

President's Report to the Faculty Senate – February 24, 2016

1. **Planning has begun for the New Faculty Workshop, a date for which is still being determined.**
The *ad hoc* planning committee, including Dr. Barbara Cook (CMD), Dr. Aaron Clark (MAT), Dr. William Faraclas (PCH), Dr. Joseph Fields (MAT), Dr. Sanja Grubacic (ECO/FIN), Dr. David Pettigrew (PHI) and Dr. Deborah Weiss (CMD), met on Tuesday, February 23, 2016. The workshop will focus on teaching faculty members in their first three years on tenure-track, but will be open to all pre-tenure members.
2. **The Faculty Senate Forum on Judaism also is being planned.** Chaired by Dr. Deborah Weiss (CMD), the ad hoc planning committee membership is Dr. Michele Abrams (CMD), Dr. Corinne Blackmer (ENG, JST), Dr. Martin Laskin (SOC), Dr. David Levine (ART, JST), Dr. David Pettigrew (PHI), Dr. Deborah Savage (ECO) and Mr. Walter Stutzman (MUS). Date TBD.
3. **Special Act 14-11 - An Act Concerning a Plan for Participation in a State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement [SARA] Regarding Distance Learning Programs.** The CT General Assembly is considering a bill that would charge the Office of Higher Education (OHE) with developing a plan to establish authorization reciprocity with other states for the delivery of online instruction.

In a 2015 brief¹ on ensuring educational integrity, specifically regarding state oversight of for-profit schools, the National Consumer Law Center wrote:

“Distance online education is now the fastest growing segment of higher education. Most states, however, have abdicated their responsibility to protect the increasing number of online education students from predatory and illegal practices of for-profit education companies. Most allow out-of-state companies to enroll online students without complying with important state consumer protections for postsecondary students, as long as the companies have no physical presence in state. These states either exempt these schools from oversight or have signed weak state authorization reciprocity agreements that prevent state enactment or enforcement of postsecondary education consumer protection laws.”

In a 2015 Legislative Report² on SA 14-11, the CT Office of Higher Education recommended that Connecticut not join SARA. Among its concerns:

- “It would lead to a two-tiered approval system that could mislead and harm students.
- It would require that Connecticut relinquish its ability to review for-profit [Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)] for academic quality and student protections.
- It would significantly increase the number of IHEs operating in the state, potentially decreasing enrollment at the state’s public colleges and universities and smaller independent institutions.
- It would undermine the assurances of academic quality by allowing for IHEs with national accreditation, which meet lower approval standards than required for regional accreditation.
- It would place Connecticut IHEs at a competitive disadvantage because they will be held to more rigorous regional accreditation and state academic standards than those from out-of-state.”

On Thursday, February 25, in response to a request from the SCSU-AAUP, a group of Southern faculty members, including Dr. Barbara Aronson (NUR), Dr. William Faraclas (PCH), Dr. Elizabeth

¹ National Consumer Law Center. (December 10, 2015.) *Wake-Up Call to State Governments: Protect Online Education Students from For-Profit School Fraud*. Retrieved February 23, 2016, from www.nclc.org/images/pdf/pr.../brief-ensure-ed-integrity-2015.pdf.

² State of Connecticut Office of Higher Education. (January 2015.) *Legislative Report: An Act Concerning a Plan for Participation in a State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement Regarding Distance Learning Programs*. Retrieved February 23, 2016, from <https://www.ctohe.org/News/pdfs/2015/SARAJanuary2015.pdf>.

Rhoades (CSP), Dr. Cynthia Stretch (ENG) and Mr. Walter Stutzman (MUS), will meet to consider proposing a faculty response to Special Act 14-11.

4. **Faculty Leadership Council briefing on financial status of the University.** The FLC was invited by Provost Ellen Durnin to meet with Mr. Mark Rozewski, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration for a budget update. The meeting took place this morning.
5. **There are five Faculty Senate meetings remaining in this academic year.** In those meetings we shall attempt to complete all business to which our standing committee members have dedicated themselves this year. We look forward to seeing resolutions come forth on pending matters.
6. **Contract negotiations.** CSU-AAUP President Vijay Nair (WCSU), Chief Negotiator for the collective bargaining agreement is on sick leave until the end of April. Dr. Elena Tapia (ECSU), CSU-AAUP Vice President, is now serving as Chief Negotiator for the faculty. Our very best wishes are with Vijay, who has done a wonderful job, and with Elena, who will provide strong leadership.
7. **Future Guests**
 - President Mary Papazian, date to be determined
 - Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ellen Durnin, March 30, 2016

Status of AY 16 Faculty Senate Resolutions					
Number	Date	Resolution to/on/for/concerning...	For	Disposition	Pres.' Comments (abbrev.)
F-15-01	10-30-14	Grade Appeal Procedures (was F-14-01R) (Submitted 9-24-15)	Approval	Approved	With sentence removed as pre-agreed
F-15-02	4-22-15	Clarify Recusal Language in Promotion & Tenure Procedures Document (was S-15-15) (Submitted 9-24-15)	Approval	Approved	
F-15-03	4-22-15	Size of the Robert E. Jirsa Service Award Committee (was S-15-12) (Submitted 9-24-15)	Approval	Approved	
F-15-04	4-29-15	Modification in the Language Required for Reporting Recommendations of Promotion and Tenure Committee to the Candidate and to the Provost (submitted 10-19-15)	Approval	Disapproved	The information provided by the current procedure is useful to the Provost.
F-15-05	10-21-15	Support of Campus Equity Week 10/26-30/15	Information	Noted	
F-15-06	11-4-15	Grade Replacement Policy Resolution (S-15-07) - Edited	Approval	Approved	
F-15-07	11-18-15	Resolution Regarding the School Health Education Graduate Program	Approval	Disapproved	This requires discussion.
F-15-08	11-18-15	Resolution Regarding Filling All-University Committee Seats	Approval	Approved	
F-15-09	12-9-15	Resolution Regarding Revisions to the Chairperson Document	Approval	Pending	



Remaining Meetings for AY 16: Mar. 9, 30, Apr. 13, 27, May 4