

Chicago State University Faculty Senate

Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2024

Zoom Meeting <https://csu-edu.zoom.us/j/89696974650>

Present: Jason Raynovich, Yashika Watkins, Sarah Austin, Eddie Layton, Liefu Jang, Ehab Yamani, Mohammed Islam, Nicole Lavalais, Amzie Moore, Sonja Fiest-Price, Jubilee Dickson, Jon Patterson, Carlette Bailey, Soo Kang, Aymier, Mike Williams, Leslie Baker-Kimmons, Gabriel Gomez, Olanipekun Laosebikan, Tekleab Gala, Walid Al-Ghoul, Anser Azim

A. Called to order at 12:32pm

B. Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda and rules of the day – Gomez moved to approve the agenda and Austin seconded it; unanimous consent by Senators

C. Approval of October 2024 minutes: Gomez moved to approve the minutes and Gala seconded it

8 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions

20 Senators present

D. Senator Speeches

1. Eddie Gaytan - on behalf on Dept of English & Foreign Languages, concern over the Administration not engaging their Faculty to help with recruitment. Faculty have other duties per the Contract and they feel these efforts should be done by Administration. Dr. Gaytan was asked to make the Senate aware of this concern.
2. Dr. Jubilee Dickinson - I wanted to rise today to address the sudden dismissal of our Registrar and Associate Registrar. This news has left me incredibly shocked and dismayed, especially since learning that the hiring process for filling the position of Registrar will be 6-8 months. I don't know the reasons for the dismissals, and I know that I am not in a position to know. Additionally, I am not trying to criticize the Administration for their transition decisions, but I want to comment on the challenges of student success when we don't have consistency in administrative offices.
 - I want to start by sharing a little about my personal experience with working with the Registrar's office as a faculty advisor. The previous Registrar's office has been the most consistently reliable, efficient, and responsive administrative office

that I have worked with in my time at CSU. They answered the phone, they responded to emails, and they happily provided me with any training or information to help me better advise my students. I could call Caleb or Nicholas any time and just say “Hey this is Jubilee, I have a quick question...” and they would be readily available to help. I would even contact the Registrar’s office when I didn’t know who to contact in other offices and they would direct me to the correct person. As has been mentioned in other realms with other Offices in the Administration Building, students frequently get stuck in an endless loop of being redirected to various departments over and over without ever getting solutions, so then they come to me for help and guidance. I knew that I could take any question or concern about student records or degree evaluation directly to the Registrar Office and get an answer within a few hours. In addition to being consistently responsive and always willing to help, there were so many important upgrades to systems and procedures that the Registrar’s office put into place over the last four years, bringing us closer in line with other institutions. These systems made it easier to process student information, degree evaluations, file paperwork, and send and receive transcripts.

- In the short time since this transition, I have had emails to the Registrar go unanswered, students receiving conflicting information from various people working in the Registrar’s Office to the same question, and just general confusion about basic processes such as enrollment verification, as well as a delay in midterm grades and a delay in withdrawals due to non-attendance. I am concerned that issues such as these will continue for many months to come as we search for a new Registrar, and then persist as we go through a transition period while they learn the role. Turnover is one of the major continuing challenges at CSU across all departments and offices. And when we lose people, we also lose the knowledge and information they held, and we lose the important connections that we previously had, such as knowing people’s names and who to call for particular information.
- I have no specific ask or call for action in this speech. I am just speaking out and sharing my thoughts and concerns in my capacity as a Senator and Faculty Advisor who works closely with the Registrar’s office on a weekly basis. My hope for the new Registrar is that they will be a helpful, available resource, that they continue with necessary upgrades and improvements, that they will care deeply about our students, our institution, and our mission, and finally, that they might stay in their role for a long enough time so that they learn our names.

Jubilee Dickson

Associate Professor and Faculty Advisor in the Department of Psychology and Counseling

3. Dr. Sarah Austin: My speech: The IBHE has documented that funding for higher education has been decreasing for 20 years. there is currently a bill before the legislature in Springfield to reverse this. UPI 4100 is planning a big push to support increased funding for higher education in Illinois. I know that we all do a great deal of service, but we will need faculty to be involved in some serious advocacy on this issue between now and the end of the spring semester. Please get involved and encourage others to do so.

E. Provost's Report

- We had a successful Illinois Center for Education Equity - 10/22 - 122 individuals attended from around the state. There was a student panel of CSU students and other public University. Learned about early start programs, scaffolding. Early college coursework can impact students as related - unpacking the adequacy of funding. Discussion regarding the funding formula and the House bill that will be voted on soon. Also, had a delegation to Turkey (Mohammed) - MOU signing ceremony, International Congress of children from all dimensions.

10/29/24 - Open House with the Gift of Hope. Will have a CNA, Pharmacy Tech, Certified CHW programs. - will serve as a feeder to our existing campus offerings.

Preparing for Nursing accreditation in March 2025; Self-study submitted in January 2024

Homecoming - had Stroll to the Polls, step show, etc. - supports belonging, community engagement, etc. - City Colleges invitation

170 students attended Career fair - a lot of business

Internship fair - 1/23/25

Spring Career Fair - 3/27/25

Healing Center framework - Trauma informed healing center framework - 1st of many events on campus

Faculty Townhall - wasn't well attended; Provost recommendation - not Spring 2024 evaluations in Portfolio; working to ensure that previous problems experienced will be mitigated

F. University Budget Committee

- Committee mandated
- 10/22/24 - re-elected Co-Chair
- The Chair re-introduced the duties of the Committee, which are to prioritize the University's budget and spending
- The Committee will work on reviewing budget items 2 years in advance

G. Old Business

Provost: The Administration is in agreement with moving forward with the 360 evaluation process. What are the criteria for the evaluations? Need to establish expectations, frequency, which office (Provost or President). She thinks this is beneficial for everyone.

H. Standing Committee Reports

1 .Executive Committee Report - the Administration works hard to prepare for Faculty Town Hall, but there was minimal attendance. Frustration around notification for the Town Hall. The morale is still an issue. Meeting conflict issues. Building community is important, so it is important to attend. Al-Ghoul: needs to be put on the University schedule;

ROC - voting was conducted by ROC; elections for Grand Marshal & Honorary Degree Committee. Approximately 70% of Faculty voted. Elections haven't been certified as of yet.

2. Academic Affairs - Data Literacy course - grant was written to support this. The President is aware that the curriculum is the purview of the Faculty.

- need details: Who will teach the course, how many credits, what is the best way to proceed and what is the best way to support students in this proposal?

3. Technology Committee - LMS transition to BrightSpace

Spring 2025 - only graduate courses will be on BrightSpace. The remaining will use BrightSpace in Fall 2025. Training every week until the end of the semester at CSU. Sonja Feist-Price: If you want to make the migration earlier, you can do so. For the Faculty Institute Day, one of the sessions will be hands on support for migrating and updating your system.

4. Shared Governance: Need Faculty Senate action item

I. New Business:

Student evaluations 2023-2024 - removal from DAC

16 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions

J. Meeting Adjournment

Gomez moved to approve adjournment and Gastan seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 1:59pm.