

"FACULTY MATTERS"

The Seton Hall University Faculty Senate Newsletter
September – October 2010

Welcome to the Newsletter of the Seton Hall Faculty Senate!

Below are some highlights of the work of the Faculty Senate during the first two months 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/>

Dr. King Mott, immediate past Chair of the Senate, has delivered his year-end report for the year 2009-10, it is attached to this newsletter and can also be read at the bottom of the page at [http://academic.shu.edu/senate/Meeting Documents and Minutes 09-10/meeting information 2009-2010.htm](http://academic.shu.edu/senate/Meeting_Documents_and_Minutes_09-10/meeting_information_2009-2010.htm)

Faculty Convocation took place on September 2nd, 2010. We urge all faculty to regularly attend this event, at which the President and Provost lay out their plans for the upcoming year, and the Senate, through its Chair, does the same. The address of the chair of the Senate, David P. Bénétéau, can be found online at the address http://academic.shu.edu/senate/Convocation_address_2010.doc

At this year's Faculty Convocation, Dr. Marian Glenn from Biological Sciences was awarded the Albert B. Hakim Faculty Service Medal. The new format of Faculty Convocation, with extended appetizers and informal seating, lent itself well to dialogue among colleagues and to greeting and welcoming new faculty members to our University.

Highlights of the Most Recent Faculty Senate Meetings

Two Faculty Senate meeting have been held this semester, they took place on Friday September 10th and Friday October 1st. At these meetings Interim Provost Robinson spoke about the current deficit, tenure voting in newly-merged departments, the possibility of salary increases, and the governance issue in the School of Health and Medical Sciences.

Resolutions Passed at the Senate Meetings

The following resolutions have been passed at this semester's Faculty Senate meetings:

A resolution of condolences was passed unanimously expressing the faculty's grief to the families of the students affected by the recent tragedy.

A resolution was also passed by the Senate commending the staff, faculty, and administration on their tireless effort that produced one of the best freshmen classes we have had.

A resolution was passed stating that in recently merged departments, the provost can ask the deans to suggest asking faculty to recuse themselves from voting if the faculty member does not feel able to evaluate the tenure applicant.

Message from the Executive Committee

The Senate continues to await word on the status of the Presidential search. We long for some form of continuity at our institution. The Search Committee, which includes faculty representation, has not been

disbanded to our knowledge, nor has it been called to meet. We hope to have news about this search during the month of October.

We still have no definitive word on a hoped-for salary increase on January 1st, 2011. We can report, however, that there will be no increases to our health care contribution or co-pays for 2011, nor any changes in coverage.

According to the Faculty Guide (article 12.2), the entire full-time faculty of the university has primary responsibility for recommending academic policy, and reviewing and approving all university academic and degree programs. The Senate, through its committees, is taking a look at the different policies and procedures it has in place for effectively conducting this crucial mission and has passed a moratorium on new graduate degree programs while this examination is taking place. A first step toward establishing some academic policy criteria was taken in October, when the Senate recommended a policy stating that primary faculty supervisors of doctoral dissertations should be tenured or tenure-track, and active in research, thereby excluding Faculty Associates from this responsibility.

With the support of the Provost's office, the Senate is looking to revise our out-dated Grievance procedure (Faculty Guide article 14).

Much of the work of the Senate is debated in committee before being brought to the entire Senate for debate and voting. As a reminder to our junior colleagues, you do not need to be a Senator to sit on Senate sub-committees, and in fact junior faculty and their input are needed on some committees, such as the Compensation and Welfare Committee (and its subcommittees on salaries, pension, summer school and faculty life). Please take a look at the different committees http://academic.shu.edu/senate/Senate_Committees_10-11.htm and contact the committee chair to see how you might volunteer for one of these and gain valuable and interesting service experience.

Highlights from the Committees

The **Compensation and Welfare Committee** is trying to make progress on salaries, despite the difficult economic climate. They have also taken a leadership role in a Wellness Initiative, sponsored by Human Resources, which aims to improve the health of our community members and our dependents. A Wellness Initiative taking place this month is the distribution of flu shots, which will be given on October 20, 1 pm – 7 pm in the University Center.

The **Core Curriculum Committee** is revising its structure to allow for more input from faculty in the each of the undergraduate colleges and schools. It expects to hear the results of the Provost's Task Force on the Core, which is examining staffing issues that occur as a result of teaching thousands of students each semester, as the Core is now fully operational for all undergraduate students.

The **Faculty Guide Committee** has many issues in front of it. It continues to look at the role of Faculty Associates and possible new types of teaching lines, as well as improving the poor contractual status of tenure-track faculty.

The **Graduate Studies Committee**, among other issues, is working with the Provost to define the scope of the new position of Dean of Research and Graduate Services.

This year, an **ad hoc Committee on Academic Freedom** has begun to look at the status of academic freedom on campus.

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 November 5th 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