



CT State Senate March 2025 Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2025, Meeting CT State College Senate	
Time:	12:30pm-4:43pm
Senators:	Elle Van Dermark, Seth Freeman, Allan J. Ballinger, Asantewa Dawson, Luz Londono Diaz, Jill Flanigan, Robyn-Jay Bage, Riaz Lalani, Topher Logan, Jayne Battye, Nicola Ricker, Mark Milewski, Bonnie Solivan, Roberta Prior, Jennifer Natoli, Vince McCann, Jeremy Withnell, Stephen Kittredge, Peter Bennett, Brian Keiser, Sandra Vitale, Thayre Trzepacz, Marsha Bryant, Mia Samsel, Aja Shabana, Bonnie Goulet, Melissa Bettigole, Hannah Moeckel-Rieke, Nicole Marcoux-Bowen, Joseph Selvaggio, Michelle Giannakopoulos, Joseph Cullen, Michael Panicello, Chris Murphy, Darren Mack
Absent Senators:	Felisha Guirand-Fleurimond, Phillip Fox, China Byrd, Ariel Robinson, Leesa Cabrera
Guests:	Karen Hynick, Martin Guay, Terrance Cheng, John Maduko
Attended:	Andrew Pelletier, Anna Krupitskiy, Ashley Labbadia, Cristine Marceau, Cherelle Giammarino, Christine Cherry, Denise Walsh, John Caruso, Evelyn Rogers, Erin Mulhern, Nelson Jennifer, James Patterson, Janice A. Cousino, Jennifer Gray, Jill Rushbrook, Josiah Ricardo, Julie Austin, Kailey Baker, Kathleen Czarnota, Kimberly Wood, Krissy Larrow, Lisa Boyko, Logan Tashea, Lois Aime, Lois Kelley, Luciano Mastrangeli, Margaret Malaspina, Mark Gore, Mary Ellen, Marryellen Jukoski, Mary F. Lawrence, Megan DeLivron, Melissa Sirois, Michael Rooke, Michelle Coach, Pamela Walsh, Patricia Feliciano, Phyllis Brown, Ronna Brier, Rose Luglio, Sarah Perez
CT State Executive Council:	

President: Elle Van Dermark

Vice President (Staff): Roberta Prior

Vice President (Faculty): Joe Selvaggio

Secretary: Stephen Kittredge

Student Senators: Christina Murphy, Darren Mack, Leesa Cabrera

Agenda

1. Approve Agenda

- a. Motion to approve: Sen. Roberta Prior
 - i. Seconded: Sen. Sandra Vitale

2. Approve Previous Meetings Minutes

- a. Minutes are accepted as presented.

3. Welcome: College Senate President Elle Van Dermark

- a. Asked for feedback regarding drafts of recommendations and policies that are due at the end of next week, NECHE visit on April 6-8, delegation of College Senators met with Governor Lamont. They addressed morale, costs associated with being an open access institution and the need to fund Early College and Dual Enrollment, reliable funding model needed, meeting with President Maduko, and felt the meeting went well.

4. CT State President Remarks – President John Maduko

- a. Updates regarding CT State:

- i. Federal, National, & State Developments: Executive order regarding US Dept. ED, Student Loan Portfolio, universities shuttering DEI divisions, and \$149 million cut from CT Department of Health. Additional overview of the Federal Funding CT State receives. CT State stands by our DEI mission and values but there maybe also be legal issues as federal policies escalate. There are strategies to get around this but emphasizes the need to be careful.
- ii. US Department of ED Dear Colleague Letter: there will be virtual town halls, and similar meetings for Campus Foundations.
- iii. CSCU & CT State: finalizing plans and schedule for Focused Visit, Tunxis opening the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, preparing response to proposed Shared Governance Changes, and lunch with Governor Lamont. Student humanitarian statuses are being revoked federally and there will be assessments to gauge the impact.

