

**Faculty Senate
Clarion University
4/2/18**

Faculty Senate met on April 2, 2018 in 246 Gemmell. A. Roberts chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: Y. Ayad, D. Clark, J. Croskey, E. Foster, S. Harris, J. Knaust, D. Knepp, M. Lepore, A. Lockwood, D. Lott, J Lyle, J. May, J. Overly, K. McIntyre, J. Phillips, S. Prezzano, A. Roberts, B. Sweet, L. Taylor, J. Touster, P. Woodburne. P. Fackler, and R. Skunda were also present.

I. Call to Order – A. Roberts called the meeting to order at 3:30.

II. Approval of the Minutes (3/19, 2018) – E. Foster, (D. Clark seconded) approval of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Announcements

K. McIntyre noted that the latest edition of “Walk A Mile in Her Shoes” was due to start up on April 10, with registration at 4 pm at Moore Hall, and the walk starting at 5 pm. She noted that more men were needed to volunteer. A. Roberts noted that he was due to walk. Men who wish to walk should contact PASSAGES. K. McIntyre also noted that the last Seifert Series lecture by noted New York Times best-selling author Tawni O’Dell will occur April 3, at 7pm. She encouraged all to attend.

IV. President’s Report-- P. Fackler

P. Fackler began by noting some housekeeping issues. In his last talk with Senate, he listed only 4 names to the Provost Search committee, which was because he had not formally asked L. Cullo to join the search. Now that L. Cullo has accepted, the slate is now full at 10. P. Fackler also noted that he will bring revised language on the Haines Memorandum to Senate at the next Full Senate meeting in two weeks. Finally, he said that he has made no decisions regarding the interim Provost, though he and his team are considering various alternatives and scenarios.

The main topic he wanted to address falls broadly under the rubric of “Affordability Issues”. He, T. Pfannestiel, and L. Cullo have been asked to speak to the Chancellor’s office regarding CUP’s financial status. He said it felt a bit like getting called to the Principal’s office. In terms of cash reserves, CUP is low. In terms of other indicators, CUP is in the middle of the PASSHE pack. P. Fackler said that L. Cullo can ‘see a path forward’ to a balanced budget this year. This accounts for the random ‘one offs’ that created a good year last year, which we cannot count on this year. Current numbers indicate a \$1.5 million deficit. The Chancellor’s office is concerned with the ‘Interim BUD report’, which does not account for expected tuition or funding amounts, so is of limited use, as P. Fackler sees it. T. Pfannestiel will speak about various initiatives on campus, and P. Fackler will talk about ‘affordability issues’. For him, this covers institutional issue such as pay rises not covered by increases in appropriations, as well as tuition and fee structures that impact student ability to afford to attend CUP. While he acknowledges that he has no firm data, anecdotally, we are all aware of students who cannot come up with the full amount owed, after accounting for tuition, private loans, financial aid and the rest. P. Fackler noted the ethical issues surrounding allowing these students to continue to accrue debts, then kicking them out with no degree, and an unpayable debt. He noted that we lose 1 of 4 first year first in college students. While this is bad, it affords an opportunity.

P. Fackler cited 5 initiatives to try to close the ‘gap’ faced by these students. 1) The first is to package workstudy with other financial aid and to prioritize those students with need for working on campus over those without such need. P. Fackler noted that students who get PHEAA money also are eligible for workstudy, up to some amount. A packaging of these funds has not been done before. To the extent that

students who are financially needy are also at risk in other ways, this may boost two areas where retention falters.

2) A second initiative linked to the students with financial ‘gaps’, CUP is working with some 100-200 students to see if we can find more funds, either matching PHEAA with additional work study money, or other sources. If these students drop out, they leave with debt, which seems unethical for CUP to continue to allow them to accrue, but it also means that CUP loses the continued tuition and financial aid funds that would continue to flow if we can find a way to keep these students. P. Fackler noted that in 2-3 weeks we will see if the interviews that the Enrollment Management Team is conducting with these students and families is working.

3) The third issue is working with the Foundation to bring down the cost of rent in the various suites; Suites on the Hill, SOMN and SOMS, and Reinhard Village. These are all expensive. The foundation funded these with bonds, which have a covenant that requires that rent be some fraction of the interest and principal due with each payment. This encourages the Foundation to raise rents. The raised rents encourages students to go elsewhere, especially as CUP now mandates students stay on campus the first two years. P. Fackler noted simple economic logic, which dictates that you do not increase residence in the dorms by raising the price.

