President’s report

Trevor Sears

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Abstract

Summary of some issues discussed recently at Senate Executive Committee meetings and various other issues for September 2013 A&S Senate meeting.

1. A&S Senate Matters
Since the last meeting, we have had several retirements and changes to many of the standing committee chairs. The current chairs are:
Promotion and Tenure Committee: Mike White (Chemistry)
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Peter Stephens (Physics and Astronomy)
Committee on Academic Standing and Appeals: TBD
Academic Judiciary Committee: TBD
Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Policies: Bassam Allam (SoMAS)

I want to publicly thank the past officers for their generous contributions to helping the running College of Arts and Sciences.

Rounding out the executive committee are:
President: Trevor Sears (Chemistry)
Vice President: Margaret Schedel (Music)
Past President: Eduardo Mendieta (Philosophy)
Faculty at-large Representative: Robert Aller (Marine Sciences)
Professional Employees Governance Board Representative: Charles McAteer
GSO Representative: Evgenia Sidorova (President SBGSO)
USG Representative: Adil Hussain

A&S Senate information is available at:
http://www.stonybrook.edu/senatecas/

2. Updates on old Business
On the Faculty Club front, it’s recently been announced that the hotel has agreed to open its library this Thursday 4:00-6:30 pm for drinks and they will provide snacks and beer at happy hour prices. Some kind of dedicated Faculty Club is something the University Senate and community has been working towards for some time and this is a small first step. I encourage you to come and help make it a success. It is planned to be a weekly event.

If these initial informal gatherings attract enough interest, our hope is to identify a dedicated space for a future full time, stand alone, Faculty Club. Please RSVP to Laurie Theobalt (laurie.theobalt@stonybrook.edu) if you plan to attend, so we can have the right amount of food.

The ad hoc course certification committee consisting of an augmented A&S undergraduate curriculum committee has begun work to certify courses for the purposes of the new SB Curriculum. This is a large task and we will be hearing from Gene Hammond and Peter Stephens on progress and issues later in the meeting. On a related subject, course syllabi now need to have explicit learning outcomes
and descriptions of assessment practices to provide information on how well these outcomes are being met. Chuck Taber will talk about assessment later in the meeting too.

The SUNY system has entered into a contract with Coursera, a for-profit entity that provides hosting and support for on-line education. Stony Brook has now had its first MOOC course hosted by Coursera. It is Introduction to Computational Arts, given by our new VP Margaret Schedel. It was “attended” by both local and, a rather greater number of, more distant students. The link is https://www.coursera.org/course/cdt208

Provost’s Outstanding Lecturers have been announced for 2013. They include several from the College of Arts & Sciences:
- Wilbur Farley, Writing
- Timothy Hyde, Philosophy
- Irene Marchegiani, European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
- Catherine Marrone, Sociology
- Fernando O. Raineri, Chemistry
- Thomas Tousey, Writing
- Dongmei Zeng, Asian & Asian American Studies

3. University Senate Issues
   As A & S representative to the University Senate, I attend meetings since our last meeting and a number of issues have been discussed.
   No official announcements yet on Cluster Proposals for 2013. Middle States Review preparations are ongoing. There is an initial Middle States Accreditation Evaluation Team Chair visit scheduled for November, then the full committee visit is in Spring 2014. The self-study documentation is supposed to be posted during Fall 2013 and we, as part of the governance structure of the university, are supposed to review it. Other topics discussed include the issue of pets on campus, a campus-wide tobacco policy and problems arising from shortage of State funds for capital construction and critical maintenance.