

Call to order at 3:04 PM

Senators Present

Paula Adams, Roger Brown, Radhouane Chouchane, Tammy Condrey, Shellie DeBruyn, John Finley, Pat Hogan, Burhanettin Keskin, Ellen Martin, Joe McCallus, Mike McFalls, Gisung Moon, Jim Owen, Elizabeth Parker, Jackie Radebaugh, Neal Rogers, Brian Schwartz, Melody Shumaker, Glenn Stokes, Paul Vaillancourt, Troy Vidal, Jeff Zuiderveen

Guests Attending Included

Kyle Christensen, Tom Hackett, Cindy Henning, Laurie Jones, Troy Keller, David Mitchell, Ellen Roberts, Gina Sheeks

Report from Provost

Provost Hackett stated that the President was at a SACS meeting and therefore was unable to attend.

Dr. Hackett reported that the Strategic Planning process is going well. Dr. Sheeks and Dr. Hackett have met with the Academic Council, the Chairs Assembly and the faculty to discuss how to go forward with the strategic planning process. They plan to meet with Jay Knappe in the near future to discuss the needs of the staff during this period.

The meetings about the strategic planning process revealed that it needs to be collaborative and data-based. Some also discussed tying it to the USG's strategic plan and to the ideas outlined by the College Complete Georgia report.

Announcements from the Senate Executive Officer

There was none.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

Creation of Honors College Report – Cindy Henning

Handouts

Honors Enrollment Demographics Fall 2011

Honors Enrollment Trends Fall 2005-2011

Cindy Henning discussed the two handouts and how the data shows that there has been a decrease in honor students attending Columbus State University. She asked the Senate whether creating an Honors College would increase the likelihood that CSU could attract honor students.

Retention, Progression and Graduation Report – Gina Sheeks

A plan was created to improve RPG at CSU. A committee made up of Gina Sheeks, Darryl Holloman, and Terry Irvin put together the update that included accomplishments, progress, completion metrics and data.

Discussion centered around expanding the First Year Experience program so that faculty could teach both the seminars and learning communities. This would give students a faculty connection and could increase RPG at Columbus State University.

Sustainability Committee Report – Troy Keller

Letter to the Senate from Troy Keller

As the chair of the Sustainability Committee, I am submitting a formal request to help CSU improve its University-wide sustainability. Sustainability Committee was created in 2008 by then vice-president George Stanton. The committee has been composed primarily of faculty and included 2 student representatives. In an effort to improve coordination with Plant Operations we have added a representative of that unit as well. This committee meets twice per semester and has:

- Participated and organized sustainability week events (2010, 2011)
- Implemented Clean Commute Options and a No Idling Policy with Clean Air Campaign
- Improved access to recycling centers on campus
- Evaluated efforts to improve energy use efficiency, reduce solid waste production, transport students more effectively, create a wildlife-friendly campus, and manage water sustainably

While many of these efforts have been successful, the members agree that much more needs to be accomplished. CSU needs to actively manage its natural and energy resources. Money will be saved if the University implements new efficiency projects, tracks their success, and assesses their resource and cost savings. Currently the Sustainability Committee's effectiveness is limited because the committee has:

- no budget to implement projects
- no power to implement changes
- little time to develop new projects or track the success of past projects
- no influence on decisions that affect campus sustainability

For these reasons the Sustainability Committee recommends to the Faculty Senate that:

1. Sustainability Committee or its representative(s) be consulted in campus decisions that affect waste management, transportation, land use changes, construction plans, energy efficiency, landscape alterations, or water management
2. Specific, measurable goals for sustainability (e.g., 10% reduction in our electricity use over 5 years) be integrated into the University's new strategic plan
3. University commit to creating a center for sustainability with staff dedicated to writing grants, creating new initiatives, conducting research, integrating sustainability into the curriculum, tracking project implementation, and quantifying project success

The implementation of these modest goals will help CSU further reduce its energy and ecological footprint, save money/resources, improve the campus environment, and educate future leaders. We hope we can count on the Senate's support as the Sustainability Committee strives for greater visibility, accountability, and authority.

It was suggested that since the Sustainability Committee is a Faculty Senate committee, it can bring up proposals to the Senate to discuss and then act upon.

Class Schedule Change – Glenn Stokes

At an Academic Council meeting, Dr. Stokes brought the issue of lengthening the time on Tuesday and Thursday when groups can meet without conflicting with classes. Currently, Tuesday and Thursday between 12:15 and 1:30 are "dead" periods when no classes are scheduled. To accommodate travel time between campuses, it was proposed that something be done to increase the length of the dead period to provide transit time on each day.

Dr. Stokes proposed to increase the dead period by 40 minutes (20 minutes of transit each way). The extra time is acquired by shortening the time between class periods from 15 minutes to 10 minutes as they are for Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes.

The pros to this proposal are that it adds 40 minutes to the meeting time, it starts at the same time as current and ends only 5 minutes later and it maintains the same number of class meeting times as the current system. The con is that the start and end times are not always on the quarter hour.

The Senators decided to bring this proposal back to their colleges for discussion. It will be voted on during the January 2012 meeting.

Intellectual Property Committee Report – Kyle Christensen

The CSU Intellectual Property Policy has been approved by the administration. It was discussed that the policy now must go to the Handbook Committee to be included in the Faculty Handbook.

The CSU Intellectual Property Policy provides liberal distribution of income resulting from intellectual property produced by CSU faculty and staff. A website will be created that includes the policy and examples of intellectual property to help faculty to determine what is considered university intellectual property.

Faculty Contract Terms Report

Brian Schwartz talked about the issue that currently nine-month faculty contracts run from August to May. It may therefore be conceived that faculty be required to teach during Maymester without further compensation. Senator Schwartz asked to have this changed in future contracts.

Laurie Jones stated that she would have to look into this issue and then report back in January.

Glenn Stokes asked whether it would be possible for nine-month faculty to be paid during a 12-month cycle.

Laurie Jones stated that she would bring this request up during a system-wide HR meeting.

Provost Search Update

Senator Brown stated that the search committee Skype interviewed nine candidates and will possibly bring four to campus for interviews.

Adjourned: 4:38 PM