

President's Report to the Faculty Senate – March 5, 2014

1. Letter of thanks sent on behalf of Faculty Senate to:

Pres. Mary Papazian for holding the February 24 University Dialogue.

2. Minor correction to Graduate Council By-Laws accepted at February 19, 2014, FS meeting

A long-standing section of the GC By-Laws (III.B.), regarding vacancies in offices, was accidentally omitted from the version provided to and approved by the FS. That section reads: "A vacancy in any office shall be filled by a special election at the next meeting of the Graduate Council." If there is no objection in the Senate, we shall restore that section and transmit a new copy to the President.

3. Establishment of Honorary Degrees Committee with Faculty Representation

For the first time, the faculty was included formally in the selection of awardee(s) for honorary degrees. This was done with little time, so the Provost reached out to two CSU Professors (Drs. James Mazur and Vivian Shipley) and the Faculty Senate President. Now that the practice is established, there will be time for us to select our representative(s) to the process next year.

4. Meeting with President's Leadership Council, February 25, 2014

- Transform CSCU 2020 foci: Access, Affordability, Accountability
- CSCU is developing a system-wide academic master plan
- "Go Back To Get Ahead": Charter Oak is processing center; courses will be taken at 17 campuses
- Student Success Task Force premise: "Business of University is graduating students."
- Student Success Task Force has 6 major themes:
 - Advance culture of student-centeredness
 - Create a Student Success Center
 - Transform academic advisement
 - Modify academic programs, policies & instruction*
 - Refresh University branding and Marketing
 - Improve financing and affordability

Graduation Rates for 4-yr Public Universities		
	4-year	6-year
SCSU	17%	49%
CT 4-yr Public	41%	62%
Nation 4-yr Public	31%	56%

*Including: Reverse "curricular creep"; revisit LEP; review size and shape of major programs; "rev up" pedagogical innovation

5. Meeting of Budget and Planning Committee, February 25, 2014

With 2% tuition increase a \$4M shortfall is expected for AY 15; ways to balance are being examined.

6. Meeting of Enrollment Management Committee, February 26, 2014

- Faculty-Student Ratio: 1::18.63 (being called "silver lining" to decreasing enrollment)
- With lower F-S ratio, looking at why so many adjuncts are needed "when FT faculty should be able to handle most teaching"
- SCSU has been accepted to Common Application (for FA 15); will continue to have option of "direct application"; we will pay \$7.50 of \$50 application fee to Common App

7. Update on ad hoc Committee for Smoke-Free Campus Exploration.

- President Papazian has assigned this task to the Health and Safety Committee (Chief J. Dooley)
- Dr. David Levine and 3 senators (Drs. Flynn, Rebesch and Scheuermann) will serve on committee

8. Meeting with Library Faculty was held on Friday, February 28, 2014

With Senators Amal Abd El-Raouf, Jeffrey Dickens and Rebecca Hedreen. (Report attached)

9. Establishment of SHHS Feasibility & Building Program Committee

- A committee is being formed to explore the location and design of a building for the SHHS.
- The Dean is appointing 2 members from each Department; an additional member will be elected.

10. Meeting with Provost Marianne Kennedy, March 4, 2014. We discussed:

- Additional funding for travel this year
- Finding a way to ensure speedy resolution of grade appeals
- The Student Success Task Force report
- Formation and structure of the SHHS "building" committee
- Academic advisement and support for student success as components of faculty role

11. Academic Advisement

FS President's proposal: creation of "white paper" on faculty role in academic advisement

12. Meeting with Graduate Student Affairs Comm. on April 7 (3 PM) to hear from graduate students:

I am still looking for a few Senators to accompany me to listen to the graduate students.

