**Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report – May 20, 2022**

Good afternoon, colleagues.

We thank Provost Passerini for attending and addressing our questions.

I’d like to start this report by acknowledging responses we’ve received to various requests the Senate has made in the last few weeks.

Compensation Study Committee:

In response to our request for representation from each school/college on the Compensation Study Committee, the provost agreed to add two additional faculty members, for a total of six, and to include a dean or associate dean to represent the remaining schools.

We then asked a subsequent question about the lack of a representative from the Library. The provost responded that they have followed the principles in the Faculty Guide, which do not require a representative from each school or college. The current representation includes all three campuses and various disciplines, including a variety of faculty and administrators. The fact that there is not a librarian on this particular committee does not suggest that less attention will be paid to fairness in the calculation of library salaries at the various ranks.

In identifying representatives to this committee, the Executive Committee adhered to the process the Senate has followed for many years of identifying nominees from a pool of Senators and those who have expressed an interest in serving on administrative committees (a list we gathered at the start of the academic year). Because of the added importance of this committee, we emphasized the following two considerations in those we nominated: that they be current Senators (terms ending in 2023, since we did not yet have election results for most schools) and/or that they be on the Compensation and Welfare Committee. We sent forward 18 names (we did not include the Law School; the provost included a Law School representative). The provost will select 6 faculty members from that list; the other three schools will be represented by deans/associate deans. The list is still being finalized, although some committee members have been contacted.

Benefits

In response to a request for additional information related to our health benefits increase this year, as well as a request for more frequent meetings with the university’s broker, Mercer (they were retained as the broker following an open call for applications), Michael Silvestro, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, committed to more regular meetings with the representatives from Mercer, starting in June. This meeting will be an opportunity to discuss our questions, including “a review of the process for negotiating premium rates with the carriers.”

He also sent a list of “enhancements” to the health plan from recent years to the BAC representatives, which were based on requests from faculty and staff.

**April 22, 2022:** I forwarded to Nathaniel Knight and Judy Lothian, co-chairs of the Faculty Guide and By-laws Committee, proposed language from the provost for the Faculty Guide related to external letters in the tenure and promotion process.

**April 26, 2022:** The members of the Executive Committee met with the provost and her staff, followed by a meeting with the deans. In addition to updating the about Senate actions at the April meeting, we asked for a clarification of the proposed changes to tuition for graduate students enrolled in SHMS dual degree programs. According to the provost, this change will make the graduate tuition more equitable, since students in comparable programs—such as 3-3 programs with the Law School—must pay the graduate rate for their “fourth” year (their first year in the Law School). The same is true for other programs. In addition, students admitted from outside Seton Hall are also expected to pay full graduate tuition for the entirety of their program. One possible solution would be to consider need-based scholarships to assist students. This change could also be a way to reduce the cost for everyone, since the tuition burden would be shared more equitably.

**May 13, 2022:** The members of the Executive Committee met with Drs. Nyre and Passerini. We learned that our retention rates look very good so far, but there was also a quite liberal appeals process for students with academic problems, and students received a lot of additional support, especially first- and second-year students.

The entering class is now just over 1600, although there is always “melt” over the summer.

The discount rate is still at around 53%, although some additional financial aid was offered. Dr. Nyre attributed the size of the entering class to a big push from Admissions, as well as from faculty and others across campus.

There will be some budget challenges next year, including continued lower graduate enrollments, lagging occupancy rates for on-campus housing, the fact that we are still feeling the effects of the small entering class of two years ago, rising inflation, and rising energy costs. They are currently modeling various budgets. Raises are being included in the 2023 budget, and the decision will again be made once the numbers have been finalized, likely again retroactive to July 1, 2022.

The new CFO, Donna McMonagle, met with Moody’s about our bond rating; this happens every two years. She is also planning a Board of Regents orientation on finance and a meeting with the Faculty Senate on the budget.

The charge for the compensation study will be coming from the Board of Regents. The study will also look at course loads, stipends, and other variables in faculty compensation. Dr. Nyre emphasized that the Senate will be able to meet with our representatives on the committee to provide recommendations, guidance, and feedback.

We asked about the appointment of Msgr. Reilly and, specifically, his responsibilities relative to academics. According to Provost Passerini, Msgr. Reilly will be working on academic matters directly related to the university’s Mission, not general academics:

* The university Core
* Existing centers related to the Catholic identity (i.e. the Center for Catholic Studies)
* Existing and new international connections with Catholic universities, especially in the area of service learning opportunities

Since the Cardinal directs where priests are assigned, he co-signed the announcement with Dr. Nyre. Msgr. Reilly is filling the line formerly held by Msgr. Coleman. He will report to the provost.

Finally, we were briefed on a current title IX issue and the policies around it. We were not permitted to learn any details of the situation, due to federal guidelines. However, we were told that they have been working closely with the SGA leadership and a meeting with SGA is planned to review existing policies and procedures.

**May 18, 2022:** Sona Patel, Mary Ellen Roberts, and I met with Amy Newcombe and Erik Lillquist. We were told that the Assessment Committee is being reformed and the Senate will be asked to identify several faculty to serve.

We asked Drs. Newcombe and Lillquist to ask the provost to reconsider one of the guidelines for those who wish to apply for merit, but whose department/school has opted out of the process. The guideline asks applicants to provide a Faculty Success (Digital Measures) report for the period since the last promotion or merit award. Since the last promotion may have been many years ago, this seems like an unnecessary burden. They agreed to speak to the provost about this.

We asked about progress to date on the organizational structure for the new unit comprised of COAR and CEHS. According to Drs. Newcombe and Lillquist, there was a recent end-of-semester meeting, and the work is on track. The hope is that the unit’s new name will be announced soon. The structure will follow those laid out in the Faculty Guide for an academic unit.

Under “Communications” you will find two documents. Our current Copyright Policy required some updates. The first document shows the edits that are being recommended—these are all updates required by law—and the second is a “clean” version. The changes are under consideration by the Executive Cabinet. The changes are also primarily in regard to students. We will be notified when the amended version has been approved. If you have any questions, please send them to Mary Ellen Roberts.

Today we have our annual election for the Senate Executive Committee. The election will be coordinated by the Nominations and Elections Committee. Sheridan Sayles will be coordinating the ballots using Qualtrics. The link for each ballot (4 in all) will be emailed to those Senators who are eligible to vote (alternates may vote only if they are sitting in for a Senator).

Outstanding Resolutions:

* Faculty Guide articles 6, 7, 10, 11, and 12
* Tenure Extension
* Office of Sustainability

There are 11 actionable items on today’s agenda, including two items of Old Business from the April meeting:

Old Business:

FG Interpretation

IPAD

Committee Motions:

a. Article 3.3b.4 Second Reading

b. Muslim-Christian Relations Minor  
c. Nursing Adinistration

d. Cost of Living Motion  
e. Compensation Study Committee Motion  
f. Rome Connection Motion  
g. CORE III Approval Motion  
h. Study Abroad Motion

14. New Business  
a. OMBUDS Motion  
-OMBUDS Fact Sheet

15. Communications  
-Copyright Policy - Edited Version  
-Copyright Policy - Final version

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