**Faculty Senate**

**Clarion University**

Faculty Senate met on September 12, 2016 in 246 Gemmell. J Phillips chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: Y. Ayad, C. Childers, D. Clark, J. Croskey, D. Farnsworth, E. Foster, B. Frakes, D. Knepp, R. Leary, M. Lepore, A. Lockwood, D. Lott, J. Lyle, C. Matthews, J. May, J. McCullough, K. McIntyre, S. Prezzano, A. Roberts, L. Taylor, J. Touster, P. Woodburne. E. Green and R. Skunda were also present.

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

II. Approval of the Minutes (April 11, 2016) – B. Frakes motioned (J. Croskey seconded) approval of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously after minor modifications were made.

III. Announcements

Strike Authorization Vote – J. Phillips reminded folks that the vote resulted in approval of authorization.

Meet Your Advisor Week – J. Croskey thanked people for submitting activities and stressed the importance of the events for first year students as well as those changing their major, adding a minor, and so forth.

Council of Trustees – The Trustees are meeting on September 15th at 7PM (at Venango). J. Phillips indicated he would be there as the chairs of both Faculty and Student Senates speak.

Provost Search Update – J. Phillips asked if there was an update. Y. Ayad said that the committee met with the search firm and stated that the process was in the very early stages (agreeing on dates, etc). Y. Ayad indicated that the firm just facilitates the process and that committee will evaluate all the candidates who meet the qualifications. J. Phillips said that he had heard some concerns that the firm may be functioning as an agent for some candidates and expressed relief that this did not sound to be the case. R. Leary said it would be good to know for sure.

Burgers & Ballots – L. Taylor reminded people of the event and encouraged people to support the effort.

Board of Governors – L. Taylor told people to let J. Walters know if they would be able to attend the upcoming meeting of the Board in Harrisburg. APSCUF is staging a rally at the event.

Winter’s Bone – J. Croskey & K. McIntyre reminded people the film is playing tomorrow evening.

IV. President’s Report – K. Whitney – no report, no one here

J. Phillips noted that folks should have received an email earlier in the day from the president (with an exchange between her and J. Phillips occurring after) indicating the intent of the president to not attend meetings unless otherwise required. The email read as follows:

Dear Colleagues,

As I mentioned to Ellen when we met in August, given the many strategic priorities I have been asked to pursue by the Trustees, I ask that going forward I be taken off the regular Senate agenda.  Please know that if there is a specific item of interest that the Senate would like to discuss, I ask that the Senate Chair invite me to a meeting and I will gladly attend.

All the best for the new year.

Karen

D. Lott asked if there is any indication that someone representing the administration will come to the meetings. J. Phillips noted that T. Pfannestiel declined to attend the most recent Policy meeting and said that he is not sure if this will be a trend. At this point there is no evidence that someone will come. J. Phillips said that he presumes everyone read the email exchange and suggested that it would be preferred for the president to attend the meetings even if the advice/comments from the Senate were critical. Furthermore, J. Phillips indicated that attendance would seem to be an important part of an effort to boost relations with the faculty. J. Overly said that the president stated she would work with Senate in the State of the University meeting earlier in the day. J. Phillips stated that we will need to discuss the at the Trustees meeting. R. Leary said he wants to know what the priorities are that are keeping her from coming to Senate. R. Leary added that there is a lack of minutes online for recent Council of Trustees meetings. R. Leary also said that it is problematic that the president is not at the meeting given calls for campus unity and better administration-faculty relations in the newest 500-day plan information on the web. D. Clark asked how relations can be improved if the president does not attend Senate.

J. Phillips informed Senate of recent action by the administration where it was stated that there is a desire to eliminate release for the chairs of Senate and CCPS because they are not directly related to accreditation efforts. J. Phillips indicated that he and A. Roberts pushed back by noting that the release is rooted in the by-laws and hoping that this is not a vindictive effort. J. Phillips said he told the administration removal of the releases would be grieved and won by the union. At this point J. Phillips and A. Roberts are waiting on word of a decision. R. Leary agreed that both releases exist in the by-laws.

J. Phillips asked the members of Senate what they wanted him to do about all of this. L. Taylor asked if we can invite the president to Senate. J. Phillips said we will invite her all the time. A Roberts motioned that Faculty Senate formally invite the president to our meetings and declare this invitation at the Council of Trustees meeting. S. Prezzano seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

V. Student Senate – E. Green

E. Green said that Student Senate is accepting applications for the freshmen election later this week. He said they have five seats open. Student Senate will have its retreat next weekend with their conference on 10/15-17. E. Green introduced R. Skunda as the new liaison to Faculty Senate.

VI. Committee Reports.

1. CCPS – A. Roberts

A Roberts began by stating the CCPS deadlines and noted the impact of ALF on major proposals. He also noted that gen ed proposals now come thru CCPS and that circulation will follow major proposal guidelines since Senate needs to vote on the proposals. A. Roberts then thanked the committee for their summer work (music and economics changes that were needed). A. Roberts indicated that he did receive a proposal to revise Q-Flags from S. Montgomery. He said he returned the proposal and suggested she send a representative to Senate with the proposal who could then forward the proposal to CCPS or another committee. A. Roberts also stated that he has asked the provost to update forms on the website; the correct forms are on the CCPS password-protected site.

