



Faculty Senate Newsletter March 18, 2008

Many of you know that it looks like a very poor year for funding for Penn State in the Commonwealth's budget. Many groups are trying to get the word out about the benefits that the University provides to Pennsylvania citizens. On Tuesday March 18, the Penn State Alumni Association, College of Agricultural Sciences, College of Medicine, and Penn State Outreach invite faculty, students, and friends of Penn State to State Capital Day 2009 Rally and Reception. For more information go to <http://www.alumni.psu.edu/events/CapitalDay2008.html>.

On Wednesday, April 2 the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG), is sponsoring the Rally in the Rotunda from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Harrisburg, PA. Students will be traveling from across the state to argue the case for Penn State funding.

Dr. Boris Weisfeiler, a Penn State professor of mathematics, disappeared in 1985 while hiking in southern Chile near the interrogation and torture center known as Colonia Dignidad during the Pinochet era. At the request of the Weisfeiler family and his former colleagues, I have sent a letter from the officers of the Senate and Senate Council to ask the current president of Chile, Michele Bachelet Jeria to support a full investigation into the disappearance. You may view the letter on the Senate Council Web site.

The University Faculty Senate will meet on Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in 112 Kern Graduate Building and we have a very full agenda.

The Senate will discuss a recommendation from the Senate Committee on Committees and Rules to amend Article II of the Bylaws to include student senator representation on Senate Council. Because this report is an amendment to the Bylaws, the Senate will not vote on the report until the April 29 meeting.

Senate Council will present a resolution for vote endorsing the Committee on Institutional Cooperation's (CIC) statement on publishing agreements.

The Senate will also vote on recommendations for documenting and disseminating outreach and engaged scholarship in follow-up to the January 2001 *UniSCOPE* report to the Senate.

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 presentation will be given on the administrative structure of Penn State's online educational enterprises including the World Campus, the e-Learning Cooperative, and the Blended Learning Initiative.

Nominating Committee Reports for 2008-2009: 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 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.

Roster of Senators by Voting Units for 2008-2009: This annual report gives the names of new and continuing senators.

Informational reports will also be given on faculty tenure-flow rates, the progress of the Disciplinary Communities Implementation Team, and the impact of high-risk drinking among Penn State students.

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 March 18 Agenda is available at <http://www.senate.psu.edu/agenda/index.html>. Senate meeting minutes (The Senate Record) are also available at <http://www.senate.psu.edu/record/index.html> approximately three weeks following the Senate meeting.

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 February 26, 2008, Senate Curriculum Report is available at http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum_resources/bluesheet/bluex.html.

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