

# "FACULTY MATTERS"

The Seton Hall University Faculty Senate Newsletter  
January-February 2011

*Welcome to the Newsletter of the Seton Hall Faculty Senate!*

Below are some highlights of the work of the Faculty Senate during the first half of the spring semester. Meeting minutes, detailed committee reports, and agendas of upcoming meetings are available on the Senate web site at <http://academic.shu.edu/senate/>

## **Highlights of the most Recent Faculty Senate Meetings**

The first two Faculty Senate meetings of this semester took place on Friday, January 21st and Friday, February 11th.

On January 21, newly-appointed President Dr. Gabriel Esteban came to address the Senate regarding the permanent appointment of a Provost. At this meeting he asked the Senate to endorse his choice of Dr. Robinson as Provost, adding to the title of Chief Academic Officer that of Executive Vice President.

After discussion, the Senate voted to endorse the President's request to appoint Interim Provost Dr. Robinson as Executive Vice President and Provost until academic year 2013-14. It was agreed subsequently with the Provost that future searches for Associate Provosts would have significant faculty input, comparable to the procedure spelled out in the Faculty Guide for selection of Provost.

On February 11, Dr. Larry Robinson came to the Senate and accepted its congratulations on his appointment. He announced having made progress on the budget and announced that budget committee meetings, on which the faculty has a role, would soon begin. He also once again expressed support for changing the Faculty Guide this semester to institute a 3+3 teaching load. In response to a question from the floor, the Provost also reaffirmed his commitment to faculty governance of the Core Curriculum.

## **Resolutions Passed at the Senate Meetings**

The following actions were approved at this semester's Faculty Senate meetings:

- Unanimous approval of resolution congratulating President Esteban
- Unanimous approval of resolution congratulating Provost and Executive Vice President Robinson
- Resolution stating that Provost Robinson be appointed Executive VP and Provost for fixed term not exceeding AY 2013-2014 and that the search for his successor follow article 13 of the Faculty

Guide and begin no later than 9 months prior to his anticipated departure. (See section 12.a. at: [http://academic.shu.edu/senate/Meeting\\_Documents\\_and\\_Minutes\\_10-11/Jan\\_2011/Agenda\\_Jan\\_21\\_2011.htm](http://academic.shu.edu/senate/Meeting_Documents_and_Minutes_10-11/Jan_2011/Agenda_Jan_21_2011.htm) )

- Unanimous approval of the Academic Policy Committee's motion approving a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.
- Unanimous approval of the Faculty Development Committee's motion to change Faculty Guide Article 9.5 regarding the University Research Council Awards from “Awards are made in the early spring” to “Awards are to be announced no later than March 15th of each academic year.”

The Faculty Senate is also continuing the process of proposing a document for Procedures for Academic Integrity at SHU which will examine what Academic Integrity is, what constitutes a breach in Academic Integrity, what procedures should be followed, and who will be involved with these procedures if a faculty member is accused of breaching academic integrity.

### **Message from the Executive Committee**

The **Executive Committee** was closely involved between late December and early February in discussions regarding the Presidential appointment and the establishment of a continuity of academic leadership. It believes , and the Senate has confirmed, that the primacy of Academic Affairs at the University is reinforced by the appointment of the Chief Academic Officer as Executive Vice-President.

The EC is involved in conversations with the Provost’s office regarding numerous topics, including the Provost’s comprehensive review of graduate programs on campus and discussions on a revision of the current academic calendar.

The Senate continues to work on revising and updating its By-laws, the establishment of a policy for Academic Integrity, and the integration of Colleges and Schools, wherever possible, into the Faculty Guide. Other items of important business can be found below in the reports from the Senate sub-committees.

### **Highlights from the Committees**

The **Academic Policy Committee** has reviewed and approved the program proposal for a BS degree in Psychology. The committee is evaluating its forms and procedures to discuss possible updates or improvements to committee processes.

