

Chicago State University Faculty Senate
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 12:30 p.m.

Present: William Jason Raynovich (President), Leslie Baker- Kimmons (Vice President), Sarah Buck (Recording Secretary), Yashika Watkins (Corresponding Secretary), Bernard Rowan, Gabriel Gomez, Brandle Blakely, Elaina Khasawneh, Ehab Yamani, Eddy Gaytan, John Smith, Lieu Jiang, Nadeem Fazal, Anser Azim, Michael Wannah, Soo Kang, Brent In, Sarah Austin, Jennifer Doucet, Tatjana Petrova, Jubilee Dickson, Gayle Porter, Austin Harton, Carlette Bailey, Olanipekun Laosebikan, Charlene Snelling, Tekleab Gala, Karen Witherspoon

- A. Call to order 12:31
- B. Agenda
 - a. Approval of Agenda
 - b. Rules of the Day (**Appendix A**)
 - i. Fazal moved to accept agenda and rules, Azim seconded > approved by unanimous consent
- C. Approval of Minutes ([December 2025](#)) (Recording Sec.)
 - a. Yamani moved to approve, Azim seconded > motion approved unanimously
- D. Senator Comments/Speeches
 - a. Leslie Baker-Kimmons
 - i. Read a statement from CASA: "Two things should inform the upper administration's decisions on this. First, in order for this university to continue to see increases in enrollment and thus, survive into the next decade, there must be strong efforts to recruit Latinx students. This has been proposed and implemented by enrollment and recruitment even while the President's office has been reluctant to follow this advice and is dragging its feet in supporting this effort. The continued hostility and marginalization of the Latinx population should be reversed and taking a strong stand for students who are vulnerable to federal government harassment. Second, federal 'authorities' storming onto campus is a bad look and, of course, dangerous for all of us. As I mentioned in a previous email and is evident by recent events, all of us are vulnerable to this violence. There have been too many incidents of students and staff being stopped or otherwise negatively impacted by Homeland Security's behavior; some black students have been stopped because they looked Latinx, Latinx and Arab students report having to carry their documents with them in fear of being stopped, Faculty have mentioned carrying documents, one is asking that they teach from home because they fear

what is happening. So, the ask is twofold: 1) a much stronger statement that includes asking our police department to intervene on behalf of our campus communities, if we are invaded by federal 'authorities' and that shows CSU has the best interests in mind for Latinx and other students, staff and faculty; 2) the establishment of a working group that can assist in developing policies and practices to mitigate harm and intervene.”

- E. Provost Report (Rowan)
 - a. 360 degree evaluations: evaluate Provost, Associate Provost, Deans, Chairs.
 - i. There will be qualitative and quantitative questions
 - ii. Timetable TBD
 - iii. Respondents will differ based on who is being evaluated
- F. Old Business
 - a. Grants proposing Gen Ed requirements (**Appendix B**)
 - b. 360 Evaluations update (President/Vice-President)
 - i. Baker- Kimmons spoke on experience of being a part of the interviews of the vendors and gave thoughts on each vendor
 - ii. Raynovich requested Austin to send her report to Rowan
 - iii. Interviews with vendors concluding 2/4/26. Provost and President will then discuss
 - c. Request a University Calendar for all Upcoming Changes and Updates (**Appendix C**)
 - i. Buck raised the issue of transfer students being admitted very late and questioned whether registration dates have changed.
 - 1. Dickson indicated that this semester was an anomaly due to recruitment of football
 - ii. Kang asked when the WN will be available; Dickson suggested this will not be available this semester as the date has already passed. Raynovich responded that students can also be dropped at midterm
 - iii. Wannah expressed concern about “DFW” and feeling that this is being held against faculty. Raynovich suggested Wannah make an action item
 - d. Strengthening Financial and Administrative Support for Faculty Research and Dissemination (**Appendix D**)
- G. Standing Committee Reports`
 - a. Executive Committee
 - i. Campus Concerns
 - 1. Closure
 - a. Reason for modality change (Monday, 1/26/26)- weather
 - b. Modality (Remote) - clarification

- i. Are faculty required to meet with the class via Zoom/Teams during class time, or give an interactive assignment (without meeting)?
 - c. Timing of Notification (Sunday 1/25/26 night)
 - i. Buck will bring the timing of notification policy to Academic Affairs committee
 - b. ad hoc Committee (Student Evaluations)
 - i. Report (**Appendix E**)
 - ii. Proposal
 - 1. Questions presented are for everyone aside from Pharmacy; Blakely will work separately with Pharmacy
 - 2. [Fazal raised the concern of low number of students completing evaluations. Is it appropriate to make decisions based on a handful of students who complete the evaluation?]
 - 3. Motion carried with 17 yes, 2 no 1 abstention
 - 4. New questions will be implemented fall 2026
 - c. Rules and Operations Committee
 - i. Elections
 - 1. February – Senate elections (**Appendix F**)
 - a. New Senators will be announced at March meeting
 - 2. March - Nominations
 - a. Senate Officers (2 yr appointment)
 - b. IBHE Representative (4 yr appointment; receives cues. Question of whether Faculty Emeritus can be IBHE rep (Rowan: desire is for the Rep to be an employee of CSU)
 - c. APERC
 - d. ROC
 - 3. April – Ballots
 - ii. Constitution and Bylaws
 - 1. Transition from Gmail to Sharepoint has resulted in loss of certain changes to the documents; group must reassemble. Note that if less than 10% of the bylaws have been changed, then a General Assembly of the faculty does not need to vote
- H. New Business
 - a. ICE Concerns
 - i. Note there is a CSU ICE Protocol website
 - ii. Laosebikan suggested having a separate discussion about ICE protocols; Gomez suggested this would be with all faculty

