President's Report to the Faculty Senate – December 9, 2015

1. **Thank you to Dr. Joel Dodson** for exceptional leadership of the FS Technology Committee (TC). Under Joel's leadership the TC set and began to carry out an extensive agenda, forged important relationships with OIT leaders, gained recognition of the TC as a reliable source of information and thoughtful point of advocacy for academic policy and procedures for the faculty.

2. **We welcome Mr. Walter Stutzman to the FS Executive Committee.** Walter joins the EC as the newly elected Chair of the FS Technology Committee. As an active member of the TC, he is well prepared to lead the committee in the continuation of its agenda for this year.

3. **Faculty Senate Statement on Contract Proposals of the Board of Regents for Higher Education.** The SCSU Statement that called upon the BOR to bargain in better faith, approved on November 4, 2015, was unanimously adopted by the Central Connecticut State University Faculty Senate on November 23, 2015. A similar resolution, passed by the CCSU Student Government Association on November 18, was announced at the November 23 CCSU Faculty Senate meeting.

4. **Blackboard Scheduled Outage.** Although the SCSU faculty, Provost and CIO had not been notified, a system upgrade was planned that would have made Blackboard inaccessible for a 24-hour period from 12:00 PM on December 22 to 12:00 PM on December 23—a period immediately prior to the deadline for submitting grades (due by 8:00 AM on December 24). Instructors using the platform would not have been able to access assignments posted on Blackboard during the outage. I addressed the problem with CSCU CIO Joseph Tolisano, who indicated a sincere desire to help. After exploring several possible solutions Mr. Tolisano moved the outage to 4:30 PM on December 24 to 10:00 AM on December 25. I am grateful to Mr. Tolisano for his eagerness to find a solution and to the BOR staff who will work on the holiday to ensure grading is not hampered on our campus.

   This issue also was reviewed with SCSU CIO Rob Rennie, who expressed concern about the effect on the faculty of shutting down Blackboard before grading was completed and commitment to strengthening IT communication between the BOR and campuses. He shared this information:
   - On our campus Blackboard is not overseen by IT, but by the Provost's Academic Technology group.
   - SCSU has no control over Blackboard, which is run by the BOR for all CSCU campuses.
   - Our campus has one of 18 votes for decisions made on maintenance dates, upgrades, features, etc.
   - He wants the faculty to have a voice in setting an academic technology agenda on our campus.

   I recommended naming the FS Technology Committee (TC) as the designated channel for regular faculty input on all academic technology issues on our campus.

5. **Re-establishment of Ad hoc Committee on Faculty Creative Activity Funds.** The Executive Committee decided to ask members of the original ad hoc committee, joined by members of the University Grants Committee and other appointees, to explore issues related to the Faculty Creative Activity Research Grants 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. Membership: Dr. Aaron Clark (MAT), Dr. Cheryl Green (NUR), Dr. Marie McDaniel (HIS), Dr. Paul Petrie (ENG), Dr. David Pettigrew (PHI), Dr. Regine Randall (SED), Dr. Gregory Robbins (MGT), Ms. Winnie Shyam (LIB). Dr. Pettigrew shall convene the committee.

6. **Workload Realignment Working Group.** The WRWG has been meeting and met again on Tuesday, December 8. Co-Chair Dean Ellen Durnin reports: "To date, we have reviewed the Faculty Scholar programs from a number of other universities, have outlined the elements that must be included in any recommendation we bring forward, and are currently looking at the former History program, the School of Business program, and are examining data on RT across the university."

7. **Robert E. Jirsa Award Committee.** Ten nominations have been received by the Award Committee.

8. **School Health Education Program.** A grievance has been filed regarding actions taken to suspend admissions to the SHE program.

9. **Promotion and Tenure Committee.** The Chair of the P&T Committee, Dr. David Pettigrew, has been working with the Administration to secure necessary conditions for the committee to conduct evaluations. Still to be resolved is the question of sufficient access to the space designated for the P&T in Buley Library. A meeting with the Administration is scheduled for next Monday (December 14) to find a solution to the problem of restricted access to the library after it closes. An alternative site has not been ruled out, and a number of inquiries were made about available space.

10. **Task Force Concerning Outcomes-Based Financing.** The Task Force and the Planning Commission for Higher Education are proponents of outcomes-based funding. Our campus is represented on a subcommittee of the Task Force by Dr. Kate Marsland (PSY), who is eager for input from the faculty about design and implementation principles, which can be reviewed in PowerPoint slides at: https://www.cga.ct.gov/hed/tfs%5C20150716_Task%20Force%20Concerning%20Outcomes-Based%20Financing%5C20151120/CT%20OBF%20TF.pdf. The FS is called upon to support a full investigation of the appropriateness of the principles for CSU institutions.

11. **Thank you to all Senators.** As we prepare for a busy spring semester for the Faculty Senate, I wish to thank each member for the Faculty Senate for extraordinary service, reflected in the work of standing committees and resulting resolutions, as well as in the constructive influence the Senate has on the direction and values of the University.

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	
F-15-07	11-18-15	Resolution Regarding the School Health Education Graduate Program	Approval	Pending	
F-15-08	11-18-15	Resolution Regarding Filling All-University Committee Seats	Approved	Pending	