



## Faculty Senate Newsletter April 24, 2007

The last University Faculty Senate meeting for this academic year will take place April 24, 2007, and will be held at 1:30 p.m. in 112 Kern Graduate Building.

This is the last Faculty Senate Newsletter that I will send you. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the senators for their willingness to serve our University and their hard work in the committees they served, led, or provided their valuable expertise for the Senate body to successfully complete its work. My gratitude goes out to all of you, faculty and administrators, as well as the Senate Office staff. I also wish to welcome the incoming chair, Dawn Blasko. I look forward to serving under her leadership.

I also want to acknowledge George Franz for his many contributions to the Senate. George served as a Delaware County senator for 34 years and as Senate Parliamentarian for 14 years. He will retire from Penn State at the end of June.

The University Faculty Senate at the January 30, 2007, meeting approved substitute recommendation two of the legislative report on First-Year Seminar. This was subsequently approved by President Spanier. As stated in the recommendation, with input from the University Administration, I, with the Senate Chair-elect, charged an ad hoc committee on April 5, 2007. The committee under the leadership of Kim Steiner and Patti Mills will report back no later than the end of spring 2008.

In early fall 2006, a report from the National Academies of Sciences and Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine came out entitled "Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Sciences and Engineering" [http://www.senate.psu.edu/about\\_senate/committees/fa/bias\\_barriers\\_summary.pdf](http://www.senate.psu.edu/about_senate/committees/fa/bias_barriers_summary.pdf). In response to this report and building on our tradition to provide leadership on the subject, it was important to appoint a special committee to assess the status of tenured and tenure-track women faculty in Science and Engineering at Penn State. This committee will be charged within the next few days and will report back to the Senate Chair by March 31, 2008.

President Spanier will provide comments and stand for questions. If you have questions of 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 at its next meeting will receive the results of the 2007-2008 Senate elections for Chair-Elect, Secretary, Faculty Advisory Committee to the President, and three Senate committees, including the University Promotion and Tenure Review Committee. The meeting also includes the seating of the new officers.

Two presentations carried-over from the March 20 Senate meeting will be given at the April 24 meeting: Eva Pell, Senior Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, will present the Annual Report on Research and Graduate Education at Penn State and Steven Maruszewski, Deputy Vice President for Physical Plant, will give a presentation on Energy and the Environment at Penn State.

The Senate Committee on Faculty Benefits will give a report on retirement options and the Secretary of the Senate will report on Senate Officers' visits to six University Park units in spring 2007. Reports will also be given on the student activity fee and grade distribution.

The annual report on high school students enrolled nondegree in credit courses can be viewed on the Senate Web site at <http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/2006-2007/apr24-07agn/appe.pdf>.

The Senate will also recognize four graduating seniors who are recipients of the John W. White Graduate Fellowship Award awarded annually by the Faculty Senate.

Members of the University community are invited to attend this meeting. Any member of the University community not a member of the Senate may request the privilege of the floor on any item of business already before the Senate. Such a request must be made to the Chair, through the Executive Secretary of the Senate, at least four calendar days before the meeting at which the individual wishes to speak.

The complete agenda for the Senate meeting is posted on the Web at <http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/index.html> and the minutes (The Senate Record) will be posted approximately three weeks after the meeting. Senate meetings are also available through streaming video at <http://live.libraries.psu.edu>.

Finally, I do 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://www.senate.psu.edu>.

For information on submitting major, minor, option, or course proposals, the Guide to Curricular Procedures is available on the Web at [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).

Thank you.

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