

**Faculty Senate  
Clarion University  
9/24/18**

Faculty Senate met on September 10, 2018 in 246 Gemmell. J. Lyle chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: L. Chambers, C. Childers, D. Clark, J. Croskey, E. Foster, J. Knaust, D. Knepp, M. Lepore, C. Li, L. Lillard, A. Lockwood, D. Lott, A. Love, J. Lyle, J. May, J. McCullough, J. Overly, J. Phillips, A. Roberts, A. Rosati, B. Sweet, J. Walsh, P. Woodburne. D. Pehrsson, P. Gent, D. Dollins, and R. Skunda were also present.

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

II. Approval of the Minutes (9/10, 2018) – J. Overly, (E. Foster seconded) approval of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously. (D. Knepp noted a problem after the meeting and an amended minutes were submitted 9/25)

III. Announcements

J. Lyle commented on the passing of former Senator and current faculty member Mel Michel over the weekend. He noted that it is hard to get through the day when someone well liked passes away. It is hard when someone we like dies, but it would be much worse if someone died and no one noticed. He noted that Mel was someone who ‘embraced noticing’, and asked everyone to keep her memory alive. He noted that Mel actually donated a piece of an organ to someone in need.

1. Presidential Commission Fall Social – September 25, Moore Hall, 4-6PM
2. PA Promise Rally – September 26, Front of Carlson Library, 11:30-12:30--postponed
3. Promotion Workshop, Venango Campus – September 27, 208 Frame Hall, 3:30-4:30
4. Distinguished Awards 2018 - October 5, Gemmell MPR. Must RSVP to attend.
5. Chancellor’s Visit – October 16

J. Overly noted that tomorrow is Voter Registration Day, with tables set up in the Library, in STC, and in Eagle Commons. Suggest to students to register.

E. Foster noted that the English Club, History Club, and Tobeco have come together to celebrate Banned Books and will have a trivia contest.

IV. President’s Report-- D. Pehrsson

D. Pehrsson noted that the Provost Search is ongoing and will get going in earnest with the committee that P. Fackler had created. Due to the cost of the search firm, we will not use one. Also, the CAES Dean search will begin as well. In both cases, qualified internal and external candidates are welcome. Upon D. Knepp’s question, D. Pehrsson noted that even though the prior search failed, and the firm owes us a search, she believes that we have not paid up front, and will still owe funds to the firm, even in the event of an ‘owed’ search. D. Pehrsson is reviewing the specifics of the costs, but believes it is worthwhile to be frugal. She asked faculty to assist with networking for potential candidates.

The ‘True North Initiative’ is ongoing. D. Pehrsson asked Senate to appoint one faculty member (not necessarily a senator) from each college to be on the committee. Also, the initiative will include representatives from APSCUF and AFSCME. D. Pehrsson asked that the nominees have broad experience in innovation in programming, grad and undergrad education, certificates, community partnerships, and college and cross college integration, etc.

D. Pehrsson is looking into a posthumous professor emeritus position.

J. Lyle asked if we want a motion to ask CCR to make a call for members to fill the True North Initiative, as outlined by D. Pehrsson. E. Foster made the motion, with the attendant language regarding qualifications as outlined by D. Pehrsson. D. Clark seconded the motion. Upon questioning by J. Knaust, D. Pehrsson reiterated the desire for this to be completed as early as possible, by early to mid-October. The goal is for CCR to act swiftly to set a slate of candidates by October 8. After discussion, vote passed. CCR will call for 3 faculty members to sit on the True North Initiative committee.

D. Pehrsson noted that at her prior institutions, the Provost also reported to every senate meeting, and asked that the Provost be slated for a permanent slot to present at full Senate. J. Lyle suggested that this was non-controversial and Senate agreed.

#### V. Provost Report—P. Gent

P. Gent reviewed activities and support offered related to the death of M. Michel. M. Lepore is offering to assist with anyone who needs to talk. Also, Partners in Teaching, Learning and Assessment will meet on Friday at Michelle's and will also assist in grieving to those who need it. In addition, she noted the changes to the Middle States process. Middle States has a new emphasis on assessment, meeting of standards, and the like. The new process is a yearly institutional report. At the end of four years Middle States looks at trends. Every 8 years is the self-study. This one looks at 7 standards not the full 14 standard. Middle States expects robust, mature assessment of all the standards. Middle States reports that they will be harsh on the universities. Need robust assessment plans and data, and use the data to make decisions regarding 'closing the loop'.

