

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE FACULTY SENATE  
APRIL 1, 2020**

I do want to mention in passing that some of the questions on the minds of faculty members can and will be answered Friday at 10am, when Provost Zhu will hold a zoom-based faculty forum for purposes of synchronous, two-way communication about pretty much whatever academic questions you have on your minds. I believe that an invitation to that forum either has gone out or will in the very near-term future to the entire full time and part time faculty.

One of the questions I need to answer was in an email message this morning. That is: has the University decided to suspend faculty governance in light of the Coronavirus pandemic? Was the temporary pass-fail system a faculty decision, or an administrative decision?"

Similar questions could also be asked about some other temporary academic policies such as Academic Standing Policy, conversion of "I" grades at the end of the semester, and some admissions policies, among others. The answer is that to the very best of my knowledge, all such temporary academic policies have been approved as appropriate by the Faculty Senate Admissions and Standards Committee and the Academic Steering Committee. These committees have been acting under Senate bylaw 3344-13-03 Paragraph D (3) (c) which says that one of the functions of the Academic Steering Committee is to, "To take such action regarding affairs of faculty senate as may be necessary between meetings....."

These are extraordinary times and they call for extraordinary measures. Normally and usually at CSU, academic policy decisions such as these are made through lengthy and thorough deliberations in duly constituted committees and then only on the recommendation of the full Senate. But as for our temporary pass/fail policy, and the other temporary academic policies that have been decided over the past couple of weeks, I remind you that we are fighting a pandemic, responses have to be quick, and many of our faculty members are already at wits end working to change formats and deliver their courses online -- and keep high quality instruction in place. So, these academic policy decisions were made in a couple of recent emergency meetings of the responsible Senate committees. Past this, as your President, I promise to do my best to make sure that whenever it is pragmatic and feasible to follow normal and usual shared governance procedures, they will happen.

I also want to add that the administration deserves acknowledgement for continuing to recognize and respect the vital importance of shared academic governance at the university. My experience over the past few weeks is that the voices and views of faculty members are getting actively solicited and listened to on academic policies even as we fight this pandemic. There has

Next, I need to answer a question about voting on April 29th for the next Faculty Senate

**III.**

President Sands: We are working with the state legislature to deal with nursing. We need to work with our various teams to have our students progressing.

**IV. Announcement of Coming Elections (See Attached)**

**V. University Curriculum Committee**

Professor Carole Heyward, chair of the University Curriculum Committee, presented the committee's proposals:

A. New Programs or Certificates

1. Graduate
  - a. Certificate in Doctoral Clinical Chemistry (New Certificate)  
**(Report No. 78, 2019-2020)**

Approved unanimously by voice vote.

B. Consent Agenda

- 1.

Beth: Has this been distributed to students?

Marvin: Yes, it has been shared. The academic standing policy was in a daily update, so yes, students were informed.

Nigamanth Sridhar: Grad program in OT – the requirements are controlled by the program. University Admissions. For example, if a GRE was scheduled for tomorrow, we are removing that requirement for admissions, but it will not be waved. We are suspending those for this term.

Beth: no-preapproval is required.

Anup: If a student is repeating a course this semester, that policy applies.

Marvin: The date is April 24<sup>th</sup> so that a student can make the decision and they will have a better idea. Some schools are allowing that decision to be made after the semester ends. We did discuss that, but we thought April 24<sup>th</sup> was best.

**B. 3344-11-04 Conflict of Interest (Second Reading) (Report No. 73, 2019-2020)**

We added a clause F – dual status as a faculty and administrator. No other changes from the first reading.

No questions. Unanimously approved by voice vote.

**VIII. Budget and Finance Committee (Report No. 81, 2019-2020)**

Professor Tatyana Guzman, chair, Budget and Finance Committee: The last time I talked in front of the Senate on March 4, I was telling you how well the University is doing financially, how strong our investments are, and instead of a significant operating budget shortfall that we were facing a year ago, we anticipated a \$2.5 million surplus. A lot has changed since then. It is too early to say what the magnitude of COVID-19 is going to be on enrollment and other big contributors to CSU revenues, and what additional expenses will add up to.

To give you some sense, the most significant loss of the University revenues was due to a refund of student housing and dining revenues. The major costs were mostly IS&T expenses incurred by moving CSU to an online platform and expenses associated with extensive cleaning before the University shut down. Housing incurred additional costs to move some students out of Fenn Tower to Euclid Commons and to completely clean Fenn Tower. While all these expenses undoubtedly hit overall University finances, many of them are accounted for on auxiliary rather than the operating budget. The operating budget is the one that the University is required to balance by state law.

