

**Faculty Senate  
Minutes  
Clarion University  
3/15/21**

Faculty Senate met on March 15, 2021 via zoom. J. Knaust chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: V. Aravind, S. Boyden, L. Chambers, J. Croskey, E. Foster, J. Knaust, D. Knepp, M. Lepore, C. Li, A. Love, J. Lyle, J. May, M. K. McConnell, N. O’Neil, S. Prezzano, A. Roberts, A. Shannonhouse, R. Shawgo, B. Sweet, L. Taylor, J. Walsh, P. Woodburne. D. Pehrsson, P. Gent, L. Pierce, J. Geiger, S. Spang (student senate), were also present.

- I. Call to Order – J. Knaust called the meeting to order at 3:30.
- II. Approval of the Minutes (3/1, 2021), M. Lepore moved, (S. Prezzano seconded) minutes approved.
- III. Announcements
  - A. L. Cullo budget update March 15 is postponed with a new date TBD.
  - B. D. Dollins will attend Senate on March 29 to give an update on enrollment
  - C. Leadership Development Series on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>!
  - D. Chancellor Greenstein will host an open forum for the Clarion University community on Friday, March 26 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m
  - E. In-person Spring Commencement events at Memorial Stadium MAY 8

IV. President’s Report--D. Pehrsson

The president noted that Clarion plans on a full opening in the fall. Recent updated rules from the governor allow for fewer restrictions. Some students are starting to relax perhaps a bit too much. Student Affairs is keeping an eye on parties and trying to enforce social distancing and the like. For the most part, student compliance with social distancing and masking is great.

The president noted that many faculty appear to be getting vaccinated, and encouraged those who have not to do so and to remain careful and safe. Student infections are, and have been, quite low.

In terms of Integration, the Academic Programs working group has submitted a draft, which will soon go out to faculty for comment. The president noted that this is an iterative process.

The Leadership Series will kick off with an interview of Dr. Dale by our own J. Knaust. The series is to support a broad definition of leadership. A donor sponsored the series, and it is headed by Gwen Price.

V. Provost Report—P. Gent

The Provost reiterated news about the program array working group. It works on the big picture about degree programs and the like. The report draft will be put behind a password protected site for faculty viewing and comment. The pause caused deadlines to need to be changed. Those new deadlines will come from Gwen Price and her counterpart from Edinboro.

The Provost announced that the ‘Pause’ has now ended, so working groups dealing with curriculum issues can resume their activities. No policy decisions will be made as yet. Working groups and others will offer advisory positions until a curricular approval process is created.

Clarion has submitted the Financial Sustainability plan to PASSHE. Now we have to submit an action plan. Some of the feedback from other CAOs and CFOs included the suggestions to sell buildings.

The Governor and the legislature have approved a flat budget for the PASSHE system. While this was expected, it is still discouraging and disappointing.

#### VI. Student Senate – S. Spang

S. Spang reported that student senate has been inviting the Venango student senate president to meetings. The goal is to get feedback, get updates, and exchange information on what is going on at each campus. This has been exciting and informative. The Student Senate VP has announced that CUP campus is now ‘voter friendly’.

The UAB has obtained an arcade machine to be placed in the Rec Center. Student Senate plans to have some weekly challenge activities focused on the machine.

Student Senate will co-sponsor a career development event to assist students with job preparation, including headshots and resume assistance. The date is still TBD.

Student Senate will also partner with Starbucks to pay a randomly chosen patron’s order.

Senate is still deciding how to spend the remainder of the Follet’s money. The deadline for use of the funds is 5/31. It has to be spent on students in one form or another. One thought was to purchase a selection of caps and gowns that students could rent for graduation. Student Senate is thinking about purchasing some PCs or ipads, and working with the Act 101 CU Succeed students to enable the students to be loaned the devices at the start of their career, to be returned at the end of their college career. Another idea is to acquire televisions that could be placed in the Commons. Perhaps events could be scheduled around the TVs.

Senate has approved new club, entitled the Women in Tech club.

#### VII. Committee Reports.

##### A. CCPS – B. Sweet

The deadline for objections are due March 19. The committee will meet this week. Some read-ins will likely be read-in next week.

