

**Faculty Senate
Minutes
Clarion University
9/23/19**

Faculty Senate met on September 23, 2019 in 250 Gemmell. J. Lyle chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: S. Boyden, J. Croskey, J. Haight, J. Knaust, D. Knepp, M. Lepore, C. Li, A. Lockwood, J. Lyle, J. May, M. K. McConnell, J. McCullough, N. O’Neil, K. Overmoyer, J. Phillips, S. Prezzano, A. Roberts, A. Shannonhouse, B. Sweet, L. Taylor, P. Woodburne. P. Gent, R. Skunda and L. Cullo were also present.

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

II. Approval of the Minutes (4/22, 2019) – J. Croskey, (J. May seconded) approval of the minutes. P Woodburne noted incorrect date. Will send corrected minutes to President of Senate.

III. Announcements

1. State System Interim Faculty Council Election – 9/24-26
2. Promotion Workshops 9/26 (Rhea Conference Room) & 10/23 (Venango – 208 Frame) – 3:30
3. CAS Faculty Professional Development Grant Apps Due – 10/1
4. Penn York Conference 11/9 at Clarion – Submissions due 10/19

C. Li noted that the Undergrad Research conference will start, and proposals are due next Wednesday.

J. Croskey noted that a CUP student is from the Bahamas, and has gone back after the hurricane. He used the opportunity to ask for support for fundraising to support the victims of the hurricane. More information will be forthcoming via email.

IV. President’s Report-- D. Pehrsson
No report

V. Provost Report—P. Gent

P. Gent noted that retention was up a small fraction, and, since every bit helps, thanked everyone for their part in the uptick.

There will be an internal search for CASA-Committee for Access and Student Achievement.

R. Radaker has been hired on a 12 month faculty position for the Director of Student Success, leaving his old position vacant.

Two search committees are being populated: The Dean of Continuing Education and Workforce Development at Venango, via a ‘regional search’, and the Assoc VP of Student Success, which will be an internal search. Upon questioning, P. Gent agreed that the committees are generally 9 faculty members, and that the Dean’s search is subject to the revised Haines memorandum. P. Gent will give J. Knaust a general search/job description, and CCR/Senate will put out a call for membership and/or give recommendations. Upon questioning, P. Gent said that the Dean at Venango will not oversee any specific programs/departments/classes because programs are owned by departments, but will focus on workforce development and regional development issues.

The Provost is still looking for volunteers for Middle States. A new process means that there will be training for all involved. Initially, this will require a steering committee of 2-3 members, then populated with additional members/committees as process continues.

The TNI report suggested a common hour. That is still being evaluated. Possibly to start next fall. Many issues to work out. An open forum to discuss will likely occur in the near future.

VI. Student Senate – R. Skunda

Student senate will have its retreat where new senators will get inculcated in what being a senator means.

VII. Committee Reports.

A. CCPS – B. Sweet

The deadline for submissions is Friday, Sept 27th. Three weeks later is the objection deadline, with open hearings on 11/7 in SOMS 9A and 9B. Finished proposals presented to Senate at the next to last meeting, with the final meeting to finish up any unfinished proposals.

B. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

The student Rehab Club is continuing the ‘Take 5’ initiative, where parents can bring children with disabilities to CUP for a night of supervised activities, giving the parents a night off. The age ranges from 7 yrs. to early teens. M. Lepore stressed that the students have had various trainings and are themselves supervised. The Rehab Club is continuing this program even after grant funding supporting prior years has ceased to exist.

The Safe Schools Initiative will occur on campus again this year on Nov. 21st. The keynote speaker is a former Sandy Hook teacher who was shot in that incident. She is now a principal and invested in school safety.

The committee is working on an Opioid prevention/awareness grant of \$100,000 renewable for a second year, to increase awareness about the epidemic, and work towards eradication.

In terms of Seifert Committee, the various initiatives/activities are listed on the website.

C. CCR – J. Knaust

Two calls are out for membership: OER taskforce (names due 9/25), and the appointment to the PASSHE Interim Faculty Council (voting by 10/4).

Two calls will go out for the committees discussed by P. Gent: Dean at Venango and the Assoc VP of Student Success.

D. Academic Standards – A. Roberts

Asked J. Phillips for any unfinished items from last year’s committee. Changes to AIP forms will be discussed with D. Hartley.

E. Budget – C. Childers

L. Cullo spoke (under New Business)

F. Faculty Affairs – D. Knepp

Faculty Mentor program and Sabbatical Celebration are both being revamped by the committee. Any suggestions, let D. Knepp know.

G. Institutional Resources – L. Taylor

No report

H. Venango – J. May

No report

VIII. New Business

1) L. Cullo discussed the budget

Broadly, all budgetary issues come down to student FTE enrollments and FTE employments. CUP has seen a drop in enrollments (no surprise to anyone), and employment/compensation has risen. CUP has received some increase from the state. The Actual 2018-2019 budget shows a \$4.8 million deficit, which is almost exactly what was expected.

While enrollments decline, it is not possible to ‘right size’ an institution like a college quickly. Still need approximately the same number of faculty until enrollments hit a much lower threshold. CUP can and does limit hiring of various staff where possible. While the budget ‘expects’ some 76 administrators, L. Cullo is happy with, and prefers the 69 currently present.

Some points of note, Tippin being finished will improve the budget as various costs associated with its construction are gone. Also, some financial aid has been brought into E&G budgeting, as Tippin has been closed, rather than lose those funds in scholarships.

Also of note, work is proceeding on taking over control of the various dorms from the foundation, and altering the pricing structure. Covenants in the bond issue mandate that the dorms run at a pricing of 120% (revenue over expenses). This has mandated higher dorm residency costs than exist at some sister institutions. When CUP takes over, we can price them at something closer to 100%, still funding repairs, etc. Hilltop Suites will likely be refinanced prior to CUP taking control, meaning a lower interest rate and savings of some \$300,000 per year. While L. Cullo knows that basic economics dictates that if we lower the price, more students will take rooms, the thought of a rent reduction is scary, as it may not entice more students, and may result in simply lower revenues. Initially, the plan is to freeze room and board rates.

PASSHE is allowing institutions to set local tuition. While L. Cullo cannot imagine CUP lowering tuition, it is unclear what we would do if, for example, SRU wanted to take more our market share by out competing us on tuition. Upon question from J. Knaust, it is unclear how much collaboration does/will exist between institutions on the tuition issue.

On the proposed Budget Advisory Committee, L. Cullo stressed that it is NOT a policy making body, but one which will assist his office with diffusing information to the university community, and with obtaining feedback and issues of concern from the community to his office. The proposed Charter suggests a membership composition, with 2 faculty representatives selected in whatever means seems appropriate to the faculty, and 1 faculty selected by APSCUF. He would like to have the first meeting of the committee by the end of the fall semester.

IX. Old Business

No old business

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