

# SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

November 19, 2010

Dr. Peter M. Carlson  
President, Faculty Senate 2009-11

## Faculty Development Grants and Sabbaticals

Applications for Faculty Development Grants (FDG) and Sabbaticals were received this week and reviewed by the appropriate Senate Committees. The turn-around time was extremely short and I want to express my personal appreciation for the Senators that dug in and turned these materials around in such short order. These applications will be sent to the provost, on schedule, next week.

There were no FDG applications received from the College of Social Sciences this year. All three colleges were represented with applications for 2011-12 Sabbaticals.

As a reminder to all faculty members, the revised FDG process specifies that the Senate does not recommend amounts of individual funding as the amount of available funding potentially will expand as the academic year progresses. The Senate does prioritize the applications as our recommendation to the Provost.

## CNU Rector Visited With Senate

In response to a Senate invitation, our University's new Rector and chair of the Board of Visitors, Mr. John Conrad, visited the Senate's last meeting with President Tribble and Provost Padilla on Friday, October 22. Following the meeting he wrote the following:

*"I thoroughly enjoyed the Senate meeting and left with a feeling of great respect and admirations of the leadership by the members of the Senate. The meeting was very informative for me. Many thanks for your fine leadership and the significant leadership of the Senate. Please do not underestimate the difference that you and the Senate are making at CNU." John Conrad*

## Shared Governance - AAUP

I had the opportunity to attend the Shared Governance Conference hosted by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) in Washington DC last weekend. I joined a panel with Jana Adamitis, Ronnie Cohen, and Provost Mark Padilla on the subject of "Effecting Positive Change at Christopher Newport University During a National Budget Crisis."

Attending two days of panels on successes and failures in the realm of shared governance, I have to say I received a real education on the realities of the topic across this land. This small conference was attended by 250 academics, all sharing advice and war stories. In general, I found that larger schools are far less successful than smaller schools in establishing cooperation and give-take between the two camps. Some unionized state campuses had true horror stories and faculty leaders are generally ignored by the local and state administration. The AAUP believes that shared governance is under siege on many campuses, and many senate presidents reported that administrators either overrule faculty senates or do not consider their position in major decisions.

All in all, I returned to CNU feeling very good about our senate and our carefully nurtured relationships with the Provost, other senior administrators, and our President. While we have our share of concerns, I believe we can be optimistic about our shared governance process.

#### Update from October 22 Meeting With President and Provost

Our last meeting with President Tribble and Provost Padilla was productive and informative.

- 1) The President received our survey regarding Faculty Salaries for Summer Courses and agreed that we did not want to be the lowest paid faculty in the Commonwealth. Our pay for summer courses is \$2800 for a 3-hour course, and the average across the state is approximately \$4500. The President indicated he would take this into consideration; the Provost announced last week that effective immediately the compensation for a summer course will be \$5000. Thanks to the members of the SEC that did the research on this pay issue!
- 2) We presented the Scholar Associate program to the President and Provost. 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. He did say he would read the full proposal and get back to the Senate on this. I have not heard back as of this date.
- 3) The Senate presented our proposal for a set of plaques in the Tribble Library that would honor retiring faculty. The idea was well received, but President Tribble was not sure our preferred location at the entrance to the Library was a winning proposition. The Provost offered for consideration the idea that some campuses build a free-standing structure outside for this purpose...and the group agreed that a small structure for this purpose near the Great Lawn would be very nice and fit the campus appropriately. The President blessed the idea of honoring our retiring faculty and indicated he would get back to us on the location.