

Clayton State University Faculty Senate

9 January 2023

ATTENDEES

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

Guests: Latonia Alexander, Dennis Attick, Dmitriy Beznosko, Stephen Burnett, Christie Burton, Matthew Carter, Jacob Chacko, Hae Ryong Chung, Shannon Cochran, Elicia Collins, Everod Davis, Keira Davis, Romesa Davis, Deborah Deckner-Davis, Kevin Demmitt, Erica Dotson, Clint Edmonds, Antoinette France-Harris, Sonya Giather, Nichelle Gause, Linda Hain, Alexander Hall, Feechi Hall, Grace Harwood, Craig Hill, Andrea Jacques, Kimberly Johnson, Christopher Kodani, Elliott Krop, Mary Lamb, Mandy Lusk, Crystal Marchant, Mark May, Thomas McIlwain, Paul Melvin, John Meyers, Antoinette Miller, Keith Miller, Michelle Nelson, Francine Norflus, Adel Novin, Vivian Padin-Irizarry, Melanie Poudevigne, Michael Sitvarin, Patricia Smith, Sheryne Southard, Christopher Stotelmyer, Terri Summers, Celeste Walley-Jean, Carol White

ORDER

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Interim President Kerry Heyward reported on a recent order from Governor that state-owned devices cannot use certain apps like TikTok and Telegram. Full guidance on this policy will be coming. She said that we have received reminder from Chancellor that we all have a duty to report malfeasance and ethics violations, which can be done anonymously through the USG ethics hotline. President Heyward announced the one-stop pop-up shop in the library, which is a resource for students to register for classes, get student ID cards, etc. Finally, she reminded faculty that the state legislative session starts today and that there is a Board of Regents (BoR) meeting next week.

PROVOST'S REPORT

Interim Provost Dr. Jill Lane reminded Faculty Senate that the proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook had been approved by the BoR and now require a vote by the Senate to adopt these changes. She cautioned that any changes made to that document will have to be reviewed by the BoR.

Dr. Lane reported that enrollment for spring is down 5% (based on credit hours) from the budgeted goals, and she described efforts, including the one-stop-shop to boost enrollment.

With respect to the search for an Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, Dr. Lane met with one of the candidates and two more candidates will be coming in the next two weeks. The goal is to have the position hired by the end of February.

Dr. Lane summarized several reorganizational changes in the Offices of Recruitment and Admissions. The university is in the process of hiring an eighth recruiter and anticipates hiring a ninth by the end of the semester. She described revisions to recruitment strategy and procedures to better support the recruitment process, including better use of the Common App.

In response to questions about the timing of upcoming reductions in force, Dr. Lane reiterated the need to obtain BoR approval for these decisions. The next round of non-tenured faculty non-renewal notices is expected to be sent out at the beginning of February. Dr. Lane indicated that if there are not enough courses for some faculty to teach their full load, departments will be expected to reduce the number of part-time faculty. If that is not possible, full-time faculty with reduced teaching loads may be asked to assume other duties by their department chair.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Faculty Affairs Committee. Chair Dr. Michael Sitvarin announced the committee's goals of continuing to inquiry on a pay equity study, pushing to finalize the SEI revision based on suggestions from faculty, and developing a handbook for instructors and administrators on how to appropriately use the new SEI results. The FAC is open to suggestions from others on areas it can work on. It was suggested that the FAC collaborate with the SAC to develop recommended syllabus language on classroom policies that support parenting students. Next meeting: Mon, Jan 19 @ 10am.
2. Student Affairs Committee. Co-chair Dr. Sam Maddox reported that the committee is continuing to work on policies to support parenting students and developing and administering a student survey on retention and student success topics. The goal is to have the data collected, analyzed, and ready to be presented to administrators by April or May. The spring SAC meeting schedule is still being finalized.
3. Committee for Advancing Retention in Education. Co-chair Dean Celeste Walley-Jean reported no updates from the committee. Next meeting: Feb 4.
4. Academic Policy Committee. Chair Dr. Antoinette France-Harris reported that the committee had met with members of the CELT office to draft standards for online courses. The committee reviewed the initial draft of those standards and is hoping to present a draft at the next Senate meeting for faculty feedback. Next meeting: Jan 19 @ 10am.
5. University Curriculum Committee. Chair Dr. Dmitriy reported no updates from the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Clayton State AAUP chapter representatives had nothing to report to the Senate.

Senate Chair Dr. Eric Bridges asked Dr. Ann Showalter to report on the results of a survey she distributed to faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences. The survey asked for faculty interest on adopting Faculty Handbook language to provide some protection for faculty experiencing contract non-renewal, in accordance with AAUP recommended policy. The vast majority of faculty in Arts and Sciences were in support of this initiative. Dr. Showalter reported that a survey respondent pointed out recommendations from the State of Georgia Attorney General to not provide explanations for faculty contract non-renewals. The survey also asked for faculty interest in requesting faculty evaluation of faculty administrators on an annual basis rather than every five years. The vast majority of faculty in Arts and Sciences were in support of this initiative. Dr. Showalter also reported that the FAC a few years ago had drafted language to include this policy in the Faculty Handbook.

OLD BUSINESS

Senate Chair Dr. Bridges reported the results of the electronic vote by Senate to form an ad-hoc committee to review the non-renewal of a tenure-track professor and accompanying AAUP letter and statements. Senators voted in favor of forming such a committee (12 votes: 9 Yes, 3 No). Dr. Bridges received an AAUP letter and policy statements on faculty non-renewals, which he reported having shared with all faculty. He stated that the ad-hoc committee would be formed and that a Senator would have to chair that committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59am.

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