

Minutes of the CAS Faculty Senate Meeting of November 14, 2022

November 14, 2022, 4:00 PM - 4:55 PM ET

Attending: Olivia Amzallag; James Angelini; Jennifer Barker; Nonie Bell; Wendy Bellion; Suzanne Burton; William Chain; Jon Cox; Theodore Davis, Jr.; Darryl Flaherty; Deni Galileo; John Gizis; Daniel Green; Mark Greene; Christine Grogan; Katie Gwaltney; Alenka Hlousek-Radojcic; Jenny Lobasz; Dilia López-Gydosh; Edward Lyman; Bernard McKenna; John Morgan; Christopher Nichols; Nina Owczarek Herrera; John Pelesko; Thomas Rocek; Rakesh; Kimberly Schroeder; Alexander Selimov; Jenn Trivedi; Robert West; Polly Zavadivker; Neal Zondlo

President John Gizis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

At the start of the meeting we had 23 senators present, along with 2 other people, which satisfied the quorum.

President Gizis clarified that the Provost had to cancel her planned visit to the meeting, so her speaking time was removed from the Agenda. Senator John Morgan said that he would like to present about what has been happening with Medicare Advantage at the end of the meeting. President Gizis noted this would happen during New Business. We then voted to adopt the Agenda with these changes by a vote of 24-0.

With no corrections, additions, or subtractions, the Senate voted 26-0 to approve the [minutes for the October 2022 meeting](#).

President Gizis reminded everyone to ask questions by typing "I have a question" in the chat.

Dean John Pelesko then offered some brief comments. [Slides from his comments can be found here](#).

He noted that Provost Laura Carlson sent her apologies for having to cancel and will reschedule her meeting with the Senate in the future.

He thanked Senators for attending the State of the College, noting that it had been a very nice evening.

Dean Pelesko reminded everyone about CAS faculty award nominations, noting that information would be sent out in December, but that it was important to be having conversations about nominations in departments.

He also reminded everyone that program educational goals are due in March 2023. CAS's programs are currently at 18% compliance.

He thanked everyone who had participated in Blue and Golden Saturdays. The first event drew 380 prospective students and family members, while the second drew 530 and the third 625. Applications this year are already up 14% for CAS compared to last year and they are up across the university as a whole as well.

In Q&A there was a discussion of how tuition revenue is not going up with rising enrollment, a fact that the Board of Trustees, University Budget Committee, and others are paying attention to, particularly given that university revenue is tied to net tuition revenue. It was suggested that the university compile figures on numbers for in-state versus out-of-state and international students to make a case to the legislature that they should make up any difference tied to growing numbers of in-state students.

There was also discussion regarding where CAS stands for position planning. Dean Pelesko clarified that they are in the middle of meetings with every department chair in the college and will then compile all of the relevant information into a college-wide plan that will go to the Provost by January 31 with a subsequent presentation to the Provost in February. They are not sure what the timetable is for approvals, as that changes every year. Dean Pelesko does not believe the next year of hiring will be as large as the current round of 50+ faculty searches happening now, which are the result of pandemic restrictions and a large number of retirements.

Next President Gizis presented the Educational Affairs Committee's Consent Agenda, the full proposals of which are available on [Curriculog](#). There were no motions to discuss any of the items, so the entire agenda was approved by a vote of 25-0.

President Gizis then introduced the new degree proposals, which needed to be voted on individually. The full language of each is available on the [agenda](#).

The recommendation of permanent status for the Italian Studies (MA) in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures was approved by a vote of 25-0.

For the name change for the Department of Theatre to the Department of Theater and Dance there was some discussion of the language used in the resolution. It was ultimately decided to adjust the wording from "approves" to "recommends," but to keep "Faculty Senate" and not change it to "CAS Faculty Senate." Senator Rakesh put forward a motion to add "CAS" before "Faculty Senate", but after some discussion it was clarified that it was ultimately the Faculty Senate that would be making the decision and so Senator Rakesh withdrew his motion. With the acceptance of these changes by the Educational Affairs Committee Chair, James Angelini, the item was approved by a vote of 28-0.

