

**CU SENATE MEETING  
AGENDA**

**Meeting Date:** September 11, 2025

**Session:** AY 2025-26, Meeting I

**Time:** 4 pm

**Location:** Join Zoom Meeting

<https://commonwealthu-edu.zoom.us/j/92531235550?pwd=lQv24pT8y6gHUD5UI6xdh5zVQpD6GA.1&from=addon>

Participants: Michael McFarland, Rick Goulet, D. Adams, Mark Decker, George Agbango, Christopher Lapos, Heidi Warner, Stanley Berard, Dan Knorr, Michelle Lockwood, Anna Turnage, Peter Campbell, Robin Rockey, Amy Way, Mike Collins, William Kluge, Jessica Bentley-Sassaman, Nichole Lefelhoc, Lynda Michaels, Holly Jackson, Rebecca Baker, Suzanne Williamson, John Evans, Julie Kontos, Lisa Lister, Doug Spatafore, Amanda Sanko, Jessy Defenderfer, Brooke Harlowe, Cori Myers, Erin Kennedy, Doreen Jowi, Craig Young, Jackie Borst, Matt McKeague, Heather Feldhaus, Kenny Hall, Peggy Carl, Kristin Vincenzes, Eric Lippincott, Maramonne Houseknecht, William Barnes, Karri Verno, Kim Hulslander, Brad Lint Jeff Osgood, Regina Bobak, Asa Kelley, Kim Johnson, Stephen Lee, Barb Rossi, Jason Genovese, Stacy Wagner, Jeanne Kagle, Angela Boswell, Christopher Cummings, Rodger Benefiel, Debra Rotella, Jen Turnbough, Stephanie Bissinger, Deborah Thomas, Emmy Borst, Amanda Stutzman, Tena Maurer, Brandy Hower, Eric Foster, Richa Sharma, Terina Oman, Mark Turnbough, Christine Bomboy, Kristi Getty, Gretchen Osterman, Carina Howell, Mary Feeney, Lam Nguyen, Brooke Harlowe, John Gradel, Nichole Book, Bob Thorn, Matt Slotkin, Nicholas Delaney, Yvette Ingram, Kellie Forziat Pytel, Taylor Tyczka, Jessica Bentley-Sassaman, Rick Lilla, Ashley Pecheck, Melinda Phillips, Bernadette Heiney, Tess Fosse, Hunter Hartford, Curtis Grenoble, Karen Hamman, George Rusczyk, Kim Lamar Shelton, Xia Zhou, Stanley Berard, Michelle Kiec, Sharon Stoddard, Sybil Holloway, Eric Lippincott, Mark Turnbough.

- I.** Call to order: Meeting called to order at 4:00pm by Rick Goulet, (CU Senate President).
- II.** Announcements: Rick Goulet asked for a moment of silence in honor of September 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - A.** Senate/Shared Governance Overview – Brad Lint, (MA Local Assembly President, Associate Professor English, CU) went over the Senate structure and how it is a tiered approach. Reviewed what Senate can and cannot do as a governing body and how the policy process works.
- III.** Approval of Minutes (April 10, 2025 meeting)  
<https://www.commonwealthu.edu/documents/draft-250410-cu-senate-minutes> : Jessica Bentley, (Professor Exceptionality Programs, CU) sent a revision to be made to Heidi Warner. (Executive Associate, President's Office, CU). Mark Decker, (Professor Dept Chair, CU) made a motion to approve. Michelle Lockwood, (Associate Professor, CU) seconded it. Approved by Acclamation.
- IV.** Committee Reports

