

Faculty Senate Chair Report to the Faculty
In advance of 03/03/2016 Faculty Meeting
By Ariela Tubert

- We have had two senate meetings since my last report. I also participated in the meeting of the Board of Trustees last week. I summarize below some of the main issues that have come up during that time.
- A large part of the February 8, 2016 faculty senate meeting was devoted to a discussion of the Professional Standards Committee's proposal for changes to the Campus Policy Prohibiting Harassment and Sexual Misconduct. After a lengthy discussion, the Senate endorsed the change to the Campus Policy Prohibiting Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Policy proposed by the PSC. For the details on the changes being recommended, please see the minutes from the senate meeting: <http://www.pugetsound.edu/files/resources/senate-2016-02-08.pdf> . I want to extend my thanks to the members of the Professional Standards Committee for their work on this issue and Jennifer Neighbors and Mark Reinitz for presenting this work to the senate.
- At the February 22, 2016 faculty senate meeting, Todd Badham and John Hickey provided an update about campus security. Members of the senate had a chance to ask various questions and provide feedback. They are currently seeking feedback throughout campus and they encouraged faculty to provide feedback to them about concerns that faculty may have.
- Also at the February 22 meeting, the senate discussed the Academic Standards Committee's work on possible changes to the course schedule so as to accommodate a common hour. After lengthy discussion, the issue was left pending and will be discussed further at the upcoming senate meeting on Monday March 7. I want to thank Suzanne Holland and the Academic Standards Committee for their thorough work on this issue.
- The last issue on the agenda on the February 22 meeting was a petition from ASUPS to the Board of Trustees about the composition of the presidential search committee. The issue was discussed briefly and left pending for our next meeting.
- On February 25 and 26, I participated on the meeting of the Board of Trustees. The Board meetings included a sustainability workshop and a workshop on divestment. Emelie Peine and I presented the resolutions approved by the senate and the faculty on the issue of divestment and provided a summary of the considerations raised during the senate and faculty meeting discussions. I received positive feedback from the members

of the Board on the senate and faculty statements. The Board is considering the issue though as far as I know, no decisions have been made.

- The Academic and Student Affairs committee of the Board approved the updated Faculty Medical Leave and Disability Policies. The updates include most items that were recommended by the ad-hoc committee of the senate that worked on reviewing the old policies over the past two years. The changes left pending to be considered during the next Benefits Task Force are the ones that are considered to be an expansion of benefits (waiving the one year employment requirement for tenure track faculty and a one semester paid parental leave.) The new policy is available through the following link: <http://www.pugetsound.edu/about/offices-services/human-resources/policies/faculty-policies/faculty-medical-leave-and-disability-policies/>
- The call for nominations for various governance positions will be going out shortly from senate secretary Pierre Ly. Among the positions open are the faculty senate chair position, various senate seats, seats of the Faculty Advancement Committee and the Faculty Salary Committee, etc. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions about what the various positions entail but especially, feel free to contact me with questions about the Faculty Senate Chair position. A lot of information about the senate's work is available on the senate's website: <http://www.pugetsound.edu/gateways/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/>
- As always, I welcome your questions about the faculty senate's work and suggestions for issues that you would like the senate to pursue, there are just a few meetings before the senate gets busy with end of year reports.