

**Report to Faculty from Faculty Senate Chair Alisa Kessel
18 November 2016**

Thanks to all of you for your good work in service to the university. The standing committees have been hard at work in October and November. The Senate has also been hard at work and has considered the following issues and taken the following actions since the last faculty meeting:

Common period

The faculty approved a 90-minute common period at the October 10th faculty meeting. In response to faculty concerns about implementation of the common period, the Faculty Senate has formed two committees: one to work on how best to use the common period toward the goals articulated in the faculty meeting (such as community-wide events) and one to create a plan for review of the common period, including its impact on student accessibility to courses and on enrollments in majors, minors, and programs.

Ad hoc committee re: Title IX compliance of the Code:

The committee to assess Title IX compliance of the Faculty Code is: Megan Gessel (Student Life Committee representative), Poppy Fry (Sexual and Gender Violence Committee representative), and Amanda Mifflin (Professional Standards Committee representative).

Discussion of draft Campus Animal Control Policy

The Faculty Senate discussed a draft of the Campus Animal Control Policy presented by the Accessibility Working Group. The Senate opted not to endorse the policy at this time, but anticipates further discussion of the policy at a later date.

Faculty Code language regarding promotion to (full) professor

Last year, the Professional Standards Committee (PSC) polled department chairs to determine how departments interpret the Faculty Code language about standards for promotion to the rank of professor. Because there was no consensus, the PSC determined that it should not issue an interpretation of the language. Consequently, the Faculty Senate is considering how best to gain faculty feedback about possible amendment of the Code. In collaboration with Ellen Peters (Office of Institutional Research), we are developing a process for gathering information, which will likely include a poll of the faculty, followed by moderated focus groups (organized by rank). Once we have information about faculty concerns and preferences, we will decide how best to proceed with either amendment or interpretation of the Code.

Work/life balance issues

The Faculty Senate is responding to faculty concerns about work load and work/life balance. A committee has been formed to gather data, which it will bring back to the Senate for consideration.

The Senate's last meeting of the semester is December 5, 2016.

Kind regards,

Alisa Kessel
Faculty Senate Chair
Associate Professor and Chair, Politics & Government