



Faculty Senate News

November 30, 2005

While it appears to be a light agenda for the upcoming December 6th University Faculty Senate meeting, we will again take up key issues critical to the future of the University. Senators and visitors should plan for a 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. meeting that will include discussions arising from the fall campus visits by Senate Officers, an update on the disposition of the recommendations from the Joint Committee on Curricular Integrity, an exploration of ways the Senate can support disciplinary communities, and a summary of the growth in the ANGEL course management system.

Given the very full agendas at the September and October Senate meetings, I delayed the traditional year-opening remarks by the Chair. At the upcoming meeting, I plan to share some extended comments on the issue of University-wide communities of interest and how the University Faculty Senate can do more to facilitate disciplinary connections.

President Spanier will be in attendance to provide comments and stand for questions. If you have questions of keen interest, 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 Committee on Faculty Affairs will present an advisory and consultative report to the President that recommends revisions to the current Human Resources policy (HR-76) on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities (<http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/dec06-05agn/appc.pdf>). The revision will align current committee practice with policy by deleting the section that has the committee investigating petitions involving alleged discrimination. Petitions of this nature are complaints that are investigated by the University's Office of Affirmative Action to ensure full compliance with anti-discrimination laws.

The Senate Committee on Computing and Information Systems will present an informational report that provides comparative data on the use of ANGEL in Spring 2002 and Fall 2005 semesters (<http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/dec06-05agn/appd.pdf>). University-wide it is estimated that 82 percent of students now use ANGEL. Other non-instructional uses of ANGEL will also be presented. This is a good opportunity to share ideas and questions on this highly used system.

The Faculty Senate Officers visit campuses each fall semester and the Senate Secretary prepares a report that summarizes the issues. On Tuesday, November 22, the Senate Officers met with Executive Vice President and Provost Rod Erickson and Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses John Romano for the traditional debriefing meeting on these visits. Senate Secretary Dawn Blasko will present the summary report (<http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/dec06-05agn/appe.pdf>) to the Senate and stand for questions. Some of the topics discussed on the campus visits include: campus reorganization and budget concerns, fixed-term faculty, and first year seminars. The Dickinson School of Law, College of Medicine and the Pennsylvania College of Technology were also visited.

The final informational report presents the plans to follow-up on each of the ten recommendations made by the Joint Committee on Curricular Integrity in their September 28th report to Provost Erickson and the Senate Officers. Each recommendation has been referred to the appropriate Senate committee for the next level of deliberation and/or implementation (<http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/dec06-05agn/appf.pdf>). If you have any remaining questions about this report and its recommendations, this will be a good time to discuss them. (Link to original report: http://www.senate.psu.edu/about_senate/committees/Curricular%20Integrity/cifinalrp t.pdf).

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. Senate Curriculum Reports are available at http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum_resources/bluesheet/bluex.html.

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