

**Faculty Senate
Minutes
Clarion University
10/12/20**

Faculty Senate met on October 12, 2020 via zoom. J. Knaust chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: V. Rao, S. Boyden, L. Chambers, C. Childers, J. Croskey, E. Foster, J. Knaust, D. Knepp, M. Lepore, C. Li, A. Love, J. Lyle, M. K. McConnell, N. O'Neil, J. Phillips, S. Prezzano, A. Roberts, R. Shawgo, B. Sweet, L. Taylor, 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 (9/28, 2020) E. Foster moved, (J. Lyle seconded) minutes approved. C. Childers noted a correction in minutes of 9-28 re: her committee report.
- III. Announcements
 1. PASSHE BOG meeting this week to vote on recommendations for Integration.
 2. Next full Senate will have members of the Student Affairs team
- IV. President's Report-- D. Pehrsson

The president reported on the start of the work by the President's Diversity Advisory Council. Rogers Laugand and Amy Salsgiver are working with the PASSHE vice chancellor in charge of diversity and are making headway despite the executive order from President Trump on eliminating anti-racism bias training. President Trump's executive order does not touch co-curricular or curricular activities that have to do with students. CUP's work on diversity and anti-racism bias can continue.

The sale of the Barns Center has been finalized. This will increase funds available for scholarships.

The Spring Reopening Planning Committee continues to meet and is looking at examples of U.S. of universities that have successfully reopened. Those successes seemed tied to contact tracing and testing. The President's Commission on Military and Veteran Issues has been launched. There is a call out for membership.

Middle States has called a meeting with the leadership CALU, CUP, and EU to discuss integration. This will give us guidance.

The President will come to Academic Senate to ask for Senators to populate committees related to integration. J. Phillips, due to his sitting on a key PASSHE committee related to shared governance, will lead one of the core groups related to integration.

After the PASSHE BOG meeting this week, and its expected vote in favor of integration, the Chancellor will put out some guidance and next steps. Next April is the deadline for our next major planning steps. The President will rely on shared governance and committee work.

In terms of planning for Spring, the decision on the mode of education to be followed in spring, '21 will be made by next Wednesday, 10-21-20. The Reopening Committee will finish its work by Monday.

A couple major concerns of faculty are getting information out to them and to students in a timely manner, and enabling them to work with their deans and chairs to match safety and comfort levels of faculty, and to do so without extra risk.

In discussion after the main presentation, the President reiterated the truth that faculty are at different comfort levels and have different situations at home regarding family members who may be at risk. A goal of reopening it to NOT make anyone do something they are uncomfortable with. At the same time, as past paperwork on moving classes online has focused on real medical need, and now that the documentation to move online is more relaxed, she wants to avoid the “It is simply easier to put all my classes online asynchronously” move by faculty. She is appealing to the use of pedagogical wisdom in deciding how to teach classes in multiple modes. Similarly, the president does not want to impede progress to graduation, nor to force students to come to campus if they are uncomfortable. This takes planning and innovation by faculty.

Deans have developed schedules, in concert with department chairs, using socially distanced room use capacities, in the event of a face to face reopening.

A concern of Education faculty is the supervision of students teachers, particularly in local schools where the virus may be more prevalent. This is a concern of the administration, and is being looked at. This includes all field work. Density dispersion is critical

C. Childers noted that it is important to communicate with students and parents, citing the negative example of Kutztown, where 1,000 students left campus due to concerns. The president agreed and noted that it is important to get a culture of compliance, citing the example of Shippensburg, which has reported very few cases of the virus.

V. Provost Report—P. Gent

P. Gent noted that a several accreditations have been completed. The Somerset program and the MSN program maintaining their accreditations with AECN, and the ABA reaccrediting the paralegal program.

Commencement this year will be virtual. Speakers will record their speeches, and they will be spliced into a recorded presentation. The team will record three presentations; one for each college. Graduating students have been asked to submit a picture, which will be used in the recording as their name is called.

