

**Faculty Senate  
Clarion University  
3/25/19**

Faculty Senate met on March 11, 2019 in 250 Gemmell. J. Lyle chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: S. Boyden, 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. Overly, J. Phillips, S. Prezzano, A. Roberts, A. Rosati, B. Sweet, J. Walsh, P. Woodburne. D. Pehrsson, P. Gent, and R. Skunda were also present.

- I. Call to Order – J. Lyle called the meeting to order at 3:30.
- II. Approval of the Minutes (3/11, 2018) – J. Croskey, (M. Lepore seconded) approval of the minutes.
- III. Announcements
  1. Tea Time with Dr. Dale, March 26, 1:00 Moore Hall
  2. Inauguration of Dr. Pehrsson, April 5
  3. Council of Trustees Meeting, April 18, 7:00PM

IV. President's Report-- D. Pehrsson  
D. Pehrsson has been fundraising in Florida, Philadelphia and New York the past week or so. Commitments are \$800,000 above the same time last year.

Early Admitted Students day was last weekend with 400 plus students. The Step Up program also seems to be working. Helping to 'retake our back yard', in terms of attracting local students back to us, instead of at SRU.

The TNI will be discussed below in detail, but D. Pehrsson said that the report will be posted internally and externally quite soon after submission. The president's cabinet will meet on the report and decide on a plan of action based on the TNI report. Plan should be in place prior to graduation.

Thursday is University Clean Up day. Sign up please.

V. Provost Report—P. Gent  
PASSHE is auditing us on the information on our Consumer page. Should be OK.  
The Dean search is down to 14 candidates and 3 alternates, from 80. Contacting to see if they are willing and able to serve.  
APSCUF and Provost worked out a compensation plan for Orientation and Advising, based on number of students in fall fact book (actual students who come to CUP) instead of those coming to orientation. Orientation is not required, and so payments may not reflect actual students if the payment were to be based on those coming to orientation only.

The Provost, in response to question from A. Roberts, said that the Deans have the orientation plans, and shortly will put out a call for faculty to agree to do orientation and advising over the summer.

VI. True North Initiative Report—A. Roberts: co-chair  
The TNI is finished. The co-chairs are putting the reports from the 5 working groups into a complete report. Work will be finished for the final compilation, to be given to Dr. Pehrsson on April 1. The underlying theme is 'student success'. The summary report will be available publicly, and the more fulsome report will be available only on the CUP intranet for internal consumption.

## VII. Student Senate – R. Skunda

R. Skunda noted that Student-in-Need scholarships are live. He handed out a paper copy, with instructions as to how students can apply online on CU Connect. The scholarships will be open for 3 weeks.

Reinhard awards are next month. More details will be forthcoming in future Senate meetings. Student senate will assist with the inauguration of D. Pehrsson.

## VIII. Committee Reports.

### A. CCPS – B. Sweet

Open Hearing is 3/26 at 3:30, SOMS 14 A and B. Read-ins have been read in.

### B. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

The committee met and discussed toxic and healthy relationships. A 12 hour training is available for students on this issue to be trainers and leaders. The committee also discussed safety issues on campus. The committee will help evaluate Student Senate Student In Need Scholarship applications.

Seifert Series event, 'Hope Grows' was a success, with some 150 attendees at the two events.

### C. CCR – J. Knaust

CCR met and finalized the slate of 3 for the Faculty Development Committee Teaching and Learning Grant. The COBAIS rep is Nripendra Singh, the CAES rep is A. Lockwood, the HSHS rep is S. Pergantis. As this comes from committee, it needs to second. Discussion ensued. Vote: Unanimous to accept the slate. As per prior decision, the slate will be randomly sorted into 1, 2, and 3 year positions, in order to keep the membership fresh. J. Knaust used a random number generator to determine terms:

The CAES Rep A. Lockwood, has a 3-year appointment.

The COBAIS Rep N. Singh, has a 2-year appointment.

The HSHS rep S. Pergantis, has a 1-year appointment.

Senate Nomination elections on Tues. April 2. Need poll watchers. 16 nominations will be from CUP main campus only. Should any Venango reps not be able to serve, then the alternate from the previous Venango election will be given the opportunity to fulfill a one-semester seat, with a possible 2-semester seat. Should the alternates not be willing or able, then a special election would need to be called.

### D. Academic Standards – J. Phillips

No report

### E. Budget – A. Roberts

L. Cullo was just here, so no report.

### F. Faculty Affairs – D. Knepp

The committee decided on a retirement gift of handmade mugs with the CUP logo embossed. The retirement celebration will occur 4/23. Sent a call to chairs for biographies of the retirees. The Sabbatical Celebration will occur 4/2, from 12:30-1:45 in Eagle Commons 107/8. The committee suggests moving the celebration to the fall term, to generate enthusiasm for sabbatical applications, which are due in spring.

### G. Institutional Resources – A. Love

As A. Love was unable to attend, P. Woodburne attended the most recent IR committee meeting.

### **Old Business**

**Tippin Update:** On schedule, Aux gym almost done, pool is nearing completion. Fixtures/scoreboard bid and installed soon. Will be huge scoreboard. Lots of inside work going on.

**Still Hall:** Halon extinguishing system is 3x as expensive as planned. Re-bidding to a nitrogen system.

**Campus Steam Tunnel:** To be done with May's steam shutdown. Asbestos to be removed still.

**Harvey steam Tunnel:** 30 days ahead of schedule. Need to put down blacktop when warm, so may use up the 30 day window.

