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 November 2013 A&S Senate meeting.

1. A&S Senate Matters
Following is a list of current A&S Senate officers for reference
President: Trevor Sears (Chemistry) (trevor.sears@stonybrook.edu)
Vice President: Margaret Schedel (Music) (gem@schedel.net)
Past President: Eduardo Mendieta (Philosophy) (eduardo.mendieta@stonybrook.edu)
Faculty at-large Representative: Robert Aller (Marine Sciences) (Robert.Aller@stonybrook.edu)
Professional Employees Governance Board Representative: Charles McAteer (charles.mcateer@stonybrook.edu)
GSO Representative: Evgenia Sidorova (President SBGSO) (yevgenia.sidorova@gmail.com)
USG Representative: Tyrik Jiang (tyrik.jiang@stonybrook.edu)
The current Standing Committee chairs are:
Promotion and Tenure Committee: Mike White (Chemistry) (michael.g.white@stonybrook.edu)
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Peter Stephens (Physics) (peter.stephens@stonybrook.edu)
Committee on Academic Standing and Appeals: Ken Feldman (kenneth.feldman.1@stonybrook.edu)
Academic Judiciary Committee: Marie Huffman (Marie.Huffman@stonybrook.edu) (Wanda Moore)
Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Policies: Bassam Allam (SoMAS) (bassem.allam@stonybrook.edu)

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

2. Updates on old Business
After a Friday evening gathering earlier this month and an informal vote, the nascent Faculty Club has been renamed “Club Red”. It’s proposed to meet on either Thursday or Friday evenings, but consensus could not be reached on which night. For the remainder of the month, there will be drinks at happy hour prices on both evenings at the Hampton Garden Inn on Campus and a decision on which will become the regular night will be made on the basis of which night has had the larger attendance. The final days this month will be Thursday and Friday November 21st and 22nd starting at 4:30 pm.

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.

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.

[Administrative Review Committee Survey results] Periodically, the Administrative Review Committee of the University Senate conduct a survey of Senate membership on all aspects of
the University Administration. A synopsis of the report is available at:

We will hear details on some of the results from Bob Kelley later in the meeting. Notably, the participation rate for this, quite lengthy, survey was high with nearly 800 complete responses, something around 20% of those eligible. Each question had an option for adding comments to amplify on the chosen multiple choice answer format, and collation of these has taken a long time. However, the results are very revealing and provide a snapshot of the thinking of faculty and staff when the survey was conducted.

Particularly relevant to the A&S College, Dean Nancy Squires received by far the highest ratings of any of the senior administration at the University. On the less positive side, there was a general dissatisfaction about the perceived low level of involvement of faculty/staff in policy decisions and a lot of concern about poor infrastructure and maintenance, leading to sub-standard working conditions. Also, results show that function of the University Senate, and by extension the A&S Senate is not well known. I think one take-home message for us is that we should try to encourage more faculty participation, particularly from our younger colleagues.

[Assessment] The process is ongoing and 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 for completing the process is rather condensed. All programs were required to submit learning outcomes by Friday November 15th. I would be interested to hear from Undergraduate and Graduate PDs in CAS on how this process is going.

4. Multilingual and Intercultural Communication Center
Dean Squires addressed the last meeting on the creation of this new Center. The creation of a new Center or Institute is reviewed by the relevant Senate and a recommendation passed to the full Senate. In our case the proposal was evaluated by the Faculty Rights, Responsibilities and Policies Committee. It will be a Type I Center, not requiring any significant new resources and members will hold appointments in existing The FRRPC found:

“Members of the FRRPC reviewed the subject proposal and are convinced that the MIC will represent a valuable contribution to the intellectual life of SBU.” Several minor issues were raised arising from the initial proposal, but these were addressed in the slightly modified proposal included as an attachment for this meeting. The FRRPC recommends a vote in favor of going forward with the new Center on the basis of the revised proposal.