The Reopening committee is thinking about face to face reopening in spring. Any formal announcement will occur next week. The goal is to give time to faculty and students to adjust. Doing so will be contingent upon ionization systems in buildings and dormitories. Where such a system cannot be installed the university is looking at HEPA filters. Also necessary for reopening is a demonstrated ability to test asymptomatic students. Various issues here include the ability to quarantine students who test positive (and where they will be quarantined), as well as whether to require tests prior to coming to campus, and/or a period of mandatory quarantine upon arriving. CUP has approximately \$900,000 left from CARES Act funding, which will go to the purchase of the various filters and systems.

The Registrar’s website still says Oct. 19 is the date when the new schedule will be available, with registration opening Nov. 2. These dates are somewhat contingent upon the issues above with testing and filters, etc.

Retrenchment came up in questioning, and whether it is limited to temporary or tenured faculty. Also a question about retrenchment of programs. CUP has 89 FTE of temporary faculty, not counting grant funded faculty. CUP has identified approximately 42 or 43 temporary faculty that will not be rehired. CUP has 3.88 tenured faculty who have notified the administration of their desire to retire or resign. One

faculty in COBA will retire, but has not made an official notification. The goal is to reach 50 positions, which gets us to the financial savings we need. The desire is to ‘retrench’ via temporary faculty members. CUP needs financial savings, but recognizes the action of not rehiring temporary faculty has human costs on those people. Recognizing the toll this takes on temporary faculty, deans recognize that it is only fair and kind to communicate early with temporary faculty. The deans have let them know now about the lack of jobs for spring and fall.

Programmatic retrenchment is more complex, and is entwined in the integration efforts. Some programs need to be housed at each institution. Some can be housed solely at one. Some can be spread among the three, with various required and elective courses offered at each location.

VI. Student Senate – S. Spang

S. Spang noted that the new student senate has been meeting, with full attendance. Student Senate is working on three town halls open only to students to listen to various grievances/issues aired. Issues of concern are COVID, academic, and other concerns.

VII. Committee Reports.

A. CCPS – B. Sweet

CCPS met Oct. 8. One potential objection has been raised, but it may be resolved. Faculty are asked to submit proposals via pdf to the CCPS email account ccps@clarion.edu. Some read-ins were sent out, and are now read-in.

B. Student Affairs – M. Lepore

The Student Affairs staff will come to Senate at the next full senate meeting. Testing of the nursing students and student athletes is ongoing and regular. The Center for Wellness is doing both face to face and telehealth modalities for both physical and mental health issues.

The “Good Neighbor” team has been less active in recent weeks. Things in the community seem to have calmed down.

A voter registration drive is currently underway on campus among students.

An RPF for Food Services will go out soon.

C. CCR – A. Roberts

The call for standard committee has gone out. A. Roberts asked senators to talk up the positions and encourage nominations.

D. Academic Standards – M. McConnell

No Report

E. Budget – C. Childers

No Report

F. Faculty Affairs – J. Walsh

J. Walters has sent J. Walsh a list of new faculty, both new temporary faculty and converted faculty, and one has requested a mentor. Thus, the committee will keep the mentor program up and running, and will assign a mentor to any new faculty who desire one, but will not have the traditional dinner.

G. Institutional Resources – L. Taylor

No report

H. Venango – J. May

J. May is absent, but sent notice to J. Knaust of “No report”.

VIII. New Business
No New Business

IX. Old Business

1) Gen Ed Manual/Report
Adam Roberts made the following motion:

I move to create a General Education Select committee consisting of Paul Woodburne as the chair, with Barry Sweet, Bell O’Neil and Laurie Peirce as members. The committee is to be charged with returning to Faculty Senate an updated General Education Requirements document (last updated spring 2008) which includes all approved changes to the program in General Education beginning with the fall 2008 semester. The committee is to return to the Faculty Senate for consideration an updated version that includes “tracking changes” that make clear where the document is being updated.

Seconded by J. Lyle. Motion passed.

X. Adjournment – D. Knepp moved (B. Sweet seconded). Unanimous passage.