5. Guests

a. Chancellor Cheng - Vote of No Confidence

- i. Answered questions regarding his and others p-card usage, institutional trust, reserves, the Charter Oak Scaling Taskforce, his legislative testimony regarding hiring of full-time and part-time faculty, and concerns of using graduation rates for student success.

b. Board of Regents Chair Martin Guay

- i. Answered questions regarding graduation rates as a measure for student success, p-card usage in our system, provided clarification on the Charter Oak Scaling Taskforce, Cheng's legislative testimony regarding limits on part-time and full-time faculty, Cheng's ability to advocate and rebuild trust for the system, position benefits of the chancellor, reserves and its' utilization, and provided his opinion on if a chancellor should live in Connecticut or not.

Break: 2:25 PM

Resume: 2:35 PM

6. Council and Committee Reports

a. Sen. Nicola Ricker, Chair of the Bylaws Committee

i. Proposed Changes to Bylaws

1. Motion made by the Bylaws Committee to add "classified" to Art III Section 1 to read "professional/classified staff".

a. Approved: 29

- i. Senator Votes: Sen. Stephen Kittredge, Sen. Elle Van Dermark, Sen. Roberta Prior, Sen. Joseph Selvaggio, Sen. Asantewa Dawson, Sen. Allan Ballinger, Sen. Chris Murphy, Sen. Riaz Lalani, Sen. Michelle Giannakopoulos, Sen. Jill Flanigan, Sen. Nicola Ricker, Sen. Melissa Bettigole, Sen. Mark Milewski, Sen. Jennifer Natoli, Sen. Robyn-Jay Bage, Sen. Vince McCann, Sen. Jeremy Withnell, Sen. Nicole

Marcoux-Bowen, Sen. Thayre Trzepacz, Sen. Luz Londono Diaz, Sen. Aja Shabana, Sen. Brian Keiser, Sen. Bonnie Goulet, Sen. Joseph Cullen, Sen. Michael Panicello, Sen. Jayne Battye, Sen. Mia Samsel, Sen. Hannah Moeckel-Rieke, Sen. Topher Logan

b. Opposed: 0

c. Abstained: 0

d. Did Not Vote: 6

i. Sen. Bonnie Solivan, Sen. Peter Bennett, Sen. Sandra Vitale, Sen. Marsha Bryant, Sen. Darren Mack, Sen. Seth Freeman.

1. The motion carries.

2. Increase student representation to one student College Senator for each campus and the creation of a Council of Students

a. Motion made by the Bylaws Committee to accept the amendment as written.

b. Motion to post-pone this amendment until the April meeting.

i. Motion made by Sen. Bonnie Solivan

1. Seconded by Sen. Topher Logan

2. Approved: 33

a. Senator Votes: Sen. Stephen Kittredge, Sen. Elle Van Dermark, Sen. Roberta Prior, Sen. Joseph Selvaggio, Sen. Asantewa Dawson, Sen. Allan Ballinger, Sen. Chris Murphy, Sen. Riaz Lalani, Sen. Michelle Giannakopoulos, Sen. Jill Flanigan, Sen. Nicola Ricker, Sen. Melissa Bettigole, Sen. Mark Milewski, Sen. Jennifer Natoli, Sen. Robyn-Jay Bage, Sen. Jeremy Withnell, Sen. Nicole Marcoux-Bowen, Sen. Thayre Trzepacz, Sen. Luz Londono Diaz, Sen. Aja Shabana, Sen. Brian Keiser, Sen. Bonnie Goulet, Sen. Joseph Cullen, Sen. Michael Panicello, Sen. Jayne Battye, Sen. Mia Samsel, Sen. Hannah Moeckel-Rieke, Sen. Topher Logan, Sen. Sandra Vitale, Sen. Bonnie Solivan, Sen. Darren Mack

3. Opposed: 1

a. Senator Votes: Sen. Marsha Bryant

4. Abstained: 1

a. Senator Votes: Sen. Vince McCann

5. Did Not Vote:

a. The motion carries.

