

**Faculty Senate  
Clarion University  
2/4/19**

Faculty Senate met on February 4, 2019 in 246 Gemmell. J. Lyle chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: L. Chambers, C. Childers, D. Clark, J. Croskey, E. Foster, J. Knaust, D. Knepp, M. Lepore, L. Lillard, A. Lockwood, D. Lott, A. Love, J. Lyle, J. May, J. McCullough, J. Phillips, S. Prezzano, A. Roberts, A. Rosati, B. Sweet, J. Walsh, P. Woodburne. D. Pehrsson, P. Gent, R. Skunda were also present.

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

II. Approval of the Minutes (1/23, 2018) – A. Roberts, (S. Prezzano seconded) approval of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Announcements

1. Tea Time with the President – February 6, 1:00 PM, Moore Hall
2. NSF Cyber Training Grant Opportunity, February 6 (Apps due)
3. Council of Trustees Meeting – February 21, 7:00 PM, 108 Eagle Commons
4. Inauguration of Dr. Pehrsson, April 5
5. Email scam warnings – required training
6. Harassment training email – not a scam

IV. President's Report-- D. Pehrsson

The President cited an email that she had just sent out summarizing activities over the past seven months. Included in the email is the process for the Venango Task Force and TNI, among other topics.

The Housing Cost committee has finished its work, the results of which will be presented to the Council of Trustees for review and to the Foundation Board for its review. Subsequent to this, it will be disseminated to the university, with action steps.

TNI report is due 4/1. Much will follow this, and new activities will occur next year.

E. Foster applauded the summary. In response, the President asked how often such a summary should be sent out. J. Lyle noted 'more is better'.

Next week the President will be at the President's Retreat with the new Chancellor. If Senate has ideas for her to bring to that Retreat, let her know.

C. Childers noted appreciation of the decision to close campus due to the cold. D. Pehrsson said that this was a local decision, as there was no unity from PASSHE on this, and that the decision stemmed from realization that faculty and staff could remain inside, but that students need to be outside. J. Lyle also noted appreciation for extending the 3-week attendance report to account for the likelihood that some students would likely not report to classes on Friday after the two days off.

V. Provost Report—P. Gent

P. Gent noted that the CAES Dean Search is closed with some 87 applicants. She noted that a search for an Assoc. Provost (Associate VP) will occur. The search will be for an internal candidate.

P. Gent noted that 6 new concentrations and program name changes have been approved in record time. Currently working on PR and getting it up on the web.

The ALEKs system is up and running. While not all incoming students have taken advantage of the remediation modules, 78% of those who did, were able to test out of MATH 050. The Provost will work to make the ALEKs system seem more important, in letters to students and their families. A. Lockwood noted that in summer orientation, she knows anecdotally that many students did not take it seriously. Students who would later test into Pre-calculus or higher were testing into MATH 110 after simply clicking through ALEKs. The Provost noted that language on the website is changed to note the importance of the remediation.

In response to a question about the Assoc Provost search from A. Roberts on the duties of the position, the Provost said that the duties will primarily be assessment and accreditation, in departments, programs and university wide. The Provost will send the job description to Senate. Discussion then moved to whether the search for this position falls within the amended Haines Memorandum regarding search committee make up. As the Assoc Provost is an Assoc VP position, it appears to not fall within the amended Haines. P. Gent suggested that any interested party could send a self-nomination for the committee. The goal is to have a person in place by July 1.

#### VI. True North Initiative Report—A. Roberts: co-chair

The TNI is busy and has a complement of working groups. They are now active, and will be running surveys and asking for input from interested parties. Emails went out asking for participation from interested faculty. The task force has been impressed by the interest from faculty in sitting on these sub-committees. Working group reports are due by 3/15 so the full committee can make its report by 4/1.

#### VII. Student Senate – R. Skunda

R. Skunda noted that students senate had just started, and has no real report. However, in response to an earlier question re: Winter session, anecdotally that students think the 3 ½ week sessions are too cramped. No real data/survey on this, but anecdotally there is dissatisfaction.

P. Woodburne noted that in the rec center, after daily passes have been paid, the kiosk says ‘thank you’ and that you have ‘payed’. He asked if R. Skunda knew who to talk to about getting the spelling/grammar changed.

#### VIII. Committee Reports.

##### A. CCPS – B. Sweet

Deadlines have been set. 2/6 is for Special Topics, 2/15 for major changes, 3/15 for objections. Goal is to send final work to Senate on 4/8, with final resolutions on 4/22. Many proposals are coming out regarding alteration of prerequisites. This seems due to T. Pfannestiel’s directive to enforce prerequisites. A special election was held to replace R. Lane, who is on sabbatical. L. Fulton was elected to fill his Spring Semester slot.

##### B. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

M. Lepore reported on a debriefing of everyone involved with the Safe Schools Summit. The summit seemed to be well regarded, and the committee expressed interest in doing it again next year. The committee also is organizing a training of student peers to lead and moderate and lead discussions of healthy vs toxic relationships. The Rehab student group and other student groups may partner with Student Affairs.

