saturday ceremonies.

MINUTES

There was a motion to approve the 12 December 2022 meeting minutes, and there was a second. The members voted orally and over the chat on Teams. The motion was approved.

There was a motion to approve the 10 April 2023 meeting minutes, and there was a second. The members voted orally and over the chat on Teams. The motion was approved.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

1. University Curriculum Committee. Chair Dr. Dmitriy Beznosko reported that there will be an emergency UCC meeting on April 28 to get through additional curriculum proposals. The approved proposals from that meeting will need to be voted on by Faculty Senate at the May 8th Senate meeting.
2. Student Affairs Committee. Co-chair Dr. Deborah Deckner Davis reported that the committee received IRB approval for its student survey and that faculty had been

contacted to participate in the student surveys. Currently, participation is way below what is desired, but it is still early. The committee is planning to analyze the data over the summer to present the findings at the start of the fall semester.

3. Academic Policy Committee. Chair Dr. Antoinette France-Harris reported that the committee's assessment survey has been finalized and that they are working on a handout that can be distributed.
4. Faculty Affairs Committee. Chair Dr. Michael Sitvarin reported that Jonathan Goodson is taking over the technical implementation of the new SEI survey. Mr. Goodson believes Metabase will be used to provide distributions of student responses to faculty, and he was still optimistic of trial run for summer classes with full implementation for next academic year. The committee, with the support of Staff Council, is working on a letter to Faculty Senate requesting support for a pay equity study. Upcoming meeting: May 1.

OLD BUSINESS

Senate Chair Dr. Eric Bridges provided an update on ethics investigation of Faculty Senate. He reported that Corlis Cummings informed Faculty Senate leadership that the report will be finalized and released on April 28.

Dr. Bridges reminded Senators of the upcoming electronic vote this week to approve revisions to the Pre- and Post-Tenure Review sections of the Faculty Handbook.

NEW BUSINESS

Co-chair for the University Strategic Planning Steering Committee Dr. Antoinette France-Harris provided an update on the committee's activities. She reported that the committee's leads have begun meeting weekly to review reports, news articles, and open-source data. This initial work has been conducted to establish a steering committee of about 25-30 members that can be comprehensive representation of university stakeholders. The committee has begun asking Deans to nominate faculty to serve on committee, and the committee plans to ask the newly elected Faculty Senate chair to participate as a member. In the coming weeks, the committee will be working to coordinate efforts with enrollment planning and academic program reviews committees. The committee is also considering engaging an outside consultant to assist with the process.

Dr. France-Harris stated that an initial draft of the three-year strategic plan will be completed on September 23, and the final plan will be announced in March 2024.

Elections for next year's leadership positions will be conducted at the May 8 Faculty Senate meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08pm.

Minutes recorded by Ann Showalter, Secretary of the Faculty Senate.