Senator Alexander Selimov motioned that the Senate vote in bulk on the remaining items, all of which fell under the same department and all of which were being disestablished (French/Political Science (BA), French/Political Science Honors (HBA), German/Political Science (BA), German/Political Science Honors (HBA), Spanish/Political Science (BA), Spanish/Political Science Honors (HBA)). Senator McKenna seconded the motion. As

Parliamentarian, Senator Morgan clarified that President Gizis could ask if there were objections to the motion and if there were none the senate could move forward. With no objections, the motion carried and the items were voted on together, passing with a vote of 28-0.

There was then discussion of revisions to the bylaws, presented by Senator and COCAN Chair John Morgan, who noted that no member of the Executive Committee had received any proposal from anyone in the Senate or the College. There were no questions or suggestions.

In new business, Senator Morgan discussed the proposal in the university Faculty Senate to increase the number of Faculty Senators from 50 to 60, which would allow each department to be represented. The announced plan is to bring the resolution forward for a vote on December 5, which requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote, as it is a revision of the constitution. The meeting will be at 4 PM in person. There was discussion in the Zoom chat that the issue of increasing the number of senators was an equity issue for departments like Women and Gender Studies, Africana Studies, and Art Conservation. It was noted that it is a bit difficult to predict potential opposition to the move, but that in 2011 a similar effort failed by 2 votes. When the original number of 50 senators was set there were only 550 faculty members across 43 departments and now there are about 1300 across about 53 departments. There are some larger departments who may view smaller departments having the same vote as an equity issue. Based on the math, CAS will get 3 or 4 new senators. It would be helpful if people were there to support the effort.

Senator Morgan then spoke about the Medicare Advantage issue and shared places to get information (which he also emailed out to Senators later). He noted that Medicare Advantage has some advantages, but also some disadvantages, especially if you have a serious illness since everything requires pre-authorization and leads into a five step appeal process, with the fifth step being filing a lawsuit.

The organization RISE Delaware, founded by Rep. John Kowalko, Jr. and New Castle County Councilwoman Lisa Diller, has argued that the state violated FOIA and other acts with their transition to the Medicare Advantage plan for all state government retirees, including those from UD. On October 19 a Judge found in a preliminary ruling in their favor and imposed a stay on the transition. On October 24, the State Employment Benefits Committee (SEBC) met and voted to continue the existing health plans for retirees through calendar year 2023. However, Senator Morgan has learned that state agencies are appealing the Judge's decision and on November 28 the court may revoke the order and the SEBC could vote to change their decision based on the result of the appeal. UD has chosen to take part in the state healthcare plan, although it is not required.

Senator Morgan recommends Senators go to the [RISE Delaware website](#) to follow what is going on. He screenshared pages from Delaware's contract with Highmark from the Medicare Advantage plan with the first 20 pages or so being legal language, followed by a list of procedures requiring pre-authorization. Senator Morgan proposed sending an email with links to everyone in the CAS Faculty Senate ([the text of which is available here](#), [attachment here](#)).

Senator Morgan suggested to the University Faculty Senate that they schedule an open hearing, a motion that was seconded by Leslie Reidel. Their Executive Committee has asked about an open hearing on the issue on Zoom to make it accessible and including the state Lieutenant Governor. People should stay tuned for further announcements. He notes this should especially be of interest to faculty members who signed contracts to retire in the next year or two as it limits their healthcare options.

In Q&A, it was clarified that this is a much cheaper option for the state. Active faculty members have options about which healthcare plan they sign up for, although they have to use doctors who are in network. Older faculty members and emeritus faculty members have expressed concerns to various Senators and Senators themselves expressed concerns in the meeting, including younger faculty members who noted their own health issues.

After this discussion a motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM ET.