

**Faculty Senate  
Minutes  
Clarion University  
8/30/21**

Faculty Senate met on August 30, 2021, in Still 206, via zoom and face to face. J. Knaust chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: L. Chambers, J. Croskey, N. Dias, E. Foster, L. Fulton, B. Packard replacing H. Hampikian, J. Knaust, D. Knepp, M. Lepore, A. Love, J. Lyle, M. K. McConnell, N. O’Neil, A. Roberts, A. Rosati, A. Shannonhouse, R. Shawgo, B. Sweet, L. Taylor, J. Walsh, P. Woodburne.

D. Pehrsson, P. Gent, J. Geiger, A. Barrett (student senate), were also present.

I. Call to Order – J. Knaust called the meeting to order at 3:30.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Two sets of minutes to approve (both from 4/26/21) last old Senate and first new Senate. J. Croskey moved, E. Foster seconded. Motion passed.

III. Announcements

- a. Council of Trustees Meeting Thursday, September 23rd, 4:00 p.m., <https://clarion.zoom.us/j/91926431710>
- b. Covid-19 Cases on campus are being updated at <https://www.clarion.edu/covid-19/cases/index.html>
- c. COVID-19 Student Decision Tree at <https://www.clarion.edu/covid-19/student-decision-tree.jpg>
- d. Free COVID-19 testing is available for students, faculty, and staff on Mondays and Wednesdays between noon and 2 p.m. in Eagle Commons room 107/108

IV. President’s Report--D. Pehrsson

The president was delayed, and give her report after the Provost’s Report.

Following the COVID discussion that occurred during the Provost’s report, the president said that the COVID response committee might start meeting weekly.

President Pehrsson commented about three topics primarily.

J. Geiger has been acting as the president’s Campus Administrator and first in line of succession for some time now. This includes duties of representing the president when she is unavailable For example, when she is at CALU or EU. D. Pehrsson will attend as many senate meetings as she is able, but J. Geiger will attend in her stead when necessary.

In Integration news the president reported that she has been appointed as interim president at CALU. She has been there for about a month, to be there for their reopening and to become familiar with faculty and staff. In terms of milestones to meet for Integration, an important one has to do with faculty appointments and departmental configurations, and the determination of Deans, and other senior management. Deans won’t be put through any sort of search, but there will be conversations about where they want to go and what their expertise is. The provost and vice/assoc provost positions will be hired internally, and be limited to a 2-3 year contract. At the end of this time a national search will be conducted. Pam and Mike Hannan (EU) will retire in June or July, so new provosts will have to be in position by then.

Conversations with NCAA are ongoing, but seem likely to be successful in keeping 3 sports teams.

Middle States has given us various directions to keep accreditation in the face of Integration, and the MS teams at each campus are going good work. Teach-out plans are being worked out as part of the plans.

In terms of curriculum, APSCUF and PASSHE have agreed to the process for creating a NewU-wide curricular committee, and extended the deadlines for curricular development. The agreement is in the recently published Side Letters, available on the APSCUF website.

In response to questions, each campus is following local/county masking guidelines. Each campus may have different mandates/rules.

In response to questions about the various research conducted by faculty for the integration process/strategic plans, the President said that, as faculty put forth IRB proposals, they own the data. Faculty are certainly able to use the data, but may depend on how the data are to be used. Her specific example suggested using the data to construct DEI guidelines and generate DEI data.

V. Provost Report—P. Gent

Four faculty/staff have contracted COVID, as well as 9 students.

As per the email sent out by Rob Gatesman, fall enrollment continues to be down.

Middle States visit by the visit chair will occur in October, with the full visit in spring. It is unclear which, if either, will be face to face.

In terms of integration, draft faculty assignment to the new departments have gone out. Faculty are asked to look at them to make sure the new department is correct.

P. Gent discussed the HR process for hiring senior management (Provosts, Deans, Vice/Assoc Deans, etc). Deans will not endure a search process, but the senior management will be hired via a search process after an initial period of appointment/local search.

Fall faculty assembly on Wednesday. Reception in breezeway in Eagle Commons.

In response to questions, P. Gent clarified how the deans will be chosen. Administration will look at qualifications and will have conversations with current deans to see where they will go. As Mike Hannan and P. Gent will be retiring, this will start a domino effect for deans shifting over and moving up. APSCUF will have input in the process.

6 deans need to be assigned, along with various assistant positions.

A list of the actual faculty departmental assignments will come out later next week after faculty have looked at where they are positioned.

In response to questions in terms of COVID, J. Geiger said it is possible to include the number of students/faculty who are quarantined, as well as other statistics on the CUP website dashboard.

A long discussion and question session began, with questions that worry faculty, and which faculty reps wanted to bring to the COVID response committee, this morning's meeting of which was cancelled.

A discussion ensued about how to deal with students who say they come down with COVID and what faculty ought to do, are required to do, or ought not do. For example, faculty are not to change their course modality (from F2F to Multi-Modal for example), to suit a student who tests positive. It is the case that students can play the system. Faculty can make adjustments, such as posting live/concurrently recorded zoom lectures on D2L, as this does not constitute a new modality.

