

## **Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report – April 22, 2022**

Good afternoon, colleagues.

We thank Provost Passerini for attending and addressing our questions.

**March 22:** The members of the Executive Committee met with the provost and her staff, followed by a meeting with the deans. We reviewed the body's actions at the March 18 meeting. We were informed that the onboarding process for full-time faculty would be going fully online, and that adjunct instructors may be included at the same time. We relayed the body's concerns about the pay schedule for adjunct instructors.

**March 23:** I attended the meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents. I updated them on Senate activities—the ongoing revisions to the Faculty Guide, approval of several new programs, and the faculty response to IPAD as documented in the special Senate meeting in January.

**April 1:** 28 Faculty Senators attended a workshop on shared governance. The facilitators were Ann Franke and Dr. Steven Portch. The response to date has been positive.

**April 5:** Sona Patel, Mary Ellen Roberts, and I met with Amy Newcombe and Erik Lillquist. We asked about the status of our recommendations regarding the faculty space in the Galleon Room and were told that a meeting was being arranged with John Signorello, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Business Affairs. We suggested that monthly meetings of the provost with small groups of faculty would be one way to continue to build on shared governance and keep the channels of communication open. We will continue to advance this idea.

We learned that the proposal for faculty representation on the Compensation Study Committee was to ask for four nominees, of which two would be selected, and then two faculty representatives on the University Budget Committee would be selected.

N.B.: In response to this, the Executive Committee has proposed—both in the April 13 meeting with Drs. Nyre and Passerini and in writing to the provost—that the committee include a representative from each school and college. In keeping with the Faculty Guide, we forwarded the names of two faculty members from each school, prioritizing Senators and members of the Compensation and Welfare Committee. We also submitted the names of four faculty members, if the provost should opt to reject our proposal, as well as recommendations for the two Budget Committee representatives.

In addition, we have proposed that the Program Review Committee take on the responsibilities of the IPAD Committee, working with the necessary administrators to assist with that work.

**April 11:** I attended the meeting of the Deans' Council and presented updates on Senate activities, including the shared governance workshop, the Faculty Development Committee

survey, and the work of the Benefits Advisory Committee (which has four faculty representatives) to provide feedback on presentations by prospective health care brokers.

**April 13:** The members of the Executive Committee met with Dr. Nyre and Dr. Passerini. We discussed the following:

The new CFO, Donna McGonagle, has begun her tenure at the university. We are anticipating a meeting with the Senate that includes a workshop on the university budget.

The bond rating review with Moody's during the week of April 18; this is an annual event.

We asked about a comparable salary study for administrators; there is no current plan to do one. The last such study was done in 2016.

We were told that the Compensation Study Committee will select the vendor for the study and create the school list; the data that is generated by the study will be shared with the whole university in small forums.

The enrollment numbers, which are down from the last few years. While applications are solid, yield is down. One source of the impact is the new Rutgers University strategy to offer free or reduced tuition to anyone whose family earns less than \$100K per year and to increase scholarship funding. [Updated 4/22/22] The provost explained that they are monitoring undergrad numbers carefully. Graduate enrollment looks good so far. There are plans for another retreat for heads of graduate programs, possibly on May 9<sup>th</sup>, given the success of the last one.

There will be a retreat for key leaders in the College of Communication and the Arts and the College of Education and Human Services on May 5, led by an external facilitator, to help them plan for coming together as a new unit

We asked about instructional costs and why they appeared to go down from 2020 to 2021. We were told that this category of the budget follows federal guidelines for what should be included. Instructional costs are calculated as a percentage of the budget; budget cuts in 2021, as well as unfilled faculty lines due to the hiring freeze, contributed to the lower number.

**April 13:** Sona Patel, Phil Moremen, Judy Lothian, and I attended the University Budget Committee meeting.

For FY 2022, we are approximately \$10M ahead on tuition due to the larger incoming class, even with our slightly lower retention rate.

\$2M had been set aside for strategic initiatives and \$8.5M had been set aside in the contingency budget. We will not be receiving any HERF money next year, and that has helped with our bottom line for the last two years.

Inflation will have an impact on costs in various areas.

Some adjustments will be made in the RCM model based on data from the last few years.

**April 18:** On behalf of the faculty representatives on the Benefits Advisory Committee, I sent an email request to Mike Silvestro, Associate Vice President of Human Resources, for data related to our benefits increase.

**April 19:** Sona Patel, Mary Ellen Roberts, and I met with Amy Newcombe. In addition to sharing forthcoming Senate items, we learned the following:

The university's Copyright Policy needs some minor revisions in order to be in compliance with federal policy.

The recommendations from the Merit Task Force should be coming to the provost next week.

Provost responses that are forthcoming: the joint hiring proposal; Article 6 and 7 of the Faculty Guide; and the proposal about the Core Teaching Fellows.

Liverpool University Hope has indicated that they are interested in partnerships with Seton Hall University.

On April 28 there will be a Middle States open forum with Dr. Paul Starkey, 1:30 - 2:30, in Teams. Senators are encouraged to attend.

The Strategic Plan Implementation Committee symposium will be on May 11; the goal is to assess the current status of the strategic plan and determine whether changes should be made. All members of the university community will be invited to attend.

Outstanding Resolutions:

- Faculty Guide articles 6, 7, 10, and 11
- Resolution on Timely Payments to Temporary Faculty and Adjuncts
- Timely Process for Onboarding
- Writing Major

There are nine actionable items on today's agenda, plus two items of Old Business:

- a. Office of Sustainability Motion
- b. APC Cybersecurity Minor
- c. Online Executive M.S. in International Affairs and Diplomatic Practice
- d. Student Evaluation of Teaching Best Practices
- e. MSN Nursing Administration and Nurse Executive Leadership
- f. Article 3.3b.4 First Reading
- g. Faculty Guide Interpretation

- h. Prerequisite for Core III Courses
- i. IPAD Proposal

Old Business:

- a. Article 12 Second Reading
- b. Bylaws Section XXI First Reading
- c. Tenure Extension Motion

We remind you that elections for the Senate Executive Committee will take place at the May Senate meeting; please encourage your school/college Nominations and Elections Committee to hold elections prior to that date.

Thank you, as always, for your service to the Faculty Senate and the important role you play in shared governance at the university.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Balkun, Chairperson