

**University Senate Meeting**  
**May 1, 2023**  
**WebEx Virtual Meeting**

**Call to Order**

Moderator **Dineen** called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

- April 3, 2023, University Senate meeting  
The minutes of the meeting were approved as written.

**2. Report of the President**

Presented by President Radenka Maric

President **Maric** expressed her deep gratitude and appreciation to the Senate for their work during this past academic year and began her report.

- President **Maric** opened the floor to **Nathan Fuerst** who reported on enrollment trends for the 2023-2024 year. Nathan Fuerst shared that the university received 48,000 applications for the upcoming academic year, with an increase of 1,000 from Connecticut residents, and he anticipates the university will meet its fall enrollment goal of 4100 first year students by today's enrollment deposit deadline. Enrollment for regional campuses is also on track. There were no questions.
- President **Maric** invited **Jeff Geoghegan** to speak on the University budget. He reported that work has been done to reduce the budget shortfall projected for FY 2024 and 2025 with the state appropriations committee in the form of a one-time additional funding of \$75 million. Additionally, the university found savings of \$9 million in pension rates. He reported that the university will enter FY 2024 with a shortfall of \$69 million and FY 2025 with a shortfall of \$46 million and explained that his office will continue to remain engaged with leaders in the state legislature to address these shortfalls. He stated that the final budget will be voted on by the senate and the house on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Moderator Dineen opened the floor to questions.
  - Senator **Morrell** asked about how the university will address budget shortfalls, understanding that the funding for FY 2024 is a one-time payment. President **Maric** responded that the university is working on a strategic plan to reduce reliance on the state for budgeting and using benchmarking of other universities to compare. Jeff **Geoghegan**

clarified that all decisions will be based on the budget passed on June 7<sup>th</sup>, which will apply for the next two years.

- Senator **Dormidontova** asked about the percentage of the deficit belonging to the Storrs campus compared to the School of Medicine, and which percentage budget cut can be expected in Storrs. Jeff **Geoghegan** clarified that the deficit is split approximately 50/50 so any cuts would be a part of the strategic planning process. He reiterated that the hope is that the university will receive additional funding from the state in the final budget and then a financial improvement plan similar to what took place this past year would be considered. He highlighted that hiring and payroll processes are key expenditures that can contribute to savings due to attrition, turnover and filling positions at a slower pace.
- President **Maric** gave an update on the Search for the CEO of the University Foundation and highlighted that Jon Greenblatt is currently serving in the interim role. She invited Provost **D'Alleva** to report on active Deans searches. Provost D'Alleva announced that Victoria Vaughan Dickson has been hired as the new Dean of the School of Nursing and thanked Dean Deborah Chyun for her five years of service in this role. Provost **D'Alleva** also announced that the search for the new Dean of the School of Social Work will conclude shortly and an announcement on this new appointment will be made later this week. She also stated that a search for the Dean of the School of Engineering will launch in the fall, and that a search recently launched for the Dean of the School of Fine Arts. She thanked Alain Frogley for acting as Interim Dean until a new Dean is identified and appointed. There were no questions for Provost **D'Alleva**.

### 3. Report of the Senate Executive Committee

Attachment #1

Presented by SEC Chair Del Siegle

Senator **Siegle** thanked the Senate Office staff for their work over the past academic year and concluded his final report. There were no questions for Senator **Siegle**.

Senator **Wagner** thanked Senator **Siegle** for his service as SEC chair and welcomed Senator Laura Burton to the role.

### 4. Consent Agenda Items:

Attachment #2

Report of the Senate Curricula and Courses Committee  
Annual Reports of Senate Committees

By voice vote, the consent agenda passed unanimously.

**5. Report from Nominating Committee**

Attachment #3

**VOTE on 2023/2024 Senate Standing Committee Rosters**

Presented by Senator Burton

Senator **Burton** presented the Senate Nominating Committee Rosters discussed at the April meeting for a vote.

By voice vote, the 2022/2023 Senate Standing Committee Rosters passed unanimously.

