



## Faculty Senate News March 20, 2007

The next University Faculty Senate meeting will take place March 20, 2007, and will be held at 1:30 p.m. in 112 Kern Graduate Building.

The Senate Officers have completed their spring visits to the following University Park colleges/units: Communications, Health and Human Development, Science, Schreyer Honors College, Liberal Arts, and the Division of Undergraduate Studies.

The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) Rally in the Rotunda will be on March 20. This rally focuses attention on funding institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania.

At next week's meeting 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 March 20 Senate agenda includes:

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.

A forensic discussion, sponsored by the Senate Committee on Educational Equity, on revising the Student Rating of Teaching Effectiveness (SRTE) to include a climate or diversity item. The Senate will be asked to respond to four questions included in the report.

Two advisory/consultative reports will be presented by the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs. One recommends the addition of three new 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. This report was postponed at the January 30 Senate meeting until the March 20 meeting.

The second advisory/consultative report recommends a revision to HR-10, Distinguished Professorships, by increasing the maximum number of distinguished professors in each college to no more than ten percent of faculty on standing academic appointments at the rank of professor.

Several informational reports will be presented:

The nominating report for 2007-2008 and the roster of senators by voting units for 2007-2008 will be presented. Additional nominations will be requested from the floor of the Senate for the positions of chair-elect, secretary, and the Faculty Advisory Committee to the President. Other nominations will be solicited for three extra-senatorial standing committees: Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, Standing Joint Committee on Tenure, and the University Promotion and Tenure Review Committee. Senators making nominations from the floor must have the permission of the person they are nominating.

The Faculty Benefits Committee will present the annual Faculty Salary Report where comparisons internally among units at Penn State and externally among peer institutions will be noted.

The Faculty Affairs Committee will present reports on the online SRTE pilot project and on Faculty Tenure-Flow rates. The Undergraduate Education and University Planning committees will present, respectively, an update on academic integrity violations and Penn State's plan to reduce its green house gas emissions and energy consumption.

A report on authors' rights and publishing agreements sponsored by Senate Council will 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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