

## **Faculty Senate summary notes 4/29/21 & 11am via Zoom**

**Present:** Bob Mehalik, Robin Weaver, Loring Prest, VP Thorn, Brenton Wilburn, Brian Oddi, Candance Riley, Carolyn Wass, Cassandra Kuba, Dawn Moeller, Jim Hoover, Jayna Bonfini, Jeffery Giovannucci, Kim Vanderlaan, Kristen Schaffner, Libby Larsen, Peter Comas, Todd Pinkham, Vamsi Borra, Wendy Batts, Ayanna Walker,

### **Call to Order**

1. Review/Approval of 3/25/2021 Summary Notes - approved

### **Old Business**

1. ***By-Law update/Senate Membership – Revisit***

Senate bylaws were amended:

- to allow for electronic voting
- to add an ex officio member, for student government representation
- L. Prest made a motion to approve these changes/ seconded by R. Weaver, the changes were approved but all in attendance.

### **New Business**

1. **President Thorn to address the senate**

- Thank you to faculty for work with students and other work this year
- President Thorn has been serving in the capacity of interim president for CalU since February 2019.
- Complements everyone on all their hard work particularly with the two major challenges- Covid-19 pandemic and Integration
- Integration on the forefront for all- thanks for efforts > 400 people from CalU involved
- BOG approved to move forward with integration- for 60-day comment periods. Final approval will be in July, July 15 maybe
- There will be 2 public hearings- this meeting today counts as of these meeting there will be another on May 10<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> to include panel discussion with Vice Presidents, Directors, Chairs, and Deans
- There will be a modified commencement, due to the pandemic, graduate commencement on Friday (May 7, 2021) night and two undergraduate commencements on Saturday (May 8, 2021) one in the morning for liberal arts and education and another for science and technology in the afternoon. Students were limited to 2 persons to attend the commencement ceremony
- Closing of the academic calendar occurs on May 7, 2021
- Look forward to returning to fall 2021 in a more traditional face-to-face manner. The university has provided vaccination clinic on campus.

### **Questions & Comments:**

- Thanks was extended to President Thorn for advocating for faculty senate to have a seat at the table
- Question, are vaccines going to be mandated?

- That is beyond the local level, lawyers say this is not an option we can pursue due to the relationship with the commonwealth
- Question, Calu underwent the retrenchment process and retirement of many faculty, there has been documentation released stating that Clarion and Edinboro may be exploring retrenching faculty. Will Clarion and Edinboro complete their retrenchment process before the integration begin, if it is approved, or will this practice be considered after integration?
  - Sustainability and integration are two different processes. All universities are required to meet their sustainability plan which includes a balanced budget and potentially retrenchment of faculty. Sustainability goals must be met before integration.
  - After sustainability, if the integration is voted to go through, the new university will need to initiate a sustainability plan as a whole.
  - Calu was able to avoid retrenchment except for the reduction in adjunct faculty.
  - In 2021-22 will not be part of retrenchment at CaU, other universities will have to pursue some level of retrenchment. Based on budget assumptions. CalU has been conservative in enrollment assumptions. A slight decrease over the next year or two has been projected. If we come in better, we will be in better shape, CalU has not used aspirational goals in our planning. CalU is the only university of the 6 deemed for integration to exceed our targets.
  - Once integrated the new U will look at numbers again. Our hope is that if Clarion and Edinboro get to target by 22 there will be no need for retrenchment in 22-23
  - 2022-23 this is when integration is set to occur. 2021-22 will be a planning year.
- President Biden has identified the intent to provide free community college education for all, understanding that this proposal may or may not be passed, is the university concerned about the negative impact this could have on the state system? And will the state system be taking an action to promote a broader proposal to include equitable support for students to attend a 4-year state school rather than just the community college system?
  - These proposals are aspirational goals which may or may not pass. The system will lobby to support the state system.
- Can you provide an update on the plan for buildings to be demolished?
  - Azorsky will be demolished in February or March, 2022, The Department of General services moved it back a bit due to the bid proposals process.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> building Feb or March 22, then over 12 months the other 3-month buildings will be demolished.
  - Migration have been put in place to plan relocation people.
  - A contract is in place with company to manage logistics Building B resident hall conversion to offices; work is already started a hope will be done by summer.
  - There will be a conferencing wings on each of the floors.
  - Likely move everyone at the end of fall semester.

- The work on Keystone, Gallagher, and a portion Morgan not including the Rutledge institute area will start after Azorsky.
- Building B wasn't built to accommodate offices, what is being done to allow this conversion?
  - A review of what are needed to convert to an administrative building are underway. Cannon Design to identify all changes needed. There are no structural issues; main changes involve the air handler system, some bathrooms will be removed, and public restrooms will be created. Some electrical and plumbing updates are needed. The building can't be a classroom but can be offices.
- Will long-term library needs be considered when considering changes to the library? Love the idea of the library serving as an academic focal point with student support services such as, writing lab, etc.
  - The planning for any changes including the library is very deliberate to avoid need to change again.
  - Administration is getting input from effected departments, for building B with deans and chairs to convert to a new administrative building.
  - Would like to see a Starbucks type set up but to cost prohibitive looking at plan B.
  - Working on securing resources to make this happen.
- CCAC has dedicated office and classroom space assigned to them that CalU rent to them, will CCAC's space continue to be provided
  - The initial thought is that no, this space will not continue to be provided for nursing because we will have programs at Clarion and Edinboro. (Concern was expressed that the CCAC relationship provides a feeder to all nursing programs. CCAC graduated some 800 nursing students a semester. Would not want to jeopardize this relationship). Concern taken under advisement.
- What accommodations, office spaces, and resources will be providing for CalU faculty whose programs are in an online environment after integration?
  - Online locations and online are still up in the air, will be looking at the impact on faculty and resources, will we have multiple locations or one location. Will involve the faculty to evaluate needs.
- Are there plans for the counseling center, placement and/or outsourcing these services?
  - Looking at the health center for outsourcing but not outsourcing counseling? Might relocate counseling center. Would be sure there is adequate space for counseling services. CalU has a strong commitment to counseling services for our students.
- What is the status of parking garage, it will be available in the fall?
  - Yes, should be available in July
- Will the master plan continue to change and evolve?
  - Number of faculty and students on campus and square footage per person, will evolve.
  - Will change as time moves forward.
  - We can do some business remotely. That will free up additional space on campus. The master plan was a starting point.

- An observation noted while serving on integration committee, CalU has supported accredited program but not clear for other institutions. Do the higher-level colleagues continue to support accreditation?
  - Yes, the new U will maintain accreditation requirements. Dr. Dale agrees, will assess how do we best do that. Will the needs exceed the resources?
- Some accreditations require certain library resources, will these resources be maintained?
  - Yes, VP Thorn continues to share commitment.
- If any senators have and follow-up or Yes, additional questions email to Bob Mehalik and he will pass them along to Pres Thorn.
- VP Thorn, encourage everyone to share comments with the office of the chancellor.
- VP Thorn: What are the next steps? Timeline for final decision if for the BOG vote in July, in the meantime, working on organizational structure, working on making sure the right people across all universities in place. Finance, student affairs, everyone will start seeing August new integrated positions for new U, this will happen before full implementation by 8/22. Example finance already collaborating with facilities management, biggest challenge is geography. Have to figure out barriers and solutions. Will have a common budget system and process, and methodology. This has been developed conceptually but as things progress will work out the details. Will send out campus announcements. Thanks for the time you have provided.

## **2. Next meetings Fall 2021 – Date TBD**

**Adjournment @ 12:00PM**

**Recorder:** Robin Weaver