

Minutes of CSU Faculty Senate
March 1, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 12:38 p.m.

Attendance: Justin Akujeze, Anser Azim, Phillip Beverly (presiding), Sarah Buck, Jane Crossley, Miguel Fernandez, Rosalind Fielder, Monique Germain, Tonya Hall, Janet Halpin (recording), Rong He, Aref Hervani, Soo Kang, Ann Kuzdale, Crystal Laura, Bryon Martin, Paul Musial, Mohammad Newaz, Vincent Osaghae, Brenda Pruitt-Annissette, Jason Raynovich, Alesia Richardson, Cindy Roberson, Mohammad Salahuddin, Virginia Shen, Yashika Watkins, Elizabeth Wittbrodt,

Guests: Philip Cronce (CJPPS, UCCC), Joanne LaBonte (GSHAA), Elizabeth Arnott-Hill (Academic Affairs), Tim Harrington (College of Education), Bernie Rowan (Academic Affairs), Angela Henderson (Academic Affairs), Paula Carney (Academic Affairs), Ivy Dunn (for L. Jones, College of Arts & Sciences), Courtney Sanders (College of Health Sciences), Shaila Christofferson (Art&design, General Education), Gabrielle Toth, (LIS) Rich Darga (LIS), Carmita Coleman (College of Pharmacy)

Regrets: Bob Bionaz (in Springfield), Chyrese Wolf (in Springfield)

Minutes of previous meeting:

Minutes of the meeting of February 2, 2016 were presented for review and approval.

Moved by Senator Jason Raynovich, seconded by Senator Aref Hervani to approve

Yes 13 no 0 abstain 1
Motion passed.

Senator Speeches.

Sarah Buck: This is a very distressing time. However, I would like to take this opportunity to discourage too much finger pointing at our past. There are a variety of factors that have resulted in us being where we are. Had we not had to spend money on outside factors in the past several years, we might still only be able to get by a few months longer than we can now. So, I do not find looking backward as a productive use of time.

I also do not believe the information about layoffs of all 900 employees belongs on our home page. To me, that is an anti-recruitment strategy and it should be removed immediately.

Regardless, we must focus on the present. I am astounded at how much news coverage Chicago State has received in the past month, and it is refreshing to hear the vast amount of support that we do have. When I read the comments section of articles, I do not read the same lines that I have always read about how “terrible” we are. Although those comments do still exist, such as the “burn that school to the ground” comment I read recently, there are far more supporters than detractors, and those who are detractors get called out by the supporters as being ignorant or racist. We have made national news, with our plight being covered in USA Today, MSN, and the Washington Post. Therefore, I believe that this is the time to put forth loudly and with conviction the good things that we do at this school. I do not want to focus on the negativity of the past. Talk to your students about why they should remain at CSU and register for next semester. Be optimistic with them, even if you do not feel that way yourself. My morale and motivation levels are the lowest they have ever been, but I would never tell my students that. When they come to me asking if they should transfer, I tell them “of course not” as well as all of the reasons why they should stay here. We have faculty who publish, present, do significant service, and get grants like any other school. We have a president who deserves the chance to lead. I think he has been a good voice for our school thus far. And, we have alumni who go on to do wonderful things and are vocal about the role CSU played in their success. The save CSU FB page highlights these alumni. Frankly, though, I do not think that page is enough because I see it as preaching to the choir. We have a national platform to talk about our “diamond in the rough” school. Let’s use this platform wisely. We might even come out of this time stronger than we were before.

Tonya Hall: regarding layoff notifications. For tenured faculty members, and those in fourth year of tenure-track, if laid off should get one year of notification.

Visitors:

Provost Angela Henderson reported that HLC would be on campus on Monday and Tuesday (March 7-8), and would meet with Faculty Senate, unions, Civil Service council. An agenda will be distributed. HLC will address federal compliance and assurance, finance, planning and resources.