M. Lepore also handed out the proposed current schedule for the Seifert Series. He noted that funds had been kept aside to bring in a big name speaker or speakers for fall. The current theme is Conservation and Sustainability: Body, Mind, and Earth. (See attached).

C. CCR – J. Knaust

The election/call for Seifert Cultural Series membership went out earlier today.  
Will have an election/call for Faculty Grants committee  
Will have an election/call for Assoc. Provost, as noted by President and/or Provost above.  
Will work with Math to nominate a replacement for M. McConnell on GEEC.  
Will work with APSCUF to hold elections.

D. Academic Standards – J. Phillips

Will have first meeting on February 15, at 3:00, mainly to discuss old business.

E. Budget – A. Roberts

No report.

F. Faculty Affairs – D. Knepp

Current retirees number 8, with the final number possibly reaching 10-12. Reception date is 4/23. D. Knepp asks for suggestions for gifts. Past gifts have cost approximately \$60-70 per recipient.

G. Institutional Resources – A. Love

No Report

Discussion moved to asking about a resolution of the retiree email issue, though this may not be strictly speaking an Institutional Resources issue. P. Gent noted that retirees may have their email moved to a gmail account, but only if they ask. In further discussion, it was noted that retirees may retain a CUP email if doing research that would benefit the university.

H. Venango – J. May

The first Venango Forum is 2/11 at noon. J. May reported that the perceived secrecy of the Venango Task Force has caused anxiety on Venango Campus. In her report above, D. Pehrsson noted that the task force report had been folded into the TNI process. In response to discussion here, D. Pehrsson reported that she did talk with E. Foster, who had presented a summary of the Task Force to what was essentially an open event, and allowed her to make the same presentation to Venango.

IX. New Business

No speakers today, and no real new business.

X. Old Business

1. Student Affordability Issues.

Nothing new to date. J. Lyle still trying to get some information from the bookstore on costs and other statistics.

J. Lyle noted the various emails going out about asking for donations to the Resource Room, which provides food and other essentials to students in need.

2. GEEC proposal of 11/29.

J. Lyle summarized the history of the changes to Gen Ed. He and Senate acknowledge that it is a good thing to discuss the GEEC report of 11/29 (which he refers to as 11/29). In the attached document he outlines his view of what should proceed and what may come out of it.

In other discussion, J. Phillips noted that it is important to acknowledge that Middle States does not mandate 'flags', but does have outcomes that it deems mandate-able. Among these may be scientific reasoning. Middle States does not mandate how we assess, but that we show we are assessing in line with our own goals and mission. Clarity on this would enable good discussion and buy-in on aspects of the 11/29 plan, but may allow modification. As an example, if we, via

Middle States, need to offer a class on scientific reasoning in order to meet the outcome, that is one thing. If we can show we assess scientific reasoning via existing science and other classes, this is another. How we decide to go will impact which parts of 11/29 are useful and which should be changed.

Additional comments were made to the effect that the PASSHE Chancellor's System Redesign may alter what we need to do in terms of Gen Ed.

J. Lyle said that the next faculty senate meeting will be moved next door (rm 250) to accommodate as many people as want to attend, and that essentially the whole time will be given over to a discussion of the 11/29 initiative.

XI. Adjournment – B. Sweet moved (S. Prezzano seconded). Unanimous passage.

Summary by J. Lyle at Senate 2/4/19

Last week Policy discussed how to proceed with the 11-29 proposal. While there is some disagreement with the specific proposal, including concern about whether there is enough assessment to justify this body submitting the proposal to the Gen Ed Select Committee, there is what I think is a consensus that there needs to be a discussion about General Education assessment so as to put this matter to bed. As a reminder, the Gen Ed Executive Committee and ISLAC/ISLAB are two (to three) entities charged with assessment responsibilities on campus. Prior to the creation of the GEEC that responsibility lay with the Gen Ed Council. The power of that body was formally removed and there was a proposal to create an assessment committee under the purview of Faculty Senate. That body was to be formalized under the larger umbrella of Constitution and by-law changes that were made by Senate several years ago. As most of you know, the changes to the Constitution were formalized in 2016 (or 2017). The by-law changes were rejected by then President Whitney who stated that the assessment committee was a deal breaker. This body backed off that part of the proposal and established that language that Senate would empower a Select Committee, as there would be no other way for Gen Ed reform to get to CCPS, but there was still no action til interim President Fackler submitted the changes to the Council of Trustees. They, along with some other revisions to the Constitution, were approved last spring. Additionally, it should be noted that this body has been receptive to calls for reforming General Education over the past few years. We codified changes to the Q and W flags because assessment was conducted either to determine or happened to determine that existing outcomes were not assessable. We voted to support the creation of the General Education Executive Committee and named the first two individuals (Bell O'Neil and Leah Chambers) to it.

This led to me meeting with Dr. Gent and discussing a way to proceed. On the basis of the conversation with Policy, and the Provost, it was agreed that a solution would be for there to be a dedicated conversation by this body on the subject of General Education assessment and reform. The plan is for this conversation to take place on February 18, 2019 during the next Senate meeting. The purpose that meeting will largely to discuss Gen Ed. The meeting will be relocated to a room that can accommodate more individuals as we would like Senate, the administration, representatives of the assessment bodies, and interested faculty to participate.

