

**Faculty Senate
Minutes
Clarion University
12/2/19**

Faculty Senate met on December 2nd, 2019 in 250 Gemmell. J. Lyle chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: J. Croskey, J. Haight, J. Knaust, C. Li, A. Lockwood, J. Lyle, J. May, M. K. McConnell, N. O'Neil, K. Overmoyer, S. Prezzano, A. Roberts, A. Rosati, B. Sweet, L. Taylor, P. Woodburne. D. Pehrsson, P. Gent, R. Skunda, and T. Boyle were also present.

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

II. Approval of the Minutes (11/18, 2019) – J. Croskey, (C. Childers seconded) approval of the minutes. Minutes approved.

III. Announcements

1. Celebration of Learning - December 4, Gemmell MPR, 11:00-3:00
2. Winter Commencement - December 14, Marwick-Boyd
3. Holiday Luncheon - Friday, Dec. 13th
4. Union Holiday/End of Semester Party - Thursday, Dec. 12th

IV. President's Report-- D. Pehrsson

D. Pehrsson noted that PASSHE, as part of the System Redesign and Sustainability initiatives, is ready to issue reports on campus' sustainability plans, and wanted to brace the body for bad news. This will come out in about 2 weeks. Clarion will be ranked in the middle of the pack in terms of the criteria used. These criteria include Cash Reserves, Long Term Reserves, Enrollment, and Retention. Clarion is low on most of these. On the other hand, we have little debt, and are not asking PASSHE for loans. Cheyney and Mansfield are asking PASSHE for loans. Cheyney is \$40 million in the hole. The Governor has promised to make good on the debt to PASSHE. This is one of the big political 'asks' made by the governor to higher ed. The Chancellor has asked for \$300 million to the entire system to tear down old buildings that are not being used, or have asbestos, etc. These buildings are being heated, but are not used. This occurs systemwide.

SRU and Westchester have high population areas next door, so do not have that pressure, as we have had it. These two schools, plus Millersville and E. Stroudsburg are 'stable'. Making us look a bit better, though not explicitly a criteria used, is that we have little debt. If we are to purchase the dorms from the foundation, our debt will only be in the middle of the pack.

CUP's enrollment is still low, but seemingly stabilizing. We need to boost our retention. We also need to replenish our cash reserves and long term reserves. We are trying to boost retention, and focus on the adult/non-traditional populations. The President is less sanguine about focusing too much on Online education, as this is a very competitive area in which to try to thrive.

Over the next 6 years or so, via retirements and attrition, CUP will begin 'right sizing', and will NOT close, and NOT do retrenchment, and NOT do furloughs. In response to a question from J. Croskey, the new CBA and the System Redesign focus allow faculty to be more easily shared between institutions, so that Gen Ed (and other) courses will still be taught, even if those departments cannot hire a tenure track or temporary replacements. In response to a question from S. Prezzano, the two models of sharing are 1) a consortium approach, and 2) a specialization approach. The Consortium approach allows students to take courses from a variety of PASSHE schools, while the Specialization approach suggests that specific schools have specific specializations, and students ought to move to one particular school to get that

degree/coursework. The President prefers Model 1. The goal is to make any hiring 'position neutral'. The goal is to move faculty lines from where they are less needed to where they are more needed. Examples of this are the AVP of student success being hired. The vacant position will likely not be replaced.

As the media likes to show bad news, A. Roberts asked about whether any press releases will be coordinated, and with a coherent message. The president said that this was the case. The press releases will be positive and 'spun' advantageously. It will make sure to include comments that any schools in trouble 'have done/are doing their work' in terms of trying to solve their problems.

PASSHE wants any sustainability plans are reasonable and realistic, and we will be held to those plans. The president wants our plan to be realistic and be up front with PASSHE, so we do not make promises we cannot live up to.

Other areas of cost saving include IT/software and back-room services, like accounting etc. However, any software purchases that get made take a longer time to finalize than was first thought. S. Puleio is on that committee, and has been good at showing how to make these transitions as smoothly as possible, but also showing that doing it well takes longer than the politicians seem to think it will.

