

**Faculty Senate
Minutes
Clarion University
9/28/20**

Faculty Senate met on September 28, 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, J. May, M. K. McConnell, N. O'Neil, J. Phillips, S. Prezzano, A. Roberts, R. Shawgo, B. Sweet, L. Taylor, P. Woodburne. D. Pehrsson, P. Gent, L. Pierce, K., D. Dollins, 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 (9/14, 2019) M. Lepore moved, (J. Croskey seconded) minutes approved.

III. Announcements

1. Chancellor Open Forum Tuesday, September 29, 2020. Please use this link to attend the open forum: <https://passhe.zoom.us/j/98900910906>
2. Flu shots will be available soon
3. The Theater Dept. is putting on a virtual play. Tickets and a link to the on-demand stream are available at www.clarionuniversitytickets.com/events.

IV. President's Report-- D. Pehrsson

The CAL-U/CUP/EU integration is proceeding. The financial analysis needs to be completed in the next couple of weeks, when it will be presented to the BOG. All indications are that the body will approve the three-university integration. D. Pehrsson, as senior president among those of the three universities, will lead the efforts. From her perspective, three things must come out of the integration: 1) keep traditional focus on the traditional liberal education baccalaureate degree, with a recognition that the relevant demographics require us to find new growth areas. Among those will be non-traditional online/degree completion. The goal here is to be able to use funds coming from the growth of non-traditional online education to support the traditional academics; 2) reduce tuition and dorm costs; 3) increase choices for students by making offerings from all three institutions available to students.

As noted at the start of the meeting, the Chancellor will hold an Open Forum tomorrow, and will take questions.

The president outlined some issues, among many, that the institutions (faculty and administration) need to work out. Accreditation issues will need a lot of attention.

Each of the three institutions has distinct specialties, which the President is interested in maintaining. Providing opportunities for students to complete their degrees may mean that they have to travel or take online classes at the remote institutions. Decisions on housing of programs and departments, etc, will be hard. Shared governance issues are key.

In terms of planning for Spring, the decision on the mode of education to be followed in spring, '21 will be made by the end of October. The Spring Reopening Planning Committee has been meeting, and will continue to meet every week or two as needed. The university is keenly aware of equity issues involved in making students come to campus, possibly to take only one lab course, as well as the equity issues of keeping faculty safe, and keeping students safe. Edinboro has been operating with live labs and studio-

type classes. At that university, they have seen a large increase in the demand for studio dorms or apartments, and have not seen a noticeable decrease in lab or studio class enrollments.

The administration is looking at other examples from across the U.S. of universities that have successfully opened. Those successes seemed tied to contact tracing and testing. Should we opt for such an approach, the students will know that there will be ‘rules of engagement’ for on-campus living.

V. Provost Report—P. Gent

P. Gent noted that a couple of accreditations have been completed, with the Somerset program and the MSN program maintaining their accreditations with AECN. The Bachelor’s degree in the nursing program is on a different accreditation schedule. The ABA is examining the paralegal program also.

Teams of provosts and deans have met across the three universities to become acquainted. Due to Senate’s approval of changes to the spring and summer schedule, our schedule matches CALU’s, and EU will change their schedule as well. The registrar’s webpage shows the new dates.

In terms of planning for spring, Spring Reopening Planning Committee has been meeting and has been examining the four basic scenarios for spring; opening fully face to face (distanced); limited face to face focusing on labs and studio classes; doing what we are doing now; and doing some sort of pivot similar to what was done last spring.

We have seen a couple more students testing positive, and are in quarantine. These students appear to be unrelated to the student athlete noted at Policy last week who tested positive. J. Geiger is working on reporting issues.

In terms of retrenchment, our goal is to reduce temporary faculty (CUP has had more than 25% of faculty being temps). Eliminating temps is almost sufficient to balance the E&G budget (and is UNRELATED to the faculty/student ratio desired by PASSHE). A handful of retirements or resignations may be enough to avoid any retrenchment. The administration would like to know soon if anyone is thinking about retiring or resigning for whatever reason.

In response to a question, the Nov. 2 date as the start of registration is correct. The goal is to delay this date by a week to give students the best information for whatever spring will look like. This will give them the best chance of registering for the classes they want in the mode they want.

VI. Student Senate – K. Krupa and S. Spang

S. Spang noted that the new student senate has been meeting, with full attendance. The Student Senate Academic Affairs committee is getting busy, and will help with ‘Town Hall’ meetings that will happen at the end of September. These meetings will gather student issues.

As per usual procedure, New Business occurs prior to Committee Reports, but is reported after.

VII. Committee Reports.

A. CCPS – B. Sweet

Oct 9 is the deadline for objections. CCPS meets Oct. 8. 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

Regarding COVID and the positive tests had by a handful of students and staff:

Wendy, Jimmy, Lynn, Jenn, Thunder and the coach just met and are putting all the wheels in motion.