- A. Academic Policy Committee: Jessy Defenderfer, (Associate Professor Political Science, CU) commented that the committee have met one time this semester. They are bringing forward four policies for 1<sup>st</sup> reading.
- B. IT Subcommittee: Matthew McKeague, (Associate Professor Media & Journalism) reported that they will be meeting next week (9/15/2025) and they have one policy for 1<sup>st</sup> reading.
- C. Enrollment Management Subcommittee: Christopher Lapos (Associate VP Undergrad & Transfer Admissions) said that they met three times in the spring. The Transfer policy is up for 1<sup>st</sup> reading.
- D. Advancement Committee: Jason Genovese (Associate Professor Media & Journalism and Assistant Department Chair) Commented on the resounding success at the dedication of the new McCormick Building at Bloomsburg. With most of this committee's policies being passed, the advancement committee will be moving on to matters of collaborating on advancement initiatives.
- E. DEI Committee: Christopher Cummings (Associate Professor Tutorial Services) said that they are working on the ADA and Harassment Policy. Time, Place & Manner Policy up for 1<sup>st</sup> reading.
- F. Finance Committee: No Report.
- G. Student Affairs Committee: Holly Jackson, (Associate Professor Librarian) stated that they passed all six policies that were assigned to them, so they are holding off on meeting until they receive some more work to do.
- H. First Year Experience Subcommittee: Kellie Forziat, (CU) Committee held a two-day retreat in June, and discussed needs and resources for the first-year seminar with the provost, Vice Provost. Submitted several potential courses which may lead to adjustment of the course format, but those changes will be worked on through this year for rollout in the fall of 26. Held first meeting September 3<sup>rd</sup>, where the committee laid out the work for potential adjustments, working through assessment issues, creating faculty training options for those teaching the course. Will discuss further at next meeting.
- I. Elections Subcommittee: No Report.
- J. Space and Facilities Subcommittee: Stacy Wagner, (Chief Facilities & Safety Officer) reported that Yvette Ingram was nominated to be chair of the S&F Subcommittee. Discussed splitting up large committee into smaller working groups that are campus specific, which would then report back to the subcommittee quarterly. Still working through the inclement weather policy based off of feedback at last semesters senate meeting.
- V. Constitutional Amendments Proposal – Mark Decker (Appendix A) walked through the proposed changes to the Senate Constitution. Allowing administrative changes to be made by the clerical assistant. Adding liaison duties for the Senate Vice President and the Senate

Associate Vice President to assist more with committees. Adding sections to the constitution for withdrawal policies and consent agendas. Allowing 1<sup>st</sup> readings to take place during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Senate meeting of the semester. Added a clarification for interim policies, that they will immediately be added to the next Senate agenda for 1<sup>st</sup> reading. Creation of Article 10 which allows for past Senate presidents to provide assessment function. Also allowing past presidents to assist with accreditation audits. Several other various editorial changes to bring the constitution to match current terminology. George Abango, (Professor Political Science), Asked for clarification on the work done by past presidents, if it would cost additional money? Mark Decker confirmed that any work done by previous presidents is not at any cost associated.

## VI. Interim Policies: None Applicable.

## VII. First Reading:

- A. [Leave of Absence Policy](#): George Rusczyk, (Dean of students) provided that this policy addresses a gap in retaining students. It is only good for 2 semesters in which a student's admissions status remains but is not considered an active student. This applies only to undergrad students, (exceptions would be for review). A request to return would need to be submitted 30 days in advance. Amy Way, (Interim Assoc Dean Health Prof CoHST) asked if this policy could apply to part time students? George replied that it could potentially apply to part time students. Erin Kennedy, (Professor Psychology) asked if this could apply to graduate students and if the terminology about summer and winter semesters could be reordered. George responded that it was applied to undergraduate first due to higher need and recognizing that there is a higher degree of difficulty with grad programs. Heather Feldhaus, (Assoc Provost & Dean Graduate Education) also agreed that there is a need to have this applied to grad students as well. George offered to take it back to the committee. Kristin Vincenzes asked if there was a number of times that students were allowed to pull out? George confirmed there is not at this time. Tess Fosse, (Chief Accessibility Officer) would like to see ADA support language put into the policy.
- B. [Time Place and Manner Policy](#): Christopher Cummings stated that the committee worked with students, CUPD and others on this policy. Aligned with what can be enforced on campuses. What is required and what is not for advanced registration. Michelle Lockwood asked if this would apply to renting classrooms or spaces to outside organizations. Chris C. said that would fall under facilities.
- C. [Acceptable Use of Technology Policy](#): Matthew McKeaque explained this is laying out what students, faculty and staff should not be doing like uploading viruses, hacking into devices, etc. Doreen Jowi asked how does technology work if traveling overseas to work for CU? William Barnes, (Exec Director Enterprise Apps) answered that this should be investigated as a new policy to address this concern.
- D. [Grade Change Policy](#): Jessy Defenderfer explained that this policy is just to update to CU nomenclature. Erin Kennedy asked is there a timeframe for how long grades changes should take? Jesse replied that it states 4 weeks for changes to be made. Brooke Harlowe, (Professor Political Science) asked if it could be a grievance if faculty doesn't do the grade change within a certain timeframe?
- E. [Preferred Name Policy](#): Jessy Defenderfer updated to be current with CU. Feels that the DEI committee should also look at it. Chris Cumming offered to take it to their next meeting for review. Julie Kontos, (Professor Psychology Assistant Chair) stated that there were some issues with Banner and Brightspace not matching up. William Barnes confirmed that correct listed are updated and are being uploaded so that the system match.
- F. [Incompletes Policy](#): Jessy Defenderfer explained that this is formalizing an incomplete so that there is not just an "I" put into banner, but a connected form that faculty needs to fill out. Jackie Borst, (Associate Professor, PA Program) raised a concern that there are often "Incompletes" in the PA program due to rotations not lining up correctly. This could be a lot of paperwork for the faculty in the PA program. Heather Feldhaus offered that the policy could

