**Faculty Senate**

**Clarion University**

The Faculty Senate met on Monday, February 23, 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, B. Register, A. Roberts, M. Robinson, E. Sauvage-Callaghan, A. Shannonhouse, L. Smith, B. Sweet, L. Taylor, and J. Touster. E. Green, P. Gent, T. Pfannestiel, E. Schutz, D. Behrs, R. Nowaczyk, 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 E. Sauvage-Callaghan seconded a motion to approve the minutes from February 9, 2015. The minutes were approved with minor amendments.

1. **Announcements**

* The high school art exhibit is being held in Level A of Carlson Library through April 4.
* “Nunsense” is being presented in the Little Theater Wednesday thru Sunday this week.

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

A Clarion student, Nicholas Gavazzi, was tragically killed this morning in a fatal car collision.

1. **Student Senate Report – E. Green**

All positions for student senators have been filled.

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

Proposals are online for review. Objections are due by 3/20 at noon. Open hearings are scheduled for 3/27.

1. **Student Affairs – C. Matthews**

A combined meeting of the student activities subcommittee and the student affairs committee will be held this week. E. Schutz is leading the Mary Banner scholarship award process, as the committee addresses requirements and the process.

1. **CCR – J. Croskey**

The committee is compiling the list of names of eligible voters. The elections will be held under the terms of the old constitution and bylaws.

1. **Academic Standards – D. Clark**

The Athletics subcommittee met with D Katis. Let D. Clark know of any issues to send back to the committee to address.

1. **Budget – R. Frakes**

The committee met with L. Cullo.

J. Phillips asked if there was any discussion of the amount of the current deficit. R. Frakes replied that the current estimate is about an $11million shortfall. Let R. Frakes know of any questions or issues to address.

1. **Faculty Affairs – L. Taylor**

The committee’s meeting was postponed until this week.

1. **Institutional Resources – A. Roberts –** No report
2. **Venango – L. Smith–** No report
3. **Old Business**
4. **Constitution and bylaws –** Changes need to be voted on by the Council of Trustees. Their next meeting is in April.
5. **Senate web page update –** The picture has been updated. There are still some gaps in the minutes, which are being addressed.

1. **New Business**
2. **CCPS –** Read ins.

R. Leary asked if the experimental courses on the list are predominantly inquiry seminars. B. Sweet replied that they are. J. Phillips noted that Senate will be addressing the inquiry seminars as pilot moves forward.

1. **Engaged learners**

J.Phillips welcomed E. Schutz, P. Gent, and T. Pfannestiel to address Senate. A handout about the Engaged Learners program was distributed.

E. Schutz presented a brief history of the program, which replaced the Transitions program and a summer bridge program. Engaged Learners was created as a multiple phase program, in which students first took AE 110, which was linked with a general education course with student mentors, then a civic engagement course. In the program’s second year, linked general education courses were put together for the fall, and in the spring students took GS 262, a service learning course with SOAR mentors.

P. Gent noted that a range of concerns were expressed by faculty, students, and families. There has been an analysis of the problems and strengths of the program, and changes need to address admissions standards, a clearer message, and more faculty input.

T. Pfannestiel noted that there has been some confusion about the criteria for placement into the Engaged Learners program as well as with expectations. There needs to be an intentional model and assessment.

There was a discussion of the criteria that have been used by admissions to place students into the Engaged Learners program; Senators expressed concerns that these are unclear and inconsistent.

R. Leary noted that students placed into the associates degree have low retention rate (about 1/3) and a very high probation rate (near 50%), and asked what are the benefits of the program to students. P. Gent noted that we don’t have numbers that show where students would have been without the program. There was a discussion.

K. Whitney said that there has been frustration with student preparation, and asked if there is a mechanism for Senate to continue a further dialog on indicators of student success. R. Leary replied that there is a Senate subcommittee on admissions. Senators agreed it would be appropriate for the admissions office to work with this subcommittee. D. Clark noted that Eagle 2.0 program was initiated without informing faculty advisors.

J. Phillips noted that as a larger issue, policies go through Senate systematically, to improve communication. Senate can look at policies, make recommendations, and disseminate them, so that people are on the same page. On this particular issue, Senate would like to see recommendations on high risk students, what the criteria for Engaged Learners should be, and what program should be.

K. Whitney asked about the work with the Gardner institute. P. Gent replied that the Engaged Learners program does intersect with that work but that the timelines don’t coincide.

T. Pfannestiel thanked A. Roberts for his work to make the Engaged Learners courses for the fall semester work. He noted that orientation for freshmen starts April 10, and that it has to be clear what courses students are going to have to take well before that deadline.

K. Whitney asked P. Gent how Senate can be most helpful with changes for the fall.

P. Gent replied that time is limited for changes for the fall, but there may be supports that can be offered in conjunction with the inquiry seminars. There was a discussion of how El students would be placed in the seminars, and the role of mentors. K. Whitney suggested that Senators email P. Gent with ideas or suggestions.

R. Frakes asked D. Behrs for a clarification of the criteria used to place students into the Engaged Learners program. D. Behrs replied that admissions has been using the rubric that was in place. They have looked at having a mandatory interview for Engaged Learners, and noted that the number of admits into Engaged Learners is down 12%, based on a conscious decision not to put some better students into Engaged Learners. He said that a discussion of the criteria and how they are communicated to students is welcome. S. Prezzano asked what percentage of freshmen will be Engaged Learners. D. Behrs replied that it is currently about 87 out of 500 (18%).

There was further discussion. J. Phillips said that there should be ongoing discussion in Senate about how the program is developing for the fall.

D. Clark asked how information was distributed about the Eagle 2.0 program. P. Gent replied students were notified by letter they had to see R. Radecker. The AE class was replaced by this requirement. He works with them to make a plan and goals. D. Clark noted that faculty advisors were not informed of what the program was. P. Gent said that there was a high student response rate to the letter. There was a brief discussion.

1. **Wellness minor**

J.Croskey said that this minor is being put together and they are looking for courses that might contribute to the minor that address different aspects of health, not just physical. Contact J. Slattery, N. Falvo, or J. Croskey for more information.

1. **Thank you to facilities** –

R. Leary moved and M. Robinson seconded the motion to publicly thank facilities and custodial workers for their work keeping the campus safe during the bad winter weather. The motion passed. J. Phillips will draft a letter.

1. **Adjournment** – A. Roberts moved to adjourn, seconded by B. Sweet. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Occhipinti

Faculty Senate Secretary