

President's Report to the Faculty Senate – November 18, 2015

- 1. Faculty Senate Statement on Contract Proposals of the Board of Regents for Higher Education.** The Statement, approved by the FS on November 4, 2015, was distributed to the faculty, President Mark Ojakian, the Board of Regents, members of the CGA Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, media outlets and the CSU Faculty Leadership Group. President Ojakian replied:

“On behalf of the Board of Regents, I thank you for forwarding for our consideration the statement issued recently by Southern’s Faculty Senate. / As we stated previously, the Board remains committed to negotiating a fair contract that makes operational corrections, restores a reasonable amount of administrative flexibility, and recognizes the essential contribution of our faculty under financial conditions that are sustainable by students and the taxpayers of Connecticut. / Again, thank you for contacting the Board.”

Representative Rick Lopes, House District 24 (New Britain, Newington) wrote:

“Thank you for your email and statement. I am deeply concerned about the proposals from the BOR, and most recently the proposals from UConn regarding Faculty contracts. I will not be rubber stamping any of these proposals and my peers on the Higher Education committee will be looking into these matters as soon as we can. / Please stay in touch.”
- 2. President’s Leadership Council.** With regard to CSCU System strategic planning, President Mary Papazian will appoint a small group to articulate the work done at Southern that conforms to the five System goals. I asked the President to reach out to the FS for selection of faculty representatives for that group.
- 3. Faculty Senate President’s meeting with Provost Bette Bergeron.** The Strategic Planning Implementation Committee membership has been determined. Members of the faculty will be appointed, and not selected by the faculty as its representatives. In a meeting convened by the President to discuss School of Graduate Studies issues, there was strong support for allocating graduate assistant positions early enough to allow them to be used in student recruitment. There was no update on the work of the Workload Realignment Working Group.
- 4. Faculty Wall of Fame.** Last year, at the request of the Faculty Senate, a “Faculty Wall of Fame” was created and posted on the Faculty Development page on the University website. It included recipients of the J. Philip Smith Award for Outstanding Teaching, the Technological Teacher of the Year Award, and the Outstanding Academic Advisor Award. I am happy to report that, at our request, lists of recipients of the Faculty Scholar Award and the Robert E. Jirsa Service Award, and the names of CSU Professors be added to the “wall” to make it complete. I am pursuing the creation of a physical “Faculty Wall of Fame” in a prominent location on campus. Buley Library has been suggested as an appropriate place for this.
- 5. Re-establishment of Ad hoc Committee on Faculty Creative Activity Funds.** The Executive Committee decided to ask original members of the ad hoc committee, joined by members of the University Grants Committee, to explore issues related to the Faculty Creative Activity Research Grant program, including: electronic submission of applications; provision of feedback to applicants; options for receiving the stipend when funds are used for materials, equipment and supplies (e.g., non-taxable spending account); destination, disposition, review and implications of final reports submitted by awardees. Constitution of the new ad hoc committee is underway. (Membership so far: Dr. Aaron Clark, Dr. Marie McDaniel, Dr. Paul Petrie, David Pettigrew)
- 6. To be scheduled:** Special FS meeting to discuss Department Guidelines proposal.

7. **Meeting with Academic Standing Committee.** Beginning this year the Academic Standing Committee (ASC) performs the work of the former University Grade Appeal Committee and Academic Misconduct Committee. I had a meeting with the ASC Co-Chairs, Dr. Kelly Bordner (PSY) and Dr. Bernadette Madara (NUR), during which we discussed the new grade appeal policy and the experience of the committee in reviewing grade complaints. The ASC will meet next with the FS Academic Policy Committee.
8. **Faculty Forum on Intellectual Property.** It has been recommended that the FS sponsor a faculty forum on the topic of intellectual property. Attorney Gabriel R. W. Goldman, an intellectual property attorney with Burns and Levinson, LLC, in Boston, and son of Senator Deborah Weiss, has offered to conduct a session on intellectual property for our faculty. Guidance is sought from the FS.
9. **Letter from OPM Secretary Benjamin Barnes to Executive Branch Agency Heads (subject: Hiring and Other Spending Restrictions, FY 2016).** A copy was distributed to Senators prior to this meeting.
10. **School Health Education.** Dr. Doris Marino, Coordinator of the master’s degree program in School Health Education, wrote to President Papazian to protest an order by the Interim Dean of Health and Human Services to suspend admission of students into the program. A copy of the letter was sent to the Faculty Senate and was provided to Senators prior to this meeting. Article 5.18 of the CBA specifies a process for evaluating programs: when “a continuing loss of student enrollment appear[s] to be representative of a long term trend, the President in consultation with the Senate may establish a University Commission to effectuate the purposes of this Article.” In such cases, “The President and the Senate shall direct the formation of a University Commission composed of two (2) full-time members elected by the Senate and familiar with curriculum matters, two (2) persons appointed by the President, the Chairperson of the affected department and the appropriate academic Dean. One further member of the Commission shall be appointed by the Senate President based upon a judgment of which member of the University community would most contribute to the Commission’s work.”

The Provost stated that Article 5.18 does not apply because the program is being “suspended” and not “terminated.” (Discontinuation of programs is addressed in CBA Article 5.20. A recommendation for discontinuation also requires investigation, with recommendations from the Curriculum Comm. or Senate.) Either case, Article 5.18 or Article 5.20, requires involvement and action of the FS.

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	Pending	



Remaining Meetings: Dec. 9, Jan. 27, Feb. 10, 24, Mar.9, 30, Apr. 13, 27, May 4