

Clayton State University Faculty Senate

10 April 2023

ATTENDEES

Senate members: Shakil Akhtar, Augustine Ayuk, Eric Bridges (Chair), Kate Cotter-Reilly, Deborah Gritzmacher, 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, Dmitriy Beznosko, Khamis Bilbeisi, Christie Burton, Hae Ryong Chung, Shannon Cochran, Everod Davis, Keira Davis, Kevin Demmitt, Antoinette France-Harris, Sonya Gaither, Nichelle Gause, Christina Grange, Pinar Gurkas, Linda Hain, Alexander Hall, Sara Harwood, Iryna Hayduk, Craig Hill, Andrea Jacques, Chizara Jones, Sanjay Lal, Mary Lamb, Carin Lightner-Laws, Joshua Meddaugh, Antoinette Miller, Francine Norflus, Mario Norman, Adel Novin, Leon Prieto, Scott Stegall, Naquilla Thomas, Celeste Walley-Jean, David Williams

ORDER

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

PROVOST'S REPORT

Interim Provost Dr. Jill Lane provided an update on current enrollment numbers, which are down for the summer and fall. However, she stated that the phone campaign has helped close the gap in enrollment, and she encouraged faculty to continue supporting these activities by reminding students to register for summer and fall classes. This Saturday, the university is hosting a summer orientation and Freshmen Preview Day. Additionally, university officials are pulling a list of students who are just short of the credits they need to graduate. The goal is to identify avenues of financial aid in the summer to help these students complete their degrees.

The Strategic Academic Alignment Committee was given its charge last week and has begun reviewing college-level alignment reports. The committee will be co-chaired by Drs. Michelle Furlong, Keith Miller, Keith Driscoll, and Marcia Butler, and it includes three faculty representatives from each college. The committee will be meeting between now and May 15 to provide overall recommendations for the university. The final report will be submitted to the University System of Georgia by the June deadline. Dr. Lane stated that she would share the full list of committee members in an email later in the day.

Faculty shared their suggestions for boosting enrollment numbers and concerns with certain admissions policies that could be affecting student enrollment numbers. Dr. Lane indicated that the Associate Vice President of Enrollment, Student Engagement and Success Ashlee Spearman is going to be reviewing our admissions policies starting in the fall.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Georj Lewis mentioned the upcoming Board of Regents meeting on April 18-19 at the University of North Georgia, where he anticipates some significant decisions and feedback related to budget and admissions requirements. He encouraged faculty to tune in to that meeting. President Lewis provided updates on the state legislative sessions, which includes an amended budget with \$66 million in cuts to the USG of which \$860,000 is projected to be cut from Clayton State's budget. He mentioned that the budget comes with \$2,000 cost of living adjustment for state employees, 100% funding for HOPE scholarships, and funding for many capital improvement requests. He described additional legislative activities that could impact the USG.

President Lewis provided updates on several administrative searches: the Provost search is underway with candidates expected to be on campus by the end of April; the AVP of Student Affairs position has been posted on several external sources and the committee will be pulling resumes at end of April; the search for an Athletics Director is underway, with applicant screening starting this week; and the position for Advancement and External Affairs is scheduled to post this week. President Lewis encouraged faculty and staff to provide feedback on the surveys related to these searches.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

1. University Curriculum Committee. Chair Dr. Dmitriy Beznosko reported that the next committee meeting will be on April 14, and, if needed, the committee will schedule an emergency meeting on April 28 to get through additional curriculum proposals.
2. Faculty Affairs Committee. Chair Dr. Michael Sitvarin reported that the committee is continuing to make progress on the SEI handbook. The committee has begun drafting letter to Faculty Senate requesting university commitment to conducting a pay equity study. Input from Staff Council has been requested on this initiative. Upcoming meetings: Mon, April 17 & Mon, May 1.
3. Academic Policy Committee. Chair Dr. Antoinette France-Harris reminded attendees of the required second vote by Faculty Senate to add the online course standards as an appendix to Faculty Handbook. The committee is still working on its student assessment tool/survey for online courses that can to be distributed to students during orientation. These activities will be the committee's last for the semester.
4. Student Affairs Committee. Co-chair Dr. Deborah Deckner-Davis is working on getting final IRB approval on its student retention survey. The committee discussed their proposed syllabus statement on policies related to parenting students, which has been approved by SAC. The committee is requesting input from the FAC and APC. These activities will continue next year.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a motion to approve revisions to the Faculty Handbook policies on Promotion and Tenure (section 205), 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 inclusion of the Academic Policy Committee's online course standards document as an appendix to the Faculty Handbook, 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 curriculum and course changes that have been approved by the University Curriculum Committee, and there was a second. The members voted orally and over the chat on Teams. The motion was approved.

MINUTES

There was a motion to approve the 27 March 2023 meeting minutes, and there was a second. The members voted orally and over the chat on Teams. The motion was approved.

REMINDERS

A call was made for an electronic vote to approve the proposed revisions to section 206 in the Faculty Handbook. Senators expressed support for the electronic vote.

Senate Chair Dr. Eric Bridges reminded the colleges to make sure they complete Senate elections for the next academic year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04pm.

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