

**Faculty Senate  
Minutes  
Clarion University  
10/18/21**

Faculty Senate met on October 18, 2021, in Still 206, via zoom and face to face. J. Knaust chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: J. Croskey, N. Dias, E. Foster, L. Fulton, B. Packard replacing H. Hampikian, J. Knaust, D. Knepp, M. Lepore, A. Love, J. May, M. K. McConnell, B. O’Neill, J. Phillips, A. Roberts, A. Rosati, A. Shannonhouse, R. Shawgo, B. Sweet, L. Taylor, J. Walsh, P. Woodburne.  
D. Pehrsson, P. Gent, J. Geiger, and J. Joseph (student senate), were also present.

- I. Call to Order – J. Knaust called the meeting to order at 3:30.
- II. Approval of the Minutes (10/4/21) B. Sweet moved, A. Roberts seconded. Motion passed.
- III. Announcements  
The New University’s name was announced.
- IV. President’s Report—J. Geiger and D. Pehrsson  
The first thing discussed was the new name. D. Pehrsson said it felt strong and captured what the new university is all about. In the email was a long form video discussing the history of the campuses and the naming process that tried to do justice to that history. J. Geiger noted that approximately 30% of students across the three campuses have voted on the name. Among comments received from students was that integration now felt real. The administration will now launch a concerted campaign around the integration and the name/logos etc.

Regarding COVID, clarion has 25 active cases, the majority from athletes who are tested most frequently. The COVID group among the three institutions meet weekly or more frequently, to make sure all are following the same reporting protocols etc. All will have the same decision making process to determine when a ‘pivot’ needs to again be made. Among the data to aid in this determination include the % of cases on campus, the status of on-campus quarantine beds, the number of local ICU and emergency room beds available in the local community. In response to questions, we do not know how many students test off campus. If they do test off campus and are positive, the campus is notified. The campus is not notified if the test is negative. In response to questions, the current plan is for students to return to campus after the Thanksgiving break.

The administration recognizes that dealing with COVID for nearly two years has been very exhausting for faculty. The president, provost and others are discussing ways to ease the burden on faculty and to more explicitly and actively recognize the work faculty have been doing.

- V. Provost Report—P. Gent  
Among the things that the administration, in discussion with J. Overly, to reduce faculty burden is to allow deferred evaluations. Faculty can choose to defer faculty/peer and/or student evaluations for a semester.

The Promotion and Tenure celebration will occur, celebrating the last two classes of tenured and promoted faculty. Faculty Senate, as the last Policy committee meeting, has been asked to sponsor the celebration, and agreed to at that meeting.

The penultimate Open House was held this past weekend, to which 75 students and families attended. Some were looking generally at colleges, and some saw Clarion as a 'Destination' school.

Many of the newly formed departments have nominated chairs or are otherwise in the process of doing so. Some are electing to utilize Campus Labs (Baseline) for secret balloting, while other departments are using other means. The Provost noted that no nominees had been rejected by the administration, going out of her way to say how strong the slate of candidates were. The three provosts and Scott Miller, newly appointed Provost of PennWestern University, meet regularly, two to three times per week and will formally announce the slate of department chairs very soon. Upon questioning, the 'department leads' will either get a stipend (if non-teaching) or a release (if teaching faculty). Department Leads are determined by 'headcount', which is based on tenure and tenure track faculty.

The Middle States visit will occur this Friday, virtually, by Dr. Sosa from Rowan University. CUP has shared our draft report with him. He says he wants to help us get accredited.

The plan with respect to getting curricula approved was to have CALU's curricular committee simply accept CUP and EU's curricula, but this has been walked back a bit. Work is still moving apace to get all the curriculum loaded onto Banner.

VI. Student Senate – A. Barrett/J. Joseph

The Students In Need scholarship will open in early November and will be open for two weeks. Student senate hopes to get money for spring books out to students by late November.

Student Senate is trying to get students to use the safety app, which offers a link to COVID screenings and allows students to track their friends as they walk around campus, particularly after dark.

Students are encouraged to express their views about the new logo and color scheme etc.

Senate is trying to encourage student use and knowledge of the COVID decision tree.

Due to concern about how ALF affected the local COVID numbers, Student Senate is working with students to be mindful around Halloween, both about being safe COVID-wise, but also in being good neighbors when going out around Halloween. Senate members are engaging in a Good Neighbor walk prior to Halloween.

New posters are in the process of being erected about being mindful of COVID and how it may impact the community.

Gemmell is closing its food court at 4 pm, which hampers many athletes from getting dinner.

Eagle Commons is open a bit later, but has varied hours during the week.

Library hours will be extended until 9 pm on Saturday, and until 2 am during finals week.

VII. Committee Reports.

A. CCPS – B. Sweet

No CCPS objections were made against any CCPS proposals.

The Side Letter on curriculum allows any course to change modality during this school year. To change a course modality, let the chair and dean know. They will notify the registrar. Any modality changes to summer courses need to go through CCPS.

The group of 6 interim curriculum committee has been meeting and gathering information.

- B. Student Affairs – M. Lepore
  - Student Affairs Division has completed its 5 year review. S. Fenske is willing to come to Senate to share the results of their internal review.
  - Fall teams are in full swing. Winter/Spring team sports expect to be fully engaged as well.
  - The Student Affairs Division is busy with myriad COVID protocols.
  - M. Shaffer and others appreciate faculty use of the BART referrals, which seem to be seeing an uptick. If you are unsure if a BART referral is warranted, contact M. Shaffer to discuss.
  - The Student Affairs Division organizational chart for the three institutions will be rolled out soon. Its goal is to utilize the strengths of each location.
  
- C. CCR – M. McConnell
  - The slate of university committees has been finalized by the committee. CCR brings it to Senate for discussion and approval. Nearly every applicant got their first choice. The vote was taken and passed unanimously.
  
- D. Academic Standards – L. Chambers
  - L. Chambers was absent, but sent J. Knaust an email saying that there was not report except to say that the slate is now filled and the committee will start work.
  
- E. Budget – A. Roberts
  - N/R
  
- F. Faculty Affairs – J. Walsh
  - N/R
  
- G. Institutional Resources – L Taylor
  - N/R
  
- H. Venango – J. May
  - Following up on questions raised at the last Policy meeting, J. May noted that Venango campus has 21 students in the dorms and 237 students on the ground.
  
- VIII. Old Business
  - 1. Integrated Faculty Senate Working Group (A. Roberts, P. Woodburne, J. Knaust and M. McCullough)
    - Will meet Thursday, Oct. 21 to discuss bylaws.
  - 2. Statement of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.
    - No further meetings have occurred
  
- IX. New Business
  - No New Business
  
- X. For the good of the Order
  - Note that, as mentioned in Provost report, Faculty Senate has agreed at Policy committee to sponsor the faculty Tenure and Promotion celebration.
  
- XI. Adjournment – B. Sweet moved. Unanimous seconding by hitting the ‘Leave’ button.