

Spring 2010

Welcome to the Newsletter of the Seton Hall Faculty Senate

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

Highlights from the Executive Committee

Chair: David Bénéteau

- We are pleased to introduce the newly elected members of the Executive Committee for the 2010-11 academic year:
 - Chair: David Bénéteau (A&S)
 - Vice Chair: Mary Balkun (A&S)
 - Executive Secretary: Amy Silvestri Hunter (A&S)
 - Members-at-large: Assefaw Bariagaber (Diplomacy), Judith Lothian (Nursing)
 - Immediate Past Chair: King Mott (A&S)
- The Senate passed three resolutions this academic year related to the presidential search. In October, the Senate passed a resolution urging the Board of Regents to fulfill its fiduciary duty to the University by amending its bylaws to allow the selection of the best possible president of the University without regard to his or her clerical status. In May, the Senate resolved that the presidential search was incomplete and urged the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents to open a new search for the most qualified president of Seton Hall University. In June, the Senate passed a resolution to continue the presidential search removing the clerical restriction, and appointing someone as interim president until the position is filled. The Senate further resolved that any candidate for president of SHU must have significant academic leadership experience and be able to guide the university through this difficult period. There were two faculty representatives on this year's search committee, and we expect a similar degree of representation in next year's search. The Senate will continue to keep abreast of developments regarding the presidential search as the process continues.
- The Senate passed a resolution stating that the School of Health and Medical Sciences is already, and should be included fully, in the Faculty Guide and that there can be only one Guide covering South Orange faculty. The Executive Committee is continuing its work with the Provost's office on this issue and expects that the issue will be resolved during the coming academic year.
- The Faculty Senate moved to reactivate the Special Committee on Academic Freedom. The following committee members were elected by the Senate: Chris Ciccarino (Theology), Colleen Conway (A&S), Ellen Mandel (SHMS), Jeff Togman (A&S), Teddy Sirota (Nursing), Phil Moremen (Alternate - Diplomacy), and Marta Deyrup (Alternate – Library).

Academic Facilities Committee

Chair: Cathy Zizik

- The Senate approved the motion for a member of the Academic Facilities Committee and a faculty member from each affected academic area to be included in the future planning, renovations and/or building of any academic facilities on campus.

Committee on Admissions

Chair: Brenda Petersen

- The Senate recommended that Seton Hall University migrate from the paper based admissions response system for undergraduate programs to an electronic admissions response system which shall allow our undergraduate student applicants the opportunity to review the progress of their application electronically.



Calendar Committee

Chair: Thomas Rzeznik

- The Calendar Committee continues to work with the Office of the Provost on developing a consistent calendar from year to year.



Compensation and Welfare Committee

Chair: Roseanne Mirabella

- Due to the current budgetary constraints, the Senate passed a resolution directing the Compensation and Welfare Committee to conduct an inquiry into the causes of the current budget cuts and to report its findings back to the Senate. The Committee is currently working on this task and has consulted with the Provost on strategies for how to collect information and data.



Core Curriculum Committee

Chair: Mary Balkun

- The Committee is planning for the proficiencies assessment pilot for the fall (using the plan proposed by the Committee in March with some select departments). In addition, the assessment work done this year—with the proficiencies team leaders developing universal rubrics for their proficiency in conjunction with volunteers who had been through an infusion workshop—was completed. They have a standard rubric which they feel can be universally applied and used to map out a rubric for courses throughout the University.



Faculty Development Committee

Chair: Nathaniel Knight

- The committee has continued to discuss the desire for faculty to be responsible for their own research budgets; to have the ability to roll this over from one year to the next; and to have a dependable source of funding for research from year to year. Committee members continue to work with representatives from the provost's office to implement such changes.
- The Committee hopes that there will be new ways of securing support for research, possibly through particular teaching assignments (such as Core) or other activities. The provost's office has expressed support for this proposal and is investigating means of implementation.



Faculty Guide and Bylaws Committee

Chair: Mary Balkun; Vice Chair: Colleen Conway

- The Committee is continuing to work on the possible creation of Lecturer and Clinical appointments with more job security than current term contracts allow as a possible resolution to the Faculty Associate issue. The Faculty Guide Committee's primary agenda item for the next academic year will be to resolve these various contract matters currently under discussion.
- The Senate endorsed the Committee to continue to work with the Provost on the length of tenure track faculty contracts, specifically, to transition to 2+1+3 year contracts.
- The Senate passed a resolution to amend the Nondiscrimination clause, Faculty Guide Article 2. It is a slightly modified version of the one provided in the Employee Handbook, changed to comply with both the federal and state law and can be found [here](#). This revision awaits approval by the provost.



Graduate Studies Committee

Co-Chairs: Kelly Goedert and Pam Foley

- The Graduate Studies Committee has been working on developing standards for supervision of graduate research and teaching graduate courses. The Committee suggests that primary supervisors of graduate student theses or dissertations should be tenured or tenure-track faculty and be research active. Supervision of graduate student research should be compensated by course load reduction and/or stipend, as appropriate.

- Regarding teaching, the Committee suggests that individuals teaching graduate courses should have either of the following qualifications: (a) a degree equal or to higher in level to the program in which they are teaching, or (b) demonstrated professional expertise, including licensure if appropriate, in the content area. The Senate hopes to propose policies to the provost governing these areas during the next academic year.
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Instructional Technology Committee

Chair: Bert Wachsmuth

- The Committee would like to remind all faculty that the printing limit for students will decrease to 400 pages per semester beginning in Fall 2010. Please keep this in mind when requiring submission of particularly large documents.
 - The Committee would also like to remind faculty that when experiencing computer problems there is an error-reporting web form available at <http://www.shu.edu/go/quickreport>. Reporting computer problems will assist TLTR in fixing global computer issues across campus.
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Program Review Committee

Chair: Mary Balkun

- Two programs were approved by the Senate. These programs include the undergraduate program in Music and graduate program in Molecular Biosciences (MOBS).
 - The Committee is working with the Provost on strategies for expediting the program review process.
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Other Activities of the Senate

- The Senate passed a resolution that strongly encourages the administration to use revenues in excess of budget to restore faculty (including adjuncts) to the various schools and colleges to remedy these problems.
- The Senate passed a resolution to thank and congratulate Dr. King Mott for bringing to a close a third term as Chair of the Faculty Senate. The Senate recognizes his tremendous work and support of faculty governance, during an extraordinarily difficult time, accomplished with great effectiveness and grace

As a reminder, Senate meetings are open to all interested faculty. The first meeting of the fall 2010 semester will be on Friday, September 10 at 1:30pm in the Beck rooms. Our meeting schedule can be found [here](#).