

**SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report – April 12, 2023, meeting**

- 1) **SCSU-AAUP and Faculty Senate Co-Sponsored Retreat (**TENTATIVE**)** – Please save-the-date for this retreat for Tuesday, May 23rd with a tentative time slot of 12-3pm at TBA location. We are awaiting confirmation from the venue. More information, flyer, and RSVP link will be forthcoming via email to all full- and part-time faculty. We are striving to reinstate this event, and some may recall that this event was held annually prior to the pandemic. The purpose of this faculty retreat is to strengthen the role of the faculty in influencing institutional priorities and policies by identifying faculty concerns, establishing recommendations for collective action through established governance bodies, enhancing the clarity of a unified “faculty voice.”
  
- 2) **Service Opportunities & Faculty Senate Representation / Shared Governance** – On-going challenges with filling faculty service opportunities remain. Thank you to those who have volunteered to be a representative. The following seats remain:
  - two Senate representatives for the University Library Committee (ULC) – The committee has shared “If we could have senate representatives join ULC together with elected members in Spring 2023, it would be highly welcomed by our committee.”
  - one (remaining) Senate representative for the Ad Hoc Committee on Continuing Education, Non-Credit, & Micro Credentialing
  
- 3) **The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Leadership Council (FLC) meetings with administration** – This group met on 4/10 to discuss and monitor multiple topics. Reassigned time and institutional identity were a primary focus of the 4/10 meeting, and our discussion spanned the entire length of the meeting. In sum:
  1. **Reassigned Time**– The understanding is that restoration of some reassigned time is forthcoming, and some may have received updates. Faculty leaders shared a desire for future efforts to include recommendations from the Reassigned Time Committee and for dialogue earlier in the process (especially given that the President found the 3/30 meeting of administration and affected groups/programs particularly informative). Discussion also included reference to 1 credit equating to 45 hours (per the CBA) and how this definition, in light of the 12-credit/semester load, may not account for faculty activities not receiving load credit (other teaching-related activities/advising, creative activity, service, professional attendance and participation).
  2. **Institutional Identity**– Discussions about the matter of reassigned time tied directly into discussion of our institutional identity. The intent was to initiate direct conversation about this topic in light of past, present, and future happenings at our institution. Those in attendance brought both fresh perspectives and historical insights to the table. Though all agreed that more discussion and shared governance work is still necessary in this area, some important themes arose in this discussion:
    - i. Our institutional identity as a teaching institution, categorized as an “M” institution vs. an “R” institution, and the sharing of perspectives about these concepts.
    - ii. The deeply different perceptions of emphasis on teaching, creative activity, and service in announcements, in correspondence, in communications with and to faculty

- (including newly hired and other tenure-track faculty), and in celebrations and events (for example, the Teaching Academy historically being held across multiple days).
- iii. Recognition of external financial pressures on our institution.
  - iv. Service as an opportunity for faculty advocacy, impact, and equity (not just as a valuable opportunity for those interested in specific topics related to committee work or other service activities). Service can be viewed as the method by which faculty participate in and influence the operations and working conditions of their academy (the framework supporting its members' individual and collective work).
  - v. Topics the Provost shared recently at Grad Council and included in the report from Grad Council at our previous Faculty Senate meeting (mainly the potential for additional doctorate programs and PhD opportunities).
  - vi. Research/scholarship as only one of many types of creative activity in which faculty engage.

An informative discussion ensued and additional efforts in this area, and in the area of shared governance, are still needed.

- 4) ***State Budget / University Budget Committee meetings*** – A reminder that the original date of April 3<sup>rd</sup> as the budget plan deadline is no longer the case because the legislature is not expected to issue a counterproposal to the Governor's February budget message until April 20<sup>th</sup>. Convening the committee after April 20<sup>th</sup> will give us the opportunity to work with more facts that should be known by that time. A reminder that the Finance Committee continues to gather senators'/faculty perspectives and suggestions. Please reach out to [Cindy Simoneau](#), FS Treasurer/Finance Committee chair.
- 5) ***Senate visits to departments*** – A reminder that this is an optional and open opportunity and will remain open for the academic year. These visits have been incredibly helpful to me at times when I'm engaged with university and CSU system leadership and needing to speak on behalf of the faculty. Please email me and Luke with any questions and to schedule a visit.
- 6) ***Preparation for the 4/12/2023 meeting, and final meetings of the semester*** –
  - a. *Resolution Regarding Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, And Accessibility (DEIA) In Renewal, Promotion, And Tenure Processes* – This Resolution was sent back to committee at our last meeting is coming forward with revisions. **Please review the packet for details.**
  - b. *Resolution Regarding Term Limits of Chairs of All-University Committees.* This Resolution is from the Elections Committee and establishes that All-University Committee chairperson terms shall be three consecutive one-year terms, with the opportunity for the same individual to continue, if desired and elected, following a one-year hiatus. **Please review the packet for details.**
  - c. *Discussion of "Academic Excellence."* Members of the Academic Excellence subcommittee for strategic planning have reached out to gather input to assist their work and wish to gather insight from the Faculty Senate. This is critical work and input from various stakeholders is important. **Please see their message and link in my email to senators on 4/5.**

Given the remaining timeline (4 days) and our Faculty Senate schedule of remaining meetings, the Executive Committee decided to extend this message to all senators to respond directly with their input and reflections as individuals if they so wish.