**Stevens and Moore Accessibility upgrades:** Getting bids in early April, start in June, 9 month project. Some classroom and some restrooms will likely be taken off line from time to time during the work. Work should be done by next June. Water in much of Stevens' walls, ruining plaster, etc.

**Accessibility in SOMS:** Early in process. No update

**Venango:** Suhr and Montgomery roof: Design firm is working on drawings, will bid both at same time. Will include many changes to the library, and building facing.

### **New Business**

**Ralston Steam Pipe:** Leaked. Closed off, and redirecting steam from another place. Choice is to replace pipe or put in stand-alone boiler. Each expensive. Replacement is more expensive, but gives flexibility if a leak develops elsewhere.

**Second Steam Tunnel:** About 1/3 done. Will be finished with May steam shutdown. Must rebid the remaining 2/3 of work.

**Signage:** Many nice designs for new signage around campus. Coming up or down 322 no one knows that CUP is here. Must work with borough's regulations.

**Outdoor Fitness Court between Marwick Boyd and Fitness center:** (Separate set of funds). Will have 15 stations for sit-ups, etc. Order being placed in a couple weeks. In place by Fall.

**Carter Auditorium:** On Hold

**Bell Tower Plaza:** Architectural stage. Came out to visit. Want it to blend better.

**Marwick Boyd:** Concrete steps to be replaced, other parts re-mortared, etc.

### **Student Concerns:**

**Internet Speed.** Very slow in residence halls: 4-5 mps. Library around 10 mps. Other schools have speeds of 68 mps. Speeds vary across campus. In Carrier was tested at 45 mps. (My own test in Still was about 17 mps). May risk alienating tech savvy would-be students. Can't download assignments or upload assignments, can't download you tube stuff. Makes recreational internet use very difficult.

I asked my class of freshmen, who all said that internet speeds were low. One knowledgeable student quoted .6mps for a youtube video and maybe 4-5 mps for other purposes.

It seems that computer support suggested that student speeds are limited to not choke the system. Rumor. No movement since first reported at the last meeting.

### **Elevator in Davis Hall**

The elevator in Davis Hall is too small to fit a gurney when needed when a student had a seizure. Some gurney's can fold into a sitting position, and will fit. In the event that the gurney cannot fold, the elevator is too small. It is unclear if any designs for elevators in upcoming renovations (Stevens, Moore, etc) can be altered to include bigger elevators.

H. Venango – J. May

No report

### **IX. New Business**

S. Fenske discussed the Affordability Housing Initiative

The Housing Affordability Task Force came up with Short, Medium, and Long range plans to tackle housing costs.

**Short Term.** 1. Freeze prices for next year. Foundation seems on-board with this. 2. Expand Living/Learning Communities, 3. Pet friendly dorms. Students can bring pets. May have to expand roommate compatibility to pet compatibility. 4. Fundraising.

**Mid Term.** 1. Expansion of Camps/Conferences. 2. Incentives, discounting, housing scholarships, etc. 3. Triple rooms in Hilltop suites. Not suitable for all rooms. 4.

**Long Term.** 1. Lease or purchasing housing from Foundation. 2. Fundraising “Clarion Promise” campaign. 3. Continual review of recommendations

Discussion noted that CUP is renting rooms in Reinhard Village for \$35/wk for camps, etc. Also, it was noted that on Twitter, it appears that SRU is heavily marketing itself and camps, etc, and CUP is not.

The President noted that PASSHE is aware that solving housing costs is central to our continued viability and key to future success.

L. Cullo discussed the current state of the university budgets.

Starting with housing, he noted that the bonds have a good interest rate, and if CUP were to float debt and purchase the housing from the bondholders, our interest rate would be higher. Thus, the process for doing something like this is not unique to us, but can be complex.

PASSHE is figuring budgets in a new way now, so no Interim BUD report is available. L. Cullo spoke in broad terms about our fiscal issues. We can control various costs, but cannot control our enrollments, etc. CUP is better at predicting our ‘melts’ between summer and fall, and between fall and spring. To the extent we can do this, we can better budget expectations. PASSHE is not inclined to have a tuition increase next year, so to the extent that we can control costs, like housing, we will look relatively better than SRU, Edinboro, and IUP.

Net Tuition Revenue: (Tuition + Fees) – (Financial Aid) is down \$5.8 million, as financial aid has doubled. Having said this, our cash is only down \$1.5 million, so we have some in reserve. PASSHE is talking about some sort of investment fund for universities that need a short term cash infusion—true loans.

CUP anticipates an essentially flat enrollment for fall 2019, and a better handle on the ‘melts’. D. Pehrsson noted that PASSHE seems more interested in movements toward more local control of things like tuition and fees, as opposed to having them all decided at the central level.

X. Old Business

1. Affordability Issues.

J. Lyle as noted in last meeting, many affordability issues are too big for Senate to tackle, but that book costs is a good place to start. J. Lyle wrote a resolution of some sort, including discussion of the issues discussed, including incentives for OER, access codes, etc. Draft presented, and comments requested. In discussion it was noted that book costs have risen at about 4 times the rate of inflation. Discussion brought up the impact of loss of funding from Follett to student affairs, and whether we can get a competitive advantage by going first to become an OER school. J. Lyle envisions a task force to examine the implications. Comments raised about whether the library could have copies of textbooks. While faculty can and have put books on reserve, the library cannot afford to purchase the books.

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