



Faculty Senate News

October 24, 2006

Greetings! The second University Faculty Senate meeting of the year will take place on Tuesday, October 24, 2006, and will be held at 1:30 p.m. in 112 Kern Graduate Building.

On behalf of ACUE and the University Faculty Senate, Jeremy Cohen, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education and I, co-chaired a work group consisting of three ACUE members (David Christiansen, Nancy Herron, and Jack Selzer) and three University Faculty Senators (Dawn Blasko, Christopher Falzone, and Gregory Ziegler) to identify and frame the academic issues that are raised by the delivery of Penn State courses and degree programs outside of campus-based resident instruction. This subcommittee is co-chaired by Dawn Blasko and David Christiansen. The work group is urged to consult widely with University colleagues, including those who may work with World Campus, Continuing Education, and the delivery of courses that are primarily information technology-based. The work group will report its findings by November 27, 2006.

The Senate officers completed the fall visits to Abington, Great Valley, Delaware County, Harrisburg, DuBois, New Kensington, and McKeesport. We also met with the new Dean of the College of Medicine, Dr. Harold Paz. On November 3 and 4 Penn State will host the annual CIC Faculty Governance meeting.

At next week's meeting, President Spanier will be in attendance to provide comments and stand for questions. If you have questions of interest for the President, contact a campus or college Senator so she or he can take this opportunity to have the University President address a specific issue.

The October 24 Senate agenda includes the following:

A presentation on the University's 2006-2007 operating budget by Executive Vice President and Provost Rodney A. Erickson. He will also summarize the draft budget plan and the appropriation request for 2007-2008.

The Senate will discuss a revision to the Constitution. The proposed membership revision will eliminate confusion and allow for greater consistency across voting units in determining the Senate electorate.

The Senate will take action on two Advisory and Consultative reports:

Senate Committee on Admissions, Records, Scheduling, and Student Aid will make recommendations on improving access and affordability to a Penn State education for low- and middle-income students of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in support of the University's land-grant mission.

Senate Committee on Research will make recommendations for improving integration of the Strategic Research Institutes within the colleges and campuses of the University.

Five informational reports will be presented:

The Senate Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics will present two informational reports. Tim Curley, Penn State's Athletic Director, will give an overview of issues related to NCAA academic reform, academic success indicators of the Intercollegiate Athletics program, and challenges facing student athletes. In the second report, Scott Kretchmar, NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative, will give an annual report on academic eligibility, Graduation Success Rate (GSR) rankings, and overall academic performance of student athletes.

The other three informational reports presented are on the effectiveness of online education; the new student government association; and Faculty Senate scholarship awards to undergraduates.

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. 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. 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://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.

Senate Curriculum Reports are available at

http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum_resources/bluesheet/bluex.html.

Thank you.

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