



President's Report to the Faculty Senate – October 16, 2013

To ensure ample time for *Committee Reports and Resolutions*, this report has been kept brief. It is requested that items not be discussed until after Committees' reports have been heard and resolutions have received our attention.

1. Meeting with Provost Kennedy.

- With regard to issue of “faculty not getting it,” the Provost recognized that the faculty has contributed in many ways to addressing the fiscal crises. She also thinks the faculty has more to contribute.
- Improving retention is a way to lessen the University's fiscal problems. The Provost and I discussed the key role of faculty in retaining students through effective academic advisement, inclusion of students in research, and other ways of building relationships with students.
- I noted that our unapproved minutes had been posted on the FS website without the Senate's request; we do not wish to post minutes until they are approved. The Provost made a comparison to the BOR, noting that “FOI-able” groups routinely post unapproved minutes.

2. Representative Sought. The Faculty Senate is requested to provide a representative to the *President's Commission on Campus Climate and Inclusion*.

3. Fire Marshal's ruling regarding occupancy limit of FO 307. FO 307 has been rated for use by a maximum of 38 persons by the State Fire Marshal.

4. Student Opinion Survey. It has been requested that the Senate clarify for departments their option of using a form other than the standard survey. In consultation with the Executive Committee, this will be done in a way that draws attention to the pertinent CBA sections, while remaining neutral with regard to the choice between the use of the standard form or an alternative form.

5. Faculty Leadership Council. The FLC discussed concerns about:

- Proliferation of Task Forces on campus and the effect that may have on shared governance (e.g., Honors College, On-line Committee).
- The number of committees on campus, possible overlaps of committees and difficulty filling all membership seats through Faculty Senate elections.
- Perception of faculty as “not getting it” with regard to fiscal crisis.
- 24 faculty searches to get underway (9 STEM from BOR plus 15 to fill vacancies)—about 16 more needed, but not available because of budget issues.

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.