



Faculty Senate Newsletter December 9, 2008

The recent challenges to our economy and markets around the world give us pause to reflect on our ability to provide our students with an exceptional education. Thank you for your continued commitment to this challenge.

The University Faculty Senate will meet on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in 112 Kern Graduate Building. The following items will be considered at the meeting.

This announcement in particular will resonate for members of the faculty. The first two recipients of the Faculty Trustee Scholarship will make brief comments at the beginning of the meeting. Contributing to the scholarship encourages our students and recognizes them for their academic achievements.

Dr. Dennis Heitzmann, Senior Director of the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services and Affiliate Professor, Clinical and Counseling Psychology will provide a brief overview of issues of relevance to faculty, underscoring the faculty's role in helping students in distress. Dr. Heitzmann will also give a demonstration of a Web site <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/caps/wsb> designed specifically for faculty, *Worrisome Student Behaviors: Minimizing Risk*.

The Senate will discuss proposed revisions to the Senate Constitution (voting units) and Bylaws (Senate Council). Because these are revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws, the Senate will not vote on this report until the January 27, 2009 meeting.

The Senate will vote on a revision to the Standing Rules modifying the membership of the Senate Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities.

The Senate will receive a presentation from Alicia Knoedler, co-chair of the Commission for Women Assessment Committee, on the recently released Commission report on the Status of Women at Penn State. This report will be distributed at the Senate meeting.

The Senate secretary will report on the Senate officers' visits to eight campuses in fall 2008.

Annual reports will be presented on Faculty Senate scholarships awarded to undergraduates and a summary of 2007-2008 petitions by college, campus, and unit.

Faculty, staff, and administrators in colleges, campuses, and the Division of Undergraduate Studies are developing FYE Plans for their units. FYE plans are due to the committee no later than February 1, 2009. Later this spring all unit FYE plans will be posted to the Resources for First-Year Engagement Plans Web site at <http://senate.psu.edu/FYE/fye.htm>.

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 9 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 November 18, 2008, Senate Curriculum Report is available at http://www.senate.psu.edu/curriculum_resources/bluesheet/bluex.html.

May you experience the holidays with joy, hope and love.

Ingrid Blood
Chair, University Faculty Senate
l2b@psu.edu