

"FACULTY MATTERS"

The Seton Hall University Faculty Senate Newsletter
November-December 2010

Welcome to the Newsletter of the Seton Hall Faculty Senate!

Best wishes from the Faculty Senate for a wonderful holiday season and a relaxing winter break!

Below are some highlights of the work of the Faculty Senate during the second half of the fall 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 this semester took place on Friday November 5th and Friday December 3rd. At these meetings Interim Provost Robinson spoke about next year's freshman enrollment numbers, current retention rates, evidence that the University's finances are strengthening, and a hope that there should be a resolution to the presidential search in the near future.

Resolutions Passed at the Senate Meetings

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

- The Business School's graduate concentration in Supply Chain Management
- The Faculty Guide Committee created a subcommittee investigating the potential for an SHU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP)
- The Senate approved a FGC proposal to revise probationary contracts for new faculty to include multi-year contracts
- The Executive Committee asked the Board of Regents that any change in the University governance structure should involve the faculty in the process.

The Faculty Senate has also begun the process of creating a proposal for Procedures for Academic Integrity in which a document will be created for SHU that looks at 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 has been involved in discussions with the Provost's office regarding a number of issues, including the inclusion of the School of Health and Medical Sciences in the South Orange Faculty Guide, issues related to graduate studies, junior faculty contracts, and changes to the Faculty Guide. We are hopeful that there will be a quick resolution to the presidential search process.

Highlights from the Committees

The **Compensation and Welfare Committee** is working in subcommittees to make progress on salaries, explore the TIAA/CREF benefits, look at summer salary and Chairs' compensation, and work with Human Resources on the Wellness Initiative.

The **Core Curriculum Committee** is developing a plan for organizational and staffing structures, has considered the possibility of a Dean of the University Core, and has approved who could be instructors for the core, including the continued use of administrators to teach in the core. The CCC has also sent out a survey to determine how many faculty would participate in the Core as part of normal load, and are working out a plan for Library Faculty to teach in the core within the current funding structure. They also are in the process of reviewing Signature Course I.

The **Faculty Development Committee** met with Dr. Greg Burton and learned how faculty development funds are spread throughout the University budget. They also discussed reviving the Provost's Publication Awards, how to improve the University Research Council programs, and the possibility for "roll-over" accounts for faculty development funds. The committee has also discussed the possibility of pre-tenure sabbaticals and building summer research support into the initial contracts of newly-hired faculty.

The **Faculty Guide Committee** has been looking at the idea of creating different types of faculty lines. Additionally, the FGC is prepared to work on integration of the SHMS faculty governance document into the Faculty Guide, according to the Senate and the Provost's stated wishes.

The **Graduate Studies Committee** has discussed holding a graduate "town hall meeting" to address issues regarding graduate academic policy, such as the possible centralization of some graduate academic policies and services.

The **Program Review Committee** now has a Blackboard site that will enable programs coming under review to view examples of previous program review reports. The committee has completed development of its electronic submission instrument and all materials will now be submitted and reviewed on-line.

The **ad hoc Committee on Academic Freedom** is preparing a written report on the status of academic freedom at SHU.

The **Academic Policy Committee** has reviewed the program proposal for a BS degree in Psychology.

The **Calendar Committee** has been in discussion with the Provost's office regarding the academic calendar. Despite the Senate's resolution indicating a willingness to start the fall semester prior to Labor Day only in years when the holiday is later in September, the Provost's office plans to regularly start classes the Monday before Labor Day.

All 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 January 21st 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