4) The fourth issue is the Strategic Enrollment Plan, focusing on retention. He noted the Center for the First Year Experience and various related initiatives. He noted that CUP has good data on year to year retention, but has some data, but no diagnosis of Fall to Spring ‘melt’. P. Fackler noted that many groups on campus do track some of these issues, but none work together, and he suggested that this needs to stop. CUP has little ‘real time’ indicators of student financial and/or academic stress that may contribute to not returning for the Spring term.

5) The last initiative focuses directly on costs, primarily to the university. He wants to get better data on faculty demographics, and who will retire and when. He noted that retrenchment does not work, and that a better way to get a handle on university costs is retirement. Currently, neither the university nor the state system are offering early retirement deals. The issues that this brings up is what to do with the funds realized by retirements; do they get plowed back to the department, do they go to pay down the deficit, or do they get reorganized/reallocated?

In response to a question from D. Lott on whether the focus on housing costs related to Venango or just main campus, P. Fackler said that, while he did not know about Venango’s housing situation specifically, he would look at it, and wrap it in the same discussion. A. Roberts asked if other PASSHE schools were being called to the Principal’s office. P. Fackler said that he did not know, but it always paid to be prepared, and they were going with all the information they could. He noted that CUP is in the middle of the pack, financially, even if some schools like Westchester or Shippenburg have a lot of money. M. Lepore noted that workstudy often boosts student involvement and engagement in their fields and with CUP, more than just financially. J. Overly agreed, noting the good things workstudy students learn in the Chemistry labs. M. Lepore noted that perhaps a person whose job it was to oversee the workstudy kids who would have a broad overview of the whole process would be good. Further, he noted that perhaps the creation of a mid-term grade reporting structure would create a real time indicator. J. Phillips supported the focus on student affordability, noting the expense of many books, and the move toward Open Source materials. J. Phillips noted the importance of reducing the costs of books, the use of such open source material, the use of library reserves, etc. He asked about the fee structure for next year. P. Fackler said that the fees unrelated to tuition are flat. The ISF and Tech fees, which are tied to tuition, are going to rise. J. Phillips said that it is imperative that the school lower costs to students, as a first principle.

V. Student Senate –

R. Skunda noted the bookstore has a contract with the university by which it contributes some funds to student senate. The amount on hand in student senate is about \$30,000. He said that student senate was starting to use some of that money to provide book loans or other financial assistance related to book

expenses. He noted that the contract with the bookstore is coming due in the next year or two, and feared that the monetary contribution would dry up too. E. Foster congratulated student senate on this use of their funds. It was unclear from the discussion whether the Follet contract as a whole was up for renewal and whether Follet would leave, or whether the financial contribution portion of the contract was up for renewal. P. Fackler asked about the number of students with problems affording books. No one has precise numbers, but anecdotal evidence seems to indicate up to 50% of students may have trouble affording books. Some wait for financial aid to come in, which often occurs some weeks after the start of the semester. The bookstore will front students funds to buy books, up to the amount of their book related financial aid. However, this incents students to purchase expensive books from the bookstore and not cheaper alternatives online. The situation occurs whereby students with the most financial need buy the most expensive books, because they do not have sufficient cash on hand, or space on the credit card (or no credit card) to use to buy a cheaper book online.

VI. Committee Reports.

A. CCPS – B. Sweet

B. Sweet noted that open hearings will be on April 5 at 3:00 pm in the Senate room. CCPS has two objections. The normal pattern will be observed whereby the non-controversial proposals will be dealt with first. In terms of the objections, the proposing department will go first, and the objecting department rebuts.

B. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

M. Lepore was in Germany conducting reconnecting/transition groups with returning troops on coming back to civilian society at the last meeting, and J. May went in his stead. She and M. Lepore jointly reported that the new Student Excellence Awards (replacing the Who's Who) will consist of 1 student from each discipline to be recognized. This will be a much more elite set of awards than prior. The process will start in the Fall, with student names collected in Fall and Spring, with the ceremony in Spring. Other concerns raised included the amount of notice to attend mandatory meetings regarding funding for RSOs. Also, discussion continued re: the best way for students and university to communicate activities. Students do not know about or use CU Connect, but use multiple platforms. Concern is that this helps reduce student involvement at activities on campus. Further, regarding academic integrity, there seems to be an increase in conduct board issues. A recent change in the rules mandates that all academic integrity issues get noted in a formal sense, even if dealt with in class with no further repercussions. M. Lepore noted that faculty could use some training in the new procedures, much the way those sitting on Conduct Board get training. Another issue raised at the Student Affairs Task Force is the lack of clarity surrounding funding of RSOs, and the timelines, etc.