A faculty can do some sort of altered modality, if done for less than 20% of the class time. For example, live streaming a conference or offering a zoom link under some circumstances—but for no more than 20% of the course time.

A student who is 'uncomfortable' coming to class has little recourse beyond what a faculty member would do in a non-COVID environment. Faculty can provide alternate assignments to take the place of, or mimic, a discussion that a student missed, for example.

Any precedence one faculty member sets must be given to all, and may implicate colleagues.

VI. Student Senate – A. Barrett

175 students attended WINGO, which was deemed a success. Student Senate elections are now ongoing to fill 9 slots.

\$2,000 has been awarded in the "Students In Need" scholarship.

In response to questions, there is little word from the students about the bookstore, aside from "where is it?"

It is unclear if the new bookstore will contribute to the "Students In Need" scholarship.

VII. Committee Reports.

A. CCPS – B. Sweet

Due dates for experimental etc classes have been sent to faculty.

CCPS committee has its own email account, [ccps@clarion.edu](mailto:ccps@clarion.edu). B. Sweet will encourage use of this email address so his own email is not flooded with CCPS proposals. As there is no work study student currently, he asks that TWO hard copies be sent to his office.

The deadline for submitting Special Topics and Experimental course proposals to CCPS is **Wednesday, September 22**. This deadline must be met to ensure a timely publication of Special Topics and Experimental course offerings.

The deadline for submitting major curricular proposals is **Friday, September 24** and objections must be made by **Friday, October 15**. Proposals and objections must be delivered to the office of the chair of CCPS by 4:00 PM on the deadline date.

B. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

S. Fenske and M. Shaffer have been at EU and CALU working with their integration taskforces related to student affairs. Students are unhappy about the cost of wings and that the cafeteria seems to run out of chicken nuggets.

- C. CCR – M. McConnell  
Working on the upcoming committee calls.
- D. Academic Standards – L. Chambers  
Got information from M. McConnell who chaired the committee last year, as well as what J. Phillips was doing with AIPs, but there seems to be a holding pattern as no one knows what will happen. It is a good time to get various documents in some sort of preliminary form to respond quickly to any rules or recommendations that come down.
- E. Budget – A. Roberts  
N/R
- F. Faculty Affairs – J. Walsh  
N/R
- G. Institutional Resources – L Taylor  
N/R
- H. Venango – J. May  
The Venango Forums are being conducted once again on campus to include faculty/staff/student senate representation. Forums will be on the first Tuesday of each month in Rhoades Auditorium at 12:30., with the first meeting next Tuesday, Sept. 7th at 12:30. I will be in attendance; therefore, I should have more updates for the next senate meeting.

#### VIII. Old Business

1. Integrated Faculty Senate Working Group (A. Roberts, P. Woodburne, J. Knaust and M. McCullough)  
The group has been working. The group is in favor of two characteristics of the new Senate. First, the committee believes that a new senate should input on curricula, in a way broadly similar to CUP. Early discussions included P. Gent and M. Hanna (provost at EU), both of whom expressed support for such duties in the new senate.  
  
Second, the committee believes that the new senate ought to have membership determined by department, rather than follow CUP's 'at large' model. CALU and EU also, in the same breath, acknowledge that their senates suffer from lack of interest and enthusiasm (perhaps due to forcing uninterested faculty onto their Senates). One member of the working group wants 3 members from each department (one from each campus), for a total of almost 90 members.  
  
Consensus seems to be gravitating to one rep per department, and 4 'at large' members, one from each physical location and one from the virtual campus/college.  
  
Discussion by the Working Group included worries that locations with more faculty will dominate the membership of the new Senate.  
  
The next move is to start on By-Laws enshrining some curricular involvement in the NewU Senate, but this will be hampered by lack of knowledge of what the NewU's version of CCPS will do.

2. Statement of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

The committee has not met regularly. However, J. Walsh put together a DEI statement that the committee sees as a good starting point. The committee will continue its work and will formalize a final DEI statement.

IX. New Business

Generally, in this meeting Senate invites visitors for the upcoming meetings. At Policy, discussion centered around the limbo that the university finds itself in, and perhaps we should delay inviting visitors until spring.

X. For the good of the Order

XI. Adjournment – B. Sweet moved (E. Foster seconded). Unanimous passage.

From Tim Fogarty's Office:

- *We have had reported positive cases involving students and staff. Those cases are reported via the COVID Tracker on the web site.*
- *For any positive case known close contacts are identified and contacted and advised to quarantine if appropriate.*
- *Employees who test positive for COVID or are required to quarantine or isolate due to exposure should notify their supervisor or human resources as quickly as possible. Information will be kept confidential but it is important for case tracking and contact tracing.*
- *For students, all members of the classes they have attended are notified of the possible exposure and instructions on what the students should do is provided.*
- *Each faculty member for the classes attended by the student testing positive is also notified and provided instructions on monitoring their health.*
- *The Provost's Office and Student Affairs are continuing to address issues regarding students who fail to wear a mask or fail to wear a mask properly.*