**Faculty Senate**

**Clarion University**

Faculty Senate met on April 3, 2017 in 246 Gemmell. J Phillips chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: Y. Ayad, S. Boyden, C. Childers, D. Clark, J. Croskey, E. Foster, B. Frakes, S. Harris, D. Knepp, R. Leary, M. Lepore, A. Lockwood, D. Lott, J. Lyle, J. May, K. McIntyre, J. Overly, S. Prezzano, A. Roberts, B. Sweet, L. Taylor, J. Touster, P. Woodburne. L. Cullo, S. Fenske, J. Geiger, P. Gent, R. Skunda, B. Smith, and K. Whitney were also present.

I. Call to Order – J. Phillips called the meeting to order at 3:34

II. Approval of the Minutes (March 20, 2017) – B. Frakes motioned (Y. Ayad seconded) approval of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Announcements

CU Day of Service, April 8, 9;00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Council of Trustees Meeting, April 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Retrenchment Notification from Administration

Tobeco Award – E. Foster noted that Tobeco, Clarion’s literary arts journal, tied for 3rd place at the National English Honorary conference

Senate Nomination Election – E. Foster remined folks that the nominations election will take place on Tuesday

Phi Alpha Theta – K McIntyre said that two students won Best in Panel awards at the history honorary society’s regional conference at Theil last weekend.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes – K. McIntyre noted that the event is coming up on 4/12. She said that the organizers are looking for greater participation from male faculty

IV. President’s Report – K. Whitney

K. Whitney’s report began with everyone viewing a video of her being interviewed by KDKA regarding the Chancellor’s remarks about the prospect of closings and/or mergers within PASSHE.

K. Whitney said that the Chancellor’s remarks set off a firestorm, and added that it has been a perpetual PR job to counter the statement because the media has focused on the closure comments even though the chancellor was speaking about national trends regarding closures and mergers. She said that she is working to counter the perception, and is talking to elected officials daily from across the state. She added that she meant what she said in the interview that she looks forward to the review of CUP if they can they tell us something that we don’t know about the institution. She also restated the claim that universities don’t close they change and clarified the nature of what occurred in Georgia (they didn’t have closures but developed alliances). She said she has no reason to think CUP is up for closure, and said that the review will be a fair, evidence-based process. K. Whitney noted that the firm will be here on 4/27 and said that there will be a governance session. Her guesstimate is that the review will be completed in late July or early August for report to the Board of Governors’. She expects a chapter for each school and one for the system. K. Whitney then took questions about the review.

C. Childers asked if the firm plans on getting to every school before summer. K. Whitney said yes and noted that they are scheduled to visit all the schools by May 1st.

K. Whitney noted that Pennsylvania is 47th in state funding for education as a system and added that the declines in enrollment is systemic. She stated that Clarion had the second-best enrollment in the fall amongst the five schools named. She said she is working with J. Geiger to counter the perception (#clarionproud) and said that we should work from the assumption that every mention of closing means we lose one student. K. Whitney said that we were tending up for fall 2017 enrollment and since comments we were even and now slightly down. She said this is not just the Chancellor’s fault but an accumulation of events. She acknowledged that this is a horrible position but said she is working hard to be a cheerleader. K. Whitney said that the top priorities are to make Clarion close-proof and have a balanced budget. She added that we have 2.8 million dollars added in costs next year due to new contracts. She said that she has no problem with the contract but does have a problem with the state not funding the contracts. She added that she is furious that we’re only slated to get $32,000 more next year from the state. K. Whitney said we are having an Advocacy Day where she is going with alums and students to Harrisburg to lobby/educate folks. She asked people to let her know if they hear things from the media, officials, and so forth.

J. Phillips asked K. Whitney if she can speak to the idea of the merger. K. Whitney said mergers are rare so there aren’t lots of examples to look at. She noted that in New York there was administrative consolidation and stated that it was a disaster. She added that the Pitt-Titusville/Bradford merger is not saving money and failing at an operational level.

K. Whitney was asked if the review will be made public. She said that she would make it available if allowed and added that she hopes it will be made public.

J. Overly asked if there has been talk about Pitt/PSU mission creep. K. Whitney said she hopes the review will spark that conversation and noted that Pitt-Titusville and PSU-DuBois have 500 students each that could be here. J. Phillips added that the funding gap between the state-related schools and the PASSHE needs to become a point of conversation.

B. Frakes said he appreciates the efforts at positive spin in the press and asked how this impacts the capital campaign. J. Geiger said that we have moved from a 50 to 15 million campaign which we plan to make public in the fall. He noted that we have over 9 million raised. K. Whitney said she is spending 25% of time on donor and fundraising activity, more than she has done before, and acknowledged that she has had a couple people say they want to wait to see the report before giving money but said she has also had others give without a qualm.

