

Faculty Senate Meeting  
Minutes of the meeting held on 09-02-08 in ADM 301

Members Present: Yan Searcy, Baxi Sneha, Beverly Philip, Buck Sharah, Busch Sabita, Florine Jane, Gahungu Athanase, Gilchrist Kelvin, Gomberg Paul, Hall Tanya, Hrozencik Dan, Ifatunji Baba, Kelly Margaret, Kang Sue, Lixing Jia, McSwine Bart, Robert Meeker, Nielsen Alesic, Nkansah Asare, Osaghae Vincent, Perkins Marian, Potluri Devi, Price Barbara, Richardson Alicia, Rivas Felix, Shen Virginia, Wittbrodt Elizabeth

Visitors Present: Jefferson Debrah - Contract Administrator, Westbrooks Sandra - Provost

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 12.35 by the Chair Yan Searcy who welcomed all to the first meeting of the academic year 2008-09, with a special welcome to new members.

1. A. Minutes from the May meeting were not available for review. Lorraine Daniels is on sabbatical. These will be confirmed at a later date when they are available.  
B. Dr. Searcy informed the senate that the Interim President Dr. Pogue was scheduled to address the senate but due to circumstances, could not attend the meeting.
2. Elections: The chair announced that elections need to be held for the positions of Vice-President and Secretary and called for nominations.  
A. Devi Potluri was nominated by Jane Florin and seconded by Sabitha Busch. There being no other nominations, The chair declared that Devi Potluri is elected as the vice-president of the faculty senate with acclamation  
B. For the position of Secretary, Alicia Richardson's name was proposed by Barbara Price and was seconded by Philip Beverly. Since there were no other nominations, the Chair declared Alicia Richardson as the duly elected Secretary with acclamation.  
C. The Chair expressed desire to re-instate the position of recording secretary. There was a unanimous approval for the request. Margaret Kelly's name was proposed by Gahunga Athanase and seconded by Elizabeth Wittbrandt. No other nominations were received and Margaret Kelly was declared as the duly elected recording secretary with acclamation.  
D. Members of the faculty senate expressed their appreciation and thanks to Lorraine Daniels for her service as the secretary for several years.
3. Provost's Report:  
A. The provost Dr. Westbrooks extended her welcome to the members of the faculty senate for the new academic year. She appreciated the opportunity to speak with the faculty senate and said that she takes the deliberations and advice of the senate very seriously  
B. She reported to the senate about the Fall convocation where the interim president Dr. Pogue will appraise the community about University plans et., new

faculty will be introduced and the existing faculty who are very productive will be recognized.

C. The provost also reported that Robin wheeler has left the post of PR officer and Patricia Arnold has been appointed to the position.

4. The Provost outlined two important issues that came up in the Board meeting and asked the Faculty senate to consider these issues seriously. She explained that these issues came up because of the decline of enrollment . She reported that a survey found the lack of services to be the main reason for students leaving CSU and NOT the quality of Academic instruction and programs. She then outlined the two issues at the centre of discussion

A. Transfer students with Associate Arts and Associate Science Degrees:

- i. Waive all General Education Requirements
- ii. Waive University requirements
- iii. Waive Placement Testing as Condition of Admissions.

B. For Freshmen admissions and enrollment

- i. Regular admission criteria: Elimination of ACT requirements: Greater emphasis will be placed on GPA and class marks with minimum GPA of 2.0 on a 4 point scale
- ii. University College
  - a. Admissions criteria to be determined
  - b. Proficiency/ Basic Skills Tests will be required for all new students.

5. Members of the senate had a long discussion on these issues.

A. Members expressed concern that removing ACT scores as requirement may reduce the quality of the incoming students. Also, the high school grades may not be a proper indication of the student's potential. After long discussion, The senate agreed that the Academic Standards Sub committee should consider the issue of ACT scores and report back to the senate for further discussion and action.

B. Gen Education Requirements. Devi Potluri brought to the attention of the senate that the senate has already approved the GenEd committee recommendations to remove All University Gen Ed requirements for transfer students with AA or AS degrees. Regarding the Placement exams, concern was raised that these placement exams are turning away possible transfer students. Elizabeth Wittbrodt raised the issue of pre-requisites if placement exams are waived, since several courses require placement exam as prerequisite.

C. Dr. Searcy asked the senators to take these two issues back to their respective departments and solicit the opinion of the Faculty so that the senate can have proper discussion.

6. Matters Arising:

A. Book Store. Philip Beverly mentioned that there is no manager for the Book store. He suggested that a debit card or similar should be issued to students so that

they can buy the books in other book stores or on internet, citing the example of Governors State University.

B. The provost mentioned that Mr. Jim Crawley has been appointed as the Asst. Vice President of Auxiliary Operations. She also mentioned that all the information pertaining to the students was loaded on the student cards. However, some student loans were not cleared and hence their information could not be loaded on time. She said that the University is trying to become automated. She asked the faculty to advise the students to check CSU express to check the status of their balances that are available for book purchase.

C. Paul Gomberg raised the issue of students not being allowed in to the book store. Yan Searcy mentioned that there was some improvement in the availability of books on time.

D. It has also been brought to the notice of the senators that new contracts for the bookshop were solicited but without success so far. One of the problems identified is that CSU does not have a bookstore.

E. Faculty candidate Ranking. Philip Beverly will chair a small committee to look in to this matter.

F. Class cutting: Opinion was expressed by the members that we cut classes to save money. Philip Beverly asked how much of that saved money is put back in to academic programs. Debrah Jefferson said that she does not have the numbers off-hand. Philip Beverly asked if the University monetizes the impact of class cutting on students. Debrah Jefferson replied that this academic year, more courses were retained even though these courses did not have sufficient numbers. On course scheduling issues raised by Yan Searcy, Debrah Jefferson advised the faculty to discuss this issue with their Chairs. Gahunga Athanase raised the issue of classes being listed on the catalogue but not taught, which makes it very difficult for outside students to judge to come to CSU.

G. Univ. Climate Survey: Philip Beverly is looking in to this issue. He mentioned that software is available and is trying to obtain financial help from the University. Results should be available by the end of November in time for discussion in Senate meeting of December.

H. Presidential Search Committee: The provost mentioned that not much happened and that the advisory committee is looking at three proposals to select a search firm. Bob Meeker suggested that additional firms are needed.

7. New Matters:

A. Committee Issues: Virginia Shen requested that Members are needed to help with UPC elections. Paul Gomberg volunteered to help.

B. New Committees and members : Yan Searcy said members are needed for the following committees;

i. Crisis communications management committee – Philip Beverly volunteered

ii. Short- term and long-term planning

iii. 21st Century Advancement committee

C. U-pass. Paul Gomberg introduced a student group representative who explained the issue and asked for the support of the Senate. Members expressed

the opinion that it is a Student Government Issue and the Chair concurred with this opinion.

8. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2.00 pm.

Respectfully submitte,

Senator Devi Potluri