



MEMO

FROM: Steve Wojtkiewicz, Senator & Faculty Senate Secretary
SUBJECT: Winter General Faculty Meeting (1/12/2020) Minutes
LOCATION: Zoom
Faculty Senate: <https://intranet.clarkson.edu/administrative/faculty-senate/>

10 am. Meeting called to order by Senate chair Kevin Fite.

- I. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Approved as distributed.
- II. Approval of the minutes of the Aug 18th 2020 Fall General Faculty Meeting
 - a. Approved as posted.
- III. Certification of Degrees for December 2020 Graduates
 - a. Graduate Degrees. Motion to endorse by J. Scrimgeour (J. Ball). Motion CARRIED.
 - b. Undergraduate Degrees. Motion to endorse by W. MacKinnon (W. Jemison). Motion CARRIED
- IV. Remarks by President Collins

President Collins thanked everyone for their efforts in successfully completing the Fall 2020 semester.

He then took a few moments to note the recent passing of two members of the Clarkson community. Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering William R. Wilcox passed away on December 17. President Collins then noted just a few of Prof. Wilcox's numerous significant contributions to Clarkson over his more than forty years of service to Clarkson including leading the founding of CAMP. President Collins also acknowledged the recent passing on January 1 of Michelle Evans '87 (ME), a senior executive at Lockheed Martin. President Collins noted that she epitomized the ideal Clarkson graduate, not only being successful in her career but also giving back as through serving on Clarkson's Coulter School of Engineering Advisory Board and her efforts in increasing the participation of women in STEM fields.

President Collins then briefly discussed budget related items first noting that the additional expenditures required to adapt campus operations to the pandemic environment would be largely covered by federal COVID relief with additional federal funds mandated to be dispensed as direct grants to students. President Collins closed his comments in this area by noting that the budget and cash flow for the upcoming year look okay.

President Collins then urged all of the faculty to start to look to the future. He noted his desire to move the strategic planning process forward and begin a master planning exercise. He also noted for the faculty to anticipate an announcement in the near-term considering renovations of the Science Center. He also noted the ongoing efforts of alignment of the marketing of both Clarkson's undergraduate and graduate programs.

President Collins then discussed an effort led by a group of Trustees led by Trustee Markopoulos focused on increasing the transparency, where at all possible, of activities related to mergers and acquisitions. A presentation on the effort will be given to the Faculty Senate on January 18.

President Collins noted that the use of a federal lobbyist, initiated about two years ago, has started to bear benefits with approximately three million dollars in funding for PFAS research contained in the recently passed COVID stimulus package. He noted that with increased discussion of the reinstatement of federal earmarks that the need for a lobbyist is ever increasing.

Finally, President Collins closed by stating he believes efforts to expand the research enterprise and fund raising are going well and also noted that the endowment has not had to be utilized due to the pandemic.

A question was then posed to President Collins concerning the enrollment outlook for Fall of 2021. He noted that applications and early deposits were up. President Collins then stressed that the Fall 2022 class needs to be closely monitored as those students, currently high school juniors, have been impacted even more so by the pandemic. He noted that a plan is being investigated to provide high end computers to incoming students, in need, to help lessen the impacts of the income inequality gap on student's learning exacerbated by the pandemic.

V. Remarks by Provost Hannigan

Provost Hannigan continued the discussion concerning the preparation of incoming Clarkson students. She acknowledged the efforts especially by the Dean and faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences to assess the impact of the pandemic on incoming student's academic preparation and how to devise strategies to help fill any gaps in that preparation.

Provost Hannigan also pointed to a video she recently shared with the faculty which contains details on the numerous ongoing efforts of the Office of Academic Affairs but wanted to discuss a few of those here in more detail. She noted the efforts of the Admissions Office and Trish Dobbs on making the engagement between faculty and prospective students more intentional. Provost Hannigan also noted that she believes there is a real opportunity for Clarkson to become a leader in pre-college student engagement utilizing amongst other resources, the efforts of the Institute for STEM Education and the Clarkson School, especially for underrepresented minority students including first generation students.

President Collins entertained a question from the audience concerning reaction from alumni concerning his message concerning events in Washington D.C. on January 6th.

Motion to adjourn G. Sekelj. (W. Jemison). Meeting adjourned