

May 2, 2014

Welcome Colleagues,

We welcome, as always, the Chief Academic Officer, Provost Larry Robinson.

The Executive Committee met with Provost Robinson and Senior Associate Provost Guetti on April 7, 2014 and with Senior Associate Provost Guetti on April 28, 2014. We met with Provost Robinson on April 22 at a meeting to discuss the commencement speaker. We also had a lunch meeting with President Esteban and Provost Robinson on May 2.

- At the post-Senate meeting on April 7, 2014 we discussed the need for faculty involvement in developing criteria for Distinguished Professors and faculty involvement in review of applications for both Centers of Excellence and Distinguished Professors. The Provost agreed. We discussed the need for efficiency in the development and approval of programs and we made it clear that processes are very often stalled at the college and provost level.
- We met with Provost Robinson regarding faculty concern with the commencement speaker. Dr. Robinson discussed vetting of speakers, and faculty opportunity to make recommendations for speakers. He described the context in which the decisions are made and academic freedom. Dr. Robinson expressed his willingness to speak with faculty members who have concerns. He also suggested that in the future we might consider not having a commencement speaker. We also discussed the need for a Senate/Provost task force to explore these issues and make recommendations for the future.
- Middle States. The EC and committee chairs met with the Middle States team on April 7. We discussed faculty governance and the team asked questions about several articles in the Faculty Guide, for instance, whether department chairs are appointed or elected. We discussed the relationship between administration and the Senate and highlighted the importance of the work on the IP policy. The EC was invited to the opening reception for the Middle States team on April 6. Marianne Lloyd and I attended. We also were invited to the reading of the final report on April 9.
- Lecturer Line. Dr. Guetti, Mary Balkun and I have met several times to clarify language. The latest edited version was sent to the FG committee on April 28, however, Dr. Guetti forwarded additional suggestions on April 29. We were hoping to bring the revised proposal to the Senate today but,

hopefully, a revised Lecturer Line proposal will be brought to the Senate in June.

- Academic Integrity. A revision of the Senate-approved Academic Integrity policy that incorporates recommendations from Associate Provost Burton has been sent to him. We have not met with Dr. Burton to date.
- Intellectual Property policy. Plans are moving forward to have outside consultation from an expert in academic intellectual property. Faculty will be involved.
- The Sibson team was sent the data they requested this week. The report was expected in June but the delay in getting data to them will likely cause a delay.
- Liberal Arts task force. The EC made recommendations to the Provost before the last Senate meeting but no announcement has been made. Dr. Guetti suggested this week that the task force would not begin its work in earnest until September.
- The Academic Policy committee is bringing several motions to the Senate today: approval for a Minor in Middle Eastern Studies; approval of proposed merged and new major and minors in Communications and the Arts; endorsement of the TLTR Online Learning Committee recommendations regarding online and hybrid courses.
- The Program Review committee is bringing one motion to the Senate, approval of the police studies program review from last year and the results of their review of the report from last year.
- The EC is bringing one motion to the Senate today related to creating a Senate/Provost task force to examine issues related to commencement speakers and the awarding of honorary degrees and a Senator is bringing a motion related to concern with the choice of the commencement speaker.

This is the first official meeting of the 2014-2015 Senate. The Senate will elect the 2014-2015 Executive committee after the EC report. The current EC will run the May meeting.

On behalf of the 2013-2014 Executive Committee I want to thank the 2013-2014 Senate for their untiring and dedicated service to the Senate, to our faculty colleagues, and to the University. And, I want to welcome the newly elected members of the 2014-2015 Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lothian, Chair