3. Add new language that College Senate meets monthly on the fourth Friday.

a. Motion made by the Bylaws Committee to accept the amendment as written.

i. Approved: 33

1. Senators voted: Sen. Stephen Kittredge, Sen. Elle Van Dermark, Sen. Nicola Ricker, Sen. Roberta Prior, Sen. Joseph Selvaggio, Sen. Hannah Moeckel-Rieke, Sen. Topher Logan, Sen. Mark Milewski, Sen. Allan Ballinger, Sen. Sandra Vitale, Sen. Chris Murphy, Sen. Bonnie Solivan, Sen. Michelle Giannakopoulos, Sen. Jill Flanigan, Sen. Robyn-Jay Bage, Sen. Michael Panicello, Sen. Jennifer Natoli, Sen. Asantewa Dawson, Sen. Aja Sabana, Sen. Brian Keiser, Sen. Riaz Lalani, Sen. Peter Bennett, Sen. Jeremy Withnell, Sen. Vince McCann, Sen. Jayne Battye, Sen. Joseph Cullen, Sen. Mia Samsel, Sen. Thayre Trzepacz, Sen. Luz Londono Diaz, Sen. Nicole Marcoux-Bowen, Sen. Bonnie Goulet, Sen. Melissa Bettigole
- ii. Opposed: 0
- iii. Abstained: 1
 1. Senators Voted: Sen. Marsha Bryant
- iv. Did Not Vote: 1
 1. Sen. Darren Mack
 - a. The motion carries.
4. Strike majority language from Article 5 section to simplify and conform with our parliamentary authority.
 - a. Motion made by Bylaws Committee to accept the changed amendment as written.
 - i. Approved: 35
 1. Senators voted: Sen. Stephen Kittredge, Sen. Elle Van Dermark, Sen. Nicola Ricker, Sen. Roberta Prior, Sen. Joseph Selvaggio, Sen. Topher Logan, Sen. Allan Ballinger, Sen. Jill Flanigan, Sen. Chris Murphy, Sen. Aja Shabana, Sen. Jayne Battye, Sen. Mark Milewski, Sen. Jeremy Withnell, Sen. Asantewa Dawson, Sen. Riaz Lalani, Sen. Jennifer Natoli, Sen. Michelle Giannakopoulos, Sen. Marsha Bryant, Sen. Peter Bennett, Sen. Brian Keiser, Sen. Michael Panicello, Sen. Robyn-Jay Bage, Sen. Sandra Vitale, Sen. Thayre Trzepacz, Sen. Bonnie Solivan, Sen. Joseph Cullen, Sen. Melissa Bettigole, Sen. Vince McCann, Sen. Luz Londono Diaz, Sen. Bonnie Goulet, Sen. Darren Mack, Sen. Mia Samsel, Sen. Nicole Marcoux-Bowen, Sen. Hannah Moeckel-Rieke
 - ii. Opposed: 0
 - iii. Abstained: 0
 1. The motion carries.
5. Add new language that votes will be recorded and published in the minutes.
 - a. Motion made by Bylaws Committee to accept the changed amendment as written.
 - i. Approved: 33

