President’s report

Trevor Sears
October 19, 2013

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

1. A&S Senate Matters
Attached is a list of current A&S Senate officers for reference
A&S Senate information is available at:
http://www.stonybrook.edu/senatecas/

2. Updates on old Business
There have now been three early evening “Faculty Club” meetings at the Hilton Garden Hotel. They
are held 4:30-6:30 pm in one of the private rooms off the lobby and bar area of the ground floor. The
hotel provides some appetizers and drinks are typically $5 for beer or wine. Attendance was about 25
the first night and nearly double that in the second week. All indications are this has been successful
and it’s planned to continue alternating Thursday and Friday evenings. Next week it will be held on
Friday October 25th.
Again, if these initial informal gatherings continue to 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 in large numbers one evening, so we can have
the right amount of food.

As reported previously, the SUNY system has entered into a contract with Coursera, a for-profit entity
that provides hosting and support for on-line education. Later today, we will have a presentation from
Eric Rabkin (Associate Provost for Online Education), Chuck Powell (Assistant Provost for Teaching,
Learning and Technology), and Eduardo Mendieta (Co-author of the Provost’s Task Force report on
Massive Open On-Line Courses). I hope this will be a lively and informative discussion.

The full report is available at: http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/provost/documents/MOOCs Task
Force Report.pdf

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.

[Seamless transfer between SUNY Campuses] There has been a lost of discussion state-wide
on this issue and it’s clear that there are and will continue to be barriers to students transferring from,
say, community colleges with an Associate Degree to the university centers such as Stony Brook, with
an expectation that they will be able to graduate in just two years. The introduction of the new SB
Curriculum will not improve things. The discussion is on going.

[Assessment] We had a presentation on the plans for codifying the assessment process at Stony
Brook last meeting. Since then, guidelines and a time line have been released. The details are available
on the Provost’s web site. (http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/provost/category/assessment/).
Driven by the requirements of the Middle States Re-Accreditation process, the time line is rather
condensed. All programs are supposed to have assessment procedures and practices drafted by November
15th.
David Ecker (Director, Research Technologies) informed the senate of new programs and support for faculty research. This is partly driven by funding agencies’ requirements for data management plans to ensure the results of publicly-funded research is freely available and archived. But DoIT plans a University-wide program to put original data and meta-data in places where they are available to the larger community. At the website www.stonybrook.edu/researchtech/ there is more information and templates available for data management tools. Right now, there are templates for most of the government agencies supporting research to help PIs create appropriate data management plans. I’m not sure if there are any existing data archives.