C. CCR – J. Lyle

J. Lyle noted that the Senate Elections are Tuesday, April 3. As the nomination elections are being done live, we have ballot box watchers for the election, and he called for some help with counting ballots. The final election will be done electronically. J. Lyle asked for help getting the ballots from Venango to main campus. Counting will occur in Conference Room B in the Library.

D. Academic Standards – J. Phillips

J. Phillips announced that the president has agreed to committee recommendations regarding University Policy on Minors, Academic Renewal, and AIPs. The fourth recommendation on the drop date for Winter Session was one the administration favored, but it is apparently a policy at the level of the PASSHE. Still, the Provost let it be known that he will take this recommendation to an upcoming meeting of the CAOs (Chief Academic Officers) of all the state system schools and try to work on it from there.

E. Budget – J. Knaust

No report

F Faculty Affairs – D. Knepp

D. Knepp said the retirement party is planned, and the menu is set. He passed around pictures of the argyle throw blankets that will be the gifts for retirees. He also noted that the committee asked for colleagues to write short bios of the retirees, which will be put into the brochure. This is going well.

G. Institutional Resources – E. Foster

E. Foster noted that P. Woodburne went to the Facilities Management Committee meeting in her stead. He reported on the start of the Tipping renovation (fencing and asbestos abatement to occur first). Also, three graduation ceremonies will occur this year, in Marwick Boyd, at 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, and 4:00 PM. Students will be given 5 tickets for friends and family, a reduction from the 6-8 typically allowed. Overflow crowds will be accommodated in Gemmell MultiPurpose Room. Tickets will exist for this seating as well. No receptions will occur, due to the tight timeline in getting 3 graduations finished, in close temporal proximity. Currently, only those interested parties (family of students graduating) get a code/password, and can watch a live stream of graduation on CUP's system, but that streaming over the open internet is not considered at this time. A question asked about whether broad/open streaming was possible. Jon Beal, chair of Facilities Planning, noted that this would be a good public relations gambit. Discussion occurred around whether the streaming issue was a local decision, or whether it was a technological/bandwidth problem. Work continues on the Stevens and Moore Hall renovations (elevators and ADA compliant restrooms). Final designs expected mid-May. The cooling tower in Still Hall has been installed. Awaiting good weather for final test. Roof renovation design is complete, not out for bid yet. Halon extinguisher system for the computer server room design is complete. No bids yet. The communication tower (radio station, and repeater, and facilities for Verizon) will begin construction soon. Regarding the ADA compliance of the doors around the DEN, Starbucks, and the bookstore, Chad Thomas (Assistant Director of Facilities Management) will fix one door to reach the retail areas, and work on the others (8 total) as funds become available. Examination and bids are ongoing. Steam tunnels at Harvey Hall and Givan need repair, likely due to repairs or demolition of Chandler Dining Hall. Design is complete and request for bids sent out. Student Senate is asking for some sort of outside 'pavilion' with a roof for student gatherings. Student Senate will get together with Chad Thomas to hash out details.

S. Harris noted in questions that the fencing around Tippin is going to get in the way of people coming to graduation, and could perhaps the fencing be moved to enable pictures of students in front of the Eagle by Tippin. J. Overly noted that the Tippin fencing is also causing some issues with the ability to get into STC. Others noted the loss of handicapped parking. P. Fackler said that two more handicapped slots will go near the back of STC to make up for the ones lost by Tippin. A. Roberts noted that there is no handicapped entrance to STC at the rear entrance, though this is where some elevators are. E. Foster made notes to ask Chad Thomas.

H. Venango – J. May

Venango Forum was held March 28th and covered important topics. Particularly, due to ill health of a public safety officer, some nights have no public safety coverage on Venango campus at all. This poses problems for students and faculty going to their cars after classes, as well as locking of buildings, and the potential for any injuries within the building to not be discovered until the next morning. In the absence of university police, Oil City police, via 911, respond to Venango campus locations.

VII. Old Business

A. By Laws/Constitution

A. Roberts noted that the Council of Trustees will meet April 19, and expects approval of the amended By-Laws/Constitution.

B. Seifert Cultural Series

T. Pfannestiel was absent and no news was forthcoming.

C. Haines

A. Roberts noted that P. Fackler had said he would provide amended Haines language, by the next senate meeting.

VIII. New Business

A. CCPS .

Read-ins are read in.

B. GEEC

No report

IX. Adjournment – B. Sweet moved (D. Clark seconded). Unanimous passage.