



College Senate Summary

April 24, 2026

Video Link: <https://ctstate.edu/college-senate-videos>

College Senate met 4/24/2026, to review the Committee Reports, Elections, Strategic Planning, CFT and Pausing English 0930, and FOIA.

Call to Order & Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM. The agenda was amended to remove CFO Kerry Kelly's presentation, as she was presenting to the General Assembly regarding collective bargaining agreements. The amended agenda was accepted without objection.

Minutes

The March meeting minutes were found to be missing the Council of Staff report in its entirety. Amended minutes will be recirculated following the meeting.

Chair's Report

- **Sen. Peter Bennett** was recognized for service as a founding member of College Senate, as this was his final meeting. QV senators will be absent in May due to a commencement conflict.
- **Freedom of Information Commission:** Senate will not pursue a declaratory ruling at this time due to insufficient senator response. This item was later revisited under New Business.
- **Executive Officer Elections:** Senate conducted its first-ever executive officer elections — a historic milestone for the body.
- **May Meeting:** Committee recommendations are expected. Senators were asked to respond to input requests promptly.
- **Commencement Committee:** Remains without a chair. Data was collected from 10 of 12 campuses. Institutional memory loss was flagged as a risk, with some campuses already lacking records from 2018. Continuation next year was strongly encouraged.
- **Senator Request — Tracking Document:** A request was raised to create a running document listing all items requiring senator feedback and corresponding deadlines.



Executive Council and the Senate secretary will collaborate to maintain this in the Teams workspace.

President's Report — President Christina Royal

- **Remembrance:** The community was invited to reflect on the loss of four members: Jim Wilkinson (faculty, Asnuntuck), David England (educational assistant, Middlesex), Diane Hillier (mathematics professor, Manchester — nearly 40 years of service), and Ryan Anderson (student, Westconn/CT State Naugatuck Valley).
- **Strategic Planning:** The President met with the steering committee and acknowledged the significant work underway. Campus engagement sessions are ongoing, with a summer deep dive planned and a draft strategic plan expected to be shared at the start of next academic year.
- **Presidential Speaker Series:** Next session scheduled for Wednesday at 11:00 AM featuring Dr. Darian Pollard, President and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges. A college-wide reminder and calendar invite will be sent Monday.
- **Connecticut Career Pathways Commission:** President Royal was appointed by Governor Lamont to serve on this commission, chaired by former U.S. Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona. Focus areas include credential alignment, work-based learning, funding efficiency, and reducing barriers for students. Timeline runs through end of year.
- **VP of HR Search:** Timeline extended to allow adequate vetting of candidates. Completion this semester remains the goal.
- **CSCU North Star Framework:** The Board of Regents is developing a system-wide directional framework built on the ACT pillars — Accessibility, Completion, and Talent. Clarified as a complement to, not a replacement for, CT State's institutional strategic plan. Feedback from Senate and Cabinet was submitted; minor adjustments are being made at the board level.

Interim Appointments Committee — Facilitated Report

VP of HR Ruth Spencer presented on interim appointment practices, focusing on management confidential positions.

Key points:



- There are currently **132 interim appointments**, representing 2% of the total employee population.
- Interim appointments are used to fill leadership voids, grant-funded time-limited roles, vacancies during searches, and long-term medical or military leaves.
- A **domino effect** occurs when internal staff backfill vacancies, creating chains of interim positions — compounded by contractual return rights.
- There are currently **150 vacancies** being actively searched.
- Salary increases for interim MCs are capped at **6–10%** based on experience and education. Bargaining unit positions receive current salary plus one step increase.
- All positions are reviewed through an **RTF meeting** process involving finance, HR, and campus leadership.
- Interim appointments are supervised by the appointing supervisor and may be released without objection if performance is unsatisfactory.

Outstanding data requests (VP Spencer to follow up):

- Number of interim positions filled by calendar year (2023–2026)
- Titles and duration of interim roles in management and administration
- Breakdown by campus and college office
- Planned interim appointments for the remainder of the year

Senate emphasized the need for **clear, consistent, and uniform standard operating procedures** governing how interim positions are prioritized and filled across all campuses and position types.

Bylaws Amendment

A bylaws amendment was adopted by unanimous consent to align the bylaws with the standing rules adopted at the March 6 meeting, permitting executive officer elections to be held at the regular April meeting rather than in May.