The financial markets are also t

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Joanne Goodell: When did that email go out?

Provost Zhu: Official announcement did happen at town hall.

Vickie: Reiterate impact on all research.

Jorge Gatica: Will temporary policies for pass/fail and academic standing apply for summer?

Bill Bowen: Need to communicate to students that it only applies for Spring for now.

Bob Krebs: We didn't think of what we might need for summer. We should consider a policy for getting back into the school.

Nigamanth Sridhar: If someone needs something now, there is a process working with campus police. Yes, to your point, it will be a process for summer materials, not just as an emergency and getting things they forgot.

Zhiqiang Gao: Two questions. One is about faculty searches and deans and chairs. Faculty – we have several openings and searches. We have discussed if we should be going through the efforts vs. all hands-on-deck to go to online teaching. What is the perspective financially?

Provost Zhu: In general, there is no decision to end. But we cannot do in-person interviews. Some have done Zoom or online. But if the department collectively decides to pause the search, that is a departmental decision. According to CBA we will respect the faculty.

Gao: As a whole in Engineering, we have a Dean and two Chair positions and President Sands just talked about how the entire landscape will be different. Will that impact the directions of these searches and the future of the college?

Provost Zhu: Yes, we can expect major changes as we begin to understand the impact on the national economy which will then impact the revenue/taxes, and state support for the university. We are not clear how big that impact will be. But we still need to continue our business and we still need someone in charge of a department. We can work with you to make sure the department functions.

Gao: There is a proposal to suspend the search for a few months at least and have an interim, but we will see a whole new set of challenges. Our program needs strong leadership at the dean and chair levels to help.

## **X. Report of the Student Government Association (Report No. 82, 2019-2020)**

SGA President Omar Wahdan reported that it has been a trying time for everyone. The student side has been difficult for students, in particular, for trying to keep up the SGA. We had a lot of initiatives planned and they shifted into the next semester. Elections are currently

underway. Please encourage students to vote and engage. A lot of work will be done transitioning the new board, especially if they will not be seeing each other physically.

We did work with math in regard to calculus textbooks. We met with various faculty for open source books for pre-calculus, but it is difficult to work on that due to having had to go online. Thank you, faculty and staff, for taking the initiative. I had five emails after President Sands announced and had early on communications to faculty and that made a difference for students.

Appreciate the Provost sending email regarding Pass/Fail. Thank you and continue to openly communicate and professors are doing a really good job. It can really help students. All the emails can get overwhelming. Now students are thinking about financial recovery and thinking to the future and we don't know when it will be safe.

## **XI. Report of the Graduate and Professional Student Association**

Ms. Natalia Hernandez, President of the GPSA, was not available to report.

## **XII. Open Discussion Time**

Fred Smith: Questions probably best for John Holcomb. In the email distributed to faculty and to students, there were a bunch of items to consult their academic advisors. Have they been provided with ways to answer questions, and can faculty get those answers?

John: Working on a FAQ that will explain in greater detail and apologize for making it too formal and detailed. Some will be unique for different student needs. I also think of those advisors in the departments, and if they have plans for grad school, medical school, etc. that may be idiosyncratic, and the directors for their departments may be best for those.

Fred Smith: Is there a way to know if the student has selected Pass/Fail?

John: The registrar will make the roster such that if they opted for S/U, that will show up in the system. Faculty will not have to keep track of who wanted which option.

Fred: If it is private with registrar, then there are less options for faculty to work with students if they are on the edge.

John: Try to have as much as possible ready to go with grades so they can decide.

Joanne: Faculty Senate elections – move to electronic platform.

Bill Bowen: We are working on that. It should happen.

Joanne: I know we have the COVID-19 website, but we are getting bombarded. If the team can get all the issues for faculty on one webpage and issues for students on another

webpage, etc.? They are all coming in separate emails and different Zoom meetings. It is overwhelming to people.

Bill Bowen: I will raise it with the team.

**XIII. New Business**

There being no new business, the

-----

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF  
COMING ELECTIONS**

- A. Election of Faculty Senate President for a two-year term to replace \*William Bowen (Urban Affairs)  
    \*Not eligible for re-election
- B. Election of Faculty Senate Secretary for a two-year term to replace Vickie Coleman Gallagher (Management) (Eligible for re-election)
- C. Election of three faculty representatives to the University Faculty Affairs Committee for two-year terms to replace Chieh-Chen Bowen (Urban Studies), Joanne Goodell (Teacher