

Clayton State University Faculty Senate

22 August 2022

ATTENDEES

Senate members: Shakil Akhtar, Eric Bridges, Deborah Gritzmacher, Anthony Hannah, Kerry Heyward, Jill Lane, Samuel Maddox, Larry Menter, Dennis Miller, Rebecca Morgan, Erin Nagel, Ken Nguyen, David Plaxco, Stacey Reynolds, Ann Showalter, Kendolyn Smith, Sharon White

Guests: Stephanie Allen Hodge, Shuju Bai, Royal Baxter, Christie Burton, Hae Ryong Chung, Shannon Cochran, Daphne Collier-Smith, Elicia Collins, Keira Davis, Morgan Dent, Erica Dotson, Mikayla Fernandez, Victoria Foster, Sonya Gaither, Nichelle Gause, Brian Goldman, Linda Hain, Feechi Hall, Marlaina Jean-Baptiste, Chizara Jones, Elliot Krop, Christopher Manning, Paul Melvin, Antoinette Miller, Michelle Nelson, Francine Norflus, Mario Norman, Adel Novin, Rosann O'Neill, Vivian Padin-Irizarry, Jennifer Parrott, Melanie Poudevigne, Stacey Reynolds, Javier Rivera, Naquilla Thomas, Rosario Vickery, Celeste Walley-Jean, Carol White,

ORDER

The Senate chair, Dr. Eric Bridges, called the meeting to order at 11:03am.

MINUTES

There was a motion to approve the 10 August 2022 meeting minutes and there was a second. The members voted orally and over the chat on Teams. The minutes were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Kerry Heyward reported that enrollment remains down at Clayton State and at several other USG institutions. The USG is working on initiatives to demonstrate the value of a higher education degree, including the recent launch of the [Georgia Degrees Pay website](#) that targets prospective students and their parents.

Final recommendations for university budget cuts are due to the Board of Regents (BOR) at the end of September. Information regarding the budget cuts will be communicated with faculty via the faculty representatives on the University Planning and Budget Advisory Council (PBAC) and during a town hall meeting in September prior to recommendations being sent to the BOR. A list of the faculty representatives on the PBAC will be shared with Faculty Senate after the meeting.

The president also provided an update on the various administrative searches. The new Chief Information Officer will be announced this week, and the provost will provide an update on the search for a dean for the College of Health. A presidential search committee has not yet been formed. Finally, the president is reviewing the many positions that need to be filled and considering many factors including accreditation issues with unfilled positions and whether

individuals in interim positions are willing to stay in that role until a new president is selected to permanently fill those roles.

The new master's degree in Data Science was approved by the Board of Regents.

PROVOST'S REPORT

Interim Provost Jill Lane provided brief updates on the search for a dean for the College of Health and on feedback from the Board of Regents on the mandated Faculty Handbook changes. The last candidate for the dean position will be on campus for an interview on August 24, and the position is expected to be filled by mid-September. The comments from the BOR are either minor or in need of cleaning up the language so as not to conflict with BOR policies. Dr. Lane is willing to help the SAFE Committee with finding board policies to reference when addressing the BOR feedback.

Enrollment remains low, with about 450 students dropped on Monday for non-payment. Dr. Lane reminds us that some students will be reinstated over the next few days and that the no-show deadline for students to demonstrate their intention for remaining in a class is Thursday at 4pm.

Dr. Lane described efforts to identify solutions that address the enrollment challenges, including soliciting suggestions from faculty via survey, identifying and contacting students who have dropped out of Clayton State (but not transferred) in the last six years, submitting a grant to the U.S. Department of Education in October for \$600K-\$1.2M to support a concierge service to help with degree completion, and increasing the number of half-session classes offered.

Faculty and students shared their concerns and suggestions related to enrollment. There was discussion of the problems with the 15-to-Finish program, which encouraged students to enroll in a minimum of 15 credit hours per semester. Students shared their difficulties in working with advising, financial aid, and the registrar's office. A recommendation was made to survey students about these issues, which Dr. Lane suggested this might be a task for the Senate's Student Affairs Committee. Regarding advising, we learned that the advising center is fully staffed with 6-7 professional advisors to serve our 6000+ students, and there was discussion around developing more faculty mentoring efforts to support students outside of the advising center.

Dr. Lane indicated that data would be sent to the colleges this week so the colleges can set up their taskforces to address the academic strategic alignment. She also announced a faculty and a student spotlight to highlight successes at Clayton State.

When asked about plans to develop internal retention strategies, President Heyward stated that she planned to address this after the budget cuts process in September.

SENATE BUSINESS

1. *Update on the Board of Regents' feedback on changes to the Faculty Handbook.* These changes were mandated by the BOR last year, and the ad-hoc Structural Adaptations to Faculty Evaluation (SAFE) Committee drafted revisions in spring 2022.

In general, revisions recommended by the BOR appear to be generally minor, though others will require more substantial changes. Dr. Lane recommended integrating more language from the USG Academic Affairs Handbook, and she was going to compile a list of relevant BOR regulations to facilitate revisions by the SAFE Committee. It is unclear how much leeway the SAFE Committee has in pushing back on changes to protect faculty.

2. *Update on the findings of the faculty survey distributed by Senate in August 2022.* The survey was closed earlier in the day, and Senate Secretary Ann Showalter will be summarizing the feedback and redacting any comments that might be personally identifiable before sharing the survey results more broadly.
3. *Discussion of Senate subcommittees and subcommittee appointments.*
 - i. Senators Larry Menter and Kendolyn Smith volunteered to serve on the Faculty Affairs Committee.
 - ii. Senators Anthony Hannah and Deborah Gritzmacher volunteered to serve on the University Curriculum Committee. Both Senators were also elected to represent their respective colleges. Concerns were voiced about the lack of policy for individuals who represent Senate and their college, particularly with respect to how many votes their vote counts as. Senate leadership agreed to develop language to address this topic.
 - iii. Senators Sam Maddox and Anthony Hannah volunteered to serve on the Student Affairs Committee.
 - iv. No senators volunteered to serve on the Academic Policy Committee.
 - v. Dean Walley-Jean indicated that Faculty Senate has two representatives that sit on the Graduate Affairs Council. Sam Maddox volunteered to serve.

The proposed charge to the Senate subcommittees was reviewed, and it was agreed that no vote was required.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16pm.

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