



FACULTY SENATE MEETING – Approved
Minutes of Meeting of February 17, 2022
Via Zoom

Faculty President Neubauer called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Secretary called the roll. Senators not present were Yountae An, Jeff Campbell, Benjamin Davis, Francis Domagni, Susan Fitzpatrick-Behrens, Abel Franco, Marquita Gammage, Brittany Huerta, Rachel Pearl (excused), Mary Pat Stein (excused), Elizabeth Sussman (excused), and Francisco Tamayo.

The Faculty Senate Minutes for December 9, 2021 was approved.

1. Announcements

President Neubauer shared the following announcements with the Senate:

- a. The issue regarding the corporate naming and the slight name change of “Arena” vs. “Matadome.” The sponsorship would prefer the official venue name to be “Premier America Credit Union Arena.” President Neubauer asked if there were any objections.
- b. Dave Moon received the CSU’s highest honor, the Wang Family Excellence Award.
- c. CSUN 2022 Faculty Awards nomination will be open. The award nomination deadline is 03/01/2022 and the supporting materials deadline is 03/28/2022.

2. President’s Report – President Erika Beck

President Beck greeted the Faculty Senators at their first meeting of the semester and acknowledged Black History Month. This year’s theme—Black Health and Wellness—is embedded in events across campus and is especially timely as the pandemic continues to illuminate the historic and persistent political, economic, and social inequities that have disproportionately impacted health and wellbeing of our communities of color. She is grateful to be part of an academic community replete with the leaders we need to co-create a future where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

President Beck extends her appreciation to all those who sponsored Black History Month events, including The Black House, the Department of Africana Studies and Harambee, the Pride Center, the CSUN Art Galleries, the USU and University Counseling Services, the Career Center, USU WISDOM and USU Black Men Scholars, the Dream Center, and the University Library.

President remarked that it was wonderful to return to an in-person academic community and the positive energy around campus with new opportunities for inquiry, discovery and social connection.

We now have data that clearly indicates a substantive drop in student retention and a widening of equity gaps over the course of the pandemic and virtual engagement, consistent with national trends. There is much work to be done to reengage our students, foster belonging, and ensure they progress toward graduation. We will have more dialogue about this and develop strategies to reverse this trend.

President Beck assured the Senate that we continue to meet regularly and remain vigilant in monitoring and responding to the COVID pandemic. We continue to follow the science and public health guidance and will make any adjustments necessary to keep our campus community safe. She continues to be inspired by the ingenuity and resiliency of our faculty and staff who have gone above and beyond to help us continue to advance our academic mission. She shared examples of collaborative efforts including the addition of 165 smart classrooms and a COVID dashboard added this week to the Matadors Forward webpage that provides real-time information on student and employee vaccination and booster rates, positive COVID cases, building exposure notices, and additional resources. President Beck encouraged all to continue to be vigilant in our safety protocols and compassionate in recognizing the very real challenges that many continue to experience.

President Beck addressed the serious concerns raised through the *USA Today* news article relative to Chancellor Castro during his time as president of Fresno State and his handling of a Title IX investigation. The CSU Board of Trustees is launching an investigation into the facts of this case. President Beck expressed confidence in the Trustees to handle this matter with both alacrity and integrity and affirmed that CSUN is deeply and unwaveringly committed to ensuring that we have a campus community that values, supports, and uplifts every member of our university.

Our Office of Equity & Diversity team runs a highly professional, capable, and independent office. They investigate allegations and deliver independent findings on reports of discrimination and harassment on campus to ensure that every student, employee, and visitor has the opportunity to work, live and learn in an environment free from discrimination or harassment.

President Beck expressed appreciation for Barrett Morris, our Title IX Officer, and the entire Office of Equity & Diversity team. Victims and bystanders need to feel safe in coming forward and know that they will be supported and taken seriously. This requires a shared responsibility among all campus constituents.

President Beck enjoyed her meetings with faculty members, staff, and students this last month. She was honored to provide opening remarks at the Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute and the Black History Month kickoff event. She was pleased to host the Counsel General of Armenia in Los

Angeles, as well as a delegation from Yerevan State University in Armenia. She also participated in events with several community partners, including the LA Economic Development Corporation, AAC&U, and local legislators during CSU Advocacy Day. She expressed disappointment that Omicron necessitated the cancellation of the Faculty Retreat on January 10. She looks forward to future opportunities to come together for reflection, planning, and community-building.

President Beck provided updates regarding new learning spaces on campus. Early site development for Sierra Annex began last month and we anticipate completion by August 2023.

USU's expansion and renovation into the new Heart of Campus is in the design phase and she will present it to the Board of Trustees for schematic design approval in May. Construction is scheduled to begin in October 2023 and finish in January 2026. The Heart of Campus will feature spaces for studying and lounging, dining options, and a center that fosters belonging. It will also house the Centralized Basic Needs Unit to further provide programs and support for students.

The architectural firm initiated the design phase for the HSI Global Equity Innovation Hub last summer and has been meeting with faculty, staff, and student stakeholder groups to gather their input. Our students and AS leaders took great pride in helping to shape the final design and create a place that promotes a sense of belonging in STEM and inspires all CSUN students and prospective students to explore the building. We expect the completion of the design phase by September, and to break ground by March 2023. We remain on track for a Fall 2024 opening.

In terms of programming, we are working through the Chancellor's Office to finalize Apple's funding parameters. Apple's funding will support four core areas: national initiatives with a host of partners around the country; CSU system-wide initiatives including a campus-based community grant program that is still being finalized; regional programs that will launch late this year; and campus-based programs.