V. Provost Report—P. Gent

The Venango Dean/workforce development position search has 24 applicants now.

The AVP for student success has 3 applicants.

In terms of enrollments compared to last year, at 66 days out, is about on par. The Provost asked faculty to encourage students to register. Some students have holds, but they can register if their debt is now about \$1,000 instead of \$500 as in past years. The view is that students can often earn the funds over break, and so are allowed to register with a \$1,000 debt.

Students get emails about holds. Sometimes it is a matter of signing paperwork, and sometimes it is a bigger issue. Those with financial holds often face closed sections, and face taking unnecessary classes/more classes, and higher expenses, and later graduation times. From the faculty point of view, it is hard to know whether to allow such students into closed sections, in order to leave room in classes the next term.

At Venango, new electrical line installation means closure of some parts of Suhr library.

VI. Student Senate – R. Skunda

T. Boyle made the presentation. Student senate is wrapping up and has good momentum. The 3rd Students in Need scholarship has wrapped up, and award notices will occur by the end of this week. The scholarship is a partnership with the bookstore. OER is an issue with students and the Student Senate. This scholarship alleviates part of that need. Student Senate has been trying to increase awareness and communication between the student body and the Senate via drop boxes and tabling efforts. Among the issues of concern is 'chalking' as it occurred early in the semester. The Senate student relations committee worked with the office of student conduct on anti-bullying and free speech campaigns in response. Wingo will occur Dec. 6th. Senate will assist with commencement on the 14th.

VII. Committee Reports.

i. CCPS – B. Sweet

All approved proposals were transmitted from Senate to the President. B. Sweet read in the current

proposals.

No report ii. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

No report iii. CCR – J. Knaust

No report iv. Academic Standards – A. Roberts

No report E. Budget – C. Childers

No report F Faculty Affairs – D. Knepp

G. Institutional Resources – L. Taylor

A. Roberts substituted for L. Taylor, who was in Harrisburg. He reported on a tour of Tippin. The building is beautiful. Entry areas will be designed to make sure people enter via the back (facing STC), even though the parking area is across the street. The ramp to Tippin is not ADA compliant, but, as there are other compliant access points, so DGS says it will not be fixed. The space in Gemmell where the old bookstore is an issue that Student Affairs people like Matt Shaffer are looking at. The space may become a dance club, open mic area or Gaming room. The access issues in SOMS are moving forward.

The tour of Tippin shows rooms that clearly could be used for classrooms, but are labelled meeting rooms. D. Knepp may schedule a meeting the President Pehrsson regarding this space. Currently in Tippin, four offices are arbitrarily assigned to fictional people, and another is empty. The original plans were to hold academic offices and classroom space. This seems to be dropped.

No report H. Venango – J. May

VIII. New Business

i Common Hour.

The Open Forum on the Common Hour suggestion was held, and was well attended. Many critiques were voiced at the meeting, and the committee will reconvene to see if solutions can be found. Among the issues raised by students was the potential loss of classrooms/delays in getting classes/graduation etc. There is a student on the committee, so these issues have an advocate. Other issues raised had to do with athletics and theater, each of which have trouble getting full squad practices/rehearsal as it is now. One issue was the unintended consequence of the common hour forcing students to use the food court at the same time, and if this would be a bottleneck.

ii Gen Ed Assessment.

The Gen Ed Assessment Coordinator, L. Pierce, will come to Senate in spring to discuss specific and general actions. B. O'Neil suggested that perhaps L. Pierce come regularly, if not every meeting, as part of an ongoing committee/presentation.

iii. Spring Visitors

Visits by D. Dollins (enrollment management) and S. Fenske (Title IX climate survey) will occur in Spring. D. Hartley was suggested, as were A. Roberts and S. Boyden, regarding Middle States.

IX. Old Business

No old business

X. Adjournment – B. Sweet moved (J. Knaust seconded). Unanimous passage.