**6. Report from the Curricula and Courses Committee**

Attachment #4

**VOTE on a motion to amend the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate, C.2.b, Competencies (Seal of Biliteracy)**

Presented by CCC+ Chair Pam Bedore

Senator **Bedore** presented proposed changes to the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate, C.2.b, Competencies (Seal of Biliteracy).

There were no questions for Senator **Bedore**.

**The motion passed with 71 YAY, 0 NAY, and 4 ABSTENTIONS.**

**7. Report from Scholastic Standards Committee**

Attachment #5

**VOTE on a motion to amend the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate, II.E.6, Scholastic Standing, Mid-Semester and Semester Reports**

Presented by Co-Chair Bresciano

Senator **Bresciano** presented proposed changes to the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate, II.E.6, Scholastic Standing, Mid-Semester and Semester Reports.

There were no questions for Senator **Bresciano**.

**The motion passed with 65 YAY, 6 NAY, and 1 ABSTENTION**

## **VOTE on a motion to amend the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate, II.D.11. Cheating – Student Academic Misconduct**

Presented by Senator Kersaint

Senator **Kersaint** presented proposed changes to the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate, II.D. 1 1. Cheating – Student Academic Misconduct.

This proposed change was presented at the February 6, 2023 meeting of the University Senate. Senator **Kersaint** presented additional clarifying information regarding the motion prior to the vote. She summarized that the proposed change seeks to overhaul the current practice where there are separate policies governing undergraduate and graduate education, as well as research misconduct, and combine them under one policy. She stated that today's vote is to approve the policy as written in the by-laws amendment and also presented details of the proposed procedures, which are separate from the policy and not to be enacted until an Office of Academic Integrity is established. She presented a budget construct for this proposed office. Senator **Dineen** opened the floor to questions.

Senator **Morrell** asked for clarification on the budget, particularly in light of the fact that the university is currently operating in a deficit. Senator **Kersaint** responded that this is challenging to assess because this topic affects multiple units across the university and would ultimately be up to the Provost.

Senator **Jockusch** asked a clarifying question regarding how this would apply to post-doctoral positions. Senator **Kersaint** asked that Senator **Bresciano** be recognized to answer this question. Senator **Bresciano** clarified that in this case post-doctoral students would be recognized as staff members and not students who would face consequences of academic misconduct.

Senator **Govoni** asked a clarifying question about the proposed steps for students in the procedures and whether students would have an opportunity to contest an accusation of academic misconduct in a meeting rather than exclusively in a written statement, citing concerns that students may be disadvantaged by not moving automatically to a hearing. Senator **Kersaint** stated that the first step in the new proposed procedures would be an informational meeting.

Senator **Dormidontova** raised concerns regarding combining research and academic misconduct in one policy, as well as concerns regarding budgetary considerations to establish this new office, and a question regarding the time

commitment required by committee members involved in the proposed process. Senator **Dormidontova** also suggested postponing voting on this item to next semester, citing a sense of feeling rushed to make a decision at the end of this academic year without having had sufficient time to review the proposal. Senator **Kersaint** stated it was not the intent of the Taskforce to delay presenting these materials to the Senate until February, 2023, and that scheduling constraints and other Senate priorities meant it was the earliest point to present. She also confirmed that the Graduate Faculty Council voted on the policy and endorsed the procedures during the fall 2022 semester. in the fall semester. Senator Kersaint also stated that the committees presented in the proposed procedures would have enough members so that participating in hearings should not be a burden to those participants.

Senator **Bedore** proposed a closure of discussion and move to vote on the motion. Senator **Siegle** seconded. By voice vote, the Senate moved to vote on the motion.

**The motion passed with 34 YAY, 29 NAY, and 1 ABSTENTION**

8. **Report from Anti-Black Racism Course Working Group** Attachment #6  
**VOTE on a motion to amend the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate, II.C.2.D (renumber from D), Minimum Requirements for Undergraduate Degrees, General Education Curriculum**  
Presented by Co-Chairs Salvant and Santos

Senator **Salvant** presented proposed changes to the By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the University Senate, II.C.2.D (renumber from D), Minimum Requirements for Undergraduate Degrees, General Education Curriculum. Moderator Dineen opened the floor to questions.