1. They are all meeting with the team via zoom right now to talk through quarantine
2. Coaches are quarantining as well
3. Jenn is coordinating details for students who need meals delivered to them
4. The athlete has not used the AT facility, so their staff does not need to quarantine
5. The athlete has not used dining facilities for several weeks
6. The student did use the library last week so we're finding out the details of that
7. We are pressing the pause button on the operations of all teams until we can assess what needs to be done with facilities
8. Tippin will be shut down tomorrow and Wendy is telling all staff to work from home
9. Wendy reached out to Chad to find out if anything special needs to be done as far as cleaning, but all the teams have been diligent about using all the disinfectant sprayers (Chad is going to reach out to Tim to discuss other guidance and precautions)
10. Lynn is connecting with her local contact for the DOH because this student's permanent address is being used. But our local DOH will lead contact tracing.
11. Sean Fagan will connect with Jim G. just so everyone is on the same page as to what is said if we are contacted by media
12. The student is not on campus. She left (on her own will) to go home on Friday after taking the test. No one instructed her to leave.

The Resource Room is looking for some new voices in the advisory group. The group meets once each month to talk about student needs, inventory, potential programming and ways the Resource Room can be most helpful to students. Interested students can email Kelly Ryan, kryan@clarion.edu.

C. CCR – A. Roberts

Will begin the standard calls.

D. Academic Standards – M. McConnell

No Report

E. Budget – C. Childers

No Report

F Faculty Affairs – J. Walsh

Report sent to J. Knaust in case J. Walsh could not attend

I sent out an email to the faculty affairs committee asking for feedback about 1) mentoring of new faculty and 2) retirement reception.

So far, there is consensus that while we cannot hold the traditional new faculty mentor dinner, we will be reaching out to ask faculty to serve as mentors for new faculty who want to participate in the program. There is also consensus that given the fatigue of the current semester, we will put together a retirement celebration in the spring (in-person or zoom to be determined based on what happens with covid).

G. Institutional Resources – L. Taylor

No report

H. Venango – J. May

No report, except to say that the campus is attempting to engage students in a virtual setting. Zoomba via Zoom is one example.

VIII. New Business

1) D. Dollins on Enrollment

This year, CUP has 760 freshmen, which is an increase of 5 students. Our headcount is up 5.2%, even though transfers and grad students are slightly down. We have seen two successive increases in freshmen. We are ‘taking back our backyard’, which had been poached by SRU. Our retention rates (frosh to soph and soph to junior) are historically high. Clarion has the 4th highest retention rate within PASSHE. We are only a percentage or so behind Millersville.

The Step Up plan and the TNI seem to be working, and are the focus of ongoing efforts by the office to increase retention goals yearly.

The SAT/ACT profile of incoming students has not changed much. However, especially this past year, we have seen an increase in students without an SAT or ACT score. Some of this is due to COVID, and some is due to an increasing number of universities not requiring those scores. As some scholarships (especially BOG scholarships) are based on SAT/ACT scores and are ‘points based’, the admissions office has been using other metrics, especially if the GPA is less than 3.0. Given that some scholarships are based on points accrued via the SAT or ACT and other metrics, the office has started a policy of assigning points to some of these alternative metrics to make students eligible for these scholarships. This will be a 3-year program. The office will track and assess the results to see if the changes reduce equity issues, retention rates, and do not result in enrollment of less academically prepared students, and do not reduce retention rates.

Our feeder schools have stayed the same, but the order changes, as our attempts to increase enrollment from local schools seems to be paying off. The ‘Bio Days’, ‘English Days’, and ‘Art Days’ seem to be working.

Our retention of African American students and student athletes has risen over the past couple years, but we have seen declines in LatinX students. We have been working with the Pittsburgh Promise program, and our retention of those students, many of whom are African American, has been approximately 90%. Various commissions and student activities and activism seem to be working.

The office is holding a number of creative visit days and open houses. Visit days will occur 10/31 and 11/14, and a ‘virtual week’ will occur 10/13-10/16. In ‘Drive In’ Open Houses (Oct. 10), families drive in the car and listen to a radio station to get orientation information. Exemplar dorm rooms are available. Families can walk around, accompanied by one student tour guide per family.

In response to questions, it is unclear if we are seeing an increase or decrease in quality of students in the SAT-optional environment. The better students tend to enroll early, so it is too early to tell quality trends.

In the environment of fewer SAT/ACTs being taken, some departments still require SAT/ACT. Prime among them are the BSN and 5-year Speech Path program. The office is tracking this closely to guide these programs’ decision-making.

IX. Old Business

1) Gen Ed Manual/Report

CCPS has had the Revised Gen Ed manual and does not feel comfortable making a recommendation, but asks for Senate to create a Select Committee that will examine the document, clarifying the changes made. CCR will put out a call for membership on the committee. L. Pierce said she'd be on the committee. CCPS will assign a person. P. Woodburne noted his willingness to be on the committee.

X. Adjournment – B. Sweet moved (E. Foster seconded). Unanimous passage.