Provost Henderson suggested that we should remind HLC that we are fully accredited, and should share what we are doing to ensure our survival and success. We are planning for the future. She is at Faculty Senate today to answer questions, and share details of the HLC visit.

Teach-out plans were due. At the request of HLC we were required to have a plan in place. She said this is not related to financial cost but to alternatives for students to complete degrees.

Q: What is the status of summer classes? Ans: all of the requests have been received, but have not made decision on which will be offered. Trying to get the

schedule up a week earlier than usual. Management Action Committee still resolving issues, in relation to the entire university still being here. HLC does not require that we offer summer school.

Q./Comment: Students report that other programs and schools are actively recruiting students from CSU. Students heard about the layoff notices and were unsure that they were meant to be in school this Monday. The public is hearing information and misinterpreting it. Students are jumping ship. The way information is communicated [by Management Action Committee] is very problematic.

Q/Comment: has been getting phone calls. Administration has been doing a very poor job with respect to this narrative. President Calhoun is saying that we are doing everything in our power to stay open and moving forward, but the major decrease in funding is putting us in harm's way. Whether we receive funding or not, administration must be proactive now to demonstrate we are working to save the institution.

Ans. Provost Henderson indicated that they are changing the model to react to last 2 to 3 years' reductions and lateness of budget receipt. Five other universities are in the same boat, Western, Eastern, North Eastern, Governors State. May is the date for us because our reserves run out then. The other schools are looking at June. Because this is the first time in history of Illinois, we are all struggling to understand.

Report from Dr. Arnott-Hill that though the General Education curriculum was passed, programs must now implement the new GenEd requirements into their programs by fall 2017.

Announcements:

Next Faculty Senate Meeting April 5, 2016, NAL Auditorium

Next CSU Board of Trustees Meeting March 4, 2016, NAL Auditorium

Commencement: Thursday, April 28, 2016

Reports

Academic Affairs: no report

Shared governance: No report because Senator Bob Bionaz is in Springfield meeting with legislators

Buildings and grounds: no report

Library: no report

Social Committee: Senator Tonya Hall: Had evaluation regarding our first social, but postponed survey because so many senators are in Springfield

University Curriculum Coordinating Committee: no report

EXCOM:

The Financial Exigency Advisory Committee will address ways to trim costs and identify revenue streams that may have not been considered yet. Has not yet received any financial information. Committee wants to know what the Management Action Committee knows, but has not received any information. Senate President Phillip Beverly is the representative from faculty senate and has been elected chair of the advisory committee

PEC on February 10 was the first meeting with President Calhoun.

The teach-out plan has been submitted. It is required by federal legislation as a result of the declaration of financial exigency.

Chair elections usually happen in April. Are we meant to return to the practice of 3-year terms as previous. Do we need to mention that? Do we want to re-establish the mechanism to foster continuity? Academic Affairs information still includes 3-year terms, and we have the expectation that chairs will have 3-year terms.

Has UPC adjusted to the compression of the semester, and has the process been working? Ans: they have added a couple of meetings to ensure the work is completed.

Information Technology has requested a representative from Faculty Senate to serve on a liaison committee.

Motion to nominate Dr. Halpin to serve, moved by Senator Ann Kuzdale, seconded by Senator Anzer Asim.

yes 25 no 0 abstain 1
Motion passed.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Academic Program Elimination Review Committee:

Faculty Senate asked to elect members for APERC (program elimination). Members come from UPI 4100, colleges and departments. Counseling: Senator Tonya Hall; Education: Dr. Pat Steinhaus; Arts & Sciences: Pancho McFarland; College of Business: Dr. Ernst Coupet, College of Pharmacy: Dr. Abir El-Alfy (also is on program review committee); College of Health Sciences: Dr. Elizabeth Wittbrodt; Library: Professor Rosalind Fielder; Faculty Senate: Jason Raynovich; College of Arts and Sciences; Alesia Richardson. There are three prior members still within their terms.

