

Faculty Senate Chair Report

April 25, 2013

Committee Appointments. I asked the general faculty for nominations for the following committees, and received more than fifteen nominations within a few days. Go, Faculty!

1. Information Technology Council (one senator)
2. Infrastructure Technology Committee (one faculty member)
3. Paul A. Reid Awards (two faculty members)
4. Athletics Committee (one faculty member)

Ombuds Office. Sometimes things take a long time. At the first Senate Planning meeting of the year, Chris Cooper, chair of the Faculty Affairs Council, brought up the Senate resolution to create a position for an ombudsperson. It passed on January 23, 2008, and Senate leadership followed up year after year. This year, the UNC Faculty Assembly and Staff Assembly both encouraged the development of ombuds offices throughout the system and invited the Ombuds Office at Chapel Hill to give presentations. I brought it up with our provost, Dr. Brenton, during our fall conversations, and she was very supportive of our need to have such a position/office. Dr. Brenton has a background in conflict resolution and sees the ombud as a very positive approach, and she talked to Dr. Belcher about it. In the meantime, Mary Ann Lochner was advocating for such a position, with the understanding that an effective ombud can help resolve conflicts in the early stages before they get out of control. And, the WCU Staff Senate has also been advocating for an ombuds office.

The end result is that Dr. Belcher has approved an ombuds position which may be similar to the new one at Appalachian State (a full-time faculty member with half-time release to serve as an ombud). Details will be worked out, but our ombuds office will be available to both faculty and staff. Hooray!

Hearing, Grievance & PTR Procedures. The Rules Committee has been working on clarifying and simplifying the procedures and steps in the Grievance, Hearing and PTR appeal committees. I sent suggestions for changes and clarifications that I received from faculty throughout the year to the Committee in early March. This is important work, and the end results are expected to make these processes much more effective. However, it is also tedious and time-consuming and requires the committee to proceed carefully and systematically. Erin McNelis, chair of the Rules Committee, has posted the documents on Sharepoint, in the folder labeled, "Grievance_Hearing_PTR_Appeals_Process_Flow_Charts."

Senate Restructuring. The Senate leadership started examining the Senate organization last summer. This included looking at what other senates do, how they are organized, etc. The UNC Faculty Assembly distributed a best practices paper on effective senates. I plan to follow up on this issue, and will ask the senate leadership to discuss how we should proceed.

Proposed Senate Schedule for 2013-2014:

Open Faculty Caucuses for 2013-14:

- August 30, Friday 3 – 5 p.m. in U.C. Illusions
- January 24, Friday 3 – 5 p.m. in U.C. Illusions

Faculty Senate Regular Business Meetings for 2013-14:

Note: unless indicated otherwise, meetings are 3 – 5 p.m. in the University Center Multipurpose rooms.

- August 28 (Overflow September 4) Wednesday
- September 26 (Overflow October 3) Thursday
- October 23 (Overflow October 30) Wednesday
- November 21 (Overflow December 5) Thursday
- January 22 (Overflow January 29) Wednesday
- February 20 *in Health and Human Sciences Building* (Overflow February 27) Thursday (Do we want to hold this in HHS?)
- March 26 (Overflow April 2) Wednesday
- April 24 (Overflow May 1) Thursday

Faculty Senate Planning Team Meetings for 2012-13:

Note: these meetings are each on a Wednesday, from 12 – 2 in the UC Dogwood Room.

August 21, September 18, October 16, November 13, January 15, February 12, March 19, April 9

Other Key Proposed Dates:

- Friday, March 14 (nominations for all University Elections run by CONEC due, proposed ballots emailed to faculty for review)
- Friday, March 21 (last day to submit write-in nomination for ballot)
- 8 a.m. Monday, March 31 through 8 a.m. Monday April 7, University Elections Voting Period
- 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 2 (no later than the first Wednesday in April), all College Senator election results must be submitted to Secretary of the Faculty by this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jean Ronan Herzog