1. Senators Voted: Sen. Stephen Kittredge, Sen. Elle Van Dermark, Sen. Nicola Ricker, Sen. Roberta Prior, Sen. Joseph Selvaggio, Sen. Topher Logan, Sen. Allan Ballinger, Sen. Jill Flanigan, Sen. Chris Murphy, Sen. Aja Shabana, Sen. Jayne Battye, Sen. Mark Milewski, Sen. Jeremy Withnell, Sen. Asantewa Dawson, Sen. Riaz Lalani, Sen. Jennifer Natoli, Sen. Michelle Giannakopoulos, Sen. Marsha Bryant, Sen. Peter Bennett, Sen. Brian Keiser, Sen. Michael Panicello, Sen. Robyn-Jay Bage, Sen. Sandra Vitale, Sen. Thayre Trzepacz, Sen. Bonnie Solivan, Sen. Joseph Cullen, Sen. Melissa Bettigole, Sen. Vince McCann, Sen. Luz Londono Diaz, Sen. Bonnie Goulet, Sen. Mia Samsel, Sen. Nicole Marcoux-Bowen, Sen. Hannah Moeckel-Rieke
- b. Opposed: 0
- c. Abstained: 1
 - i. Senators Voted: Sen. Allan Ballinger
- d. Did Not Vote: 1
 - i. Sen. Darren Mack
 1. The motion carries.
6. Add new language for Bylaws periodic review.
 - a. Motion made by Bylaws Committee to establish periodic review of bylaws.
 - i. Approved: 33
 1. Senators Voted: Sen. Stephen Kittredge, Sen. Elle Van Dermark, Sen. Nicola Ricker, Sen. Roberta Prior, Sen. Joseph Selvaggio, Sen. Topher Logan, Sen. Allan Ballinger, Sen. Jill Flanigan, Sen. Chris Murphy, Sen. Aja Shabana, Sen. Jayne Battye, Sen. Mark Milewski, Sen. Jeremy Withnell, Sen. Asantewa Dawson, Sen. Riaz Lalani, Sen. Jennifer Natoli, Sen. Michelle Giannakopoulos, Sen. Marsha Bryant, Sen. Peter Bennett, Sen. Brian Keiser, Sen. Michael Panicello, Sen. Robyn-Jay Bage, Sen. Sandra Vitale, Sen. Thayre Trzepacz, Sen. Bonnie Solivan, Sen. Joseph Cullen, Sen. Melissa Bettigole, Sen. Vince McCann, Sen. Luz Londono Diaz, Sen. Bonnie Goulet, Sen. Mia Samsel, Sen. Nicole Marcoux-Bowen, Sen. Hannah Moeckel-Rieke
 - b. Opposed: 1
 - i. Senator Votes: Sen. Marsha Bryant
 - c. Abstained: 0
 - d. Did Not Vote: 1
 - i. Sen. Darren Mack
 1. The motion carries.
7. Please see attached document "March 28 Report Amendment Table" for detailed proposed draft language.

ii. Creation of Standing Rules Document

1. The proposed first standing rule to be voted on is the College Senators' Responsibilities and Expectations. Please see attached document "Proposed Draft Rules Responsibilities and Expectations".

- a. Motion to adopt the Standing Rules as written.

- i. Motion to postpone this motion until the April meeting.
- ii. Motion made by Sen. Alan Ballinger
- iii. Seconded by Sen. Bonnie Solivan

1. Approved: 33

- a. Senators Voted: Sen. Stephen Kittredge, Sen. Elle Van Dermark, Sen. Nicola Ricker, Sen. Roberta Prior, Sen. Joseph Selvaggio, Sen. Topher Logan, Sen. Allan Ballinger, Sen. Jill Flanigan, Sen. Chris Murphy, Sen. Aja Shabana, Sen. Jayne Battye, Sen. Jeremy Withnell, Sen. Asantewa Dawson, Sen. Jennifer Natoli, Sen. Michelle Giannakopoulos, Sen. Marsha Bryant, Sen. Peter Bennett, Sen. Brian Keiser, Sen. Michael Panicello, Sen. Robyn-Jay Bage, Sen. Sandra Vitale, Sen. Thayre Trzepacz, Sen. Bonnie Solivan, Sen. Joseph Cullen, Sen. Melissa Bettigole, Sen. Vince McCann, Sen. Luz Londono Diaz, Sen. Bonnie Goulet, Sen. Mia Samsel, Sen. Nicole Marcoux-Bowen, Sen. Hannah Moeckel-Rieke, Sen. Darren Mack

2. Opposed: 1

- a. Sen. Mark Milewski

3. Abstained: 1

- a. Senators Voted: Sen. Riaz Lalani

4. The motion carries.

iii. Creation of Special Rules Document

1. Propose creating a document that lists procedural rules related to how the College Senate handles business.

iv. Ongoing discussions

1. Addition of Part-time representation as At-Large College Senator. Currently we are working to arrange a meeting with Seth and his guests to further the conversations on this matter.
2. Addition of language to phase out College Senators serving concurrently on both College Senate and Curriculum Congress.
3. Moving College Senate start time to 9:30am.
4. Adoption of general order of business, and procedures for establishing the agenda.

b. **Sen. Michelle Giannakopoulos, Chair of the Elections Committee**

- i. The committee met and is finalizing the list of faculty senators for next three years. Starting the preparation work for the election of officer positions. The deadline is

April 30th to post officer statements, and elections will be had at the May meeting of the CT State Senate.