Dr. Amanda Quintero from the President's Office will work with Academic Affairs leadership and together, they will lead ideation and planning sessions beginning later this spring with faculty, staff, students and community partners for regional and campus-based programming.

President Beck announced that Dr. Cedric Hackett has been appointed as the new Faculty Athletic Representative. The FAR reports directly to the President and is charged with helping to ensure the academic integrity of our athletics program and the welfare of our student-athletes. Dr. Hackett's continued focus on student success, engagement, and belonging made him an outstanding candidate for this role. She also extended her gratitude to Dr. Ed Jackiewicz for his service and leadership the past six years.

President Beck reported a few items of recognition, noting that there have been many. The Tseng and Nazarian Colleges have collaborated on a new certificate course in partnership with the DirectExport Council of Southern California and US Commercial Services designed for

students and professionals who want to expand their exporting skills.

The Curb College's Music Department won two first-place honors at the National Opera Association's Opera Production Competition just before winter break, remarking this was achieved during a pandemic. Bravo! to Professor Mercedes Juan Musatto and our talented students and faculty.

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences' Model UN team earned its third Outstanding Delegation Award when they took the competition in Seattle. She extended congratulations to the team faculty advisor, Dr. Jennifer De Maio.

Our Project Rebound program, under the leadership of Dr. Martha Escobar, has been invited to the CSU Project Rebound Consortium as a Member Campus, two years earlier than expected, having demonstrated remarkable tenacity and efficacy in establishing a robust program to support formerly incarcerated students. President Beck remarked that our students are fortunate to have such a dedicated champion in Dr. Escobar.

Finally, President Beck offered her congratulations to Dave Moon for being honored with the CSU Board of Trustees Wang Family Excellence Award for Outstanding Innovator in Student Success— one of only five awards from across the 23 CSU campuses.

In closing, President Beck thanked the Senators for the life-changing work they facilitate on behalf of our students.

3. Provost's Report – Mary-Beth Walker

- a. Campus reopening: Provost Walker thanked faculty for making the reopening smooth.
- b. Enrollment: In 2020, the Community College enrollment rate had dropped dramatically, and there was a big jump in transfers but a drop in freshman enrollment. Now, there is a deficit in transfers but an increase in Freshman enrollment.
- c. Dean searches:
 - a. College of Humanities – The search committee reviewed 50-applications. Fifteen (15) applicants were selected for the first round of interviews and one (1) candidate dropped. From the interview pool, 3 to 5 finalists will be on campus for a visit from March 7 – 18, 2022. The announcement of the permanent Dean will be in April 2022.
 - b. College of Health and Human Development – Forming the committee shortly and aiming to have an applicant pool in summer. In Fall 2022, the interviews for the permanent Dean will take place with installation for next Spring.
- d. Roadmap: Provost Walker thanked involvement and invited all with schedule conflict to attend open sessions to fill out the online forms for input.

4. Associated Students President Report – Jonathan Hay

AS President Hayes shared students are excited to be back on campus and the student engagement has been positive.

5. Policy Items - Personnel, Planning, and Review Committee

Lindsay Hansen Brown, Chair; Diane Guido & Megan Dozier, Faculty Affairs

First Reading – Section 606.1.1.b.1 Authorized Personnel File

Returned for edits to include contract information to become an action item at the next Senate Meeting.

First Reading – Section 620 Recruitment, Selection, Appointment, and Evaluation

Feedback included making all search committee members responsible, the College Faculty Equity and Compliance Representatives (FECR) just being implemented, and the need for a change in faculty hiring practice. This item will return to the Senate as an action item.

6. Policy Item – Educational Policies Committee

Dan Weingarten, Chair; Elizabeth Adams, Assistant Vice President, Undergraduate Studies

Action item – **General Education Section B**

Motion passed.

Action item – **General Education Section C**

Motion passed.

7. Policy Item – Graduate Studies Committee

Danielle Spratt, Chair; Amy Levin, Assistant Vice President, Graduate Studies

MSP: approved the proposed **Graduate Student Withdrawal Policy**

8. Nominations for All Faculty Elections: President Neubauer read the nominations received for the following Senate positions: a) President, b) Vice President, c) Secretary, d) Statewide Academic Senator, e) Senators-at-Large and invited additional nominations. Two additional nominations received for the Statewide Academic Senator were Wayne Smith and Jeffrey Weigley. Three additional nominations received for the Senator-at-Large were Danielle Jarvis, Andrew Linden, and Jeffrey Weigley.

9. Nominations for Senate Elections: President Neubauer read the nominations received for the following Senate Elections: a) Educational Equity Committee, b) Educational Policies Committee, c) Educational Resources Committee. No additional names were submitted for these committees; d) Extended Learning Committee – name received Victor Shaw; e) Graduate Studies Committee – no additional nominees. The ballot will be approved at the 02/24/22 SEC meeting.

10. Statewide Academic Senate Report – Boris Ricks

11. First Reading: First and Second Reading Standing Order – Adam Swenson

Senator Swenson offered an overview of the proposal and how this may be helpful when the resolutions may be controversial and to ensure effective use of Senate meeting time throughout the academic year.

Feedback from the Senators included defining which issue of which committee requires first and second readings.

12. CFA Report – Nate Thomas

CFA CSUN Chapter President Thomas shared the contract passed with 95% of members voting. The raise is \$3,500 /faculty and back compensation will happen 04/01/2022. Letters will be sent with instructions on how to incorporate them into the contract.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 pm.

Submitted by: Yoko Mimura, Secretary of the Faculty, and Deborah Kusin, Recording Secretary