I think there are 3 ways to proceed with this meeting:

- A. Free-for-all – Let people just speak their minds.
- B. Build the discussion around 11-29. This would probably result in a presentation of the proposal by the Provost or Associate Provost (or a designated representative) and then move to a counter-proposal or immediately go to questions.
- C. Build the discussion around what seem to be the core issues at hand:
  - a. Do we need to do assessment (as a concept)?
  - b. Do we need to do assessment (in terms of specific things to assess)?
  - c. Have we done assessment and to what extent?
  - d. If we have not done assessment, or need to do more assessment, how do we accomplish that?
    - i. Do we have the tools in place to make assessment, and then action on assessment, feasible?
    - ii. If not, what policy changes are need to make assessment occur?

It is my opinion that model C is the preferred way to proceed. There are a few reasons. First, the rationale behind 11-29 (and previous proposals) is to make assessment a reality and actionable. Second, framing the discussion around 11-29 creates a yay/nay framework that probably means do something or do nothing. This probably perpetuates the divide that has plagued us over the past several years. Third, everyone has read 11-29 and my invitation for attendance will include it so that everyone should be on the same page. This means that if there is a sense that there is a need for reform folks can easily point to, or against, 11-29 as a viable solution. At the end of the discussion folks can decide whether they want us to consider sending this document to the Select Committee or not, or something else.

I would argue that as this relates to CCPS and the prospect of enacting curricular change in the present that we can request CCPS consider a submission later than the normal deadline, though I'm not certain the 2-15 deadline holds for Gen Ed. Beyond that, there is much that can be done now and in the fall that makes it viable to not formally advance a curricular proposal until the fall. As a reminder, we voiced support for the Inquiry Seminar proposal at the final meeting of Spring 2017 and enacted the proposal in Fall 2017.

If the above sense holds, then I would structure a conversation for 2-18 that (a) keeps Ray Feroz on the agenda to speak about System Redesign as that also holds importance [and it should be noted that System Redesign

advancement could impact the view of Gen Ed reform], (b) asks other reports for that session to be brief [read as: electronic to the extent possible], and (c) uses the structure of model of C to build a conversation into chunks [and presumably dispensing with the need to discuss subpoint a]. The idea within each section would be to give as many people a chance to speak. We could give folks 1-2 minutes to make their point and try to keep each section down to 15-20 minutes of conversation. We could ask people to submit statements if they can't attend. We could ask people to submit statements in advance of the session if they want them to be deemed base knowledge for the discussion much like prepared remarks for a congressional hearing. My inclination is to give the Provost the opening statement on each front if she wants it, then move to senators, and then other persons attending the session. I will strive to serve as the moderator and keep track of agreement/disagreement, though I would encourage others to do so as well. Hopefully we can make some sort of decision(s) at the conclusion of the meeting.

My personal sense of the situation. I think we need to do assessment. It also seems clear that as far as Middle States is concerned we need to be able to show that our students graduate with the skills identified previously in terms of core competencies. I am not sure that we need to overhaul the structure of General Education. My sense of the role of assessment and Middle States is that we are to conduct assessment and then use that to self-reflect and make programmatic changes as needed. I am not inclined to believe, at this point, that we need to overhaul the curriculum first and then assess. If we cannot take stock of who we are before deciding to be someone else then no number of changes will improve this institution. I believe we have two capable bodies to conduct assessment. I believe we have a process to allow assessment to produce curricular change. I believe we have time – a limited amount of time but time to begin the process and show Middle States that we are doing and using assessment, if we start assessing now. I think the request for departments to take stock of how their courses fit the 9 Middle States categories should be commended. I wish the recommendations we made in the fall regarding assessment of the current W and Q outcomes was being acted on. I have questions about what some of the curricular changes in 11-29 mean for us but honestly at this point I'm not sure if that's relevant given that we need to decide if there is enough assessment to send the proposal to the Select Committee.

# THE SEIFERT SERIES

Conservation and Sustainability:  
Body, Mind, Earth  
Spring 2019 Sampler



## BODY



FEB 2  
8:00pm  
Glow Yoga  
Gemmell MPR

FEB 9  
8:00pm  
Zumba  
Gemmell MPR

FEB 27  
10-1pm  
Health Fair  
Gemmell MPR

## MIND



March 12  
6-7pm  
Mindfulness:  
With Joseph Croskey & Mark Lepore  
Gemmell MPR

March 19  
12 - 1:30pm & 7-9pm  
Hope Grows  
Gemmell MPR

## EARTH

April 15  
7pm  
Game and Fish Commission  
Gemmell MPR

April 22  
6pm  
Scott Russell Sanders  
Gemmell MPR

*For more information about the programs go to:  
[www.clarion.edu/seifertseries](http://www.clarion.edu/seifertseries)*

Theme to continue Fall 19 and Spring 20.  
Do you have a program that will fit our theme? Let's program together!

Email Brian at [bhoover@clarion.edu](mailto:bhoover@clarion.edu)

or call 814-393-2356