7. Old Business

a. Senate Meeting Times - Sen. Asantewa Dawson

- i. Desire to revisit the meeting time of the CT State Senate to the morning rather than the afternoon.
 1. Motion to move to a 9:30am start time of the CT State Senate.
 - a. Seconded by Sen. Logan Topher
 - i. Approved: 32
 1. Senators Voted: Sen. Stephen Kittredge, Sen. Elle Vandermark, Sen. Nicola Ricker, Sen. Roberta Prior, Sen. Joseph Selvaggio, Sen. Jennifer Natoli, Sen. Peter Bennett, Sen. Nicole Marcoux-Bowen, Sen. Michelle Giannakopoulos, Sen. Michael Panicello, Sen. Brian Keiser, Sen. Jeremy Withnell, Sen. Asantewa Dawson, Sen. Allan Ballinger, Sen. Topher Logan, Sen. Marsha Bryant, Sen. Vince McCann, Sen. Hannah Moekel-Rieke, Sen. Melissa Bettigole, Sen. Sandra Vitale, Sen. Joseph Cullen, Sen. Bonnie Goulet, Sen. Aja Sabana, Sen. Riaz Lalani, Sen. Darren Mack, Sen. Chris Murphy, Sen. Robyn-Jay Bage, Sen. Mark Milewski, Sen. Luz Londono Diaz, Sen. Jayne Battye, Sen. Thayre Trezpacz
 - ii. Opposed: 2
 1. Senators Voted: Sen. Bonnie Solivan, Sen. Jill Flanigan
 - iii. Abstained: 0
 - iv. Did Not Vote: 1
 1. Sen. Seth Freeman
 - ii. Motion made to request that other committees respect the statewide Curriculum Congress and CT State Senate meeting times and not overlap.
 1. The motion dies.

8. New Business

a. Discussion regarding Recommendations In-Progress was moved to email communications to preserve time for remaining items. Senators were asked to solicit input from their campus communities. A vote is expected at the April meeting.

- i. Statewide Committee Consolidation
- ii. Common Hour
- iii. Required Student Orientation (Check Sept Minutes)
- iv. Guiding Framework for Schedule Build and Management

b. Campus Leadership Restructure – Sen. Asantewa Dawson

- i. Motion to move into executive session to form a list of items to bring to CT State Management regarding the Campus Leadership Restructure. This needs to be done in executive session for individuals to express themselves freely without retaliation.

1. Motion made by Sen. Asantewa Dawson
 - a. Sen. Elle Van Dermark determined there is not sufficient reason for Executive Session.
 - i. No appeal was made and the motion died.
 2. Conversation and questions asked towards CT State management regarding the complexities of the identities of campuses, the president role, the role of program coordinators between what would now be two campuses, faculty unsure of having to teach now across two campuses, the speed of executing the changes without feedback, the need for the change given the costs we have saved and put into reserves, the positives behind campuses combining, concerns with campuses merging with a satellite campus, an ask of a year plan of the change, and will Danbury instructors belong to Danbury or another campus.
 - a. President John Maduko responded about how the adoption of the campuses presidents would save 1.2 million dollars annually when actualized, a reduction of administration, commonality of single administrators across multiple campuses, emphasis on no campuses being lost, development of the Danbury location, emphasizing the speed of hiring is his decision, prioritizing the funding of resources and services for our students, no president being pre-selected, and the need of us as CT State moving forward as one institution. Danbury, the community, has asked for a campus and the Danbury campus has a transitional plan of building out the personnel of staff and faculty. There will be a strategic plan discussion towards the end of the academic year.
- c. **Posthumous Degree: Proposed Procedures for CT State– Provost Karen Hynick**
- i. Draft policy given to senators to share out to award students who have passed before finishing a degree could have other individuals apply for a posthumous degree for them. Students need to have at least seventy-five percent completion in order to qualify for this.

9. Closing Remarks

Meeting ended: 4:43 PM

Reminders: AY24-25 Senate Meetings 12:30
Apr 25 May 23