

**Faculty Senate  
Clarion University  
9/25/17**

Faculty Senate met on September 25, 2017 in 246 Gemmell. A. Roberts chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: Y. Ayad, S. Boyden, C. Childers, D. Clark, J. Croskey, S. Harris, D. Knepp, M. Lepore, D. Lott, J. Lyle, J. May, J. McCullough, J. Overly, J. Phillips, S. Prezzano, B. Sweet, L. Taylor, J. Touster, P. Woodburne. R. Raehsler, R. Laugand, T. Pfannestiel, and R. Skunda were also present.

I. Call to Order – A. Roberts called the meeting to order at 3:30.

II. Approval of the Minutes (Sept. 11, 2017) – S. Boyden motioned (J. Croskey seconded) approval of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Announcements

No Retrenchment Letter – A. Roberts commented on removal of Retrenchment Letter at Trustee Meeting.

Visitors to Senate – A Roberts noted that Len Cullo will visit Senate in 2 weeks, D. Dollins will visit on Oct 23, and S. Fenske, S. Hoke, and D. Emmings will visit on Dec. 4 to discuss NOW week.

At start time, T. Pfannestiel had not arrived from a meeting off campus, and nor had R. Skunda arrived, so meeting began with a new business report from R. Laugand. By the end of that report, T. Pfannestiel and R. Skunda had both arrived. The minutes reflect the normal order of the agenda, and not the chronological order.

IV. President's Report – T. Pfannestiel

T. Pfannestiel began by stating that enrollment was indeed up over last year, unofficially by 1 student. He noted the work that had gone into this, when we had been down by 144 last year, and thanked everyone in the enrollment management team, and all those who worked to call and otherwise recruit students. T. Pfannestiel noted that only 5 PASSHE schools were up, and that 3 were in the western part of PA.

T. Pfannestiel discussed the Interim President Search, noting that two candidates from the Registry had been contacted, and would likely be coming to campus later the week of 9/25-29. T. Pfannestiel suggested that, all going well, the new interim President should be installed by mid October.

T. Pfannestiel said that the Presidential Search committee has formed, the voting on faculty membership having just concluded, with J. Croskey, B. Sweet and R. Feroz being chosen. Deans will be discussing tenure track searches for a Fall 2018 start. T. Pfannestiel noted that he expects 7-8 such searches to be conducted this year.

T. Pfannestiel, in response to, and in agreement with the discussion by R. Laugand on the ramifications of expensive textbooks, said that he will convene a faculty working group to explore increased usage of open source materials.

T. Pfannestiel then opened the floor to questions.

J. Touster said that, as many of us do, that he tries to encourage the purchase of older textbooks, via outside vendors, but that students awaiting financial aid checks often cannot take advantage of these lower cost alternatives, while the bookstore will work with students and allow them to take the book until financial aid kicks in. Thus, students with the greatest need, get directed to the most expensive option. J. Touster asked about the timeline for interviews of the Presidential candidates. T. Pfannestiel noted that airport interviews will be conducted post December break, with campus visits to occur a month or so later, and a start day of approximately July 1. Thus, he expects the interim president to serve approximately 9 months, from mid October, 2017 to June 30, 2018. P. Woodburne noted that, as the retrenchment letter had been removed, and that T. Pfannestiel had wanted to talk to the union before discussing program moratorium issues, whether T. Pfannestiel had any news on that front. T. Pfannestiel said that he did not have anything to add to what he had said at Policy, the previous Monday.

#### V. Student Senate – R. Skunda

R. Skunda discussed the student retreat, the team building exercises, and that they seek to get a lot of work done. He asked if Senate liked the idea of doing a survey of every student who declined to come to campus, to determine if having programs in moratorium hurt enrollments. J. Phillips said that he was very fond of the idea. P. Woodburne noted that asymmetric costs often exist in terms of enrollment costs to the university once a program is placed into moratorium. S. Boyden noted that we could ask other questions too on any questionnaire. J. Touster noted a probable low response rate. T. Pfannestiel noted that federal law prohibits universities from contacting students who have declined to come to their institution. Universities cannot hound students who have decided to go elsewhere. T. Pfannestiel suggested that R. Skunda approach the admissions office with his request to see how it could be done.

#### VI. Committee Reports.

##### A. CCPS – B. Sweet

B. Sweet said that the read-ins (new business) are read in. B. Sweet said that the major proposal date is 9/29, and the objection date for 10/20. The open hearing is scheduled November 3.

##### B. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

M. Lepore stated that M. Schaefer will come to Senate on 10/9 to discuss the new code of student conduct. He said that S. Fenske is concerned about E. Schuetz's replacement on the committee. General discussion suggested that whomever replaces Erin's functionality should take her place on the committee. Currently, S. Hoke is wearing E. Schuetz's hat—one of many, but that he will cease doing so when E. Schuetz's replacement is hired.

##### C. CCR – J. Lyle

J. Lyle said that committee placements were almost ready. A couple vacancies still exist, and arm twisting is currently undertaken. M. Lepore and others noted that they thought they were on the committee, but did not appear. J. Phillips motioned to accept the slate, and amend the missing members later, in order that the committees can begin work. Unanimously approved.

##### D. Academic Standards – J. Phillips

J. Phillips said he can now call the committee to order, as the committee slates have been passed.

#### E. Budget – C. Childers

C Childers said that she was working with L. Cullo to set-up a meeting, and that he will meet with Senate on 10/9/17.

