



Faculty Senate Newsletter October 21, 2008

It is hard to believe we are midway through the fall semester.

The University Faculty Senate will meet on Tuesday, October 21, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in 112 Kern Graduate Building. The items below will be considered at the meeting.

Executive Vice President and Provost Rodney A. Erickson will give a presentation on the University's 2008-2009 operating budget and summarize the priorities for the 2009-2010 budget. Provost Erickson will also provide a brief status report on the work of the University Strategic Planning Council.

The Senate will vote on a revision to the Senate Bylaws that will allow a voting unit with only one faculty senator to send an alternate if the elected senator is unable to attend a meeting.

The Senate Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics will present two informational reports. NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative Scott Kretchmar will give an annual report on academic eligibility, graduation success rate rankings, and overall academic performance of student athletes. Athletic Director Tim Curley will provide an overview of the NCAA Academic Progress Program.

Informational reports will also be given on the status of University construction projects and Penn State's quality assurance e-Learning design standards.

Members of the University community are invited to attend [From Here to Implementation: Putting Your Assessment Plan to Work](#); a one day working conference on January 8, 2009, at the Penn Stater Conference Center. The purpose of the conference is to examine the progress Penn State has made toward developing assessment plans, setting learning goals, gathering evidence, and improving programs. Each campus, college, and degree program has approached the process in distinct ways, and the conference will provide a forum for faculty to share their unique assessment processes, challenges, and ideas. Input from Penn State faculty is crucial for building a relevant and useful conference. Please visit the conference forum to ask questions, suggest topics, provide feedback or nominate group discussion leaders at [Live Question Tool: PennStateAssessmentConf2009](#). For more information about the conference and to register please visit: <http://assess.psu.edu/Events/>.

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 October 21 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 October 7, 2008, Senate Curriculum Report is available at http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum_resources/bluesheet/bluex.html.

As leaders of the University Faculty Senate representing over 5,500 faculty from 23 locations, we commit ourselves to work together. We face some formidable challenges in maintaining a high quality, self-directed University.

The voices, perspectives and energy of senators contribute in making our meetings meaningful and everyone who attends is enriched by their participation. Thanks for being involved in faculty governance and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

It is an honor to serve you.

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