**Faculty Senate**

**Clarion University**

The Faculty Senate met on Monday, August 31, 2015 in Room 246 Gemmell. J. Croskey chaired the meeting, with the following senators present: J. Aaron, Y. Ayad, S. Boyden, D. Clark, R. Frakes, R. Leary, M. Lepore, D. Lott, H. Luthin, J. Lyle, J. May, C. McAleer, L. Occhipinti. J. O’Donnell, J. Phillips, S. Prezzano, A. Roberts, E. Sauvage-Callaghan, J. Smrekar, B. Sweet, L. Taylor, J. Touster, and P. Woodburne. R. Nowaczyk, R. Griffin, B. Dede, L. Hepler, and K. Whitney were also present.

1. **Call to order –** J.Croskey 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 27, 2015. The minutes were approved.

1. **Announcements**

* J. Phillips and J. Croskey will be on the honorary degree committee.

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

- K. Whitney welcomed back faculty and expressed thanks to those who helped with summer activities.

- State appropriations update – the budget is in a stalemate, with no indication yet what the timing or result may be. K. Whitney has spoken with elected officials. This affects students through FIA. Clarion is deferring billing with no penalty. The financial aid office will send out letters as requested for landlords and so on. There will be, however, many consequences because of the delay, including overtime costs. Please let K. Whitney know if specific students are dealing with hardship. The university’s cash flow for the operating budget is not immediately affected.

- The Foundations of Excellence report was received from the committee.

- Founders Day events are scheduled for 9/10/15. These will include an employee years of service recognition, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. There will also be an afternoon open house for the new housing on Main Street.

- The Becht grand opening will be on 9/14/15.

- Planning is starting for the university’s 150th anniversary, from 9/10/17 to 9/10/18. K. Whitney said that at this stage she is for looking for big ideas, hopes, and possible high points.

- In August, R. Nowaczyk, L. Cullo, and J. Geiger delivered presentations to the trustees and others about the academic plan, new academic credentials, and the master facilities plan for the next thirty years, as part of a ramp up to a major fundraising campaign. They will be presenting this information to the campus community soon. There was a brief discussion of scheduling presentations.

- J. Croskey, E. MacDaniel, R. Nowaczyk, and K. Whitney will be going on a listening tour to departments and/or colleges, to discuss changes to the general education curriculum and, separately, the sabbatical, promotion, and tenure process.

- R. Nowaczyk addressed enrollment issues. He said that the university budget in May planned a 5,337 headcount. Right now, the headcount is over 5,400, ahead of the budget projection. He noted that any student who hasn’t confirmed enrollment will have their schedule cancelled on 9/1; these students will have to go to their department chair to be re-enrolled. There was a brief discussion. He said that headcounts have increased in nursing, nutrition, and finance, and education is either flat or up slightly. In October the impact of scholarships can be analyzed. He said that within the PASSHE, Clarion had the most programs approved last year, at 5, and there are currently four more letters of intent to the Board of Governors, at various stages of review in the newly streamlined process. K. Whitney noted that the workshops will be looking at where these programs are, and if there are other areas we should look at

- R. Leary asked about the breach of private information of faculty over the summer. K. Whitney declined to address the question and said she would talk to him privately about the issue.

**V. Student Senate Report –** No report

1. **Committee reports**
2. **CCPS – B. Sweet**

An email was sent with deadlines, which are 9/16 for special topics and experimental, and 9/25 for major changes. The objection deadline is 10/16.

1. **Student Affairs – M. Lepore**

There is a new Vice President for Student Affairs, S. Fenske. The new offices are open in Becht. The grand opening for the new residence halls will be on 9/10/15.

1. **CCR – J. Phillips**

The committee will be sending out the call for committee members. There are over 30 slots open.

S. Boyden asked if committee seats are normally filled only by tenured or tenure track faculty. J. Phillips said that generally is the case, since they are for terms of several years.

1. **Academic Standards – D. Clark**

The committee met on 8/11/15. Of 148 students who were suspended, there were 58 appeals. The committee recommended 20 for readmission. 13 students were readmitted by Academic Affairs. Two additional students appealed directly to Academic Affairs and were readmitted.

K. Whitney asked about the process and coordination. D. Clark said that there was some confusion about AIPs, as the new policy was not clear to the committee. J. Croskey noted that the process could be improved further. There was a discussion.

1. **Budget – J. Touster –** No report
2. **Faculty Affairs – L. Taylor**

The committee is working on the mentor program, and has invited new full-time and part time temps as well as new tenure track faculty to participate. A call will be sent out soon for mentors.

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

Over the summer a new director of facilities, E. Martin, was hired. There has not been a facilities planning meeting yet. A. Roberts asked K. Whitney about the status of Tippin. K. Whitney said that completion has been bumped to 2018. The basic plan is unchanged but some of the finishes may not be as nice as originally budgeted for.

J. O’Donnell asked if faculty will be able to continue to use the exercise equipment in Tippin through this academic year. A. Roberts will check.

