



CT State Senate May 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

Time:	12:30– 2:02pm
Guests:	Provost Karen Hynick
Senators:	Felisha Guirand-Fleurimond, Bonnie Goulet, Jill Flanigan, Melissa Bettigole, Nicole Marcoux-Bowen, Peter Bennett, Topher Logan (Northwestern), Aja Shabana, Allan Ballinger, Asantewa Dawson, Bonnie Solivan, Brian Keiser, China R Byrd, Hannah Moeckel-Rieke, Jayne Battye, Jennifer Natoli (Manchester), Jeremy Withnell, Joseph Cullen, Joseph Selvaggio, Luz Londono Diaz, Marsha Bryant, Mia Samsel, Michael Panicello, Michelle Giannakopoulos (TX), Nicola Ricker, Three Rivers, Roberta Prior, Thayre Trzepacz – Asnuntuck, Joe Cullen, Robyn-Jay Bage, Vince McCann,
Absent:	Seth Freeman, Riaz Lalani, Mark Milewski, Ariel Robinson, Phillip Fox, Brian Keiser, Sandra Vitale, Valerie Kier, Nicole Marcoux-Bowen, Michael Panciello, Christina Murphy, Darren Mack, Leesa Cabrera, John Maduko
Attending:	SE Miguel García, SE Josiah Ricardo (SE Capital), SE Peter Aster, SE Susan Carroll Middlesex, Abbie Lorme, Adriane Cavanna, Alan Sturtz, Alison Williams, Amy Royal, Andrew Pelletier, Andy Levy, Angela, Anna, Aquia Brown-Welch, Basia Dellaripa, Becky DeVito, Beth McNeil-Coates, Betty Joseph-Jerome, Bree Grealis, Brion van Over, Caitlin Brown, Catherine Seaver, Chris Rempfer, Claudine Coba-Loh, Colette Rossignol, Crystal Wiggins, Deborah Kline, Denise Walsh, Diane Clokey, Donna Crum, Donna DeLieto Marotti, Donna Sweeney, Elizabeth Steeves, Elizabeth Allen, Erin Mulhern, Erin Pagano (QV), Farshad Ravanshad, Forrest H., Heidi Green, Jaime Hammond, Jakob Spjut, James Gentile, Janice Cousino MSN, RN, PHNA-BC, Janis Albert, Jason Seabury, Jean Main, Jeanine G., Jen , Jennifer Hernandez, Jennifer Meny, Jennifer Nally, Jennifer Reynolds-Kaye, Jessica York, Jill Ruggiero, Joanna Cyr, Joanne Faust, John, John Fiorello, Jonah Cohen, Kathleen Czarnota, Kelly Clarke, Kevin Ramer, Kiesha Harris, Kim O'Donnell, Kofi Adomako Ayisi, Kristina Kosnoff, Kyle Zander, Lauren Doninger, Lauren Johnson, Lisa Boyko, Logan Tashea (QV), Lois Aime, Lori Gregory, Maggie Nowinski (Manchester), Margaret Whiteman, Maria Belval, Marie Clucas, Marina Philips, Mario Pierce, Marjorie Ross, Mark Gore, Matthew Weber, Maureen Cahill Lamboley, Megan A. DeLivron, Michael Rooke, Michael Stutz, Michele Howard-Swan, Mirjeta M, Moira Adams, Nancy Bray, Nora, Nowinski, Maggie (Manchester), Patrick Costanzo, Patti Pallis, Phil Mayer, Rebecca Busch Adams, Rebecca Samberg, Rhonda Spaziani, Richard Gnall, Ronna Brier, Rose Luglio, Sandra Eddy, Sara Hanson, Sarah Perez, NVCC (She, Her, Ella), Sarah Selke, Sarah Zorn, Saulo Colón, Shelley Buchbinder, Sheri Valentin, Stacey, Stacey Palumbo, Stacey Williams, Stephane Kirven, Steve Mark, Steven Neufeld, Taja Sylvester, Tammy Vaz, Tatiana Machado, Tom Gaudio, Tracey Sullivan, Vandana Basu, Veetra Fields, William Dopirak Jr, Yvette Onye, barbara.woolfrey@ctstate.edu , dominique.doris@ctstate.edu , kerry.Kelley@ctstate.edu , rosemary ryan, sonali ghosh, terry, theresa.janeczek@ctstate.edu ,

President: Elle Van Dermark

Vice President (Staff): Roberta Prior

Vice President (Faculty): Joe Selvaggio

Secretary: Vacant

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

Minutes Special Meeting May 5, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 12:30. Quorum was confirmed. More than 130 people attended the meeting.

Participation rules were temporarily to allow members of the college community to raise questions and share concerns regarding CT State leadership's presentation, "Feedback on Shared Governance Recommendations" in response to the recommendations made by College Senate in February.

President Van Dermark facilitated the discussion by hearing concerns in groups of three, after which Provost Hynick responded. At 1:15pm, Provost Hynick departed the meeting. The College Senate continued receiving feedback until 2:02pm.

The concerns raised were in direct response to CT State administration's proposed changes to the shared governance structure previously endorsed by the College Senate in February.

Participants questioned the rationale for CT State's significant departure from those recommendations and expressed concern about the increased complexity and lack of alignment with the principles of shared governance. Several attendees suggested that imposing standardized bylaws across all campuses could conflict with NECHE standards. Some campuses affirmed their intention to retain existing governance structures, which they believe are effective and representative.

Attendees expressed strong concerns about the CT State administration's shift away from College Senate-endorsed recommendations. Specifically, they raised issues about the proposed mandate for uniform bylaws across campus senates, the absence of clearly defined responsibilities for elected campus leaders, and the potential erosion of local governance authority.

Stakeholders voiced frustration over the administration's decision not to implement campus-based curriculum committees and instead assign interdisciplinary review responsibilities to Program Coordinators and Department Chairs and further limit review to the campus where a proposal originates. The new structure is seen as unrealistic, overly centralized, and lacking meaningful faculty inclusion.

Concerns included adding additional items to an already long agenda, shifting curriculum from the purview of faculty to administration, exclusion of key personnel such as advisors and registrars, the narrowing of faculty involvement in curriculum development, and inadequate compensation for added responsibilities. Questions were also raised about the motivation behind these changes—whether they are financially driven.

College discipline Groups and College Discipline Councils were also an area where significant concerns were raised. CT State administration's response lacks clarity and seeks to severely limit the scope and opportunities for collaboration. Additionally, the departure from the SDC model was concerning while simultaneously creating a model that both failed to implement Campus Curriculum Committees while also abandoning the responsibilities of SACC is of grave concern. Questions about the compensation and release for the CDGs and CDCs were raised.

Several concerns centered on diminished representation in the curriculum process. Stakeholders questioned the removal of advisors and registrars—whose contributions are vital to student success—and raised concerns about how programs such as Advanced Manufacturing, which have no full-time faculty, will be represented. The role and advocacy authority of program directors in such areas remains unclear.

Participants emphasized a continuing lack of transparency in the curriculum governance process. They questioned how feedback across campuses would be reconciled, how agendas will be communicated, and how curriculum changes would be shared with frontline staff in a timely manner to support students. Participants noted that prior feedback, including formal appeals from the Liberal Arts and General Studies areas had not been incorporated or acted upon which resulted in questions about how meaningful requests for feedback are not explicitly addressed.

Resentfully Submitted

Elle Van Dermark

President and Acting Secretary, College Senate