The **Admissions Committee** reported that due to the reinstatement of an application fee this year, there has been a decrease in applications; however, in comparison to the last year an application fee was charged (2007), there is an increase in overall applications.

In January, the **Calendar Committee** received a communication from the Provost’s Office that it

is their desire that “the fall semester shall routinely begin on the Monday before Labor Day, and the Spring semester on the Monday before the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday.” The committee continues to engage in discussion with the Provost’s Office on this matter and to defend existing Faculty Senate resolutions regarding the academic calendar.

The **Core Curriculum Committee** has been reviewing the plan for the core developed by the Provost’s Core Task Force and will make recommendations in the next few weeks. The SCCC has been engaged in revisions to Signature I, and the Proficiencies Subcommittee has been discussing ways to encourage faculty to add to the roster of infused courses.

The **Compensation and Welfare Committee** is continuing to work in subcommittees to discuss the compensation and benefits budget for 2011-12, to explore the TIAA/CREF benefits in relation to contributions for stipends, to look at the issue of base pay for summer courses and the reduction of summer pay based on student enrollment. The Committee is exploring issues related to a future Salary Study, including the question of which Universities to include among our group of peer institutions.

The **Faculty Development Committee** has been looking at ways to improve the process of awarding summer stipends through the University Research Council. Toward that end, the committee proposed an amendment to the Faculty Guide which the Senate passed stipulating that URC awards are to be announced no later than March 15 of each academic year. The committee has also been holding discussions on the creation of a mechanism to allow some development funds to roll over from year to year, and plans to put forth a proposal modifying sabbatical eligibility for faculty.

The **Faculty Guide and By-Laws Committee** has worked on adding language to the Faculty Guide regarding specific guidelines for departmental rank and tenure committees (section 5.4), and is continuing to explore the matter of a change in the approval time line for faculty contracts. A subcommittee will be meeting with representatives of the SHMS faculty to discuss their inclusion in the South Orange Faculty Guide, according to the Provost’s request. The committee continues its work on the possibility of different types of faculty lines and has just completed proposed revisions to the Senate Bylaws, which will be brought to the body at the March meeting.

The **Graduate Studies Committee** will be meeting regularly with the Dean of Research and Graduate Services, Dr. Burton. They also will be discussing the issues raised in the 2007 Graduate Task Force report and the report of external reviewers on graduate study.

The **Instructional Technology Committee** reported that SHU was recently listed as one of the "Top 15 Most Wired College Campuses" in the US by US News and World Report (see <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2011/02/09/15-most-wired-college-campuses>). They also reported that a new round of Faculty Innovation Grants (FIG's) is being developed with funding of up to \$5,000 per project. Additionally, they reported that the campus is upgrading its wireless infrastructure and Internet connection and is moving away from wired ports; however, faculty offices and classrooms will continue to have one wired port. They also pointed out that a rewritten and more detailed Appropriate Use Policy has recently gone in effect

(see <http://www.shu.edu/offices/policies-procedures/systems-appropriate-use-policy.cfm>). In its remaining meetings the committee will work with TLTR action teams to help evaluate the current Mobile Computing program as well as the usefulness of Blackboard. In addition, the committee is in discussions with the IT Leadership and the Provost's Office on how to follow up on recommendations of the Huron report for establishing an IT Steering Committee.

The **Library Committee** has discussed research into students' research habits and creating a one-credit information fluency course aimed at increasing research proficiency.

Faculty Senate meetings, normally held in the Beck Rooms of Walsh Library, are open to all. We invite you to attend and, if you'd like, to participate actively. The next Senate meeting is scheduled for March 18th at 1:30 pm.

If you have any questions or comments for the Faculty Senate, please feel free to contact us at [senate@shu.edu](mailto:senate@shu.edu)

Sincerely,

David Bénéteau, Chair  
Mary Balkun, Vice-Chair  
Amy Silvestri Hunter, Executive Secretary  
Assefaw Bariagaber, Judith Lothian, Members at Large