

SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

January 21, 2011

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President, Faculty Senate 2009-11

Faculty Senate 5-Year Assessment

Our 5-Year Senate Assessment will soon be underway. The survey of all full-time instructional faculty members will begin online next Tuesday, January 25 and remain open for approximately four weeks. The survey is an updated version of the questionnaire distributed in 2006, and we hope to be able to make comparisons with the results obtained during this last review. In addition to seeking faculty opinion, the committee will report on how well the Senate has followed-up on its prior actions over the last 5 years. All data will be reported to the Senate and be made available to all faculty members via the Senate's website.

I have been joined in this evaluation effort by Senators Kathleen Brunke and Bill Connell, and elected committee members Stephanie Bardwell, Edward Weiss, and Mary Wright. Thanks to all for their hard work on this important project.

Student Scholar Associate Proposal

We presented the Scholar Associate program proposal to the President and Provost last November. The Senate believed this program could be a great addition for our students and would surely encourage many future partnerships for students with our exceptional professors. President Tribble was not enamored with its possibilities as he was concerned that it could be construed as a Teaching Assistant (TA) position; I am still awaiting a decision from the President.

Faculty Retirement Honors

The Senate, following through with our strategic plan for the year, presented to President Tribble and Provost Padilla our proposal for a set of plaques that would honor retiring faculty. The idea was well received and the President blessed the idea of honoring our retiring faculty. We have been working with Executive Vice President Bill Brauer on a possible location for these plaques over the past two months. The suggested location for this set of plaques is in the Provost's Office as faculty members do visit this office on occasion.

University Handbook Changes

As we are headed into the all-important, but time-draining review of University Handbook changes next month, I ask all Senators to please review the suggested changes before the meeting so we do not waste time during the meeting. I promise that we will provide dinner in the traditional manner – pizza!

Complaints About the Lack of a University Bookstore

Senators have received many loud grumblings from our colleagues and students about the lack of the presence of a bookstore on campus. I would remind all that the problem of the bookstore is not a new issue, and the administration has considered many ideas to remedy this situation. The basic problem was that the vast majority of students were not using the bookstore and preferred to buy their books on line. The university considered alternatives such as contracting the bookstore operation to a private vendor, but found that cost considerable resources. Accordingly, the bookstore was phased out and now students may use any on-line service or the specific service endorsed by CNU (Follett Books) to order their texts

As a result, we have just experienced a first week of class where many students did not purchased their texts until the first day of class. It was chaotic and many faculty members became a wee bit frustrated by the problem. As difficult as this is for all of us, let's not lose sight of the fact that all of our students could have ordered their texts long ago (case in point, we are now turning in our required reading list for next fall). They simply chose to not do this. And others did not register for a course until the last minute, while some utilized the add/drop period to change courses. So be it – for many reasons, all of us are prone to occasionally procrastinate – and our students did not have books.

If this is a serious problem for you, I would suggest that you ask the library to purchase two copies of your texts and place them on reserve so students can read assignments in the library until their own texts come in.