

Academic Senate Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2024

Members Present: J. Spjut (President), S. Buchbinder (Vice President); B. Kaufman (Curriculum Coordinator); B. Alves; J. Andersen; J. Battye; P. Clifford; B. Clinton; B. Dubovsky-Porter, N. Germain; K. Griffiths; D. Hernandez; M. Hall; J. Knapp; Phill Lemieux, J. Lewis; B. D. Lynch; E. Michalski; E. Pagano; M. Philion; D. Rimkus; C. Shirshac; T. Shizume; S. Van Orden; D. Walsh; K. Zvoma

- Meeting convened at 2:04 pm.
- **Approval of October Minutes.** The motion was made by S. Buchbinder and seconded by J. Spjut. The motion passed unanimously by poll vote.
- **CT State Senate Report** – Jayne Battye shared her summary.
 - a. The Human services SDC motion QV proposed was approved.
 - b. Shared Services Update:
 - 1. The Senate has raised concerns about shared services, including when the surplus will be distributed, how policy and staffing is being decided, and Ellucian changes (e.g., Home Campus search is still pending).
 - 2. President Elle requested to meet with Chancellor Cheng about shared services with CSU. The meeting is scheduled for November 26.
 - c. CT State Senate representatives will be in the CEO shared governance monthly meetings going forward.
 - d. See the [CT State Senate Report to QV Senate Nov.docx](#)
- **Curriculum Coordination** – Brian Kaufman
 - a. If you're bringing proposals, let the Senate know ahead of time we can offer support.
 - b. Updates:
 - 1. English for Speakers of Other Languages: An ESOL Certificate offered by QV was removed against QV's wishes. This vote happened and is final.
 - 2. Early Childhood: There are 2 current curriculum changes being considered:
 - 1. Proposed one Early Childhood associate degree and a Pathways to Teaching degree
 - 2. Termination of the transfer degree
 - 3. Human Services: Current SDC submission updates to AS (one degree with tracks) and termination of current 5 AS degrees.

4. Medical Assisting: There is a modification to the pre-req course to a medical terminology class (missed in the APRC process).
- c. Report on faculty union issues for upcoming contract (Sara Van Orden, Union Rep)
 1. Discussions about workload (4/4 vs 5/5 for post 2017). There are calls to add Additional Responsibilities back into the contract.
 1. There is informal stated support from President and Provost.
 2. The union is asking people to request course release for labor (and contact the union if the release is rejected)
 2. Course caps
 3. DC/PC compensation is different depending on the program and campus and there are calls to standardize.
- **Faculty Advisory Committee Report** – Jon Andersen
 - a. FAC is a sub-committee of the BOR and meets with chair and vice chair. See FAC meeting recordings and minutes archived:
<https://www.ct.edu/regents/archives?yr=AllYears&committee=Faculty>
 - b. Current issues:
 1. NCHEM Report: NCHEM was hired by CT OPM for 250K (<https://nchems.org/>)
 1. There were recommendations to cut faculty
 2. See [NCHEMS Diagnostic Report 240830-2.docx](#)
 3. ACT (Accessibility, Completion, and Talent).
 1. The goal of ACT is to increase diversity and the worker pipeline to education. See the ACT minutes and meeting videos are posted:
<https://www.ct.edu/act#goals>
 2. There are 9 goals (3 for each area).
 1. There's a mandate to create KPIs by the BOR, not happened yet.
 2. Faculty feedback was that the narrow focus on degree plan classes can be helpful for finishing but can be limited (e.g., nursing students interested in psychiatric nursing can't take most mental health classes).
 - **General Education Committee** Update – Brian Donohue-Lynch
 - a. B. Lynch is on the subcommittee on assessment.
 - b. The committee has not set up bylaws or processes and the discussion will be tabled until the fall (e.g., term limits).
 1. Discussion: This committee will be important since there will likely be jockeying for inclusion of courses in gen-ed so increase enrollment in courses. The committees will determine a process for inclusion.
 - c. Motion from B. Lynch tabled for time. "I will then move to approve the action of the General Education Committee to postpone discussion of a voting timeline and term specifications until the beginning of the 2024-25 academic year."
 - **CT State DEI Committee** – QV Campus member request

- a. Curriculum Congress Chair Jason Seabury requests a QV faculty member join the new DEI Committee (meets monthly with a 1 credit release).
 1. There were no volunteers at the meeting and J. Spjut asked Jason Seabury for more information about the committee and the compensation, since QV is a small campus and it's hard to fill state-wide committees.
 2. This is an important committee and it's important to have the right person.
- **QV Academic Senate Website** – the [draft website](#) now houses Staff Senate as well.
 - a. The website is still being drafted.
- **Update on Feedback on Campus Shared Governance** (sent from Jakob Spjut and Logan Tashea).
 - a. They sent The CT State President Elle Van Dermark information about the QV Academic and Staff Senate structure and procedures.
- **Open Meeting Law**
 - a. Provost Hynick says [Interim General Counsel](#) Vita Litvin asserts that Campus Governance (including Academic Senate) would likely fall under [Open Meeting Law](#) about public meetings:
 1. Public meetings (Senates, Curriculum Congress). Here is language from the law:
 - *WHAT MEETINGS OF A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY BODY CONSTITUTE PUBLIC MEETINGS? A meeting of a multimember college or university body (such as a board of trustees or faculty senate) is a public meeting if such meeting constitutes a "hearing or other proceeding" of that body, or is a "convening or assembly of a quorum of" that body, or consists of "communication by or to a quorum of" that body "to discuss or act upon a matter over which the public [institution] has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power." (Emphasis added.) xxvii*
 - b. Public meetings would require the following: (we are not in compliance):
 1. We need to record all how each person votes on non-unanimous votes (polls).
 2. We need to post minutes online within 7 days and voting record within 48 hours.
 3. We must post our agenda online 24 hours before the meeting and we would need 2/3 approval to add an item to the agenda in the meeting if it's not on the posted agenda.
 4. We must be open to the public for observation.
 5. We must file our yearly meeting schedule with the Secretary of State or Town Clerk by Jan 31
 6. No local governance is currently in compliance.
 - c. Question if we qualify as a public agency. We make recommendations and resolutions, but not policy. Higher education is different from other agencies who make laws and policy.
 1. This distinction was upheld in accessibility standards being different in higher education than other public agencies.
 2. This is onerous on the Senate leadership
 - Will this be compensated?
 - Would this extend to all committees on campus including cultural programming?
 3. What will the impact of this policy be if adopted? Will committees meet less often? Will there be a chilling effect on no confidence votes if management can attend and see minutes with votes by individual members?

4. Does this guidance required that we follow this? It's not in writing.
- d. **Motion: The QV-Academic Senate does not believe it meets the definition of a public agency and should not, therefore, be subject to the burdensome protocol of public meeting guidelines. We request that the CT State Senate advocate this position.**
 1. The motion was made by J. Andersen and seconded by P. Lemieux. Passed with 17 votes and 2 abstentions.
- Chancellor Cheng - Housatonic Statement and discussion
 - a. Allegations of improper use of state funds (e.g., some allowed but poor leadership). J. Spjut shared the articles about the investigations and statements by Housatonic and Northwestern campuses.
 - b. Tabled for discussion next month.

A motion to adjourn was made to M Phillion and seconded by B. Alves. The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 pm.