

**Faculty Senate  
Minutes  
Clarion University  
4/27/20**

Faculty Senate met on March 27 2020 in 250 Gemmell. J. Lyle chaired the meeting with the following senators in attendance via Zoom: V. Aravind, 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, P. Woodburne. R. Skunda, K. Krupa, P. Gent, were also in attendance.

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

II. Approval of the Minutes (4/13, 2020). M. Lepore moved, V. Aravind seconded. Approved

III. Announcements

1. COT met on 4/16 in a zoom meeting. J. D. Dunbar expressed her appreciation of all that the faculty did in transitioning to online education on such short notice.
2. The Op-Ed piece written by J. Walsh, and signed by many faculty and Senate, is being shopped around, mainly to Pittsburgh area outlets.
3. Virtual Undergraduate Research Conference is held for the next two weeks. It can be found on the main website/research
4. Board of Governors will hold a 4 hour zoom meeting, which J. Phillips will attend.

IV. President's Report-- D. Pehrsson

The President is at a Middle States zoom session, and can't attend.

V. Provost Report—P. Gent

The Provost thanked faculty and staff for working so hard on the grade change policy, and, again, on the work done in making the transition to online education a success. The Provost was at the Middle States meeting as well, and was to be replaced at Senate by D. Hartley, but a death in the Hartley family kept him from attending.

The Governor has begun to allow parts of the state to open. NW PA is one of the areas that will open first. This is a limited opening. The opened areas will still follow the Governor's "Yellow" Plan, and those returning to work will still follow the social distancing guidelines etc. Among the first will be custodial and maintenance employees.

The situation as regards the fall is still unknown. The administration is working on a number of alternatives: start online and move to face to face; start face to face and move online; 7-week semesters for portions of the student body, etc. P. Gent asked for volunteers to assist her committee in these endeavors.

CUP will have one, and perhaps two graduations in December. Whether to combine the postponed May graduation with the traditional December graduation is still unclear. Student leadership is being consulted in this. A video is being compiled, which will showcase graduating seniors, honor their work and the completion of their college careers.

The new grading plan, approved by Senate a couple weeks ago, has been approved and is operational now.

The state Student Cares funding is available. Still a little unclear on what it can be used, but generally to be used for emergency needs, as a result of the transition to online education. The university is also applying for funds for our own use from the CARES fund. Guidelines are changing, but do appear to require eligibility for Title IV funds to be eligible for CARES funds.

The emergency fund raised approximately \$26,000 to assist students with unexpected costs related to moving online. Most of these funds have been disbursed, in micro grants of about \$250 to approximately 100 students. The last of the funds will be disbursed today.

As part of the Governor's relaxation of part of the stay at home orders, DGS funded work will resume on Moore and Stevens Halls.

New signage is due to arrive in the next couple of months, which will be more useful (with removable inserts) than the existing signs.

Similar to the enhanced buyout of sick leave aimed at faculty, a similar plan should be in place for the remaining bargaining units, as well as non-represented employees.

The administration is working on ways to begin to employ students remotely.

In comments/questions, C. Childers noted that Brown University is putting students in hotel rooms. While that university can afford it, P. Gent noted that we have whole floors of dorm space now empty, and where students can be placed one per room. The issue is what happens when students are in class, and their social distance is reduced.

In other questions, the administration assumes any CARES money not passed to students is to go back to the Federal Government. In any event, the administration is keeping good records of all aspects of the disbursement of the funds.

#### VI. Student Senate – R. Skunda

Ryan Skunda and Kaitlyn Krupa reported that Student Senate had its final meeting two weeks ago. This is R. Skunda's last meeting, after representing Student Senate at Faculty Senate for three years.

The student needs scholarship application process is finished. Approximately 22 students have been funded, with approximately \$7,500 in funds. K. Krupa will attend Faculty Senate, but may not be the main student senator representative. K. Krupa noted that the e-board is meeting and is considering alternatives for fall.

Before moving to committee reports, J. Lyle thanked J. Phillips for his work as Parliamentarian. J. Phillips noted that he did nothing this term.

While introducing each committee, J. Lyle thanked the outgoing committee chair for their work and dedication to Senate and to the University.

#### VI. Committee Reports.

##### i. CCPS – B. Sweet

CCPS Read-Ins have been 'read in'. The proposals have been moved to J. Lyle, who signed them, and took them to the University Police station, where they will be picked up, later today or tomorrow, by President Pehrsson.

##### ii. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

S. Fenske, J. McGee and M. Lepore have been meeting weekly, reviewing various needs and issues. The BART team is still taking cases, and appreciates the close attention paid to students by faculty.

All students will be off campus by the end of finals week.

Orientations over the summer will be virtual. Details are being worked out, and interested parties will be notified as to their altered roles.

S. Fenske's group is calling all students, both to check-in, and to gently get them to think about registering for fall.

The health center is working on immunizations and on mental health issues. The Rec Center has provided virtual workout sessions for students.

Student groups still meet regularly online to plan summer activities, as well as those for next year.

iii. CCR – J. Knaust

133 votes were cast in the last election. The new senators are:

Clarion Campus

Joseph Croskey

Ellen Foster

Jacqueline Knaust

James Lyle

Susan Prezzano

Barry Sweet

Jane Walsh

Venango Campus

Rena Shawgo

J. Lyle noted to the new senators, and to the body at large, to let the new chair of senate know if you are going on sabbatical, or will otherwise be unable to serve your upcoming term, so alternates can be elected.

iv. Academic Standards – A. Roberts

No report

E. Budget – C. Childers

No report, except to note that the members of this committee, and the others on the various committees under the Financial Sustainability Committee have been hard at work and that their reports/suggestions will be due by the middle of this month.

F Faculty Affairs – D. Knepp

CUP had reported 15 retirees, However, J. Bodziock is on phased retirement, so the number is 14 retirees.

G. Institutional Resources – L. Taylor

No Report. L. Taylor is absent due to a death in her family.

H. Venango – J. May

The awards ceremony is on track for May 1 at 6 pm. Counselling and tutoring services are still ongoing, as per student needs.

VIII. New Business  
No new business

IX. Old Business  
No old business

X. For the Good of the Order

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