

## President's Report to the Faculty Senate – April 22, 2015

1. Heartfelt thanks are in order today. Every one of them is sincere and offered with admiration.
  - Thank you to every Senator for serving our faculty colleagues with dignity and determination.
  - Thank you to our standing committee Chairs for leadership, ingenuity and careful stewardship.
  - Thank you to ad hoc committee members and Chairs, and representatives of the Senate.
  - Thank you to our Treasurer for thoughtful guidance on travel fund-related issues and timely reports.
  - Thank you to our Secretary for extensive, faithful, extraordinary service to the Senate.
  - Thank you to the hard-working Chairs of our autonomous committees—the Graduate Council and UCF.
  - Thank you to members and Chairs of all-University committees, who underpin shared governance.
  - Thank you to our President and Provost for their support of the Faculty Senate.
  - Thank you to Brad Crerar and his staff for creating and enhancing a new meeting space for us.
2. Letters of congratulation on behalf of the Faculty Senate were sent to all award recipients honored at the April 15 Celebration of Excellence. Letter of thanks went to the chairs and members of the all-University committees that selected awardees, and also to presenters who participated in our “new(er) faculty” event and made it so successful.
3. I would like to receive your input on work the Senate should take up next year. Please make comments on the sheet that is going around the room.
4. Department Guidelines for faculty evaluation. Dr. Peter Madonia, Chair of the reconstituted “Guidelines” Committee, and I met with Provost Bette Bergeron to discuss the purpose for revisiting guidelines. The Committee will meet on May 6 at 2:00 PM to commence its work. **Those who wish to be added to the Committee should make that known to Peter and me at once.**
5. The Environmental and Marine Studies Department and Geography Department have expressed their desire to merge; the merger is supported by the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. The Role of the Faculty Senate on such matters is contained in the CBA, Article 5.14: “Departments of a University shall be established by the University administration **with the advice of the Senate** according to criteria of commonality of interest and academic purpose, without any numerical limits on size.” This matter will come before this body today for the advice of the Senate.
6. A proposal for changes to the LEP World Languages and Literatures (W LL) requirement will be reviewed by the UCF tomorrow. With regard to “Amendment of the [LEP] Program,” the LEP document differentiates revisions that are “major” and “not major”:

“Amendment of the Liberal Education program that does not entail major restructuring will be pursued via the normal procedures for program revision. The Liberal Education Committee will play the role normally played by departments, and UWIC will be the subcommittee that reviews the proposal. Final approval will be conferred by a vote of the UCF. Major restructuring refers to changes that would violate the fundamental structure of the program including 1) its characteristics (from 2005 faculty referendum), 2) basic curricular goals and 3) fundamental architecture...”

Whether or not a referendum is needed may boil down to a clarification or interpretation of the “major/not major” distinction, and therefore how the LEP amendment rule applies to the proposed changes. The UCF is an autonomous committee of the Faculty Senate, so the Senate would have a role in interpreting applicable language. Additionally, I was informed that a petition for a referendum has been initiated by the WLL Department.

7. Transform 2020 update:

- After completing a request from President Gregory Gray to create an alternative charge for the new Transform 2020 Phase II Steering Committee, the faculty members serving on the Committee as campus representatives presented a document that, with minor modifications, was ratified by members of the Steering Committee on Friday, April 17, 2015, in a five-hour meeting. Transform “Initiatives” were placed on moratorium, which then was lifted for several Initiatives. Troubling questions remain. Transform largely continues to move forward without substantial input from the faculty. Many Transform initiatives have been completed without the benefit of shared governance. Authority and function of the new steering committee is still somewhat unclear. Within the committee “shared governance” has now been invoked as a means of *restricting* rather than *encouraging* faculty involvement. Basic, crucial information about the 36 initiatives is still not being provided to members of the committee after repeated requests, and contradictory information about the initiatives’ content and progress continues to abound. Other information (e.g., recommendations from BCG) is still elusive. Dr. Gray’s absence from the steering committee meeting casts doubt upon his commitment to working with the faculty.
- The CSU Faculty Leadership Group endorses attempts by the faculty members who serve on the Transform SC to find a way to work with the system office to create a workable plan, but finds Transform to be unacceptable in its present state.
- A consulting group is being sought by CSCU to help create an image (“branding”) for the system.
- In reaction to the CSCU decision to close the Middlesex Community College satellite campus in Meriden, the Connecticut General Assembly passed legislation to block CSCU campus closures without its review, drawing further criticism of Transform.
- In light of all this, the Leadership Group feels that CSCU’s situation remains dire and that a vote on the No Confidence resolution is merited. Consequently, it will be formally introduced at each of the four CSU Senates for a vote before the end of the semester.

<b>Status of AY 15 Faculty Senate Resolutions</b>					
<b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Resolution to/on/for...</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Disposition</b>	<b>Pres.’ Comments (abbrev.)</b>
F-14-01	9-24-14	Grade Appeal Procedures	Approval	Noted	Noted. Will be considered in conj. with new grade appeal process, when drafted
F-14-02	10-20-14	Sabbatical Leave Document Technical Fixes	Approval	Pending	
F-14-03	10-30-14	Hiring of Dean of School of Graduate Studies Without a National, Affirmative Action Search	Information	NA	
F-14-01R	10-30-01	Grade Appeal Procedures	Approval	Pending	
F-14-04	12-10-14	2015-2025 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives	Information	Noted	Resolution is premature and attempts to pre-empt strategic planning process. Should be re-directed to Strategic Planning Committee.
F-14-05	12-10-14	Location of School of Health and Human Services Building on SCSU Campus	Approval	Disapproved	Resolution is factually incorrect and attempts to pre-empt the Master Facility Planning process.
S-15-06	2-4-15	TA Allocation for the Remaining Academic Year 2014-2015	Approval	Disapproved	“This resolution is premature.”
S-15-07	2-25-15	New Language for Grade Replacement Policy	Approval	Approved	
S-15-08	3-4-15	Revisions to the Chairperson’s Document	Approval	Pending	
S-15-09	3-4-15	Selecting All-University Committee Contact Person	Approval	Noted	Does not require a resolution.
S-15-10	3-25-15	Combining of Academic Standing, University Grade Appeal and Academic Misconduct Committees	Approval	Approved	
S-15-11	4-13-15	CBA travel funds, 2015-2016	Approval	Pending	

**Remaining Spring 15 Meetings: None, unless April 29 is needed; Fall meeting dates will be announced soon.**