



Faculty Senate Newsletter December 11, 2007

On November 2 and 3, I attended a meeting of the CIC faculty governance leaders with Chair-Elect Blood. We had a number of interesting seminars on topics such as faculty involvement in intercollegiate athletics, the cost of fringe benefits, models of presidential searches, diversity and affirmative action, and increasing IRB requirements. One interesting topic was the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA). I have asked Provost Erickson, who has been involved in this initiative, to brief us on how VSA may affect Penn State <http://www.aascu.org/accountability/>.

At the beginning of the semester I wrote to you to point out Penn State's Academic Freedom policy HR-64. Since then the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) has issued a report entitled Freedom in the Classroom that you might find interesting. <http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/comm/rep/A/class.htm>

As part of my duties as Chair of the Senate, I have the opportunity to serve on the executive board of the Penn State Alumni Association. As many of you know, Penn State's Alumni Association has the largest, and the most enthusiastic, dues-paying membership in the country. I gave a well received presentation about the Senate's activities this fall and was told over and over how much alumni would like to be more connected to Penn State faculty and students across the state. <http://www.alumni.psu.edu>

The University Faculty Senate will meet on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in 112 Kern Graduate Building. The following items will be considered at the meeting:

The Senate will vote on a proposed revision to HR40 Evaluation of Faculty Performance. The changes will provide more details on the review processes and emphasize professional development.

Revisions to two Senate policies, 58-50 Conditions for Re-enrollment as a Degree Candidate and 44-20 Final Examination Policy, are also being proposed.

The Senate will review a recommendation to amend the Senate Constitution, Article II, Section 1, Membership. Because this report is an amendment to the Constitution, the Senate will not vote on the report until the January 29 meeting.

Vice Provost for Educational Equity Terrell Jones will give a presentation and respond to questions about the Mid-Cycle Report on the Framework to Foster Diversity.

An informational report on Time in Rank of Associate Professors provides data on the time that associate professors are spending in rank, beginning with appointment or promotion to that position. Analysis by gender, minority status, and location is included in this report.

The Secretary of the Senate will report on Senate Officers' visits to seven campuses in fall 2007. Informational reports will also be presented on the Summary of 2006-2007 Petitions by College, Campus, and Unit and the University's Initiatives on Faculty and Staff Wellness.

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 *Senate Agenda* will be posted on the Senate Web site one week prior to each Senate meeting. The December 11 Agenda is available at <http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/index.html>. Senate meeting minutes (*The Senate Record*) are available at <http://www.senate.psu.edu/record/index.html> approximately three weeks following the Senate meeting. Senate meetings are available through streaming video at <http://live.libraries.psu.edu>.

For information on submitting major, minor, option, or course proposals, the Guide to Curricular Procedures is available at http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum_resources/guide/contents.html. The November 27, 2007, Senate Curriculum Report is available at http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum_resources/bluesheet/bluex.html.

Dawn Blasko, Chair
University Faculty Senate
dawnblasko@psu.edu