



## Faculty Senate News

January 26, 2006

An advisory vote to revise the University Promotion and Tenure Procedures and Regulations will be one of the highlights at the upcoming January 31<sup>st</sup> University Faculty Senate meeting. Senators will also be asked to legislate a change to the membership of the Senate Committee on Research, and hear a major report from Vice President Eva Pell on University Research and the Graduate School. Senators and visitors should plan for a 1:30 to 3:30 meeting that will include six additional informational reports that cover issues such as University Research and Graduate Education, Policy HR40: Evaluation of Faculty Performance, and the distribution of grades in University courses. I encourage all faculty to read the upcoming reports posted in the online Senate Agenda and share responses with your Senate representatives.

President Spanier will also be in attendance to provide comments and stand for questions. If you have questions of keen interest for the president, be sure to contact one of your Senate representatives, so she or he can take this opportunity to have the University President address a specific issue.

The Senate Officers will visit the following units in February: The Graduate School, 2/7 at 8:30; The College of Education, 2/7 at 1:30; The College of Engineering, 2/16 at 1:30; The College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, 2/21 at 8:30; and the Division of Undergraduate Studies, 2/21 at 2:00. If you are a faculty member or student in one of these units, please look for information on our visit so we can gather your ideas about your University and college experience.

Now here are a few details on the Senate reports. The Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs will present an advisory and consultative report to the President that recommends revisions to the current Human Resources policy (HR23) on Promotion and Tenure Procedures and Regulations (<http://senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/jan31-06agn/appe.pdf>). The revision will establish three levels of review, with disciplinary participation at the first level, for all University faculty regardless of campus, except in the case of faculty who retained their tenure home in a University Park College since the 1997 reorganization. Having an equitable number of review levels was a key goal of the 2005 reorganization, and this Senate report will achieve that goal in time for next year's promotion and tenure review cycle.

The legislative report to revise the Senate Committee on Research will integrate the work of the Graduate Council's research committee with the University Faculty Senate Committee on Research (<http://senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/jan31-06agn/appb.pdf>). With its passage, six members from the Graduate Council will become voting members of the Senate Committee on Research. The Senate is looking forward to this collaboration as a way to broaden deliberations on matters of research policy and practice at the University.

Eva Pell, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, will present the Annual Report on Research and Graduate Education at Penn State reflecting the growth of both the Research as well as the Graduate Education missions of the University. This report will also comment upon some of the national trends and challenges that may limit further substantive growth (<http://senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/jan31-06agn/appf.pdf>).

The two revisions to student policies 14-10 and 32-10 involve matters related to enrollment by non-degree students (<http://senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/jan31-06agn/appc.pdf> and <http://senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/jan31-06agn/appd.pdf>). The first policy change clarifies the academic performance and status expected by students who accumulate 40 credits in a non-degree status, and the second policy change specifies who has advising responsibility for non-degree students.

Faculty Affairs will present an informational report that summarizes a survey of opinions by faculty who have undergone the extended review process specified by University Policy HR40: Evaluation of Faculty Performance (<http://senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/jan31-06agn/appi.pdf>). Faculty comments reported from this survey could generate significant discussion about the purpose and value of the extended review process, and the discussion at the Senate should guide the Faculty Affairs committee's future work on this policy.

Additional informational reports describe reserved spaces for freshman admission, grade distributions, and a summary of petitions by College, Campus, and Unit for the 2004-2005 academic year. The complete agenda for the Senate meeting is posted on the Senate Web site at <http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/index.html> and the minutes (*The Senate Record*) will be posted approximately three weeks after the meeting. Members of the University community are invited to attend any Senate meeting, and we have seats reserved for this purpose. Any member of the University community who is not a member of the Senate may request to speak on any item of business already before the Senate. Requests must be made to the Chair, through the Executive Secretary of the Senate, at least four calendar days before the Senate meeting.

I encourage all University members to be involved in governance issues by attending local unit meetings, by contacting the unit's Faculty Senate representatives, and by using the University Faculty Senate Web site at <http://senate.psu.edu/>. Email contacts for officers, committee chairs, and unit representatives are posted on the Web site.

To learn how to submit major, minor, option or course proposals, consult the following: [http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum\\_resources/guide/contents.html](http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum_resources/guide/contents.html). Senate Curriculum Reports are available at [http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum\\_resources/bluesheet/bluex.html](http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum_resources/bluesheet/bluex.html).

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