13. Remaining dollars in CBA travel fund. Senate action needed.

Work currently assigned to Faculty Senate committees for AY 14

Committee	Assigned Responsibilities
Academic Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review grade appeal policy; make recommendations for revisions • Develop resolution on academic impact of class size, cancellations, related matters • Co-plan Senate forum on Assessing and Supporting Teaching with PPC
Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop procedure to identify all-U comm. chairs and track committees' activities • Engage the part-time faculty by filling the vacant Faculty Senate positions for adjuncts
Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate increased travel allowance for this year from remaining CBA fund • Advocate removal of fringe charge from Faculty Creative Activity Research Grants fund • Advocate increased allotment for FCARGs and creative activity-related travel • Explore specific faculty needs of Coaches, Counselors and Librarians • Sponsor year-end faculty retreat with AAUP, with focus on participation in governance
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor travel funds • Explore possible FCARG awards in addition to \$2,500 stipends • Prepare annual Senate recommendation for CBA Travel dollars
Personnel Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review FS evaluation documents (P&T, renewal, professional assessment, sabbatical) • Develop free-standing DEC document to correspond to all evaluation documents • Monitor faculty effort (time) for completing Graduate Program Prioritization reports • Co-plan Senate forum on Assessing and Supporting Teaching with APC
Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop proposal for streamlining all-University committees • Review Faculty Senate Bylaws • Review Faculty Senate Chairperson document
Student Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore campus safety issues • Evaluate pilot Student Opinion Survey form
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise campus community on IT issues
Ad hoc/Faculty Opinion of Admin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop recommendations for substance, structure and timing of next survey of faculty opinion regarding administrators and/or administrative offices

Status of AY 14 Faculty Senate Resolutions

Number	Date	Resolution on	For	Disposition	Comments (abbrev)
S-14-04	2-26-14	Approve Revised Graduate Council Bylaws	Approval		
F-13-03	11-20-13	UCF resolution on LEP course caps	Approval	Disapproved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution is unrec. and creates confusion: language re class caps is contained in CBA, which governs parties' understanding and conduct • Several "whereas" clauses not entirely correct and/or not universally accepted
F-13-02	10-25-13	Bring P&T Doc. in Line with CBA Regarding Role of Univ. President in DEC Hardship	Approval	Approved	
F-13-01	10-25-13	Change Language Regarding BOT	Approval	Approved	



FACULTY SENATE

Meeting with Library Faculty, February 28, 2014

Senators present: Amal Abd El-Raouf, Jeffrey Dickens, William Faraclas and Rebecca Hedreen

Report to the Senate

Summary of information learned from the visit

- The library is a large unit in staff, with a significant budget.
- In the mid-1990's, the Library Faculty (LF) consisted of 22 full-time positions, with a search underway for a 23rd member. Now, there are only 16 full-time members. Most UAs and some work study hours are gone.
- During the fiscal crisis entire adjunct LF was lost. No adjunct slots have been restored.
- The library is open 80 hours/week; full-time LF must work weekend hours.
- LF members are allowed to teach courses (3 credits/semester) with permission of Director. Compensatory time is given for classroom time, but it must be used in the same semester (unlike the overload reduction plan afforded the Teaching Faculty).
- LF members perform creative activities and participate in professional development and service, but are not included in the FAAR, even though they are faculty.
- LF has not been included fully in participation on University committees. Examples:
 - Student Success Task Force (on workgroups, but not on decision-making Task Force)
 - Writing Across the Curriculum Committee (invited to attend, but not as members)
 - LEP Affinity Groups and Strategic Planning Steering Committee (not included)
 - No longer included as contributors to Graduate Research Fellows program.

Thoughts from the Library Faculty

- LF is not included in some decisions, for which its input would be valuable. Example:
 - When \$3M was awarded for damaged materials, LF was not consulted on its use.
- It is onerous to work without the lost full- and part-time LF positions.
- LF wants to use its expertise to support and fulfill its partnership with Teaching Faculty colleagues:
 - To be more involved in teaching regular (3-credit) courses.
 - To be invited to provide instruction in others' courses.
 - To promote effective library use by training full- and part-time faculty colleagues and students.
 - To help Teaching Faculty members with their research (e.g., grant with NUR Department)
 - To expand "Librarians-on-the-Go" on-site assistance (as is being done with Nursing and SoB)
- LF would like the rest of the faculty and University to know what it does, so what it does can be understood, appreciated and supported.
- The addition of library/information-related links to academic department websites can be very helpful; the LF would like to assist departments in creating them.
- Since five years ago, LF is required to fill out a time sheet, not required of Teaching Faculty.

Conclusions

The LF is part of a rapidly evolving profession, where new responsibilities are added on, while traditional services must be maintained—all while absorbing staff cuts. The LF is an important part of the Faculty: The Faculty Senate must strive to understand LF needs and work to support the LF as our colleagues.

- As libraries have been transformed, there is a new role for librarians, which may not be fully understood by the rest of the campus (including fellow Teaching Faculty members).
- With a reduced LF staff, the workload for the LF has increased.
- The LF is "faculty" and is eager to be recognized as such by the Teaching Faculty.
- There are great opportunities to engage the LF in, and in support of, classroom instruction.
- There are great opportunities to collaborate with LF in research activities.
- The FS has a responsibility to ensure the LF is understood to be and treated as faculty.