

**Faculty Senate  
Minutes  
Clarion University  
11/23/20**

Faculty Senate met on November 23, 2020 via zoom. J. Knaust chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: V. Aravind, S. Boyden, L. Chambers, C. Childers, J. Croskey, E. Foster, J. Knaust, C. Li, A. Love, J. Lyle, J. May, M. K. McConnell, N. O'Neil, J. Phillips, S. Prezzano, A. Roberts, B. Sweet, J. Walsh, P. Woodburne. D. Pehrsson, P. Gent, L. Pierce, S. Spang (student senate), were also present.

- I. Call to Order – J. Knaust called the meeting to order at 3:30.
- II. Approval of the Minutes (11/9, 2020) E. Foster moved, (J. Croskey seconded) minutes approved.
- III. Announcements
  - A. Calls for membership in a number of CCE Integration committees, work groups and sub-groups will be forthcoming.

IV. President's Report--D. Pehrsson

Clarion has experienced 63 cases of COVID-19, mainly among local, but off-campus students. Hope Lineman, Dean at Venango, has also been hired by PASSHE to do some part time work due to her expertise with workforce development to work on related issues at a statewide level. She remains Dean at Venango.

The administration continues to meet, and has met today, with members of the CUP Black Caucus to work on issues of import to them. Rogers Laugand has been invaluable. Rogers is also working with PASSHE on related issues. PASSHE is rolling out a set of modules on diversity that faculty will be asked to watch and learn from.

The president thanked faculty for their participation in the toy/book drive for Children and Youth Services, on Friday, Nov. 20. It was a great success.

The administration is working with faculty leadership and ASPCUF to devise another set of retirement incentives for faculty and staff.

The president gets the various paper versions of curricular changes. Given the sheer volume of such changes, she asks CCPS and Senate to consider going paperless.

Regarding integration, a large number of Committees, working groups and sub-groups are forming and will require membership by faculty from the three institutions. She urged faculty to volunteer. Some issues related to accreditations and the name of the new institution will roll out soon. As of Jan 1, President Pehrsson will become acting president of Edinboro University as well as remaining president of CUP. Regarding the name of the integrated institution, she can't say much now, but implied that there will be three campuses along with a fourth, virtual campus.

Various members expressed their congratulations to President Pehrsson, to which the body joined.

The president noted that she would like to announce the name or at least the direction the administration is taken for the new name of the integrated institution, prior to Thanksgiving.

## V. Provost Report—P. Gent

As the president was at another meeting at the start of this one, the provost noted that open calls have gone out to fill membership in the various integration committees, subcommittees and working groups. Once grades are in, the Provost will again start detailed communication with J. Knaust and J. Overly on aspects related to integration.

Registrations for spring term are about where we'd expect them to be. Preliminary numbers for fall are low at CUP, across PASSHE, across PA, and across the nation. It is unclear why this is the case.

The governor held a press conference on aspects related to COVID restrictions, the details of which seemed less than clear to the administration. The administration is consulting with various legal entities at Clarion and within PASSHE to make sure everyone is interpreting the new directives correctly. Of particular interest are potential changes to tele-working requirements.

The administration seeks to open face to face in spring, '21, and has a detailed set of criteria which will determine if CUP can do so, or must pivot to one more semester of virtual education.

The Provost and administration is meeting with Student Senate about online reporting of grades. In high school, teachers are required to post some fraction of grades online by various deadlines. This does not occur in college, and freshmen are unsettled by the inability to keep track of their grades.

In response to questions, the Provost can't really say if much will change on CUP's campus day-to-day as President Pehrsson becomes acting President at Edinboro in January as well as remaining president of Clarion University. It is likely that the frequency of her meetings with mid-level and high-level administration will be reduced, but she believes students and faculty should see minimal day-to-day alterations.

## VI. Student Senate – S. Spang

S. Spang noted that the Student Senate holds its final meeting of the term tonight. The Students in Need scholarship has sufficient funds for approximately 100 students, and has attracted 53 applications. The scholarship usually gets approximately 45 applicants.

## VII. Committee Reports.

### A. CCPS – B. Sweet

The final read-ins of the term were noted, and are now read-in.

### B. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

M Lepore was absent, but sent the following to J.Knaust.

The majority of the students have moved out of the halls and we are doing room assignments for students who have applied for spring housing. We are at almost 700 students for spring so far and can accommodate 900 with the CDC 1 student to 1 bathroom recommended ratio.

We ended last week with a total of 60 positive cases for the entire semester.

We have confirmed our surveillance testing process for the spring semester. Students moving into the halls will be asked to test, athletes will be tested on a regular basis, nursing students in clinicals that require it and then an additional 10% of the student population utilizing campus facilities.

Several athletic teams will be competing from Fall and Winter sports based on the PSAC vote last week. Spring athletes are tentatively being scheduled to compete.

We have a survey out to all students asking them for feedback on their student experience this semester. We will be sharing those results with key stakeholders. Academics had several questions on the survey.

