

**Faculty Senate  
Minutes  
Clarion University  
3/30/20**

Faculty Senate met on March 16 2020 in 250 Gemmell. J. Lyle chaired the meeting with the following senators in attendance via Zoom: V. Aravind, S. Boyden, C. Childers, A. Connor-Love, J. Croskey, J. Haight, J. Knaust, D. Knepp, M. Lepore, C. Li, A. Lockwood, J. Lyle, J. May, M. K. McConnell, J. McCullough, J. Phillips, S. Prezzano, A. Roberts, A. Rosati, A. Shannonhouse, B. Sweet, L. Taylor, M. Terwilliger, P. Woodburne. R. Skunda, K. Krupa, P. Gent, D. Pehrsson, L. Hepler, L. Pierce were also in attendance

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

II. Approval of the Minutes (3/16, 2020). M. Lepore moved, S. Boyden seconded. Approved

III. Announcements

1. COT still meeting at 4:00pm on 4/16 in a combined face-to-face and zoom meeting.

IV. President's Report-- D. Pehrsson

Following the Chancellor's direction on Summer School, Clarion has decided to cancel all face-to-face classes during the summer. This will impact internships and externships and similar programs. The Provost and Deans are considering possible work arounds. Due to these restrictions, some students may not graduate on time.

Summer camps, to have been held at the renovated Tippin gym, and which were to be a source of needed revenues, will be cancelled. Possibly we can reschedule them for August.

Commencement exercises have been cancelled for their traditional time in May, but are tentatively moved to August 28/29. Issues include being able to get students back on campus.

The president has requested a delay in the submission/due date of our financial sustainability reports due to the upheaval caused by responding to the pandemic. The chancellor seems amenable to delaying the report by about a month.

The governor has extended public school closings until at least April 30.

R. Skunda asked about contingency plans in case face to face college instruction were cancelled for fall. Not much would change for graduate school, as most of those students are online. In terms of undergraduates, the President sees impact on retention, enrollments, and orientation. To the extent that students are doing online work now, and are used to it, the upheaval to existing students will likely be minimal.

PASSHE schools are refunding about 40% of fees related to non-instructional items (a prorated value based on the time when the semester went wholly online). A letter to this effect will go out this week.

V. Provost Report—P. Gent

The Provost thanked faculty and staff for working so hard during the transition.

The emergency fund now has approximately \$10,000 to assist students with unexpected costs related to moving online. Examples of how the money will be used includes buying cards to enable students to pay for internet at home, and other, similar emergency 'pop-up' issues.

Chair elections will occur via baseline. Each department will have a separate ballot. T. Fogarty and R. Ferroz will oversee the counting and validity of the election.

Student evaluations have been suspended for all students for this semester.

The final set of interviews for the CENTRE director will be held this week.

Related to summer school and the issues raised by the President, the Provost is meeting with the deans to figure out virtual and/or delayed internships and the like. Some areas like the PDE and the state nursing body are being flexible. Other areas like the state body for Speech Pathology is less so.

Many universities nationwide have instituted an alternative grading policy for this semester. In conjunction with Academic Council the Provost has discussed, revised, and submitted two draft policies that Senate will discuss later in the meeting.

The Provost reiterated the need to get students to enroll for fall now, in order to reduce any losses expected from fallout from the pandemic response.

L. Hepler noted that, related to the issues raised by any alternative grading schemes, some students are having trouble reaching advisors. The Registrar's office has added a button/form to their webpage where they can note their problems contacting advisors. These forms will be routed to the appropriate chair or advisor.

#### VI. Student Senate – R. Skunda

Ryan Skunda and Kaitlyn Krupa reported that Student Senate has met twice via Zoom. Voting is ongoing for student senate elections. Approximately 75 votes have been cast so far. Voting is open for a few more days.

The student needs scholarship applications are starting to come in. The deadline is a couple weeks away still.

#### VI. Committee Reports.

##### i. CCPS – B. Sweet

CCPS Read-Ins have been 'read in'. No objections have been received regarding any CCPS proposals. No decision has been made re: the Open Hearing, which will likely occur April 13. Efforts are ongoing to reduce the number of unnecessary faculty at the open hearings, as they will be on Zoom. Senate Policy will likely take up this issue.

##### ii. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

As of Friday, 24 students are in the residence halls. 18 students get meals from the university. Most are living in Reinhard Village.

The Center for Wellness stresses that they are open and are actively working to meet student mental and physical health needs. M. Lepore and the Center encourage faculty to submit BART reports for students who have fallen off the radar, or have exhibited other concerning behaviors or speech. In response to a question, the BART team have other means to contact students, even if they are not responding to faculty emails.

The Student Resource Room is still open.

iii. CCR – J. Knaust

The nominations for senate elections went out last week and are due back April 7. Please email ballots to J. Knaust with “Faculty Senate Nominating Ballot” in the subject line. They are due by 3:00 pm on April 7, when they would have been due if done via the normal process.

iv. Academic Standards – A. Roberts

No report

E. Budget – C. Childers

No report

F Faculty Affairs – D. Knepp

CUP has 15 retirees, and the system more than met the 200 retiree threshold. A face to face celebration of retirees is unlikely. The committee is working on a pamphlet to give formal recognition and to create a formal record of the service of the retirees. The pamphlet will include the standard biographical notes submitted on behalf of the retirees. Below is the list of CUP retirees. Michelle Pedlow was the newest addition to the retiree group.

