



## Faculty Senate News January 30, 2007

Happy New Year! The first University Faculty Senate meeting for this calendar year will take place January 30, 2007, and will be held at 1:30 p.m. in 112 Kern Graduate Building.

The Senate Officers will visit the following University Park colleges/units this spring: Communications, Health and Human Development, Science, Schreyer Honors College, Liberal Arts, and the Division of Undergraduate Studies. Please encourage your colleagues and students to attend our meetings.

We are in the third year of implementing the 1:25 (senator:faculty) representation ratio. Please encourage your colleagues to participate in University Faculty governance via their service as senators.

At next week's meeting President Spanier will 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.

Executive Vice President and Provost Rodney A. Erickson will discuss the report "A Test of Leadership: Charting the Future of US Higher Education, Implications for Penn State and Higher Education?" from the Commission on the Future of Higher Education, appointed by U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings in 2005. Provost Erickson will also respond to questions about the budget presentation that appeared in the October 24, 2006, Senate Agenda.

Next Tuesday's Senate agenda includes five legislative actions:

Three of these are concerned with revisions to the Standing Rules and one with revision to the Constitution. These actions will change references to student representation from the Undergraduate Student Government to the University Park Undergraduate Association and recommend that Senate Councilors serve no more than six consecutive years.

The fifth legislative action has to do with the First Year Seminar. Following more than three years of assessment, debate, and discussion, and obtaining extensive input from faculty, students, and administrators, the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education offers the following recommendation for Senate action: *The current University-wide First-Year Seminar graduation requirement should be dropped in favor of encouraging the individual units (colleges and campuses) to continue some form of required or optional First-Year Seminar program, or develop and offer a First-Year Experience program, as they see fit for students who start their studies in the respective unit.*

Two advisory/consultative reports will be presented by the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs. One recommends the addition of three non-tenure-line ranks (Professor of Practice; Associate Professor of Practice; and Assistant Professor of Practice) to Penn State faculty ranks and the revision of Policy HR-21, accordingly. The report provides rationale, benchmark information from other institutions, and Fall 2006 data on full-time faculty in non-tenure line positions at Penn State. The second report recommends making revisions to the Administrative Guidelines for HR-23: Promotion and Tenure Procedures and Regulations to improve completeness of administrator consultation for promotion and tenure evaluations of faculty members with joint appointments between colleges.

Five informational reports will be presented. One of these comes from the Senate Committee on Computing and Information Systems and presents information on Turnitin, a Web-based system designed to detect plagiarism. Another from the Senate Committee on Faculty Benefits presents information on 2007 yearly Costs of Healthcare Plans. Reports on the Reserved Spaces Program, 2007-2008 Faculty Census, and 2005-2006 Summary of Petitions will also be presented.

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 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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