be updated for exceptions like this and that maybe the registrar's office could help. Kristin Vincenzes asked if there could be a separate section for graduate programs.

- G. [Withdrawal from University Policy](#): Tess Fosse largely just a walkover to the new policy template.
- H. [Transfer Policy](#): Maramonne Houseknecht, (Director of Admissions BL) combined separate policies into one and aligns with the new legislative ACT 69. Nicholas Delaney, (Instructor, Counseling Services) Asked about section 6.9 "the transfer credits will be deleted if the student subsequently registers for courses with substantially duplicate content area" and if there is a timeline for this notice from the registrar's office? Maramonne offered to reach out to the registrar's office and consult with them to get an answer on this. Gretchen Osterman, (Academic Advisor) asked how the equivalences process in section 6.11.1 is being distributed to our transfer students? Maramonne offered that students can reach out directly at this point.

## **VIII. Second Readings:**

- A. [Graduate Faculty Policy](#): Heather Feldhaus explained that they have reworked this policy after last semesters senate meeting. It defines the rights of a grad faculty member, which includes teaching grad classes, serving on DC committees. Established 3 different types of grad faculty status, one that covers our tenured faculty, one that covers those who are tenure-tracked but not yet tenured, and one that is temporary. The temporary is often for folks who are not teaching in a grad program, but they might be serving on a thesis committee as an extra member. Stanley Berard, (Professor Political Science) asked how existing faculty members are treated under section 412 that have a terminal degree? Heather confirmed that in a case like that, the Dean or Dept. Chair would need to ask for an exception. Kristin Vincenzes asked for clarity on the temporary status under section 414. Heather explained that temporary status is for people who are not going to be permanent for one reason, or another would be evaluated each time. The other is for an outside person who is not a Commonwealth employee.

## **IX. Consent Agenda Items: N/A**

## **X. Withdrawn Policies: N/A**

## **XI. President's Remarks: Jeff Osgood, (Interim CU President) thank everyone for inviting him into this space and how committed everyone is to put forth good policy and procedures is evident.**

## **XII. Remarks for the Good of the Order: Brooke Harlowe asked why CU is cutting books from the library? Heather Feldhaus explained that this is a normal part of the process for the library. In order to move things in, we need to move things out. Some things will be archived. If books haven't been checked out since 1998, they are being removed to make way for more suitable for programs we currently offer.**

## **XIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 6:06pm.**

### **Upcoming Fall 2025 Meetings**

- Lock Haven Assembly Meeting @3 pm: Thursday, 9/25/25 (**105 Greenburg Auditorium, Willis Health Science Building**)
- Bloomsburg Assembly Meeting @3 pm: Thursday, 10/09/25 (Hartline Science Center – G38)
- Lock Haven Assembly Meeting @4 pm: Thursday, 10/23/25 (**105 Greenburg Auditorium, Willis Health Science Building**)

- Mansfield Assembly Meeting @4 pm: Thursday, 10/30/25 (**G1 Retan Center**)
- CU Senate Executive Committee Meeting @4 pm via Zoom: Thursday, 11/6/25
- CU Senate Meeting @4 pm via Zoom: Thursday, 11/13/25