J. Lyle asked why the chancellor isn’t receptive to the idea of Clarion as a growth institution if all the data we have been presented with in the past year or two is accurate. K. Whitney said she is not sure, and added she hasn’t seen people work so hard and not get the answer. She said that the $2.8 million from the contracts and $32,000 are the explanation. She said that everyone is part of the review and that the whole system is at risk.

D. Lott said that it feels like we run pretty lean as-is and asked if we know how we would deal with more cuts. K. Whitney said that the process is underway between the union and the administration but noted that it is inappropriate to talk about things here because this is not a union meeting.

C. Childers asked if there is a PASSHE spreadsheet that shows how all the schools match in terms of cost for students. She said that she thought we’re like 4th on the list and asked how we can improve on costs for students. K. Whitney said that the thing about Slippery Rock is that they lie because there is no real supply of cheaper alternatives. K. Whitney said the key is about the overall package not just being a dollar cheaper. She added that we need to live with the decision to close Wilk and Nair because they were structurally unacceptable.

B. Frakes said that Slippery Rock seems to have more options, they replace people, and so forth and asked how we can remain competitive with that. K. Whitney said we are trying to figure that out and balance things with distance learning. She also noted that we are putting up billboards on I-79 near Slippery Rock.

R. Leary asked if we are pivoting to becoming a professional school and asked why that decision was made pre-study. K. Whitney said we have growth in those areas now and projections show continued growth. R. Leary asked how will programs go into moratorium if they have insufficient interest. K. Whitney said that there is a policy and the number of students is key. R. Leary asked if we are doing less B.A. recruiting; K. Whitney said no.

A. Roberts asked about the status of Tippin. J. Geiger said that the renovation is on track. He said that the state has funded the project, though he noted that he and K. Whitney are looking for private money to help subsidize the effort. L. Cullo said they are looking to the end of the month and hope to start construction in the summer. L. Cullo noted that the state is investing considerable money in the project ($42 million).

V. Student Senate – R. Skunda

R. Skunda reminded people that the Reinhard Awards are coming up on the 26th.

VI. Committee Reports.

1. CCPS – B. Sweet

B. Sweet reminded everyone that open hearing is coming up on the 11th. He stated that everything is posted to the CCPS website and projected that proposals will be coming to Senate on the 17th.

1. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

M. Lepore said that the committee has a meeting scheduled for April 21st at 1PM in Stevens.

1. CCR – E. Foster

E Foster thanked everyone for agreeing to watch the polls and counting ballots. She apologized for the error in the original email about the number of nominations required and thanked the Office of the Provost in assisting with the corrections. C. Childers asked what will happen if someone submits a form with sixteen names. E. Foster said she would be checking with the rest of the committee to determine what the solution would be.

D. Academic Standards – J. Phillips – No report

1. Budget – C. Childers

C. Childers reminded folks of the upcoming budget forum on April 11th and indicated that she would attend the session.

1. Faculty Affairs – D. Knepp

D. Knepp stated that we have eleven retirees for the upcoming ceremony. He noted that he is working on getting the plaques, bios, and so forth together.

G. Institutional Resources – A. Roberts – No report

H. Venango – J. May

J. May said that airport interviews for the Venango dean took place last weekend.

VII. Old Business

1. By-Laws/General Education Recommendations

J. Phillips indicated that he sent the three recommendations from the prior Senate meeting to T. Pfannestiel that were directed to Academic Affairs and the GEEC. He added that there will be action on general education items at the upcoming CCPS hearing (and Senate meeting).

VIII. New Business

1. Pam Gent, 7-Week Classes

P. Gent began by stating that she wants to brag on the folks that got these courses running (faculty, staff, and administration). She then gave a brief history to explain how the move to 7-week courses came to be. She noted that there were courses for the M.A. in communication that were using the 7-week model. L. Fleischer surveyed folks and people indicated that they wanted 7-week classes. The evidence showed that adults, the target audience, want 7-week classes given their life choices. P. Gent said that from here they got folks together, did a gap analysis, had lots to figure out, and assembled a plan of action. She noted that the initial reaction was that this was rough but now they like program. She said that she was concerned with student learning and nursing outcomes/assessment, but the data shows the same level of learning is taking place in these classes. P. Gent noted said the school doesn’t want this type of class on-campus; they are designed as online classes for working adults.

B. Frakes asked if we could move courses in social psychology to this program as it seems to be a fit. P. Gent said yes.

J. Phillips indicated he was part of the committee that worked on this. He noted that it was a complicated puzzle to solve but added that people worked hard to resolve issues. P. Gent said that she thinks we have solved the big issues.

A. Roberts asked if the Department of Education has talked about this programmatically at the master’s level. B. Smith said the answer was both yes and no as the graduate population is different and the key is to get faculty buy-in or the program won’t work.

M. Lepore said that this seems like a good fit for their certificate program.

IX. Adjournment – B. Sweet moved (S. Boyden seconded). Unanimous passage.