**H. Venango – J. May**

R. Gonzalez, the new dean, has met with various groups in the college.

1. **Old Business**

**A. Senate Constitution and Bylaws** – Changes to the constitution and bylaws were approved by Senate last year and have been in the process of final approval since then. The major changes were in the sections about General Education, under CCPS. CCPS is a committee of both Senate and APSCUF, so there may have to be adjustments to in the CCPS procedure manual. R. Nowaczyk suggested to the policy committee at last week’s meeting that other changes be sent forward separately, but the Policy committee would like to move everything together.

R. Frakes asked about the time frame for approval. K. Whitney said that need for union approval has held it up. J. Phillips said that the issue was not put on the agenda for the state meet & discuss. K. Whitney suggested that Senate could approve changes that do not need to go through the union, which are fairly minor changes and updates. There was further discussion. B. Sweet said that the union did not have issues with the bylaw changes that were presented at meet & discuss; however, additional changes to the procedures manual were submitted by R. Nowaczyk too late in the last academic year for consideration. He suggested that since Senate and EC have approved the bylaw changes, those could be approved and other changes could be reviewed after that. K. Whitney said that she wanted union approval before going forward, and has nothing in writing to that effect. B. Sweet will bring this to APSCUF.

B. **Senate resolution on sabbatical, tenure, and promotion** – K. Whitney will be talking to departments about this topic.

C. **Foundations of Excellence** – The report is available. R. Radacker will serve as the interim director of student success.

1. **New Business**

**A. CCPS –** Read ins

**B. AIPs (Academic Improvement Plans) –** R. Griffin explained that the AIPS are the result of a change required by PASSHE over the summer to a 2.0 GPA standard for good academic standing at all state schools. This was a change to how federal guidelines had previously been interpreted. Clarion students who were suspended and had below a 2.0 were informed of this change over the summer. Federal guidelines say that students who do not meet this standard can be enrolled if they have an “academic plan” in place. Federal financial aid for the student is then tied to meeting the conditions of that plan. A temporary solution was put into place over the summer so that the many students who are on probation, with a GPA below 2.0, could have financial aid disbursed.

S. Boyden asked if the 2.0 standard was applied to the student’s overall GPA. R. Griffin said yes, it is the overall GPA and not the semester GPA.

R. Leary said that there were two conditions – having a 2.0 and adherence to AIP – and asked which will be bigger obstacle for students. R. Griffin said that probably adhering to the AIP will be a bigger issue. R. Leary asked whether it is easier to simply enforce the 2.0 limit and not have the AIP option. R. Griffin said that this would cause many students who might be able to succeed even though their GPA is lower to have to leave. She said that the AIP can be a mechanism to encourage students to take responsibility.

P. Woodburne noted that AIPS were only rarely used in the past and asked how the advisor can access the AIP. R. Griffin replied that the prior process was hard to monitor. C. McAleer noted that part of the problem is timing, that things need to happen over the summer when neither students nor faculty are on campus. R. Griffin said that it would be better not to have this happen in summer. A. Roberts asked about monitoring compliance, and how the federal agencies monitor this. R. Griffin said that they mostly audit the schedule and the benchmark GPA. Other conditions, like tutorials or counseling, are an effort to make sure the student is using tools to meet the specific GPA goals. D. Clark said that it hard to see how an appeal would work, given that many AIP conditions are hard to monitor. R. Griffin replied that although AIPs are fairly rigid, documentation can happen on case-by-case basis. B. Sweet noted that eligibility for financial aid and re-admittance are different issues. R. Griffin said that the letter that goes out to suspended students does note that they might be ineligible for aid. There was a discussion of adding in a hold so that faculty advisors and others would see that the student has an AIP. L. Hepler indicated that her office is working on how the computer system could do something. J. O’Donnell noted that there are issues of timing in the signature process. R. Griffin said that aid would not be disbursed until signatures are in place but that can be after the end of add-drop.

J. Croskey noted that a lot of work needs to happen on the process. There was some further discussion. K. Whitney suggested that suggestions could go to the academic standards committee to advise on the best way to go forward. J. Phillips thanked R. Griffin for her clarification of the issue. He noted that the current policy had to be put in place quickly, but that it should be reviewed appropriately, revised, and approved by committees and others involved.

J. Touster asked how long an AIP can be in place. R. Griffin replied that it is renewed each semester for a maximum of three semesters. The federal government does not track students if they transfer to another institution, but the state does. A. Roberts said that advisors need more specific information, on issues such as repeating courses and so on, and that the role of the Academic Standards committee is not clear, noting that eligibility for aid and readmitting a student on suspension are two different processes. L. Taylor said that faculty need to be clear on what financial aid rules affect the terms of the AIP. R. Griffin will send out an email that clarifies financial aid guidelines. R. Frakes said that there may be issues with faculty not knowing how to monitor the AIP or giving financial aid advice.

R. Nowaczyk said that the policy was intended to be reviewed in the fall, and that the focus needs to be on student success and coming up with a plan that looks like it will work. He said that the policy is open for changes, but there needed to be something in the catalog. There was a brief discussion about the role of advisors in sanctioning students who don’t comply with the terms of the AIP. R. Griffin said that financial aid sends out letters to students who are ineligible for aid. B. Dede said that her office will take on other kinds of enforcement.

1. **Adjournment –** B. Sweetmoved to adjourn, seconded by A. Roberts. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Occhipinti

Faculty Senate Secretary