It is the Executive Committee's opinion that while a discussion could be supported at the 4/12 meeting, it is also challenging to predict whether a discussion could not only begin but also conclude on 4/12 (the deadline to respond is 4/15). Given these limitations, the Executive Committee believes extending this opportunity to individual senators would not only allow for more time and opportunity for reflection but could also give valuable insight to the Academic Excellence subcommittee, including your perspective as senators regarding the work of Faculty Senate and the definition of academic excellence, that would extend beyond that which might result from a single response crafted on behalf of the whole group.

- d. Planning for the final meetings of this semester (**please use this information to plan remaining standing committee work**):
- i. **4/26 meeting.** A reminder that we will be joined by CSU President Terrence Cheng at our 4/26 meeting. Time permitting, we will also conduct any unfinished and new business as there remains multiple Resolutions being finalized from multiple standing committees. If time does not permit all business to conclude, remaining business will be moved to the 5/3 meeting agenda.
  - ii. **5/3 meeting.** All remaining unfinished and new business will be scheduled for this meeting. This includes the election of the Faculty Senate President and Treasurer. All business not concluded by 1:30pm will be moved to a special meeting to be held on 5/8 (see Luke's message for the 4/12 packet and Zoom link to hold this date and time in the event it is needed). At 1:30pm, the Faculty Senate will host Dr. Dwayne Smith, incoming Interim University President, and share messages of welcome. Following our welcome to Dr. Smith, the Faculty Senate will host President Joe Bertolino and share messages of gratitude and farewell.
  - iii. **5/8 special meeting.** This meeting will be held only if needed pending outcomes of the 5/3 meeting.

## 7) On-going topics / "What's Going on with....?"

This section of the President's report is a repository of questions received by the Executive Committee in which information is still being gathered and on-going discussions are still being held. The Executive Committee welcomes additional questions and information from the university community.

1. **Should Faculty Senate include statement(s) regarding Indigenous Peoples and land acknowledgement in Faculty Senate documents and meetings (see WCSU Senate as example)?**
  - i. Following outreach to our DEI Office, this item is on hold until such time as the Executive Committee can learn more about what may be meaningful and appropriate. The topic has become more controversial as to whether having a land acknowledgement in fact creates more harm than good for indigenous communities. "[Moving Beyond Performative Land Acknowledgements](#)" is a podcast featuring an Indigenous scholar who shares her research on this topic. It provides a critical analysis to deepen our understanding of how land acknowledgements can create more harm than good. The Executive Committee seeks to learn more and invites input and education related to this item.
2. **Is there continued relevance of Artificial Intelligence to faculty?**
  - i. *"Faculty should keep up to date about ChatGPT and artificial intelligence (AI) because these technologies are rapidly transforming various fields, including education. By staying informed about the latest advancements in AI, faculty can better understand how to leverage these tools to enhance their teaching methods and improve the learning experience for their students. Additionally, keeping up to date with AI developments can also inform faculty on the potential impacts of these technologies on society, helping them to prepare students for a future that is increasingly driven by AI. Recently, there have been several significant advancements in AI, such as the development of GPT-3, a language processing model that can generate human-like text. In addition, there have been notable advances in computer vision and machine learning, which*

*have enabled AI systems to perform complex tasks such as image recognition and natural language understanding. However, as AI continues to advance, it is also important to consider the ethical implications and potential consequences of these technologies, such as the impact on employment and privacy. Therefore, it is crucial for faculty to keep up to date with AI developments and engage in discussions around these topics with their students. Recent achievements in AI have been impressive, with groundbreaking developments across a range of applications. One notable breakthrough is the use of AI to pass a medical exam, which demonstrates the technology's potential to revolutionize the healthcare industry. This feat was accomplished by OpenAI's GPT-3 language model, which was trained on medical knowledge and passed a medical exam with high accuracy. AI has also been used to develop sophisticated autonomous systems for various applications, such as self-driving cars and drones. These recent achievements are a testament to the potential of AI and highlight its growing importance in modern society.”* The preceding paragraph was composed entirely by ChatGPT on 4/11/2023.

- 8) 2022-2023 – [Resolutions approved by Faculty Senate](#) – Updates on the resolutions and their status may be found on the FS website.