

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting, October 14th, 11:00 a.m.

Members present: Randall Gooden, Celeste Walley-Jean, Kathryn Pratt Russell, Catherine Matos, John Mascaritolo (also attending as proxy for Craig Hill), Debra Cody, Marcy Butler, Chris Pitsikoulis, Adam Kubik, Reza Kheirandish, Kathryn Kemp, Chris Raridan, Barbara Musolf

Non-Members present: Tim Hynes, Kevin Demmitt

I. Reading and Approval of the Minutes. The minutes for the meeting of September 28 were unanimously approved.

II. Reports of the President, Provost, and Standing Committees

A. Report of the President

President Hynes reported that the list of public meetings scheduled for this academic year does not yet include the regular budget meeting, which will be announced and publicized. After asking for questions, Dr. Hynes thanked the members for their commitment to service and exited the meeting to attend another function.

B. Provost's Report

Provost Demmitt gave a full report on all the Board of Regents meetings he attended in the past week. Specifically, he noted that the USG is combining eCore and eMajor into "eCampus." This program will emphasize low tuition costs and free textbook materials, and the Gates Foundation will donate 2 million dollars toward the program, which will focus on measuring "competency-based" education. It is also likely that the USG will cease requiring "overlays"; that is, the requirements to satisfy criteria that lie outside of the regular curriculum. In important curriculum news, "Area F" will no longer be part of the required Core for USG students. Because CSU has not done a review of our general education requirements in over 20 years, we need a faculty review to assess whether our current curriculum is meeting student needs. The BoR is also asking its universities to adopt LEAP initiatives. The information on LEAP is on the AACU website, under "Liberal Education and America's Promise." This effort will not be "top-down"; instead, departments will decide how they want to meet the LEAP objectives, and then report their goals to the UCC. The Provost asked for questions, and was asked how eCore enrollment numbers affect our enrollment at CSU. Dr. Demmitt answered that the enrollment numbers still "belong" to us, but the funds coming in from the tuition dollars are much lower than for our courses originating at CSU. Another faculty member pointed out that there is a strong possibility that as our face-to-face offerings are decreasing (due to enrollment issues), the students who seek face-to-face courses will choose to go to other universities where the offerings are more varied.

C. Faculty Affairs Committee. Dr. Butler reported that the committee performed benchmarking to consider the best way to deal with Faculty Senate vacancies. Dr. Gurkas volunteered to create language by the November 2 meeting for holding a university election to fill senate seat within 30 days. Concerning P&T issues, some of our guidelines in colleges or departments are not in line with USG standards or are incomplete. Dr. Musolf has been in discussion with Jill Lane about changes to tenure guidelines and their implementation in the Faculty Handbook, and the committee will report on its future discussions.

D. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Dr. Matos reported that the UCC had met and approved a pre-requisite change for a few Criminal Justice courses. They will now all require a D instead of a C grade in the “gateway” course that precedes them. Previously, one required a C and others required a D grade. Criminal Justice deactivated some courses cross-listed with other departments, and eliminated “concentrations” from their major. The UCC tabled some course proposals until their next meeting.

III. Reports of Special Committees

A. Committee on Consistency and Continuity. Dr. Musolf reported that the committee reviewed four recommendations for changes to handbook that the Senate had already voted on twice. The vote of the committee approved moving those changes forward without a general faculty vote. The committee started work on how to approve changes to the faculty handbook. The preliminary plans are as follows. Any BoR requirements that need to be made will be announced by the provost. Only the Senate needs to vote on editorial changes to book. Then the committee will identify when content-changes in specific sections will require faculty input. Some Senate members responded that there might be a question of advisability as to specifying sections that would not require a general faculty vote. The Senate was in agreement that it would be wise to add language that states that all policies revert to USG policy if there is a conflict. Dr. Gooden pointed out that there is no written policy that requires faculty to vote on all changes to the handbook, but this practice has been followed at CSU for several years. The Senate will continue to attend to these issues.

VI. New Business.

A. Motion to Send a Statement of Concern to the University System of Georgia Faculty Council Meeting. Dr. Pratt Russell introduced the motion, which was discussed at the last meeting. There was more discussion about whether the statement should be sent to the USG Faculty Council Meeting on October 24, 2015. In light of the immediate deadline, Dr. Pratt Russell called for amendments to the statement included in draft in the agenda appendix. The statement

was amended, and then a vote was taken. Dr. Pratt Russell called for the vote and Professor Mascaritolo seconded the motion. The vote was eight in favor and four against the motion, with 0 abstaining. The motion passed and the statement will be sent to the USG meeting. The amended statement is included below.

The Faculty Senate of Clayton State University would like to express deep concern over the potential budget cuts to system universities that have been put into motion by the Board of Regents for likely implementation in Fiscal Year 2017. We would like to make it clear that there is no state budget crisis at this time, and the last time that budget cuts of this size were implemented, they occurred in the crisis years of 2009 and 2010. Without a state budget crisis, the idea that “declining enrollments” must lead to detrimental cuts for some universities is a serious concern. We strongly request that the Board of Regents reconsider this reconfiguring of “state formula funding,” and avoid budget cuts to any university in the system, while increasing funds for institutions with increased needs.

B. Motion to Amend the Faculty Bylaws to Provide for an Ex Officio, Non-Voting Representative from the Provost’s Office on the Faculty Affairs Committee—Barbara Musolf. Dr. Walley-Jean moved to table this motion until next meeting, and Dr. Cody seconded. All unanimously approved.

VII. The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Randall Gooden, Chair of Faculty Senate
Kathryn Pratt Russell, Secretary