We have launched a student-led taskforce to help us with peer messaging regarding COVID safety standards. This is being chaired by Student Trustee Kaitlyn Krupa.

C. CCR – A. Roberts

No report

D. Academic Standards – M. McConnell

The committee has met, and will meet on 12/14 to begin to discuss among CUP members how academic standards work at CAL-U, EU, and CUP.

E. Budget – C. Childers

No report

F. Faculty Affairs – J. Walsh

No report

G. Institutional Resources – L. Taylor

L. Taylor was absent.

H. Venango – J. May

No report

VIII. Old Business

A. Gen Ed Requirements Document

P. Woodburne briefly reviewed the marked up version of the revised Gen Ed document. He noted that the major language changes have to do with clarifying language related to ‘baccalaureate’ students, or ‘degree seeking’ students, so that CUP does not have to subject certificate-seeking students to the same requirements as the other students.

In the discussion, B. Sweet noted that the appendix dealing with the role in the Gen Ed process of the General Education Council and the General Education Executive Committee, the roles of each now removed from Senate Bylaws, were not expunged from the document. The committee responded that that was beyond the mandate of the committee charge. Small changes like changing course numbers to their current status (HPE 111 to NFSS 111 etc), pagination and style of bullet points and numbered lists are needed. J. Lyle was concerned that approval of this document supersede any actions taken by Senate in this regard in prior years. L. Pierce noted that the role of Gen Ed Council and GEEC could be put into the history of the Gen Ed program in the Gen Ed document. It was further noted that the role of Gen Ed and GECC were formally removed from the Senate Bylaws, and discussing the former roles of these committees would constitute history and not supersede the express desire (via Bylaw changes disbanding the committees/councils) of Senate to eliminate the roles of these bodies.

As required by rules, P. Woodburne, chair of the select committee, moved to accept the document as it is, subject to the small changes, with creation of ‘strike out’ language of the now-superseded Gen Ed Council and GEEC. A friendly amendment was moved to take up these various changes

during the early part of the next semester. A. Roberts seconded the motion, as modified. Vote passed. As a point of clarification, L. Pierce will clean up some small details, clean up and make consistent various aspects of pagination and formatting, as well as eliminate the previously stricken language. L. Pierce will also include strike out language of the appendices discussing the role of Gen Ed Council and GEEC, the dates of the various changes that had been made to Gen Ed (INQ, I-flags, etc) on the new document. She will submit this to Senate for final consideration at the start of the Spring term.

#### B. Waiver of INQ requirements

In the light of the Provost's request to waive INQ requirements, Policy held discussions on proposals by A. Roberts and L. Chambers. Today, the body discussed the two proposals, with an eye toward creation of a select committee to write up the CCPS proposal for whatever is decided.

L. Chambers' proposal was to eliminate the INQ requirement for Fall '21, but to rebrand the program and keep the classes, to keep the good work of the program in aiding in critical thinking skills, and also in retention. Part of the proposal would be to create another select committee to move this forward.

The motion was made by E. Foster to create a select committee to take L. Chambers' proposal and to do the paperwork and create the CCPS proposal necessary to bring it to fruition. A. Roberts seconded it, noting that the proposal, as presented by L. Chambers was really two proposals; one to change the nature of the INQ classes; the second to make the necessary CCPS proposal to change the Gen Ed requirements, allowing INQ 100 to fit under Liberal Skills as well as under Arts and Humanities in the breadth requirements.

In discussion, P. Woodburne noted that, while INQ classes may have aided in retention, the work by Rich Lane, giving students personal attention, calling students, arranging schedules, and urging students to finish their various math and language exams also certainly aided in retention. He reiterated to the provost that these duties be divvied up between members of Student Affairs, perhaps the success coaches. While we try to keep the good work of the INQs, we don't want to lose the good work that Rich did in acquiring students and in keeping them motivated to attend Clarion. P. Gent noted that this was important, and some of those duties, such as nudging students to take their math and English placement exams, are already done by the success coaches. Building relationships is important to our retention rates.

L. Chambers and V. Aravind volunteered to be on the select committee. The select committee will report to CCPS, which will send it back to Senate for approval.

Vote called, motion passed.

#### IX. New Business

##### A. General Education and University Wide Learning Outcomes

L. Pierce noted that, for Middle States, CUP must review the General Education and University Wide Learning Outcomes. It is not the case that we need to change them, but they do need periodic review. A. Roberts noted that, as the Middle States site visit is due in 2022, publicizing these outcomes among the faculty will be a good thing. It would be good if, upon questioning, faculty knew the outcomes and what is done to meet them.

The process will require another select committee to review the outcomes. This is on the agenda today to make faculty aware of the need to do this. The select committee will form at the start of Spring, '21 in an early Senate meeting.

J. Knaust thanked everyone for their work as the semester wrapped up.

X. Adjournment – B. Sweet moved (C. Childers seconded). Unanimous passage by hitting the ‘end of zoom meeting’ button.