**Faculty Senate**

**Clarion University**

The Faculty Senate met on Monday, April 27, 2015 in Room 246 Gemmell. J. Phillips chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: Y. Ayad, D. Clark, J. Croskey, R. Frakes, R. Leary, C. Li, D. Lott, H. Luthin, C. Matthews, L. Occhipinti. J. O’Donnell, J. Overly, S. Prezzano, M. Reef, B. Register, A. Roberts, E. Sauvage-Callaghan, B. Sweet, L. Taylor and J. Touster. R. Nowaczyk, P. Gent, S. Nix, E. Green, P. Woodburn, M. LePore, and K. Whitney were also present.

1. **Call to order –** J.Phillips called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes**

R. Frakes moved and A. Roberts seconded a motion to approve the minutes from April 13, 2015. The minutes were approved with slight amendments.

1. **Announcements**

* The Faculty Retirement reception will be held at 3:45 on 4/28 in Moore Hall.

1. **President’s report – K. Whitney**

* The BRIC committee is being co-chaired by R. Logue and D. Sabina. The committee would like to work with the Senate budget committee on several topics.
* Academic Excellence activities were held last week, and went well.
* K. Whitney expressed her thanks for condolences on her recent loss.

R. Nowaczyk provided an enrollment update. As of 4/22, paid deposits were down by 40, but the number of applicants pending was over 300. Students seem to be taking longer to make decisions. They continue to follow up with students. R. Nowaczyk said he is hopeful that we will hit our target enrollment this year. K. Whitney said that housing targets are on track. R. Nowaczyk said that D. Behrs will continue in his position next year, and is already looking at recruitment for fall 16. A list of accomplishments of academic affairs was passed out. R. Nowaczyk expressed thanks to everyone who worked on these projects.

K. Whitney said that per credit hour pricing will be deferred for another year, which will give an opportunity to study the possible impacts. Results will be reported to the budget committee.

J. O’Donnell asked if funding for the Tippin project has been held up. K. Whitney said that the Dept. of General Services has held up the project but it is a temporary delay, and preliminary work will start this summer.

J. Phillips asked if the Council of Trustees would have to approve a change in the tuition model. K. Whitney said that it is a Board of Governors decision, and was approved already. There was a brief discussion.

**V. Student Senate Report –**

Last week the executive board elected J. Barkley as its new president. The Reinhardt Awards and several other events were held last week. Student Senate will have its final meeting this week.

**VI. Old business - Inquiry seminars**

A draft of Senate recommendations and suggested outcomesfor the Inquiry Seminar 2-year pilot were distributed and reviewed.

The Student Learning Outcomes have been set by the faculty group working on the seminars. The draft also included that the pilot be assessed for their impact on recruitment, retention, and revenue.

H. Luthin made a motion, seconded by R. Frakes, to approve the recommendations.

R. Leary said that assessment procedures were not yet established, and that they need to be very rigorous. He said he was concerned that the model from Seattle University is drawing on a student body at an institution whose 25th percentile SAT score is higher than our 75th percentile. He asked that assessment procedures be more clearly defined. S. Nix replied that the assessment will be rigorous, and that the faculty group will be looking at process for assessment as the pilot move forward, and that some faculty professional development will take place next year.

D. Clark asked if it is late to being this discussion since there are already students enrolled in the seminars. J. Phillips noted that any curricular changes will have to go through CCPS at some point, and that the recommendation is an effort to bring the process back to Senate.

M. Reef asked who will assess the institutional goals. J. Phillips suggested that much of it will be done by ISLAC, under Academic Affairs, with support from IR. Senate will get a report from Academic Affairs. Based on this assessment, Senate can see whether the pilot has the desired outcomes.

R. Frakes said that he appreciates the work that it took to put this together, but questioned the process, noting that Middle States looks at processes and assessment. There was a brief discussion. K. Whitney asked if the pilot assessment plan can be completed prior to classes starting in the fall. S. Nix said that it can be completed and reported to Senate at its first meeting in the fall. There was a consensus that this would be acceptable. There was further discussion of assessment of the pilot.

A. Roberts asked about the process by which Inquiry Seminars would become part of the General Education curriculum. There was a brief discussion. J. Phillips suggested that the recommendation be amended to note that Senate will either create an ad hoc committee to develop the document to present to CCPS or Senate can ask CCPS to task this to the Council on General Education, depending on the bylaw approval.

The motion was approved. (See Appendix A for the text of the recommendation.)

1. **Committee reports**
2. **CCPS – B. Sweet –** No report

J. Phillips thanked B. Sweet for his service to CCPS, which evaluated 228 proposals this semester.

1. **Student Affairs – C. Matthews**

The committee made the awards for the Banner scholarship. There were 13 qualified applicants, each of whom was awarded $2,733.46. J. Phillips thanked to C. Matthews for her service as committee chair.

1. **CCR – J. Croskey**

Elections were held last week. Thanks to those who helped with the election process. J. Phillips thanked to J. Croskey for chairing the committee.

1. **Academic Standards – D. Clark**

The committee met to discuss revising the academic suspension policy, for implementation in the fall of 2016. J. Phillips thanked D. Clark for his work on the committee, which included dealing with policy and process revisions as well as its regular work.

1. **Budget – R. Frakes**

Budget talks will be held 5/4. J. Phillips thanked R. Frakes for stepping in to chair this committee.

1. **Faculty Affairs – L. Taylor**

The retirement reception is tomorrow, honoring 15 retirees.J. Phillips thanked L. Taylor for her service.

