

"FACULTY MATTERS"

The Seton Hall University Faculty Senate Newsletter
March-April 2011

Welcome to the Newsletter of the Seton Hall Faculty Senate!

Below are some highlights of the work of the Faculty Senate during the second 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 final two Faculty Senate meetings of the 2010-2011 academic year took place on Friday, March 18th, and Friday, April 1st.

In these meetings, Provost Robinson stated that as of now there will be a 2% faculty raise effective in the fall. He also reported that at the request of the board, representatives from his office will be making a 3-year revenue projection.

Resolutions Passed at the Senate Meetings

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

- Ending of the moratorium on new graduate degree programs
- Approval of revision of Core Curriculum's Signature I syllabus
- Approval of Faculty Guide Bylaw 13 revision allowing electronic submission of petitions, notices, and agendas to the Senate
- Approval of Faculty Guide Bylaw 17 revision stating that all proposals to the Senate must be delivered to the Executive Secretary no less than 48 hours before the Senate meeting
- Approval of undergraduate and graduate certificate program in Data Visualization and Analysis
- Approval of guidelines for the allocation of faculty development funds by the deans at the college level and a request for the Provost to convey these guidelines to the deans on the South Orange Campus.

Highlights from the Committees

The **ad hoc Committee on Academic Freedom** completed their report on the subject of academic freedom at SHU. The report stated that there is a strong definition and understanding of the subject in the Faculty Guide. It also stated that while academic freedom is formally protected by the University and the Faculty Guide, anecdotally, there is a feeling that these freedoms are not always protected. Finally, the report explained that "leadership is needed from

many quarters" in order to promote academic freedom, and explained that this includes the Provost, Academic Deans and faculty through the Faculty Senate.

The **Academic Policy Committee** has discussed policies and issues regarding faculty privacy, confidentiality, and student evaluations. They plan to move forward with a comprehensive reworking of policies, procedures and forms.

Members of the **Calendar Committee** met with Interim Vice Provost Boozang to discuss semester start dates. Committee members were informed that the Provost's office is reluctant to reopen discussion on the matter of calendars that have already been established.

The **Core Curriculum Committee** presented revisions to the Signature I course that were passed by the Senate.

The **Compensation and Welfare Committee** reported that there will not be a change in the summer teaching stipend, which remains \$4,500. They also reported that they will soon begin the next salary study, with the first step to be a determination of criteria for choosing comparison schools. The committee hopes to have this criteria in place by June 5th.

The **Faculty Development Committee** has discussed and approved guidelines for the allocation of faculty development funds by the deans at the college level in the hopes of encouraging more consistent and equitable practices among colleges.

The **Faculty Guide and By-Laws Committee** has proposed a number of revisions to the Senate Bylaws as well as modifications to the Faculty Guide. These include clarification of committee charges and the rank and tenure process.

The **Graduate Studies Committee** chairs attended the Feb. 16th Graduate Council meeting and reported that there is an interest in growing graduate programs as well as a need for a review of the process for managing graduate education. Committee members also discussed these issues at a meeting with the Provost.

The **Instructional Technology Committee** is investigating possible implementation of devices such as the iPad as well as other emerging technologies. A survey will be administered to students regarding changes to the mobile computing project.

The **Program Review Committee** is currently completing the review of the Athletic Training program. Three other programs are currently at the Dean review stage. The committee expects to have all program reviews to the senate by June.

The 2011-2012 Senate began with a meeting on Friday May 6th. At that meeting, the new Executive Committee was elected as follows: David Bénéteau (A&S) was re-elected as Chair, Colleen Conway (A&S) was elected as Vice-Chair, Ki Joo (KC) Choi (A&S) was elected as Executive Secretary, and Judith Lothian (Nursing) and Ben Beitin (CEHS) were elected Members at Large.

The next meeting will take place on Friday, June 4th.

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

Sincerely,

2010-2011 Faculty Senate Executive Committee
David Bénéteau, Chair
Mary Balkun, Vice-Chair
Amy Silvestri Hunter, Executive Secretary
Assefaw Bariagaber, Judith Lothian, Members at Large