



President's Report to the Faculty Senate – September 18, 2013

Note on Robert's Rules: Approval of Minutes

- Minutes can be approved without a motion and without a vote, by general consent.
- Revisions to the minutes need be voted on only if there is disagreement.
- Once all revisions are made, the minutes simply can be noted as accepted, voted on, or approved by general consent if there is no objection to doing so.

Announcements

1. President Papazian's State of the University Address: today at 1:00 PM in ASC Ballroom – shuttle buses provided from this meeting for Senators. All are encouraged to attend.
2. Today's abbreviated meeting should focus on Committee reports.
3. Congratulations to Senator Ron Tamura, new Chair of the Student Policy Committee.
4. Input was given by M. Diamantis and W. Faraclas on framing the job description for the Provost/VPAA search in a meeting with search consultant Julie Tea, on Friday, Sept. 13.
5. Faculty Senate guest for October 2 (12:15-12:45): Dr. Pablo Garcia Molina, CIO (accepted).
Faculty Senate guest for October 16 (12:15-12:45): Dr. Tracy Tyree, VPSA (accepted).
6. AAUP-sponsored discussion on creative activity, Friday, Sept. 20, 9:10-10:30 AM ASC 201: should help inform us for discussions that may take place in the Senate, so please attend.

Other

7. Strategic Planning
8. Faculty Senate representatives sought for:
 - University Library Committee
 - Search committee for Director of Teaching and Learning Technologies (Technology)
 - Technology Advisory Board being established by Dr. Pablo Garcia Molina (Technology).
9. Please email me if you are willing to meet with faculty members in informal sessions to discuss their needs and expectations of the Senate.
10. Today: seeking general consent to commit issues to committees after hearing their reports.
11. Quotes from a September 11, 2013, story in the CT Mirror, under the headline, "**CT state college system in \$18 million to \$20 million budget bind**," by Jacqueline Rabe Thomas (<http://www.ctmirror.org/story/2013/09/10/ct-state-college-system-18-million-20-million-budget-bind>), suggest more fiscal difficulties ahead:
 - "The state's largest public college system has an \$18 million to \$20 million hole in its budget that needs to be closed, and officials are counting on the state to bail them out."

- “The unexpected jump in the cost to provide employees health and pension benefits is the result of several factors, including a wave of employees switching over to a more expensive retirement plan.”
- “Another hole was ripped into the college system’s budget last week after the state directed it to give the managers another raise this year on top of the 3 percent they were already awarded. ‘There is no additional funding [from the state] that goes with that,’ said Gregory Gray, the system’s new president. ... College officials and other state agency heads last week were directed by the Department of Administrative Services to evaluate all of their managers for an Oct. 4 lump-sum ‘merit increase’ payment.”
- “[A] spokesman for the governor's budget office... said the administration understands the fiscal challenges the college system faces. ‘We understand that the [Board of Regents] like all state agencies, has often had to struggle to meet its mission with the financial resources available to it. We recognize that the tight budgets caused by the sluggish economy force very difficult decisions and that this is true for the BOR as it is for Connecticut’s families and businesses,’ he said in a statement.”
- “Three options are being considered to close the budget gap: funding from the state, cuts at the colleges or tapping the system’s emergency budget reserves.”

Status of Recent Faculty Senate Resolutions					
Number	Date	Resolution on...	For	Disposition	Comments (abbrev.)
S-13-05	5-1-13	Travel Funds 2013-2014	Approval	Disapproved	Not FS responsibility
S-13-06	5-1-13	AAUP Travel Funds, 2013-2014	Approval	Disapproved	Inconsistent with CBA
S-13-07	5-1-13	Faculty Creative Activity Funds, 2013-2014	Approval	Noted	Further disc
S-13-08	5-1-13	The Incremental Increase of Faculty Creative Activity Grant Funds, 2013-2014	Approval	Disapproved	No room in budget for increase to this fund
S-13-09	5-1-13	The Restoration of Faculty Creative Activity Research Grant Funds, 2013-2014	Approval	Disapproved	The fund is supporting the grants
S-13-10	5-1-13	The Proposal to Reform the TA Process	Informa-tion	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain INFO vs APPROVAL • Inapprop: attempts to estab procedure for Off of Provost • FS encouraged to “suggest”
S-13-11	5-1-13	Create an Informational Bulletin to Improve TA Processing	Inform.	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain INFO vs APPROVAL • Inapprop: attempts to estab procedure for Off of Provost • FS encouraged to “suggest”
S-13-12	5-1-13	The Revised Faculty Senate Constitution	Approval	Noted	Comparative lang. requested
S-13-13	5-6-13	The University Strategic Plan and the Graduate Programs Prioritization Process	Approval	Disapproved	Delaying process unnec.; not in best interest of University
S-13-12	5-29-13	The Revised Faculty Senate Constitution	Approval	Approved	☺

SCSU Faculty Senate themes:

Participating in *shared governance*. Enhancing support for *academic excellence*. *Promoting effective communication and consultation*. Honoring the commitment and enthusiasm of the faculty through a strengthened *sense of community*. Focusing on *academic impact* in all planning and policy decisions.