#### VI. Student Senate – R. Skunda

R. Skunda noted that CSA is looking at issues raised by A. Rosatti at the last Senate meeting. The issue raised at the last Senate was that given the poverty of many of our students, and the numbers who do not buy textbooks, etc, A. Rosatti noted that it would be good to donate money many of us get from the book buyers to a fund, perhaps organized by CSA. CSA is also considering two scholarships, and deciding on qualifications, etc, one for students going to grad school, and one for juniors and/or seniors. Student Senate is also considering representatives to go on the GEEC committee. R. Skunda noted that there had been a retreat which was good and useful. CSA wants the former location of the bookstore to become a game arcade. The leadership retreat is happening this weekend.

#### VII. Committee Reports.

##### A. CCPS – B. Sweet

B. Sweet outlined the important deadlines: Special Topics and Experimental: Sept 18, Major Changes: Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, Objections: Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. Open hearing will be Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. Read-ins read in. CCPS did have a discussion of assessment and how this will be ramped up and joined into the larger GEEC oriented assessment issues.

##### B. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

M. Lepore is organizing meeting times. Also, Student Affairs Advisory Group, (S. Fenske's group) met on 19<sup>th</sup>. Discussion in this committee included lack of pep at the welcome week pep rally, and would like different venues. Maybe get an emcee for the event. UAB has a text number that, when students sign up, they get texts of all events. Parking fees for students was discussed. Chief Hendershott noted that the fees go to paving and to cameras that provide safety, but he would look at the fees. Students suggested a way to register for events in CU Online, where a record of events and attendance would be kept. Upon graduation, students could download the events they attended, to be used on resume. Flex plans were discussed and liked. The new shop CUP Cakes seems to be doing well.

C. CCR – J. Knaust

J. Knaust noted that a second call for standing committees went out. CCR will meet this upcoming week to make determination and assignments.

D. Academic Standards – J. Phillips

No Report

E. Budget – A. Roberts

A. Roberts noted that Len Cullo will be invited Oct. 22nd.

F Faculty Affairs – D. Knepp

No report

G. Institutional Resources – A. Love

A. Love noted Facilities Planning Committee met. M. Buchanan met in A. Love's place. They will meet and discuss. F. Connolly will meet with A. Love re: most recent plans for Tippin.

H. Venango – J. May

J. May noted that the Venango Task Force meets on Wednesday and will meet Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> to complete the Task Force Report. Many cultural events are planned for Venango campus, and J. May asked everyone to promote these events, as the speakers do a good job. An upcoming event is a WWII vet who was married to a Holocaust Survivor, and will share her story. Also, a criminologist will break down the Sandy Hook shooting.

VIII. Old Business

A. Seifert Cultural Series

CCR will go forward with the appointment of individuals for the next year's appointments. Deal with in Spring

B. Retiree emails update. No update from S. Puleio.

C. Affordability issues.

Desire to not create redundancy on committees related to these issues. Movement on this delayed until it becomes clear what various committees are/can do on this regard.

D. Gen Ed Assessment Document

J. Lyle noted that Policy received a document from GEEC, which was long and involved. S. Montgomery emailed some thoughts on the process, asked that the document be sent to Senate. Policy is reviewing the document, and will send it out to Senate in due course. J. Lyle is loath to send out a major revision to Senate as he fears it will be divisive, and take up lots of time. Also, given the revision to By-Laws, we now have a mechanism for such a document to come to Senate via the Select Committee described in the updated By-Laws. This committee can be created to act on such curricular revisions and General Education assessment data. He recommends that, given that Senate has received assessment data from the past two or three years, Senate activate the select committee, and to make recommendations to gen ed, and suggest alterations to the Gen Ed program.

J. Lyle noted that we do need to do assessment, cannot afford not to. Thus, we need to make sure Senate is involved. He asked that we need a motion to ask CCR needs to empower the select

committee. He suggested that Policy meet on Oct. 1 to clarify the process and the committee charge, and to come to Senate on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> with some recommendations.