Executive Officer Elections

Senate conducted its first-ever elected executive officer elections. Results (33 votes cast):

Position	Elected Officer	Vote
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President	Sen. Roberta Prior	19–13
VP of Staff	Sen. Felisha Guirand-Fleurimond	27–5
VP of Faculty	Sen. Allan Ballinger	18–15
Secretary	Sen. Bonnie Goulet	Proclaimed by acclamation (sole candidate)

Unfinished Business — Academic Integrity & Grade Review

Three motions were presented and passed by unanimous consent, requesting the Provost issue formal written guidance on:

Motion 1: Clarify the body or bodies responsible for adjudicating academic misconduct, affirm faculty authority to determine academic penalties, define roles of faculty and administrators, establish evidentiary standards, and provide consistent timelines and procedural expectations. Motion carried with unanimous consent.

Motion 2: Clarify how prohibited AI use will be classified under existing definitions of cheating and plagiarism, affirm faculty authority over acceptable AI use in their courses, and provide interim guidance while broader AI policies are developed. Motion carried with unanimous consent.

Motion 3: Require that draft guidance be shared with Deans' Council, Deans with academic misconduct review experience, and College Senate for review before finalization, with faculty representation across disciplines and campuses. Motion carried with unanimous consent.

Strategic Planning Update

Senators were reminded to complete the Microsoft Forms survey from the senator perspective — distinct from campus-level surveys. Responses are anonymous and will be shared with President Royal and the steering committee. Data has been gathered from students, employees, and foundation board members across all campuses; senator input is the remaining voice needed.



Center for Teaching — Travel Policy Request

Motion passed by unanimous consent: Senate requests CSCU and the Board of Regents modify the CSCU Travel Procedures Manual to allow in-state overnight lodging for multi-day faculty conferences without requiring case-by-case exceptions.

New Business — English 0930 Pause

Sen. Ballinger brought forward a motion regarding the administration's decision to pause the offering of English 0930, a developmental English course offered primarily at Gateway and Housatonic campuses, without consultation with key stakeholders or adherence to shared governance processes.

Key facts presented:

- English 0930 is a 3-credit developmental course serving students approximately at a 9th-grade English proficiency level.
- The course has a reported 71% success rate at Gateway.
- The Provost's office communicated the pause via an Acme fellow rather than directly to faculty and English chairs.
- CCET and the English Discipline Council submitted written communication stating they were not formally engaged or consulted prior to the decision.
- Placement metrics were also changed after the schedule was live, without formal notification to chairs until after spring break.
- The Provost acknowledged the communication timeline could have been better and indicated the intent was to pause — not sunset — the course, citing Acme policy, board mandates, and outcome data showing students in the corequisite model (English 0910/1010) complete college-level English at a 74–75% rate in the first year, compared to 29–31% for students beginning in English 0930.
- Faculty representatives raised concerns about equity across urban campuses, student literacy levels, workload impact, and the adequacy of student supports for the transition.

Motion passed (18 in favor, 6 opposed, 3 abstentions): Senate requests that CCET and the English CDC jointly conduct a comprehensive review of the decision to pause English 0930, submit a formal recommendation to Senate and the Provost, and that any action to pause the



course be immediately suspended until the review is completed and considered through established shared governance processes.

Generative AI Policy — Campus Feedback

The Provost requested that Senate share campus feedback on the CSCU Generative AI Policy for reporting to the Board's Academic and Student Affairs Committee.

The policy was described as well-written, preserving academic freedom and providing faculty flexibility. Two specific feedback items were raised:

1. Language referencing "on ground" environments may not adequately address online and off-campus contexts.
2. A question was raised about whether AI-generated email communications are appropriately addressed in current syllabus language.

Feedback will be compiled and submitted to the appropriate board committee.

New Business — Freedom of Information Declaratory Ruling

Motion passed (30 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention): Incoming and outgoing executive officers are charged with preparing and submitting a petition for a declaratory ruling from the Freedom of Information Commission regarding College Senate's obligations under open meeting laws. The petition is to be submitted by **June 1, 2026**, with copies distributed to college senators, the CT State President, and CSCU General Counsel and Compliance.

Closing Remarks

Sen. Peter Bennett offered farewell remarks encouraging Senate to extend grace to one another, keep students at the center, and remain vigilant against negativity.

Next Meeting

- CFO Kerry Kelly's presentation will return to the agenda.
- Provost Hynick will provide an update on CDG and CDC requests.



- Committee recommendations will come forward — senators were urged to distribute materials as early as possible.

Adjourned at 11:45 am

Regards,

Bonnie L. Solivan

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