Senator **Jockusch** asked for more information regarding the reasoning behind requiring a specific course rather than including learning objectives or additional courses to general education requirements. Senator **Salvant** responded that the charge of the Taskforce by the SEC was to design an ABR course proposal and clarified that, in principal, they are not opposed to any other curricular changes, and reiterated that this course does not diminish any other of the broader forms of discrimination against other groups.

Senator **Holle** asked whether considerations were made regarding seat numbers for this course, and ensuring students can participate in the course within their first two years of matriculation to avoid conflict with major-specific credit hour limitations,

referring specifically to challenges faced by students enrolled in the School of Pharmacy. Senator Salvant responded that the online modality, and availability of the course during Fall, Spring and Summer terms should offer enough flexibility to students to avoid interference with any other graduation requirements.

Senator **Rubega** spoke in support of the motion.

Senator **Zane** spoke in support of the motion and cited a petition circulated amongst faculty in non-departmentally organized units and affiliates which received 69 signatures. Senator **Zane** read the petition to the group.

Senator **Bedore** spoke in support of the motion.

Senator **Spinelli** shared a statement written by the Undergraduate Student Governing Board in support of the motion.

Senator **Wagner** spoke in support of the motion.

Senator **Chang** spoke in support of the motion.

Senator **Dormidontova** asked why this proposed course cannot be accumulated within general education courses, and satisfy the general education requirement. Senator **Salvant** clarified that the course is within the general education structure and has its own learning objectives. Moderator **Dineen** invited Senator **Bedore** to speak. Senator **Bedore** spoke about the Core Curriculum construction and how it addresses issues of diversity, multiculturalism and justice. She stated that it was discussed whether these courses fulfill the demand of students, and stated that the unique aspect of the proposed course is that it is not developed from a specific unit and does not fit into the three credit model of the topic of enquiry courses.

Senator **Elliott** expressed concerns that the motion does not fit within the Common Core structure, and stated a desire to find a way to fit this course into curricular structures more broadly rather than as a mandate which may pose a potential academic burden to students.

Senator **Willen** spoke in support of the motion.

Senator **Holland** stated that through data and conversations with students, the course has not been perceived as an academic burden. Senator **Holland**

acknowledged this course as the first of its kind to be passed in this manner as a positive change, establishing a unifying experience for students, and one which can pave pathways for other such courses to emerge.

Senator **Jockusch** clarified their earlier question and asked whether there is a pathway to revisit folding this course into general education requirements at a later date, after today's vote. Moderator **Dineen** invited Senator **Bedore** to speak. Senator **Bedore** stated that if today's vote passes and the course comes to the CCC that they could investigate further.

Senator **Agocha** said he would like to propose an amendment to the motion. Moderator **Dineen** asked Senator **Agocha** to share the language for the amendment. Senator **Agocha** shared the proposed language for the amendment. Discussion ensued regarding procedure in this case, and it was determined that the statement did not change the nature of the motion and thus would not be voted on as an amendment.

Senator **Morrell** asked a clarifying question regarding statements made by other senators on this approval acting as a gateway to similar one-credit courses and requirements. Senator Salvant responded that there is nothing in the language that would preclude or negate the possibility of new courses being implemented.

Senator **Holland** stated that the undergraduate student government would welcome that we are voting what is specifically written in the by-laws.

**The motion passed with 36 YAY, 25 NAY, and 4 ABSTENTIONS**

## **9. New Business**

Senator **Park Boush** made an announcement on behalf of the budget committee regarding the FAQ on the university budget process in the annual report. She said she will circulate this to the senate at-large and will request that it is on the agenda for the first meeting in September.

Thank you from Moderator **Dineen**.

## **10. Adjournment**

Senator **Morrell** made a motion to adjourn.  
Senator **Keilty** seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.  
The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Everard  
Staff Member, Office of the Provost  
Recording Viewed September 2023

**SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Del Siegle, Chair

Usman Ali

Gabrielle Corso

Kate Fuller

Carl Rivers

Manuela Wagner

Pam Bramble

Jason Chang

Mason Holland

Margaret Rubega

Laura Burton

Marisa Chrysochoou

Joe MacDougald

Peter Spinelli