1. Baker-Kimmons moved for the Faculty Senate establish a working group to assist in developing policies and practices to mitigate harm and intervene with a SAFE (Support, Advocacy, Foundations, and Empowerment) Program. The Senate requests a discussion with faculty and members of CASA with an initial occurring before March 9, 2026 among appropriate Administrators and faculty and CASA; Gomez seconded. Working group members would be Jubilee Dickson, Michael Wannah, Olanipekun Laosebikan, Brent In: motion carried with 18 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstention
 - b. Faculty Portfolio- did not discuss
1. Adjournment
 - a. Watkins moved to adjourn, Gala seconded > approved by unanimous consent 2:00

Appendix A

Rules of the Day

1. All Senators and guests shall have their full name as their Zoom signature.
2. All Senators shall send a private direct message to the Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Yashika Watkins, for purposes of taking attendance and census for voting and quorum.
3. Time-recording
 - a. The President shall keep use a timer to keep the Faculty Senate
 - b. The Parliamentarian will assist in keeping time and may compel the Faculty Senate to move to the next agenda item.
4. Only those who are recognized by the President of Faculty Senate shall speak.
 - a. All Senators shall mute when not recognized.
5. Senators may speak on any Action at most twice during any action, the first time for two minutes and the second time for thirty seconds
6. To speak, a Senator shall put the “hand” up in the Zoom feature reactions.
7. All Action Items shall be voted on via Zoom polls.
 - a. Only Senators shall vote in the Zoom polls.
 - b. The polls shall be anonymous.
 - c. The Parliamentarian and the President of Faculty Senate shall unanimously agree that the tally is the sense of the Senate.

Appendix B

Title: Grants that impact College and/or University curriculum

Senate Committee: Academic Affairs Committee

Senate Meeting Date for Consideration: 5/6/2025

Sponsor: Sarah Buck

Co-Sponsor: Leslie Baker-Kimmons

Proposed Action

Context/Rationale

The purpose of this recommendation is to address the concern of grant proposals that include curricular changes that affect students across the university, specifically for General Education requirements.

Exact Language of the Proposed Action

All grants that will propose a General Education change must seek prior approval from the Gen Ed Committee before grant submission. Successful grants with course creation or changes will still require the full, standard curriculum approval processes.

STATEMENT FROM THE PROVOST (November 7, 2025):

The Provost recognizes and affirms that the curriculum is the purview of the faculty. While Chairs, Deans, and other Administrative leaders can support and recommend changes, the faculty must initiate all curriculum actions. In light of this, any grant proposal, either federal, state, congressional specifications, or private, shall not require changes to the general education curriculum.

Appendix C

Title: Request a University Calendar for all Upcoming Changes and Updates

Senate Meeting Date for Consideration: 11/4/2025

Sponsor: Soo Kang

Co-Sponsor: ?

Context/Rationale

Each department operates on its own schedule, hence multiple changes and upgrades that directly affect CSU community have occurred simultaneously, disrupting daily operation, particularly class instruction. A coordination of all departments from IT, CTRE, Physical Facilities and other parties that implement changes will reduce too many overlaps and can lead to a more conducive schedule that the community members can manage and prepare for, if the changes are communicated early.

Exact Language of the Proposed Action

Request Administration to create a University Calendar of changes and updates that directly impact campus operation and require action from the campus community. All relevant departments must submit their planned dates for changes to the Calendar, avoiding the dates that are already taken and considering class instruction in session.

Appendix D

Title: Strengthening Financial and Administrative Support for Faculty Research and Dissemination

Senate Meeting Date for Consideration: 12/2/2025

Committee/Sponsor: Dr. Elaina Khasawneh

Co-Sponsor: Dr. Gabriel Gomez

Context/Rationale

The University's allocation of three research CUEs is an important step toward supporting faculty scholarship. However, time alone is not sufficient to meet the expectations outlined in many DACs. Faculty are required to engage in activities such as presenting at national or international conferences, publishing in peer-reviewed journals (often with significant open-access or indexing fees), and securing external grants. Current financial support, such as the \$1,000 provided through CTRE, rarely covers even a single conference or publication, leaving many faculty to shoulder substantial costs personally.