#### F. Faculty Affairs – D. Knepp

D. Knepp stated that had meeting with faculty website committee. P. Gent spearheading attempt to revamp website as far as where data/information exists and can be found. Work is continuing on the website. Faculty Mentor Dinner will occur 10/24/17.

#### G. Institutional Resources – E. Foster

E. Foster was absent. A. Robert read a message from her stating that she talked to J. Hendershott re: road/parking closure notices as per Y. Ayad last Senate meeting. J. Hendershott says that road closures are made a couple days in advance, but partial lot restrictions are not reported, the justification being that if he makes too many notifications they will be ignored. E. Foster sent email to Eric Martin re: Tippin. Not heard back. B. Sweet asked T. Pfannestiel about Tippin, who said that it is only paperwork now. The various bids are within contractual limits, and working out the timeline is the only thing left.

#### H. Venango – J. May

J. May brought up the absentee ballot issue related to comments last Senate meeting (questions about how full-time, online nursing faculty could get on Senate). She suggested that this could be taken up as one of the By Laws issues. A. Roberts agreed, and noted that the By Laws follow a strict protocol, brought from Policy, and must sit for two weeks to allow comment, before being finalized. A. Roberts noted again, the strict time limit if we are to get By Laws finalized during the administration of T. Pfannestiel prior to Interim President.

### VII. Old Business

#### A. By-Laws/General Education Recommendations

Still old, still business. A. Roberts expressed confidence that there would be closure on this front. C. Childers asked if versions of the By-Laws could be sent out to be read. A. Roberts said he would do so. Issue raised by J. May is part of potential By Laws changes.

### VIII. New Business

#### A. CCPS Read-ins – They were read-in.

B. Minority Student Recruitment and Retention – R. Laugand – R. Laugand began by noting that we have some 504 minority students on campus, and have had as many as 528 in recent years. He spoke mostly about retention efforts. GEMS (Golden Eagle Men's Success) is aimed at Af. Am male students, and consists of some invasive procedures including mentoring and attendance monitoring, financial aid workshops, public safety workshops, cultural events, and the like. Most of the men meet with R. Laugand regularly. R. Laugand turned to the reasons why minority students leave. 1. Financial aid. Even with max aid, many minority students (and majority students too) can not pay the entire tuition, so incur ever more unpaid debt. 2. Some experience negative cultural

experiences, such as being called N\*\*\*\*\* while walking down the street. R. Laugand noted that such experiences are occurring more quickly this term than in the past, and wondered if the larger political environment is to blame. R. Laugand said he often is asked to go to classes to lead discussions on racial issues. He considers these successful, and are viewed by minority students as evidence that the faculty members care about them, and value minority students and the honoring the experience of the minority student. R. Laugand asked faculty to be sensitive to minority students, especially if there is only 1 in class, when that student may sit in the back, or be hesitant to answer questions. R. Laugand asked faculty to create a welcoming environment.

R. Laugand noted that book expense is a big issue. Many students, both minority and majority, cannot afford books, and often wait to see if the 'professor uses the book' before getting it. If the wait is until the first exam, it is often too late to pass the class. J. Phillips noted that book costs are very high, and noted that he tries to offer books to students, or tries to require the cheapest version of books possible. R. Laugand responded that if minority students especially feel comfortable in class, they are more likely to ask for a book or other help than if not. M. Lepore noted that calling students who have dropped out may be a good way to get them to come back. He noted that a successful alum had been called, and that call changed the alum's life. S. Boyden wondered if the Building Bridges program could be infused into the Freshman Inquiry Seminar courses. Regarding books, in response to query by C. Childers, T. Pfannestiel noted that we have to notify the bookstore if we use a book or if we do not. Faculty do NOT have to use a book, but they must notify the bookstore either way. Students do NOT have to purchase the book from the bookstore, but, as noted earlier, financial aid considerations often guide students to the most expensive option. J. Lyle asked R. Laugand to put the word out to minority students to join the Debate Team. One of his best debaters is a minority alum who is willing to come back to speak. Also, the current topic of debate this year is police brutality.

Senate expressed thanks to R. Laugand.

- C. Honors Council – R. Raehsler. R. Raehsler said that the Honors Charter called for appointments to Honors Council for 3 year periods, with renewal possible, and that this slate was to be approved by Senate. This policy had not been undertaken in sometime, and he thought it would be good to get back to that policy. R. Raehsler had a slate of 8 candidates and asked for approval. Some members are on Council because of their role in teaching Honors classes, student representatives chosen by honors students, and others chosen by the director due to their interest and fit for the position. The administration has a couple of representatives as well. He noted that there is nothing in the Charter to limit the slate to 8 candidates. J. Phillips moved for acceptance of the slate. J. Overly seconded, motion approved unanimously.
- D. New Secretary - J. Lyle – A. Roberts asked for nominations for Senate Secretary. J. Lyle nominated P. Woodburne, who said he would serve. B. Sweet moved to close nominations. P. Woodburne elected.
- E. Suicide Awareness – J. Croskey noted that it would be good to be aware if students appear edgy, due to the suicide of a student in the previous weeks. J. Phillips noted a vigil in front of Becker Hall at 7:00 pm

IX. Adjournment – B. Sweet moved (J. Overly seconded). Unanimous passage.

