**Faculty Senate**

**Clarion University**

The Faculty Senate met on Monday, October 26, 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, H. Luthin, J. Lyle, C. McAleer, L. Occhipinti. J. O’Donnell, S. Prezzano, A. Roberts, E. Sauvage-Callaghan, J. Smrekar, B. Sweet, L. Taylor, J. Touster, and P. Woodburne. E. Green, E. Martin, 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 S. Prezzano seconded the motion to approve the minutes from October 12, 2015. The minutes were approved.

1. **Announcements** - None
2. **President’s report – K. Whitney**

* The budget stalemate continues. K. Whitney is beginning to get reports of students under distress. K. Whitney will let the system and local elected representatives know about these issues, and is having weekly conversations with the chancellor.
* At the last Board of Governors meeting, there were changes to academic rules regarding certifications. Previously, certifications were a minimum of 30 credits. Universities are now able to be flexible on what a certificate should entail and why.
* There will be improvements to the appearance of displays for open houses.
* Enrollment – for the fall of 2016, we are ahead of this point last year, with over 400 more acceptances. There has been increased organization around admissions, scholarships, and aid packaging. Faculty may be contacted by admissions to reach out to students, which has been very effective.

J. Touster asked about the discussion of moving to per-credit tuition. K. Whitney said this is on hold and needs more discussion. She wants to create a task force to look at pricing of tuition and fees, noting that the university does not control every piece of this. Some PASSHE schools are going to a per-credit system. There was a brief discussion.

R. Leary asked whether there are financial aid holds for students who haven’t received PHEAA awards. K. Whitney said that there should not be, but that she will check, and have R. Griffin let the faculty know what the situation is. There was brief discussion.

* K. Whitney said that S. Fenske has noted that there are an above-average number of students at risk for self-harm. She wanted to encourage faculty to be aware of possible issues and report students who may be at risk to the BART team and/or M. Shaffer. This is an easy and confidential process. The team’s philosophy is to work with students to help them remain at the university. M. Shaffer is available to meet with departments. There was a brief discussion.

J. Croskey asked if there are student financial issues related to the increased costs of housing. K. Whitney said that we can keep students in touch with student financial services and encourage them to talk to them.

S. Boyden said that advisors should be aware that students waiting on PHEAA money should not go below 12 credits (which they normally can at this point), since this can impact their aid. Advisors should make sure students are aware of this if they are thinking of withdrawing from a course.

K. Whitney said that the football team lost last weekend. The last home game will be this coming Saturday; please come out to support the team. Also, former Clarion University diver Kristin Day was named the 2015 NCAA Woman of the Year.

**V. Student Senate Report – E. Green –** Student Senate has Wingo and several other events coming up in November. They will not be having a retreat this fall.

1. **Committee reports**
2. **CCPS – B. Sweet –** Open hearings will be 10/28 in 246 Gemmell. There is one outstanding objection. Proposals will come to Senate on 11/9.
3. **Student Affairs – M. Lepore –** The Student Activities subcommittee met last week and elected B. Berquist as chair. They will be reviewing applications for who’s who, and also looking at ways to publicize this more. The Student Affairs committee will meet this week.
4. **CCR – J. Phillips** – No report
5. **Academic Standards – D. Clark** – No report
6. **Budget – J. Touster** – No report
7. **Faculty Affairs – L. Taylor** – No report
8. **Institutional Resources – A. Roberts -** CCR asked the committee for a recommendation for UTAC, which was made. E. Martin from facilities will talk to Senate today

**H. Venango – J. May** – No report

1. **Old Business**

**a. Constitution and bylaws issue –** B. Sweet said there is no update about progress getting the proposal to state meet & discuss.

1. **New Business**
2. **Guest – E. Martin, Director of Facilities.** E. Martin encouraged faculty tocontact him by email ([emartin@clarion.edu](mailto:emartin@clarion.edu)) with any pressing issues or questions. The Tippin project will be moving quickly after January 1. E. Martin said his major responsibilities are “behind the scenes,” but that anything regarding the physical plant reports to him. He noted there is a knowledgeable workforce. The master plan has been developed, and will inform future designs and modifications. On current projects, the kinks are being worked out in Becht. Ongoing projects include completing the residence hall for next semester, the demolition of Nair, which will start as soon as students are out, and the construction of parking lots in that space by fall.

R. Frakes asked about Wilkinson and Nair. K Whitney said that students in those will move out into new housing. Ballentine and Given will be empty until there is more demand.

J. O’Donnell suggested that Nair could be used for fire department training before demolition. E. Martin said he will check on that.

E. Martin said that there will be some minor electrical infrastructure upgrades around campus soon, and he will try to schedule this to avoid any major impact to the campus community.

L. Taylor asked about the location of the elevator in Stevens. E. Martin said he is still working on this.

K. Whitney said that the university will look for opportunities for funding for improvements and improving access.

**B. UTAC** **appointments** – A motion came from CCR to appoint D. Kelly, J. Krueger, and A. Rosati to the UTAC committee. The motion passed

**C. Read ins**

1. **Adjournment –** C. McAleermoved to adjourn, seconded by H. Luthin. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Occhipinti

Faculty Senate Secretary