Retirees (June 2019 thru August 2020)

1. Stephen Agyei-Mensah – 05/22/2020
2. Jerry Belloit – 01/03/2020
3. Joseph Bodzioc – 08/24/2020
4. Nancyann Falvo – 08/14/2020
5. John Heard - 8/1/2019
6. Christine Hearst – 08/14/2020
7. Ralph Leary – 01/10/2020
8. John McCullough – 08/07/2020
9. Mark Mitchell – 08/14/2020
10. Michelle Pedlow – 05/22/2020
11. Jim Rose – 08/14/2020
12. Thomas Rourke – 05/22/2020
13. Richard Sabousky – 08/14/2020
14. Jocelynn Smrekar – 08/14/2020
15. Lisa Turner – 08/12/2020

G. Institutional Resources – L. Taylor

No Report

H. Venango – J. May

K. Vickers and R. Radacker have worked to make sure that Venango students are aware of and making use of various student services.

VIII. New Business

1. Assessment Update

L. Pierce discussed assessment of Gen Ed this semester. In lieu of standard Gen Ed assessment this term, and following the guidelines of the Association of Assessment in Higher Education, she is putting together a story of what Clarion has done during this semester, how we moved online, and the sorts of alternative assessment vehicles that we created. She is focusing on the lab classes looking at the alternatives used. She will move to other departments and programs soon.

Specifically related to Gen Ed assessment, the W and Q flags are being done and will be done.

Next year, the upper level I flag and Values flags will be assessed.

She is working with L. Chambers on assessing aspects of the INQ classes.

We need to continue and finish these assessments as the Visit Team will not put off it's visit, even if it may be virtual rather than face to face.

## 2. Alternative Grading

The move to online grading has exposed many students to new and unfamiliar and unexpected issues. Senate has come to the conclusion that some form of alternative grading policy is needed for this semester.

The Provost, in discussion and consultation with members of the Academic Council drafted two options:

### Option 1

- Students will be given an option to select a letter grade or Pass/Fail (P/F). Students can select any number of courses for P/F ranging from just one course to all courses depending on departmental/program requirements. Students cannot change their decision once a grading choice is made. Students must decide before Friday, April 24.
- Some departments/programs may need to limit the courses in which students can opt P/F. Only those courses required for accreditation, licensure, or programmatic GPA requirements will be included in this limitation. These limitations will be clearly communicated to students via email, departmental webpages, advising prior to the deadline.
- Department chairs and Deans will review student's selections.
- This does not waive the minimum GPA required for graduation in a student's program of study. Some students may be required to select letter grades to boost their GPAs. It should be noted that P grades have no effect on the GPA while F grades will reduce the GPA.
- This does NOT apply to courses taught during the first seven weeks (7w1).

### Option 2

- The grading options in 7 week 2 and regular session spring courses will be A, B, C, P, and NR. In essence, the P grade would replace the D and the NR grade would replace the F. It should be noted that neither P or NR grades will have an effect on the GPA.
- **After grades are awarded**, students would have a 7-day window to petition that any B/C grades they received be changed to "Pass." These requests would need to be routed through Chairs or deans.
- This does not waive the minimum GPA required for graduation in a student's program of study. Some students may be required to select letter grades to boost their GPAs. This does NOT apply to courses taught during the first seven weeks (7w1).

J. Phillips moved and J. Croskey seconded a motion to accept the second option.

Discussion occurred around the meaning and implication of NR vs NC. Each imply a failing grade, while NC allows for no credit to be awarded, but for the course to appear on the transcript for those who need a record of attempting a course and taking a certain number of credits. It also allows for the interpretation of upheaval from natural disaster and similar unforeseen circumstances. The grade of NR removes the course from the transcript as if it never happened.

L. Hepler is looking into whether letter grades submitted by faculty would automatically covert to P or NCR as appropriate.

Discussion also occurred around the time frame for releasing transcripts if the policy gives students an option to change their mind after the fact. If students are given some days after grades are posted to change their mind could delay official transcripts and diplomas by a

month or so.

Discussion also occurred around the process by which the changes would be approved; whether by faculty, chair, Dean's office, etc. L. Hepler said that the likely approvals would come from the chair of the major of the student, who would better know the circumstances under which a grade of 'P' would be sufficient, and where an actual letter grade is necessary. These become issues for continued academic and some employer work post undergraduate education.

B. Sweet offered the friendly amendment that NR in the various options be changed to NCR or NC for 'no credit'. J. Phillips accepted the amendment.

L. Hepler noted that computing services could provide a list of students via an excel spread sheet or in PeopleSoft, so advisors could check and review student application for grade changes.

The vote being called, a roll call vote was undertaken. Vote unanimous in favor of option 2.

### 3. Academic Calendar

L. Hepler provided the current academic calendar for review and support.

All PASSHE schools start on the same date. Issues involve the implications for course sharing if institutions have different breaks during the year. Some students prefer early ending so they can compete for jobs with graduates from Pitt, Duquesne, Penn State and other schools in western PA.

Clarion's schedule is more or less in tune with Edinboro's as we have 170 students in a joint program there. However, as more departments try to set up course sharing agreements with local PASSHE schools, differential schedules make 'systemness' harder to realize.

While it is beyond the scope of this discussion, several senators voiced support for returning to a common calendar with all of PASSHE.

J. Phillips moved and J. Croskey seconded a motion to support the calendar as presented. The majority voted Aye. A. Roberts voted 'no'.

### IX. Old Business

No old business

### X. For the Good of the Order

A resolution recognizing the work of the Clarion University Learning Technology Center, Instructional Technology, and Informational Technology staff, as well as everyone else from Computer Support Services, either face to face or behind the scenes, involved in assisting faculty make the transition from face-to-face to online instruction was read. P. Woodburne moved and J. Croskey seconded the motion. The resolution passed.

### XI. Adjournment – A. Rosati moved (B. Sweet seconded). Unanimous passage.