Requiring faculty to pay these expenses up front and wait for reimbursement places an additional and often inequitable financial burden on faculty. Not all faculty have the means to cover large expenses in advance, and the reimbursement process is unnecessarily lengthy, sometimes taking months to complete. This creates barriers that disproportionately affect those with fewer financial resources and can delay or jeopardize important scholarly activities.

Additionally, rigid internal deadlines, such as those governing vendor registration, further complicate the timely payment of legitimate academic expenses. Without case-by-case exceptions, time-sensitive research activities can be disrupted, contradicting the University's stated commitment to supporting faculty scholarship.

By ensuring that financial support meets at least the minimum DAC requirements, streamlining administrative processes, and directly covering eligible expenses whenever possible, the University can create a fairer, more efficient, and more supportive environment for faculty scholarship and professional advancement.

Exact Language of the Proposed Action

The Faculty Senate respectfully requests that the University provide guaranteed financial support that, at minimum, covers the scholarly activities required by each department's Departmental Application Criteria (DAC). Furthermore, we recommend that the University establish mechanisms to pay eligible research-related expenses directly, rather than requiring faculty to pay out of pocket and seek reimbursement. In addition, we urge the adoption of more flexible administrative procedures, including exception policies for time-sensitive expenses such as

vendor registration and publication fees, to ensure that internal processes effectively support faculty research productivity.

Appendix E

Title: Unify the Course Evaluations Questions

Senate Meeting Date for Consideration: 2/3/2026

Committee/Sponsor: ad hoc Committee

Proposed Action

Context/Rationale

Faculty Senate passed the following Actions at the November 2025 Session of the Faculty Senate: Actions from 11/4/2025 that were passed:

Watkins moved to have new student evaluations in place for fall 2026, Khasawneh seconded > motion approved 16 yes, 5 no, 1 abstention

Kang moved to form a committee with representatives from different colleges to work with Blakely on the redesign, Gomez seconded > motion carried 17 yes, 5 no

Buck moved to have three questions from each main group to yield 12 questions total on student evaluations, Gomez seconded > motion carried 21 yes, 9 no

The Committee was formed at the December 2025 Senate Session and included the following members:

The following faculty were on the committee: Tatjana Petrova, Elaina Khasawneh, Charlene Snelling, Yashika Watkins, and Carlette Bailey with Brandle Blakely as the CTRE Director.

They unanimously passed the following set of questions to be used for CSU Course Evaluations:

[CSU Universal Course Evaluation Final.docx](#)

CSU Universal Course Evaluation

Section A: Course Design, Organization, and Learning Experience

Response Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree | 2 = Disagree | 3 = Neutral | 4 = Agree | 5 = Strongly Agree

1. The learning objectives for the course were stated clearly and were supported by the course materials (readings, labs, modules, videos).

5 4 3 2 1

2. The grading and evaluation system were explained.

5 4 3 2 1

3. The course structure (schedule, modules, sequence of topics) allowed me to follow the progression of learning.

5 4 3 2 1

4. Instructions for assignments, assessments, and activities were clear and understandable and aligned with the learning objectives.

5 4 3 2 1

5. The course provided opportunities to engage with the content (e.g., demonstrations, discussions, labs, online activities).

5 4 3 2 1

6. The learning environment promoted respectful and inclusive participation.

5 4 3 2 1

7. The course materials were organized in a way that made them easy to navigate and locate and (met accessibility standards.- to be added after software purchased approved and trainings provided)

5 4 3 2 1

8. Please provide any comments or suggestions you may have about the course:

Section B: Instructor Questions

Response Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree | 2 = Disagree | 3 = Neutral | 4 = Agree | 5 = Strongly Agree

9. The instructor communicated course expectations clearly.

5 4 3 2 1

10. The instructor provided examples, demonstrations, or explanations that clarified key course concepts.

5 4 3 2 1

11. The instructor provided feedback that helped me understand my performance.

5 4 3 2 1

12. The instructor was accessible for questions or assistance (office hours, email, online messages) and communicated in a timely manner.

5 4 3 2 1

13. The instructor used instructional materials in a way that supported learning.

5 4 3 2 1

14. The instructor fostered a respectful and inclusive learning environment.

5 4 3 2 1

15. Please provide any comments or suggestions you may have about the instructor:

Exact Language of the Proposed Action

The ad hoc Committee recommends the aforementioned single standardized evaluation for all modalities (asynchronous, synchronous, and in-person).

Appendix F

Senate elections

Link to positions: [FacultySenators2025-2026.xlsx](#)

Group 3: Term for 2023-2026. A subsequent election will occur in March 2023 for a term which will extend from 2023-2026

Department:

Social Work 1

ArtandDesign 1

Education Studies 1

English&ForeignLanguage&Literature 1

Music 1

Management,Marketing&InformationSystems 1