



Faculty Senate News

October 20, 2005

A huge thank-you to the sizable number of students, faculty, and administrators at Fayette, Worthington Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton, Altoona, Lehigh Valley, Schuylkill, Dickinson School of Law, and the College of Medicine who attended the recent meetings of the visiting Senate officers. The ideas shared provide critical support to improving University-wide governance and our sense of community. The officers have one final visit to the Pennsylvania College of Technology on November 1. A summary of the visits will be on the Senate agenda for its December 6 meeting. While every campus is not visited each year, we encourage all to stay involved by attending local unit governance 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.

The Faculty Senate will have another full agenda at its October 25 meeting. Senators and visitors should plan for a 1:30 to 3:30 meeting that will highlight a broad range of University issues relative to student affairs, the University budget, faculty and staff health benefits, online learning through the World Campus, academic policies and scholarships, intercollegiate athletics, and faculty development and tenure.

Vicky Triponey, Vice President for Student Affairs, will share several strategies to improve student services and promote student engagement as part of the informational report "Promoting Student Learning: The Emerging Role of Student Affairs at Penn State." The University-wide initiatives described in this presentation are essential to student success (<http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/oct25-05agn/appg.pdf>).

Executive Vice President and Provost Rodney A. Erickson will present the University's 2005-2006 operating budget. He will also discuss the University's budget plan and appropriation request for 2006-2007. The University is facing several budget pressures as it strives to maintain affordable access and academic quality, so this will be an important opportunity to explore budgeting issues.

The Joint Committee on Insurance and Benefits will give their annual report focusing on health care rates and plan changes, wellness initiatives, retiree health plans, prescription drug coverage, and TIAA-CREF plan revisions. As the key Senate and administrative committee that makes yearly recommendations on future benefits plans and options, the work of this committee has become critically important in the context of rapidly increasing benefit costs (<http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/oct25-05agn/appj.pdf>).

The Senate Committee on Outreach will sponsor a report on the World Campus. Pete Rubba, Senior Director of the World Campus, will present detailed analyses of online course offerings, enrollments, degrees, student location, instructional faculty, revenue sharing, and projections for growth (<http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/oct25-05agn/appl.pdf>).

Intercollegiate athletics will be the focus of two reports. First, the Senate will vote on changes recommended by the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics to Senate Policy 67-00: Athletic Competition, Section 2, on the eligibility criteria for athletic participation at various campuses of the University (<http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/oct25-05agn/appd.pdf>). Second, the Faculty Athletic Representative, Scott Kretchmar, will present data on Penn State athletes, including eligibility, scholarship, and graduation rates (<http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/oct25-05agn/appk.pdf>).

The Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs will ask the Senate to approve an advisory and consultative report to the President to establish a new Human Resources policy (HR-70) that will govern the process for dismissal of tenured or tenure eligible faculty on grounds of adequate cause, financial exigency and program elimination, or revision. This policy clarifies the process of the existing Standing Joint Committee on Tenure, to which Senators and deans are elected to serve (<http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/oct25-05agn/appf.pdf>). The committee will also present an informational report detailing the faculty perceptions of professional development support across campuses (<http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2005-2006/oct25-05agn/appi.pdf>).

Here is the remainder of next Tuesday's agenda:

- *Remarks by President Spanier*, followed by questions from Senators.
- *Report on Faculty Senate Scholarship Awards to Undergraduates*, presented by the Committee on Admissions, Records, Scheduling, and Student Aid.
- *Revision of Policies 51-50, 60-00, and 60-10: Cumulative Grade-Point Averages, Completing More Than One Undergraduate Major Program (Sequential or Concurrent Majors), and Concurrent Majors Program*. These revisions clarify the computation of GPA based on all University courses when enrolling in sequential or concurrent degrees, and the conditions of concurrent degree enrollment.

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.

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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