J. Phillips took a moment to acknowledge the amazing performances and competitive results achieved in Wales by S. Johnson and our students who sang. J. Phillips noted that S. Johnson had to fight for everything along the way to make this occur. J. Phillips said he would like Senate to provide a formal commendation of the activity. P. Woodburne asked if there was more that could be done since they finished 3rd in the world. J. Phillips said that we can recommend more be done. J. Phillips said we can send an email of congratulations and also email the administration to show pride thru a reception or other activity. P. Woodburne and E. Foster motioned for such action; unanimous passage. J. Phillips said he would write the email.

J. Phillips thanked A. Roberts for taking over CCPS while B. Sweet is on sabbatical.

B. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

M. Lepore said he had a request from S. Fenske to come and speak before Senate. Title IX is being revised so M. Schaefer wants to come and speak. J. Phillips indicated that we would be discussing invitations in new business but that yes there is a desire to have them here.

C. CCR – E. Foster

E. Foster noted that she has sent out the call for committee nominations.

D. Academic Standards –

J. Phillips indicated that there is a need for chair. He thanked D. Clark for his service as the previous chair. J. Phillips agreed to be the point person if no one steps up to be the chair.

E. Budget – C. Childers

No report

F. Faculty Affairs – D. Knepp

No report

G. Institutional Resources – A. Roberts

Facilities Planning has not yet scheduled a meeting; A. Roberts said he will let us know when he knows. D. Lott asked if there was a Tippin update. A. Roberts said no. D. Clark said that it would be good to have an administrative person here to speak to this matter. Y. Ayad brought up issues with the GIS conference regarding the inability to accept credit card payment for registration and asked how this could be fixed. It was remarked that student groups can accept credit cards thru the CSA but that other entities cannot. R. Leary said he wished the president was here to explain how this could be. J. Lyle asked who controlled use of the 15-passenger vans and said he knows biology has access. It was noted that biology bought a van from the school when the fleet was taken offline for campus use. S. Prezzano noted that this is evidence of a problem with communication because things like this are not being made known effectively at a department level.

H. Venango – J. May

Venango had their first forum. J. May noted that R. Bloom is now serving as the assistant to the dean at Venango. J. Phillips asked if Venango is now the Venango College of the Health Sciences. J. May and D. Lott said that was news to them if that was the case.

VII. Old Business

1. By-Laws Status Update – J. Phillips stated that there was formal notice from the president that she is not submitting the changes to the by-laws to the Trustees (the rationale was due to the changes in the general education process). K. Whitney asked J. Phillips what he wanted to do about this and J. Phillips said he told the president he was tired of discussing the by-laws. D. Clark stated that the decision to revisit the by-laws in the first place was due to the president.
2. General Education recommendations – J. Phillips reminded the members of the Senate of the list of recommendations offered by B. Sweet that were submitted at the end of the final meeting in the spring. Given the lack of a procedure for implementation, J. Phillips asked Senate if it wants to set the recommendations aside or revisit them. P. Woodburne asked if we could create an ad hoc committee to look into the proposal. P. Woodburne motioned (B. Frakes seconded) to create an ad hoc committee to address the Sweet proposal. Discussion followed. A. Roberts indicated that part of him says there is an issue given the lack of a procedure to make the changes, but that part of him feels that Senate can use its authority to interpret its own rules to allow action to occur. D. Clark said he would worry about a situation where Senate initiates action while there is a parallel body coming out of the administration doing the same thing. P. Woodburne indicated that Senate ownership may resolve opposition some people had to the general education proposal from the spring. R. Leary noted that the process of curricular reform has to go thru CCPS and Senate so action by a parallel body would be toothless without our support. R. Leary also noted that our failure to act may incentivize administrative action given previous comments on the subject. D. Lott asked what the status of the General Education Council was since there were spring elections for GEC positions. J. Phillips said it exists but has no authority given changes to the CCPS manual. J. Phillips offered a compromise: talk to S. Montgomery and figure out what is going on, and then decide on how to proceed. P. Woodburne agreed to table to motion. A. Roberts motioned to table Woodburne’s motion and have S. Montgomery attend Senate to discuss that status of gen ed reform (J. Touster seconded). Roberts motion passed unanimously. It was noted that the tabled motion must be revisited each meeting.

VIII. New Business

1. ISLAC – J. Phillips noted that he contacted L. Chambers about coming to Senate to discuss the status of ISLAC and asked the body if they were okay with that. Senate agreed that they would like to invite L. Chambers to speak.
2. Inquiry Seminar pilot – J. Phillips said that there is a similar need for a status update with regards to the inquiry seminars. The plan is to vote in the spring on whether or not to retain them. L. Chambers has agreed to come and speak. J. Phillips said there may be a need to get data from P. Gent.
3. General Education Policy and Executive Committee – J. Phillips said that he really does not know much about this group beyond the fact it exists and that S. Montgomery is chairing it. He asked if anyone knew more than that. No one responded. It was agreed that Senate should invite S. Montgomery to come and speak.
4. 7 Week Classes – J. Phillips said that he would like to discuss these with P. Gent and R. Gonzales to find out how the programs are working. P. Woodburne said he was teaching a pair of 7 week classes and that they seem to be working.
5. CCPS read-ins – A. Roberts made read-ins regarding summer activity in music and economics.
6. Service – J. Croskey congratulated those persons recognized earlier in the date for their years of service to the university.

IX. Adjournment – J. Croskey moved (B. Frakes seconded). Unanimous passage.