##### B. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

Student Affairs has been messaging students about keeping safe and about making good choices as the Governor relaxes COVID restrictions, and some students begin to attend parties more frequently. Generally, students have been very compliant with COVID masking and distancing requirements.

As student affairs is not curriculum related, the various Integration working groups have kept working during the ‘Pause’.

Student Affairs has been working on their 5-year plan, due sometime in the summer.

The State guidelines on inside and outside attendance at events have recently changed. CUP is working with various groups and legal entities to make sure we comply as we move to take advantage of the loosened restrictions.

##### C. CCR – A. Roberts

Two issues came from CCR.

1. The committee has received word from T. Fogarty as to who is eligible to run for Senate. The committee is working on a Survey Monkey poll for the nomination election. Voters will answer the first question, in which they will identify as a CUP or Venango faculty member. The answer to this question will give access to the appropriate number of nominating slots.
2. CCR has been tasked with putting a new member on the TTIG (Teaching, Technology, and Instruction Grant) committee. The committee has one member from each college, who were placed on the committee in staggered terms. The member from Health and Human Services is no longer at Clarion. CCR will put out a call for membership to this committee.

D. Academic Standards – M. McConnell

The committee will meet again in the second week of April.

E. Budget – C. Childers

The committee will ask L. Cullo to come to senate later in March or early April after the Interim BUD report is finished. The body expressed sympathy for the work L. Cullo is doing, and for how hard it must be.

F Faculty Affairs – J. Walsh

J. Walsh said that great progress has been made in creating a celebration for the 28 retirees from this year and last year. The celebration will be held May 5, from 3:30-5pm, and will follow the structure of the scholar/athlete luncheon. Current plans call for a 30 minute presentation portion with short blurbs read by faculty celebrating their colleagues' retirement. The committee has asked the Art department to design mugs to be given to the retirees.

G. Institutional Resources – L. Taylor

No report

H. Venango – J. May

No report

VIII. Old Business

The Faculty Senate working group met last week, and will meet again next week. The discussion between the members of the three universities, focused on the way that Clarion's faculty senate has input in curricular process. It appears that Edinboro's senate has a similar set of duties.

The working group was given a charge, comprised of several questions. Discussion determined that we need input from faculty on these questions. Discussion suggested that perhaps dept chairs can give feedback and assistance with the questions.

IX. New Business

Commencement, Spring 2021, and the Golden Eagle Gateway

Jim Geiger discussed the plans for commencement. Students want a celebration that provides some semblance of a normal graduation. Current plans suggest it will be held May 8, outdoors at the stadium, rain or shine, in reduced format. Students will be able to bring two guests. Guests will go to the left side of the stadium and sit in the stands on the press box stands. Students will go to the right and line up. Upon having their name called, they will walk around the track, stop in front of the press box to get their diploma holder, go to a tent for a picture, and process out of the stadium. Dignitaries will likely be limited to Dr. Dale, the Provost, a relevant Dean, and perhaps a trustee. A virtual celebration will be recorded and made available. Student attending virtually will have Clarion swag mailed to them, and face-to-face students will be given that

material on the day. The ceremony will be simulcast/streamed. The committee is thinking of inviting any 2020 graduates who wish to return, perhaps for their own graduation celebration.

Students have been notified a few times already. The commencement webpage is being updated, and students will get weekly announcements/notifications.

The Golden Eagle Gateway is a new alumni engagement platform, kind of like Linked In, that engages Alumni to assist students with finding internships, jobs and mentoring. The platform takes the CU mentorship database that had been created, but was not in a format that could be leveraged to engage alumni who wish to assist students and graduates, as opposed to alumni being reached solely for dollar contributions. It captures most social media activities by alumni; Facebook, Instagram, etc. The new program/website enables mentoring, job postings, as well as a way to recruit students to employment. The site provides information on job postings, internships, and the like. The site makes it easy for students to connect with alums and vice versa. The mentoring piece, created by Josh Domitrovich, is an important engagement piece that was missing from prior iterations of ways alums can get engaged with grads and current students. The site enables alumni to partner with career services to assist students in getting jobs.

Current faculty and emeriti can be engaged on the site as well.

X. Adjournment – B. Sweet moved (M. Lepore seconded). Unanimous passage by hitting the ‘end of zoom meeting’ button.