

**Faculty Senate  
Minutes  
Clarion University  
9/09/19**

Faculty Senate met on September 9, 2019 in 250 Gemmell. J. Lyle chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: S. Boyden, C. Childers, 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. Rosati, A. Shannonhouse, B. Sweet, L. Taylor, P. Woodburne. D. Hartley, L. Delbrugge, R. Skunda and T. Boyle (student senate) were also present.

- I. Call to Order – J. Lyle called the meeting to order at 3:30.
  - J. Lyle asked the body to introduce themselves with their most recently listened-to and/or guilty pleasure music.
- II. Approval of the Minutes (4/22, 2019) – A. Roberts, (D. Clark seconded) approval of the minutes.
- III. Announcements
  - 1. Q & W Flag Assessment
  - 2. System Redesign Committee Nominations – no date listed, email from 8-24
  - 3. State System Interim Faculty Council Nominations – 9/17, 5PM – due to Jan Walters
  - 4. Council of Trustees Meeting – 9/19, 7:00PM – 403 Montgomery Hall (Venango)
  - 5. Flu Shots – 9/24, SOMS 9A/9B
  - 6. Promotion Workshops 9/26 (Rhea Conference Room) & 10/23 (Venango – 208 Frame) – 3:30
  - 7. Safe Schools Summit – 11/21
  - 8. Students In Need Scholarship & Student Resource Room

IV. President’s Report-- D. Pehrsson

V. Provost Report—P. Gent

D. Hartley attended for P. Gent who is in Harrisburg negotiating pay etc. as part of the negotiation for the new contract. D. Hartley introduced himself to the body commenting on his time in COBAIS, and focused on the immediacy and importance of assessment as part of the upcoming Middle States review. He noted that MS requires some 10 skills that all college students ought to have. Five of these are our flags. The other five are probably delivered in every major/department somewhere. A goal will be to identify where those skills/dispositions are delivered, and work on a streamlined assessment of them.

D. Hartley made a call for volunteers for the MS Steering committee, to do this assessment. The process is new, so volunteers will go to Philadelphia for training.

Also, he noted the departmental 5-year plans are back. The goal is to streamline them, and make them active (in contrast to past practice), and be part of ‘closing the loop’ in assessment and departmental program evaluations.

He noted that the Provost’s report was the same as was delivered to Policy. That report is reproduced here.

**Enrollment:** P. Gent noted that the preliminary count of freshman enrollment is up at Clarion campus, for the first time since 2009. Enrollments up 4% overall and 14% on campus. Venango and transfers are down, and due to standard retention rates, overall enrollment is still down. The current class has more diversity than in the past, and is about on par, academically, with freshmen at SRU. We are counting the new Somerset students.

**Budget:** 4 tenure track hires occurred: Library Science, athletic training education, a second position teaching athletic training, and a position in marketing. CUP decoupled testing and tutoring services, so will be hiring a position for a tenure track position to run tutoring. Four faculty are taking phased retirement. Gwen Price is officially Dean of the College of Education, Laura Delbrugge is the new dean of CAS, David Hartley is interim Assoc Provost (from Assoc Dean of COBAIS), and Juanice Vega is taking D. Hartley's place as interim Assistant Dean in COBAIS.

Dept of Ed financial aid audit is finished, and with 'no findings' so no need to repay funds to DOE. Fin aid can now be disbursed.

**Facilities:** Somerset is open and 15 students are enrolled. Tippin is on track, and will be finished soon. May be opened and filled by ALF. Trees removed and trimmed in front of Still Hall, safety related to roots too shallow, and 'curb appeal' were rationales. Flood in Suhr Library, and new roof. Will get new furniture (as per original grant), but now get new carpeting as well. CAS dean is now moved to Marwick Boyd, Jeff Allen is now in Harvey Hall, the Provost is now in Founders. Lease for Barnes Center won't be renewed. \$380,000 is the lease. Now save that money. Realtors are talking to new tenants for placement at the location. SBDC will move back onto campus.

**Entrepreneurship academy** held at Venango campus on Fridays. High school kids develop their business and take MGMT 120, so earn college credits.

**TNI reports:** Need faculty senate help with getting a search committee for a dean at Venango for Continuing Education and Workforce Education. Also, the Student Success committee recommended a VP of Student Success. CUP cannot afford that, but will hire, internally, for an Assoc. VP for that position. The Dean search will fall under the modified Haines memorandum, while the Assoc VP will not. Any faculty can be on the search committee. Goal is to have the person have direct contact with the PEC.

**Middle States:** Self Study training will start. The new process is different than it has been. Reaching out for faculty leaders for this process. Will be trained. D. Hartley and P. Gent will also be trained on the new process.

**System Redesign:** Many groups getting going on this process. It is moving fast. Ernst and Young will look at aspects of sustainability/online process. 4 other committees exist or will exist, for which P. Gent would like volunteers. If faculty volunteer, no guarantee of being called to the PASSHE wide committees, but she will put names forward.

