

Faculty Senate Clarion University

The Faculty Senate met on in Room 246 Gemmell. J. Phillips chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: Y. Ayad, D. Clark, J. Croskey, R. Frakes, M. Franchino, R. Leary, C. Li, D. Lott, H. Luthin, C. Matthews, L. Occhipinti. J. Overly, S. Prezzano, M. Reef, B. Register, A. Roberts, M. Robinson, E. Sauvage-Callaghan, A. Shannonhouse, L. Smith, B. Sweet, and L. Taylor. B. Saunders Dédé, P. Gent, S. Hoke, R. Nowaczyk, T. Pfannestiel, and K. Whitney were also present.

I. Call to order – J. Phillips called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

R. Frakes moved and L. Taylor seconded a motion to approve the minutes from April 28, 2014. The minutes were approved.

III. Announcements

1. SECA campaign starting this week, with the theme “Not all heroes wear capes.”
2. Founders Day is 9/10. There will be events 12:30-3 including an employee recognition celebration.
3. The Spoken Art series welcomes Jane McCafferty 9/24, 7 p.m. in Moore Hall.
4. There are a number of planetarium presentations this fall.
5. The 9th Annual GIS conference will be held 10/16 – 10/17.

IV. President’s report – K. Whitney

K. Whitney said that her top 2 priorities for this year are enrollment and fundraising. Working on enrollment this year includes including improving the retention of current students as well as recruitment. We are looking at a variety of efforts in launching new academic programs and developing new pipelines of students with the overall intention of building our enrollment. Efforts will be focused on academic program development and creating pipelines of credentials, as well as international student recruitment. There will be a Road Scholar tour every May that will focus on a signature area – this year, it will focus on health professions. This year the focus was on education, and themes emerged on the desirability of dual certification and field experience for students.

Admission Visit Day will be on 9/13. K. Whitney thanked all the faculty who have worked so hard to help new students transition to Clarion. Move-In Day was a great success on each campus, Discovery weekend also went well, thanks to all who participated in the events.

Over the past several months, the Board of Governors has approved a different formula for appropriations, so that Clarion will get \$800,000 more this year and \$2.4 million over three years.

K. Whitney asked if there were any comments regarding issues with parking, given all of the construction. J. Overly expressed concern about what will happen with the Tippen renovation. K. Whitney replied that changes will be communicated before that construction starts.

On position searches, K. Whitney noted that ad for the exec dean for Venango College will be going out this week, with candidates coming in later this semester. An advertisement will be made soon for the school Director in Education. The title of the Associate Provost will probably be changed to Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the title of Dean of Enrollment Management will change to Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management. The interviews have been completed for grants officer as well as interim dean of enrollment management. There is a search underway for a Vice President of Finance & Administration to start Spring 2015 and for a Vice President of Student Affairs to start Summer 2015. There will need to be a replacement to the VP of Student Affairs search for one member who is unable to participate.

J. Phillips asked about performance funding. K. Whitney replied that it is generally the same, with an expectation that it should stay steady at about \$2 million.

M. Robinson asked about faculty hires for next year. K. Whitney replied that she is waiting for recommendations from the deans and provost. R. Nowaczyk said that he is expecting 3-4 tenure track hires for next year. There was a brief discussion. J. Phillips suggested that it is helpful for Senate to understand the process and how priorities are set for faculty hires, which is not always transparent. K. Whitney suggested that this could be discussed by the Senate Policy committee. R. Leary asked how many administrative searches are using a search firm. K. Whitney replied that two out of six are.

R. Nowaczyk reported that the enrollment headcount was 5,680 as of the end of the 1st week. This is volatile and we are still registering new students. The budget assumed a headcount of 5,717. J. Phillips asked how this compares with last year. R. Nowaczyk replied that last year it was 6,080.

V. Student Senate Report

No report

VI. Committee reports

J. Phillips distributed the Senate roster and names of committee chairs.

A. CCPS – B. Sweet

Deadlines for proposals were sent out by email: the special topics deadline is 9/12, and major changes is 9/25 (Thursday). The date to file an objection is 10/17. There is a special election for the vacant CCPS seat underway, and an updated distribution list will be sent out once that is concluded.

B. Student Affairs – C. Matthews

The committee is in touch with student senate to have them appoint two student representatives for the committee. C. Matthews is in the process of getting subcommittee meetings established.