Motion to approve slate of members on APERC Committee moved by Senator Jane Crossley seconded by Senator Aref Hervani

yes 23 no 1 abstain 1

Summer School:

Question about timing of summer school, still under review whether there will be 2 five-week sessions and a 10-week session. Preference will be given to final four faculty.

Senator Elections:

Next class of senate elections should take place during March-April elections in departments. Elections are required only for those whose senators' terms are up.

Communication regarding state budget impasse and financial exigency:

Aside from Pres. Calhoun's letter refuting some of the statements made by governor's staffer, has not been much response from the university, or from the other universities. Should there be a statement from the group to the governor? Should we, as the tip of the spear, take it upon ourselves to write such a refutation? It would go to the governor and to the media

- would it be CSU or would it be joint communiqué - other universities have been very quiet, although we are all in the same situation.
- we MUST be active regardless of the other schools, because we are the political football of the moment. The model is what happened recently in Wisconsin and other states as well. Public universities are under attack in several states.
- our students have been magnificent. We must follow them on our own behalf. We must promote our value to the university and to the state.
- Letter would carry more weight with multiple signatures: OUR specific message, and one that is more general about higher education for all public universities. There is support for a national petition on our behalf, perhaps eventually a MoveOn petition?

There will be two letters, and will need senators to sign the letter. Senate President Phil Beverly has a partial draft written, and will continue to draft the letter. Looking at a draft prepared for signatures by Thursday's union meeting, still looking for a venue. There is a time conflict because the APERC meeting and Management Action meeting are both on Thursday at noon.

APERC must address low-performing programs flagged by IBHE. Some are now up for program elimination, and possibly a COLLEGE is up for elimination. All programs are now being viewed and all must defend their existence. Comment: E Arnett-Hill (Academic Affairs): this is a separate initiative from state IBHE. Every year they generate metrics that are under review and they request defense and creation of plan.

Q: Is the plan that some programs may be eliminated immediately? If so, what is the consequence for chair elections? Ans: B Rowan: Academic Affairs did send a letter re

chair election recently, but it was a general request It did not relate to anything about program elimination or APERC.

Q Is there a consequence of not responding to IBHE regarding this? Ans: Other universities that did not respond got audit finding regarding statutory compliance. There is a need to rationalize higher education, and a statute was enacted to generate information.

Q/Comment: (Raynovich) very frustrating. Music is probably on the list. There are so many things that are dysfunctional between administration and faculty, and this is indicative of this problem. Faculty should know this information, and as a tenured member of faculty who has been here for 15 years and on executive committee of faculty senate, should have known about spring break cancellation, and should have known about the layoffs. A university is where you do things slowly, thoughtfully, and deliberately. This is the last straw on the camel's back. Where is the shared governance? Shouldn't faculty have known that their program was on the list?

Ans/Comment: Senator Paul Musial had a copy of the list of low-performing programs on his computer, and shared some information.

Meanwhile, the top section on website is about the layoffs. That is INSANE. It is unconscionable. We are all aware of the mis-steps, but of greater concern is the lack of accountability for the mis-steps. Has the university reached the "real talk" stage, not just "sharing sessions". Our communications function here is broken. Whoever permits those types of communications on our website must be forced out immediately.

Tomorrow at PEC, Senate President Beverly will convey more than deep concern. He is outraged that union president Bob Bionaz was not notified about layoffs and other actions: this is a collective bargaining issue. Same for spring break: as an academic affairs issue, faculty senate and the UPI 4100 union should have been on board regarding changing the calendar. The old mentality reigns supreme. It is disheartening, and many very good people will leave because we are so poorly treated.

There is a tension in managing press relations: timing is very important. If a press conference is scheduled, the University should notify the employees in advance of the substance of the announcement.

Motion to adjourn by Senator Jason Raynovich, seconded by Senator E. Wittbrodt.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Senator Janet Halpin
Professor of Geography