E. Acknowledgment of Excellence

Last week's senate asked E. Foster to draft a resolution supporting Y. Ayad, J. Smrekar, and student J. Becky. The resolution was read aloud. A motion to approve made (J. Overly, D. Knepp seconded). Motion passed. This resolution will be given to the recipients and publicized in a variety of places of prominence.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Clarion University faculty Yasser Ayad and Jocelynn Smrekar and Clarion University student Jacob Beckey have been awarded Fulbright scholarships;

WHEREAS Dr. Yasser Ayad, Department of Biology and Geosciences, has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award to develop an online interactive atlas of historical Cairo, Egypt;

WHEREAS Dr. Jocelynn Smrekar, Department of Education, has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award to further her studies of early childhood education and second language learning at Central University of Quito in Ecuador;

WHEREAS Jacob Beckey, senior Mathematics and Physics major, has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study at the University of Birmingham (England) to earn a Master of Research degree in Quantum Technology, work he will complete before continuing to the University of Colorado, Boulder, to complete his Ph.D. under the auspices of the highly competitive National Science Foundation graduate research fellowship;

WHEREAS these prestigious awards reflect the achievements and promise of Clarion University faculty and students;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF CLARION UNIVERSITY:

The Faculty Senate congratulates these individuals for their scholarship and engagement in international inquiry, with appreciation for their work in representing Clarion University so well at home and abroad.

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James Lyle, Chair, Faculty Senate

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Jacqueline Knaust, Vice-Chair, Faculty Senate

IX. New Business

A. Enrollment Management—D. Dollins

He reported in depth the issues surrounding the current environment and the changes made to the enrollment plans, and related programming. A major theme was the declining high school graduates predicted for upcoming years in surrounding counties. Given this, the desire is to increase retention.

One of the first points made is that admissions has 'tightened up the bottom of the admissions matrix'. This means that we admit fewer students from the lower end of their graduating high school classes. This means we admit fewer students, but should help retention and our numbers

in the next few years. Admissions is tightening up where we look for students, and save money by not going where we have historical low success. His office has data on projections out to 2030, which shows a 'roller coaster' of declining high school grads.

Admissions has made changes to the various visit days and academic discovery days. Some numbers, Fall 2018; 727 new students, 3.43 average GPA, 1040 SAT/21 ACT scores (both the GPA and scores are best since the 'common data set' was begun in 2004). Our 'melt rate' (the difference between the deposits paid and actually enrolled) is lower than has been typically the case. 298 transfer students is down from a recent high of about 320 in prior years, but close to the norm of around 300. We have 376 new grad students, primarily in MBA and various health related fields. Upon questioning by D. Clark, D. Dollins noted that they do not currently know where students who leave CUP transfer to (but they can find it out from a variety of data sources). D. Dollins noted that many of our competitors are also down in many of their key metrics. B. Sweet asked if our declines are proportional to the demographic declines in high school grads in our region. D. Dollin has county by county data which was not presented, but will be made available to B. Sweet.

The admissions office has created various action plans to increase retention, to target students in key geographic and demographic areas, to selectively use available scholarships and to increase a variety of need based and merit based funds to attract students and to reduce various costs of attendance at Clarion (such as housing). This is part of the Preferred College Partnership, with the Pittsburgh Promise initiative. The strategic marketing, enrollment, and retention plans and committees will work with and collaborate with various existing subcommittees that are spread around. The plans will fold up into and align goals with budgets and with the True North Initiative. D. Dollins noted that various institutions have been sneaking up and taking more and more of our students. As we raise enrollment standards, we compete more with the private schools than in the past. We lose 41% of those who do not attend CUP to 3 of our 'frenemies' -- IUP, the various Penn State branch campuses, and Slippery Rock. Ones sneaking up on us are Cal U, Westminster, RMU, etc. In response to question, D. Dollins noted that his office would begin an analysis of the programs that our competitors offer, which seem popular, and to see what we can do in response.

Among the other initiatives undertaken is the expansion of Work Study. They have a work study coordinator, and the office is working, among other things, to improve the work skill level of many students who would qualify for work study, but who may come from houses where almost no one has ever held a job long term.

A pdf of D. Dollins' presentation is available from his office.

- X. Adjournment –moved (D. Knepp, M. Lepore, seconded). Unanimous passage.