

Report to Faculty from Faculty Senate Chair Alisa Kessel 12 September 2016

Broad goals for the 2016-7 academic year:

- support opportunities for communication between the President and the faculty
- identify the priorities of the faculty in anticipation of a Strategic Planning Process
- continue to create opportunities to energize faculty governance and expand faculty voice in conversations about the future of the University and the future of the liberal arts
- continue to work to foster an inclusive and supportive campus community for all students, faculty, and staff

Faculty Service Assignments

During the summer months, the Executive Committee of the Senate (Kessel, Lanctot, Ly) collaborated with the Dean and Associate Deans to assign faculty to service roles. We aimed to do so judiciously, with a mind toward ensuring that committee members were not overburdened with work (due to understaffing) and that faculty members were not assigned to committees just for the sake of assigning them.

Faculty Senate Retreat, August 25, 2016

The Faculty Senate Retreat was divided into three sessions:

Session One: Faculty Senate Priorities

I asked the members of the Senate to consider three questions:

- 1) What do you think should be the top 2-3 priorities for the Faculty Senate this year?
- 2) What do you think should be the top priority for the faculty in the next 5 years?
- 3) What do you think should be the top priority for the University in the next 10 years?

We were able to use the answers to these questions (written on post-it notes and then clustered on the wall) to see useful patterns about our shared goals and the connections between them. The appended document is a summary of that exercise. *If you believe that essential issues are missing from this document, and you believe they should have the attention of the Faculty Senate, please contact any senator or me.*

Session Two: Committee Charges

As a group, the Faculty Senate decided to continue to minimize the number of charges issued by the Senate and to empower committees to turn back to their standing charges to determine what work they need to complete. Each committee was assigned a liaison from the Senate:

ASC: Kena Fox-Dobbs (fall)/David Chiu (spring)
CoD: Gwynne Brown
CC: Robin Jacobson
IEC: Peter Wimberger
IRB: Siddharth Ramakrishnan
LMIS: Emelie Peine (fall)/Sara Freeman (spring)
PSC: Nancy Bristow
SLC: Kristin Johnson
UEC: Bill Haltom

In groups of three or four, liaisons discussed possible charges for each committee.

Session Three: Continuing Conversations

The Faculty Senate discussed how best to continue conversations with the faculty about the common period, how to pursue a conversation about possible amendment of the Faculty Code with respect to language regarding promotion to (full) professor, and how best to support President Crawford and foster dialogue between the President and the faculty.

August 29, 2016 Faculty Senate Meeting

At the first Faculty Senate meeting, the Senate passed charges for ASC, UEC, and IRB. We also had fruitful conversations about the common period and about how best to invite discussion about the language regarding promotion to (full) professor.

Ad Hoc Committee on Educational Goals:

Last year, at its April 25, 2016 meeting, in response to a report created by Martin Jackson and Kate Cohn regarding faculty perspectives on the University's educational goals, the Faculty Senate passed a motion "to establish an ad hoc committee to review the Report on Faculty Perspectives on Education Goals and if deemed appropriate, propose revisions to the university's educational goals. The committee shall be composed of at least three faculty members, including faculty representatives from the Student Life Committee, the Curriculum Committee, and the Faculty Senate. An Associate Dean and someone from Institutional Research will be non-voting members of the committee." At the time, Bill Beardsley (then a Senator) agreed to convene the group. The report cited in the motion is appended to the [minutes](#) of the April 11, 2016 Faculty Senate meeting.

Faculty members of this committee are:

Bill Beardsley (at large faculty member)

Robin Jacobson (Faculty Senate rep)

Alan Krause (Curriculum Committee rep)

Brad Reich (Student Life Committee rep)

Faculty Senate Priorities Fall 2016

What are the top 2-3 priorities for the Faculty Senate this year?

1) Inclusive and supportive campus community for all students, faculty, and staff

- a) campus climate: foster a culture (both a faculty culture and a broader culture) that is welcoming and supports the retention of students, staff, and faculty (especially in minoritized groups)
- b) lead on issues related to inclusion (including Diversity Strategic Plan)
- c) provide support and voice for adjunct and untenured faculty
- d) respond to student demands (mindful of the long histories of some of them)
- e) address impact of CHWS staffing on academic performance

2) Faculty support/balance/workload

- a) address bias in teaching evaluation
- b) address ambiguity in Code language about promotion to (full) professor
- c) improve quality of life for faculty: workload, family and medical leave support
- d) increase and/or reconsider distribution logics of professional development support (financial)

3) Faculty governance and voice

- a) create a common period for faculty governance
- b) support efforts to revitalize faculty participation in University governance
- c) support President Crawford
- d) prepare for the strategic planning process
- e) continue to foster effective communication with the Board

4) Curriculum improvements

- a) strengthen the shared curriculum/revise the core curriculum
- b) consider curricular changes in light of the liberating and inclusive possibilities of a liberal arts education
- c) develop sustainable experiential and study abroad models

What should be the top priority for the faculty in the next 5 years?

- teaching our students
- defending the value of a liberal arts education
- reimagining teaching obligations to serve students and innovate our curriculum while also providing faculty an environment in which to flourish (e.g. unit flexibility, course load issues)
- improving the campus climate for current and future students
- undertaking curricular innovations, including core curriculum revision
- maintaining strong faculty voice in governance
- supporting the financial sustainability of Puget Sound

What should be the top priority for the University in the next 10 years?

- engaging our students and our communities (beyond campus) to foster inclusion and justice through higher education
- maintaining a commitment to the liberal arts as an essential means to cultivate informed and open-minded citizens
- being flexible and innovative while staying true to our identity (region, liberal arts)
- attracting a strong and diverse student body
- ensuring financial sustainability