Financial Sustainable Standards are being revised, but will be finished soon. Depending on the category we fall into, we will be given some specific guidelines and requirements from the state.

## VI. Student Senate – R. Skunda

Student senate will have its first official meeting later tonight. They spent the past week electing officers. R. Skunda noted that many more freshmen put themselves forward (21 for 8 slots) and voted (386 from the usual 1-200) than had done in prior years. This incoming freshman class seems excited and willing to get engaged.

## VII. Committee Reports.

### A. CCPS – B. Sweet

The main change this year is that, due to how the academic schedule falls, all CCPS changes will be due in the 5<sup>th</sup> week—Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. Also, only 2 copies are now required by CCPS. One can be double sided, while the other single sided and not stapled.

### B. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

The committee held a 12-hour training for Certified Peer Educators for a handful of enthusiastic students, who can assist with helping students in various crises. Of specific concern was the Toxic vs Healthy relationships issue.

C. CCR – J. Knaust

Due to L. Chambers leaving Senate for the year. This means that CCR is down a member. A. Roberts nominated P. Woodburne, B. Sweet seconded. J. Lyle closed nominations. P. Woodburne accepted. Vote. Ayes carried.

Some calls coming out for various issues.

D. Academic Standards – A. Roberts

Asked J. Phillips for any unfinished items from last year's committee. AIP forms had not been officially changed.

E. Budget – C. Childers

L. Cullo is coming in two weeks (9/23) to go over the budget.

F Faculty Affairs – D. Knepp

No report

G. Institutional Resources – L. Taylor

No report

H. Venango – J. May

Venango held first Forum earlier today. Issues that came up were the renovation and flooding in Suhr Library, and other issues. By spring, Phase 1 of Suhr's renovation will be complete. The TNI outcomes continue to be felt. Custodial services will occur during the day as well as in evening. Public Safety will set up a schedule for patrolling the campus. The roof of Montgomery is on-going, and parking lots. Respiratory Care lab should be ready by the end of September. Trustees meeting will be in Montgomery 403 at 7 pm on Sept 19.

VIII. New Business

1) New CAS Dean

L. Delbrugge, new CAS dean introduced herself. She discussed things she is interested in doing. Among these are re-instituting some Faculty Development funding. She is starting a 'Student Advisory Committee' made up of students in CAS, from all grades/classes. Would meet monthly to give input from student perspective. She wants to better communicate the importance of General Education to our students and to their families, and to other prospective enrollees. She has created a place to 'shamelessly brag' about what you and our students do and have done. This would become public, via the university website and other venues, to increase awareness of CAS and what we do.

Finally, she invited everyone to the Open House for the new home of CAS, in Marwick Boyd.

2) CCR Action item. See above.

3) Open Education Resources

J. Lyle noted the work that had gone on re: affordability with the Senate resolution last year. He met with D. Pehrsson and P. Gent, who are both pushing for OER. P. Gent, S. Fenske and D. Hoke all met with J. Lyle re: textbooks. Follett has an OER option called Lumen. Goal is to push for OER, but not eliminate funding to students that comes from book sales, etc. D. Pehrsson wants us to find out what can be done to reduce textbook costs. She has said to reduce textbook use by 25%, 50%, and 75% by various dates.

D. Pehrsson asked for a task force on this. Discussion on who would comprise the taskforce. To do the work of the task force would mean contacting folks at other institutions. J. Lyle recapped the lack of good data on actual book costs, based on data provided by Follett last year.

S. Boyden noted that the process will need to provide models of what has worked elsewhere to assist faculty with the ‘how’ of promoting OER. She suggested opening the taskforce to all faculty and staff (Tanya Otto in the library has expressed an interest).

T. Boyle from student senate commented on student anger/frustration with ‘access codes’ and book rentals. General agreement by body that these costs are high, and should be reduced. T. Boyle also noted, in response to query by B. Sweet, that many students, if they purchase books at all, will get them from alternative sources. Agreement that the task force should look at this.

Discussion on this revolved around not NOT using textbooks, but using OER books, and framing the public discussion around cost reduction and not elimination of ‘book learning’ at Clarion University. J. Lyle noted that Penn State has done this exact thing recently, with the belief of saving millions of dollars.

J. Phillips motioned for the creation of a taskforce as an open call to faculty and staff, and possibly students.

Motion: CCR will make a call for self-nominations to an Open Educational Resource Taskforce, whose goals will be to (i) define what constitutes an OER and to (ii) determine how well the University is currently doing in incorporating OER into classes. This taskforce will also make recommendations to Faculty Senate regarding (iii) benchmarks for the University to adopt for increasing the use of OER and (iv) mechanisms and methods for ensuring that these benchmarks are hit. All interested faculty, staff, and administrators are invited to join the taskforce, subject to approval by Faculty Senate, and the taskforce will appoint its own chair, though this appointment is also subject to approval by Faculty Senate. The taskforce will have until January 2020 to accomplish (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv).

J. Croskey seconded. Discussion continued. Vote called. Ayes carried.

IX. Old Business  
No old business

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