

President's Report to the Faculty Senate – April 6, 2016 (rescheduled from 3/30/16)

1. **Travel funding cap raised.** FS Resolution S-16-10 (approved February 25, 2016) called for an increase in travel funding for full-time members from \$1,200 to \$1,500. On Monday, March 28, Interim Provost Durnin announced a \$250 increase in the funding cap (to \$1,450) for the current fiscal year.
2. **End-of-year Faculty Retreat.** It is proposed that we continue the tradition of holding an end-of-year faculty retreat to assess the issues of importance to the University and its faculty, and to further develop our discussion of shared governance. Possible dates are Friday, May 6 (which would conflict with the FYE Academy) and Friday, May 13 (the last day of final exams). The Senate should decide today whether it supports a faculty retreat, and, if so, select a date.
3. **Mandatory reporting.** The Faculty Senate has expressed concern about the BOR's "mandatory reporting" policy and the Administration's request to include a statement about sexual harassment and sexual assault in course syllabi. A draft report of the AAUP ("The History, Uses and Abuses of Title IX," March 24, 2016) addresses both of these issues. Notable are these passages on pages 27 and 28 of the report (accessible at <http://www.aaup.org/title-ix-report>):

The disjuncture between OCR mandates and institutional realities has pushed overzealous administrators to implement policies that are not required by Title IX and have harmful effects on the educational mission. This is evident in the issue of mandatory faculty reporting. University administrations often designate all faculty to be mandated reporters, although Title IX does not require such a broad sweep. ...[T]his overly broad definition of faculty as mandatory reporters, adopted by universities without consulting with faculty, disregards compelling educational reasons to respect student confidentiality when seeking faculty advice or counsel.

Some institutions have made it policy to include on course syllabi sexual harassment and discrimination statements that inform students of faculty reporting obligations. The chilling effect such requirements pose constitutes a serious threat to academic freedom in the classroom. How can scholars share their knowledge and research with students if unable to assure privacy when a disclosure by a student to a teacher might happen as part of the student's learning process? If many students experience faculty as "first responders" in their advising and pedagogical capacities, they should be explicitly classified as "confidential" rather than "mandatory" reporters.
4. **The Faculty Senate's New Faculty Workshop & Luncheon: Friday, April 22, 11:45 AM-3:00 PM.** Please encourage newer members of your departments to RSVP and attend the workshop. Seventeen members of our faculty have agreed to participate as presenters/discussants on the program. Tenured members of the Faculty Senate are welcome to attend on a space available basis. Please indicate your interest in attending by emailing Dr. Aaron Clark (clarka23@southernct.edu). Please note in your communication that you are a Senator requesting space-available accommodation.
5. **Future guests:**
 - President Mary Papazian, April 13
 - Giacomo "Jack" Mordente, Coordinator of Veterans and Military Affairs, April 27 (invited)



Remaining Meetings for AY 16: April 13, April 27, May 4

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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/Not approved	
F-15-06	11-4-15	Grade Replacement Policy Resolution (S-15-07) - Edited	Approval	Approved	
F-15-07	11-18-15	The School Health Education Graduate Program	Approval	Disapproved	This requires discussion.
F-15-08	11-18-15	Filling All-University Committee Seats	Approval	Approved	
F-15-09	12-9-15	Revisions to the Chairperson Document	Approval	Pending	(Conference with Interim Provost Durnin scheduled for March 10.)
S-16-10	2-25-16	Increasing CSU-AAUP Travel Cap for 2015-16	Approval	Noted*/Not approved	As in past years, the Provost will review the remaining travel funds and determine whether adjustment may be made in travel allowances for the remainder of FY 15/16.
S-16-11	3-9-16	Size of the University Sabbatical Leave Comm.	Approval	Pending	

*The University President did not approve nor disapprove Resolution S-16-10. Rather, she indicated that she had “noted” the resolution, a response customarily appropriate for “resolutions for information.”