1. **Institutional Resources – A. Roberts**

The construction of Tippin is delayed but not cancelled. J. Phillips thanked A. Roberts for his service.

1. **Venango – L. Smith –** No report

J. Phillips thanked L. Smith for chairing the committee.

1. **Old Business**

**a. Foundations of Excellence** – An informational item was distributed. Senate will continue to work with P. Gent on this in the fall.

b. **General Education reform** – The proposal is on the CCPS website. This will be discussed in the fall.

c. **7 week course committee** – this will remain on the agenda for fall. P. Gent said that a survey of online students showed overwhelming support for 7 week courses. Adopting this involves a large number of campus processes.

d. **Amendments to the Senate constitution and bylaws**. J. Phillips asked if this will be on the July agenda for the Council of Trustees. K. Whitney said that the issue has been to CCPS, local APSCUF, and is now at the state level for discussion. She said she is hopeful that it will be approved and move forward.

e. **Faculty scholarship support**. There was a document distributed by the provost on available funding and its dispersal. S. Prezzano said that creating an ad hoc committee to look at impediments to research would be good way to go forward. There have been many discussions about obstacles. She offered some suggestions about ways to deal with costs, including creating separate funding streams for research and conference travel. She suggested that faculty development money be controlled by departments, which would make it more predictable for faculty who often have to pay for conferences months in advance. Also, most faculty do not understand the process for requesting additional money from the provost’s office. She noted there is a long list of changes that could support faculty research, including extended loan periods for library materials, continued support of our excellent ILL service, recognition of various kinds of research and scholarship, support for publication costs, and recognition of faculty workload. She said it would be helpful to have a discussion among faculty who are active in research to create better processes. R. Nowaczyk said he would like to get together with faculty and deans for further discussion.

Senate decided to create an ad hoc subcommittee, chaired by S. Prezzano, of the committee on Student Affairs, to continue work on this issue. Additional committee members will be solicited in the fall with the call for other Senate committees.

1. **New Business**

a. J. Geiger will be invited to address Senate in the fall.

b. Roxanne Gonzales-Walker will be invited to address Senate in the fall.

c. **CCPS**

1) Read ins

2) Proposals 219-222 came with a positive recommendation from CCPS and the Council on General Education to place 4 inquiry seminars (ECON 100, CIS 121, COMM 180, and ECE 131) under gen ed electives.(section IV on the checksheet).

M. Reef noted that these are experimental courses. L. Occhipinti said that even though they are temporary courses, they would remain on the checksheet unless other proposals were submitted later to remove them, if changes result from the pilot. J. O’Donnell said this should apply to all experimental courses. There was a discussion. J. Overly suggested that approving the proposals creates piecemeal approach to placing the inquiry seminars, and suggested that as experimental courses they could be substituted for students. B. Register suggested that the model used for honors courses could work well for the inquiry seminars. J. Phillips agreed that it could be a good model once this is no longer a pilot. There was further discussion.

A motion to approve proposals 219, 220, 221 and 222 came from CCPS. The motion failed.

K. Whitney asked for clarification about the suggestion that substitutions be used for the experimental courses. J. Phillips said that the process could go through the inquiry seminar faculty of the provost’s office. R. Leary noted that this is not up to Senate, and J. Phillips noted that the idea of using course substitutions was not a formal Senate recommendation but a collegial suggestion.

1. **Adjournment** –B. Sweet moved to adjourn, seconded by H. Luthin. The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Occhipinti

Faculty Senate Secretary

**Appendix A to Senate minutes 4/27/15**

**Recommendation to Pilot Inquiry Seminars for 2015-2017**

Clarion University Faculty Senate recommends to the President the implementation of a program for piloting the use of **inquiry seminars** (*see* attached overview and description) for potential inclusion in Clarion’s General Education Program.

The following conditions constitute the fundamental parameters under which this pilot program will operate:

1. Inquiry seminars will be staffed by regular faculty on a purely volunteer basis
2. Deans of the relevant colleges have the right to reject an inquiry seminar from being placed on the schedule of courses
3. Faculty teaching inquiry seminars will be provided training before and during the pilot program
4. Inquiry seminars will contain no more than 25 students all of whom must be new freshmen
5. Department chairs and advisors will be asked to consider placing new freshmen into these seminars
6. The cost of inquiry seminars will be paid for by the Academic Affairs RC, i.e., by the Provost’s Office
7. Student-learning outcomes assessments (*see* attached overview and SLO rubrics) will be conducted by ISLAC (or some associated assessment body) in each of the pilot years of each section of each inquiry seminar and reports on these assessment will be provided to Faculty Senate on a regular basis
8. Academic Affairs will set benchmarks for the success of inquiry seminars in terms of recruitment of new students; retention of continuing students; and resource allocation, will annually assess whether these benchmarks have been met, and will report on these assessments to Faculty Senate
9. Senate will either create an ad hoc committee to develop the document to present to CCPS or Senate ask CCPS to task this to the Council on General Education, depending on the status of the bylaws.

In Spring 2017, Faculty Senate will review all relevant assessment reports on the institutional effectiveness of inquiry seminars and will write a summative report for presentation to CCPS, via the appropriate committee in item ix. CCPS will then make a recommendation regarding whether or not to add inquiry seminars to the General Education Program. If CCPS makes a positive recommendation to add inquiry seminars to the General Education Program, it will also be tasked with restructuring the General Education Program to accommodate these seminars. CCPS will then forward its full recommendation (positive or negative) to Faculty Senate for consideration at the end of AY 2016-17. Faculty Senate will then vote on whether to accept, reject, or amend the recommendation of CCPS.