



Special Meeting of Academic & Staff Senate

Meeting Minutes

Feb 10, 2025

Leadership Present:

Academic Senate: J. Spjut (President), S. Buchbinder (Vice President); B. Kaufman (Curriculum Coordinator)

Staff Senate: Ryan King (Vice President)

- **Special Meeting Called in Response to the State Comptroller's Report on CSU Finances**
 - Concern about Chancellors spending irregularly. Meeting to discuss and respond if needed, but the CT State Senate has already voted No Confidence on 2/6/25.
 - Alessandra's Note on the Comptrollers Report Re: P-Card Use
 - The report listed improper P-Card uses such as office supplies, flowers, decorations, and laundry that can be permitted.
 - The Comptroller is reviewing to see why the report listed these as restricted use.
 - For more detail, see 1/30 State Audit Report: https://wp.cga.ct.gov/apa/wp-content/cgacustom/reports/special/SPECIAL_Connecticut%20State%20Colleges%20and%20Universities%20Executive%20Leadership%20Spending_20250130.pdf
- **CT State Senate Special Meeting (Thursday 2/6) – 3 hours in Executive Session**
 - February 6th three hours spent in Executive Session
 - Endorsed a Resolution of No Confidence in Chancellor Cheng for CSU.
 - The vote was 31-2 in favor of this action.
 - Request immediate transition and ethical leadership.
 - QV CT State Senator Context
 - The CT State Senate asked to be kept informed in the investigation process.
 - Resolution was passed after 3-hour Executive Session discussion including 2 student representatives.
 - Upset at the Chancellor's failures as the figurehead and chief fundraiser/ambassador.
 - Remaining questions: Were other executives involved? What is the BORs role in this?
 - Email from Chancellor Cheung (Friday 2/7)
 - He acknowledged wrongdoing and calls to do better (no plans to resign)

- Only Governor Lamont can fire him.
 - Feedback
 - Concern about the potential long-term trickle down effect from the Reports and No Confidence Vote (e.g., legislature, public). Will there be more oversight? More austerity?
- **Motion: Endorse the No Confidence endorsed by the CT State Senate**
 - Academic Senate motion to endorse the resolution by Kudzai seconded by Shelley.
 - Vote will be held remotely over Teams in the next 48 hours.
 - The remote vote **passed** 21-0 in favor
 - Staff Senate will vote on the motion in their next meeting.
 - Discussion
 - We need more support for the resolution from the four years.
 - ECSU and Central have begun the process
 - ECSU had a vote of no confidence last year concerned their President search process.
- **Calls to Draft a Statement Beyond Endorsing the Resolution.**
 - How to ask administrators to be more accountable AND not make highly restricted/limited resources for faculty and staff more restricted.
 - Do executives need enforcement from external oversight OR do we need to replace higher leadership.
 - Shelley drafted during the meeting (edited by Jakob): “The QV Academic/ Staff Senates affirm that our campus uses responsible fiscal practices to focus our funds on students’ education and services. The concerns with the chancellors’ questionable fiscal practices are above the campus level and should not negatively impact campus operations or funds.”
 - Feedback: The campus no longer does its accounting so can’t attest to if we are fiscally responsible.
 - Could replace *fiscal responsibility* with: directly addressing the needs of students with already limited (austere) staffing and resources.