

## Clayton State University Faculty Senate

10 August 2022

### ATTENDEES

Senate members: Shakil Akhtar, Augustine Ayuk, Eric Bridges, Deborah Gritzmacher, Anthony Hannah, Joshua Kitchens, Jill Lane, Larry Menter, Dennis Miller, Rebecca Morgan, Erin Nagel, Ken Nguyen, David Plaxco, Stacey Reynolds, Ann Showalter, Sharon White

Guests: Latonia Alexander, Shuju Bai, Christie Burton, Hae Ryong Chung, Shannon Cochran, Elicia Collins, Jessica Conrad, Kate Cotter-Reilly, Keira Davis, Kitty Deering, Kevin Demmitt, Erica Dotson, Victoria Foster, Sonya Gaither, Nichelle Gause, Brian Goldman, Annette Crew-Gooden, Christina Grange, Cantice Greene, Pinar Gurkas, Charlie Harris, Craig Hill, Angela Hollis, Kimberly Johnson, Chizara Jones, Reza Kheirandish, Stephen Klusza, Christopher Kodani, Ebrahim Khosravi, Elliot Krop, Bryan LaBrecque, Mary Lamb, Michelle Lee, Michael Lindsay, Samuel Maddox, Eric McBeth, Renee McFarlane, Thomas McIlwain, Paul Melvin, Antoinette Miller, Michelle Nelson, Francine Norflus, Mario Norman, Adel Novin, Rosann O'Neill, Vivian Padin-Irizarry, Melanie Poudevigne, Heather Reid, Jim Rickerson, Scott Stegall, Christopher Stotelmyer, Terri Summers, Naquilla Thomas, Shontelle Thrash, Celeste Walley-Jean, Christopher Ward, Carol White, Sharon White, David Williams, Kurt-Alexander Zeller

### ORDER

The Senate chair, Dr. Eric Bridges, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

### PROVOST'S REPORT

In place of a report, which was given to all faculty at the University Faculty Meeting on 9 August 2022, the provost answered questions related to the anticipated \$3.5 million budget cuts for FY2024. Academic Affairs has been asked to reduce its budget for FY2024 by \$1.37 million.

1. **Who is making the decisions about where to cut the budget?** Dr. Lane explained that the typical budgeting process for the university starts in October of every year for the upcoming fiscal year. In February, administrators project enrollment for the upcoming academic year, and those enrollment projections are used to predict the future budget.

The \$3.5 million budget shortfall for FY2024 was identified in May 2022. During that summer, the deans met with the department chairs to identify and recommend areas where each program/department could reduce expenses. Each program/department's allotted budget was determined based on enrollment and credit hour generation for each program/department. Funding cuts have already been made to operating supplies and equipment (OS&E).

Because of the regularly changing nature of the budgetary situation, final budget proposals will be submitted on August 15 to the University Planning & Budget Council and the President's Extended Cabinet, who will make final decisions about the budget cuts.

2. **Will faculty positions be eliminated?** Dr. Lane said that vacant positions due to resignations and retirements will not be replaced to minimize the number of current faculty who will lose their positions. When asked what percentage of the Academic Affairs budget will depend on cutting faculty, Dr. Lane said she did not know off-hand but would provide us with the percentage.
3. **Have faculty already been notified that their contracts will not be renewed?** Dr. Lane said she could not comment on personnel matters. She later stated that there have been recommendations for cutting faculty. Dr. Lane described the [BOR policies](#) that proscribe when notices of non-renewal must be given to faculty (see BOR Policy Manual section 8.3.4.2 for tenure-track faculty and section 8.3.4.3 for lecturers).
4. **Why are furloughs not being considered instead of eliminating faculty positions?** Dr. Lane acknowledged that furloughs would be easier. However, the university has been instructed by the BOR to make permanent budget cuts, and furloughs are a temporary solution, which is not permitted by the BOR.
5. **Will any departments be eliminated?** Dr. Lane stated that no cuts of entire departments have been recommended.
6. **How will Faculty Senate be involved in setting budget priorities?** (Setting budget priorities is identified as a purview of Faculty Senate; see Faculty Bylaws, section V.A.1.) Dr. Lane stated that the Senate chair would be attending meetings of the University Planning & Budget Council and the President's Extended Cabinet. She said that she would love to regularly meet with committee of faculty senators to discuss the budget.
7. **What specific plans does the administration have for adhering to its stated budget reduction principles of transparency, collaboration, and accountability?** Dr. Lane stated that the final reduction plans for each division cannot be shared until the budget cuts have been finalized. This is because of the ongoing dialogue with the budget.

Additional questions were asked related to the number of recruiters Clayton State has (3 or 4) because many have left, and about the search for dean for the College of Health, which should be appointed before P&T evaluations begin.

For additional information regarding the budget, faculty are advised to contact their department/program chairs. Publicly available information about the budget can be found on the [President's website](#) and the [Budget Meetings website](#).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The remainder of the meeting focused on planning the Faculty Senate agenda for AY2022-23.

1. Following introductions of Senate members, Dr. Bridges requested that Senators keep open lines of communication with the faculty in their college.
2. Senate members discussed the first three questions from the feedback survey of faculty. Survey respondents expressed a desire for more transparency and communication both from Faculty Senate and administrators. Respondents advocated for a more active role for Faculty Senate in shared governance to better support faculty and students.
3. Dr. Bridges expressed his interest to expand representation in Faculty Senate. There was discussion about the underrepresentation of the College of Arts & Sciences on Senate, and concerns and support for inclusion of student and staff voice in Senate. Further discussion was tabled until specific suggestions for how representation would be altered are developed.
4. Because elections are still being held for a few Senate positions, the Senate agreed to hold off on electing Senators to each standing committee until those positions were filled.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm.

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