

June 6, 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 May 5, 2014 and with Senior Associate Provost Guetti on May 27, 2014.

- At the post-Senate meeting on May 5, 2014, Provost Robinson discussed program inventory. We asked for information about Communication becoming a school within the College of Arts and Sciences. Provost Robinson noted that his understanding has been that this was a long-term goal. We noted that this has not been formally approved by the College of Arts and Sciences. The Provost's Office will follow up on this. We also discussed recommendations related to summer session that were noted at the May Sente meeting.
- Update on motions sent to the Provost: the changes to the Art and Design major, the minor in Middle Eastern studies, the police studies program (with additional clarifications) and the endorsement of the TLTR online learning committee recommendations were accepted. The Provost did not accept "at this juncture" the resolution related to creating a task force to review commencement speakers. He did note the "The invitation of an external commencement speaker is one of the aspects of the commencement ceremony which is under review."
- Lecturer line. Mary Balkun and I met with Senior Associate Guetti on May 27 to review the revised Lecturer line proposal. We reached agreement on revisions to the proposal. There is only one substantive change: contracts will be for 1 year, 1 year, or up to 3 years based on the needs of the department. The other revisions are clarifications. The EC is bringing a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Senate today. This will require suspending the by-laws that require 2 readings of Faculty Guide changes. Because of the urgency of approving the Lecturer line, and the fact that the revisions, with one exception, are clarifications of the previously-approved Lecturer line, the EC believes that this is reasonable.
- Academic Integrity. M. Deyrup, P. Moremen and I met with Associate Provost Burton on May 21 to review the revisions to the Academic Integrity policy. We are in agreement on all but one point. Our goal is to bring the revised policy to the Senate at the September meeting.

- Intellectual Property policy. Provost Robinson noted both at the Senate meeting and the post-Senate meeting his intention to bring in an expert in academic intellectual property to assist in reviewing and revising the Senate-approved policy. In the meantime, Senior Associate Provost Guetti has invited Rick Shearer, Director of World Campus Learning Design at Penn State, to provide the PSU perspective for online development including IP issues related to online. He has been invited to meet with Paul Fisher and the IP Task Force on July 2. Rick Shearer is not an intellectual property expert or lawyer. M. Deyrup and I have asked David Opderbeck and Jack Shannon to review and evaluate the Penn State IP policy and compare it to the Senate policy. The IP task force is asking that the Provost provide specific feedback on our proposal and a timeline for approving an inclusive Intellectual Property policy that includes IP issues related to online learning. This is a priority.
- The Sibson team has provided a list of peer schools to the Provost. Dr. Guetti has responded to Sibson with questions related to the methodology and the results. We have asked that the Library and Diplomacy be looked at separately. The compensation committee provided Dr. Guetti with the list of peer and aspiration schools that the committee developed. A phone meeting is being planned with the Sibson team for June 10. C. Carr, M. Balkun and I will represent the Senate on that call.
- Honor Code. The task force, including P. Mormen and I representing the Senate, met on May 9. The goal is to have online tutorials for incoming students by Fall 2014. The task force will be searching for examples of modified honor codes from other universities over the summer. In the Fall, both faculty and students will be surveyed about their interest in and knowledge of honor codes.
- Probationary contracts. We continue to have discussions with Provost Robinson and Senior Associate Provost Guetti about “expectation of continued employment” for probationary faculty contracts. The EC has worked with Dr. Guetti to develop language that clearly conveys an expectation of continued employment. The suggested changes to the Faculty Guide will be sent to the Faculty Guide & Bylaws Committee before the Fall semester and then to the Senate. Our goal has been multi-year contracts but this may be a reasonable alternative in light of our inability to get approval for multi-year contracts.
- On-line task force. At the May 27 meeting, we asked Dr. Guetti if an online task force had been appointed by the Provost’s office. Although the Deans (or

their representatives) met with Dr. Guetti last semester to discuss individual school plans for online courses, there is no formal online task force.

- Data Security course. M. Balkun and I met with D. Garbini on May 23 to discuss offering faculty a data security course. He is recommending that all faculty complete the course. We believe this will be valuable for faculty to have access to.
- Compensation. The committee has raised the issue of faculty pay schedules and the EC has requested that the committee explore this issue and report back to the Senate in the Fall semester. The committee is also bringing a resolution asking that the senate representatives to the Benefits Advisory committee discuss the coverage of medically-indicated bariatric surgery with the Benefits Advisory Committee.
- The proposed Hakim award guidelines will be reviewed under Old Business.
- The EC is bringing three motions to the Senate: A motion to suspend the Faculty Senate by-laws for a first and second reading of changes to the Faculty Guide in order to allow a vote on the revised version of the Lecturer Line, a motion to approve a revised Lecturer Line proposal, and a motion to allow an additional year on the term contracts for faculty members completing their fifth or sixth years in the position. These motions will require a 2/3 vote to suspend the by-laws if the motions are voted on at this meeting. The Compensation committee is bringing one resolution that recommends that the senate representatives to the Benefits Advisory committee discuss coverage of medically-indicated bariatric surgery.

Dates for both pre-Senate and Senate meetings for next year are posted. It is important that committee chairs, or an official representative from the committee if the chair cannot attend, be present at pre-Senate meeting if the committee is bringing a motion to the the Senate. This meeting provides the opportunity for discussion of the motion prior to putting it on the agenda.

Our next meeting is September 5.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lothian, Chair