C. CCR – J. Croskey

A call will be going out this week for committee vacancies. J. Croskey asked Senators to encourage colleagues to volunteer to serve on committees. A call will also go out for the replacement member for the search committee for the Vice President of Student Affairs.

D. Academic Standards – D. Clark

148 students were on academic suspension as of last spring. 56 appealed to the committee, which readmitted 15. Nine students appealed the committee decision; 6 were readmitted from those appeals. An additional 5 students who did not appeal to the committee were readmitted.

R. Leary asked about the readmits that were not through the committee. D. Clark replied that some were summer schools readmits. B. Dédé said that readmitted students either submitted additional info or completed summer courses. R. Leary asked if these were students that the committee reviewed but did not readmit. D. Clark replied that they were. J. Phillips asked if there been a recent analysis of why students are leaving. There was a brief discussion.

E. Budget – M. Franchino

No report

F. Faculty Affairs – L. Taylor

The committee is working with P. Gent and S. Nix to get the mentoring program going for new faculty; there are 7 new tenure track faculty this year.

G. Institutional Resources – A. Roberts

No report

H. Venango – L. Smith.

No report

VII. Old Business

A. Constitution and by-laws issues. Copies were distributed.

1. Constitution

a. Coaches. J. Phillips noted since coaches are specifically identified as part of Faculty Senate, Senate should make sure that coaches are aware of opportunities to serve.

b. Venango membership. Senate will need to keep track of the number of Venango campus faculty to make sure that they are appropriately represented. J. Phillips noted that Article IV, section 2, subsection 3 language that says “staff or administrators” will need to be cut, since those groups no longer serve on Senate.

R. Frakes made a motion to remove this language, seconded by M. Robinson. The vote on this motion will be held at the next meeting.

2. Bylaws

a. Ex officio language. J. Phillips pointed out that a number of committees have ex officio members. Generally, an ex officio member is part of a committee by virtue of office, and is a voting member unless specifically excluded from voting.

b. Article 3, section 8, subsection 1b, on the Athletics Subcommittee says that its voting members shall not include coaches. There was a discussion of this exclusion. The Policy committee recommended a change so that the committee could include two. H. Luthin made a motion, seconded by S. Prezzano, to amend the language of this subsection to “shall include not more than 2 coaches.” The vote on this motion will be held at the next meeting.

c. Article 3, Section 8, subsection 3 specifies members of the COUncil on General Education. J. Phillips suggested that Senate may wish to consider this composition given recent institutional changes. There was a discussion. J. Phillips will develop a recommendation for Senate’s consideration.

VIII. New Business

A. Read-ins. B. Sweet read-in curricular proposals.

B. BRIC committee. Senate asked that the president provide information on the membership of the committee and the status of recommendations that were made in the spring. K. Whitney indicated that she will send an email with the membership, and that decisions on the recommendations are going forward this week. She will update the Senate on this.

C. Foundations of excellence. J. Phillips thanked P. Gent, T. Pfannestiel, S. Hoke, and B. Dédé for coming to discuss this with Senate. P. Gent explained the Foundations of Excellence process, for which Clarion has a contract with Gardner Institute that looks at the first year experience. This has an impact on retention. The Gardner Institute will provide tools, including surveys, for this process. Nine committees will be formed to perform a self-study of the nine areas that the Gardner Institute has identified as those for which good retention programs should have information. These committees will make recommendations, which will go to a task force made up of the chairs of each committee and the steering committee, which will use them to develop an action plan for the campus aimed at improving first year retention. The steering committee is looking for help from Senate, since the process needs robust faculty participation.

There was a discussion of the process and Senate’s role. J. Phillips suggested that the action plan be sent to Senate for its recommendation. There was a discussion of recruiting members for the nine committees. K. Whitney said that there is a need for broad faculty participation. J. Phillips noted that many faculty do not feel respected and involved, and that faculty need to feel that what they do for the institution is meaningful, and this needs to be demonstrated.

D. CCR election. There is a vacant seat on CCR since S. Johnson stepped down from Senate. S. Prezzano volunteered to fill the position. She was unanimously elected.

IX. Adjournment – B. Sweet moved to adjourn, seconded by M. Robinson. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Occhipinti
Faculty Senate Secretary