

President's report - 9/7/07

Welcome to our newest LA Faculty Senator: Nate French (COMM)

I. Academic Program

1. Defining CNU as a top liberal arts university
 - develop an “academic peer group”
 - define range of program options
 - work with PBK group
2. Faculty hiring - challenge finding top candidates who fit within our vision of a top LA university. Develop a few generic screening questions to help search committees during the early period of phone interviews. Suggest Senate consider assembling a committee that quickly works on this task. Use guidelines provided by Vice Provost Schwarze.
3. There will be a “New College” steering committee - most likely the Senate will be asked to submit names to assist in defining this college.
4. Developing a civic engagement/service program for all students. Provost office is developing a framework and will be seeking faculty input. The Bonner program is a potential model. Will make this an item of discussion during a Oct/Nov Senate meeting.
5. Challenge – how to increase post-bac student success – primarily centered on faculty/department advising. SEC will discuss options/strategies with Dave Doughty (Special Assistant to the President for Student Success), Wade Oliver (head of Advising Office) and Lisa Burris (Career Development) and report during the Oct meeting.

II. Faculty Development

6. A significant characteristic of a top liberal arts university is a robust program of scholarship/research by the faculty. It is also characterized by an office that provides support and training for faculty to be successful in obtaining grants from external agencies. Suggest the Senate consider establishing a standing university committee that will advise and assist our office of sponsored programs.
7. The provost office is in process of formulating ideas concerning a center for innovative teaching excellence. Stay tuned.
8. Another important characteristic of a top university is an active faculty – faculty mentor program. Suggest the Senate consider this topic during our Oct. meeting.

III. Faculty Evaluation

9. Research different systems of evaluation. Use Scott Pollard's report and proposal as base platform. Plan to implement a pilot/assessment test of possibly 2 alternative systems in 08-09 thru 09-10. Suggest Senate assemble and task a committee to report by beginning of Spring08 (FEB). Discussion scheduled during Oct. meeting.

For information:

10. Faculty Staff Campaign will be launched on September 21st. The campaign tagline is “Achieving Greatness” and the theme will center on the purchase of books for our new library. I would like to suggest that the Senate consider starting a fund to support student scholarship (s).

11. Facilities update: Meeting with architects on 9/6/07 to discuss programming of the Science complex with BCES and PSYC.

12. State Budget cuts – effects on CNU budget. \$1,369,720 total.
Had approx. \$800K reserve. Still need to find ca \$570K. Looking at enrollment increase and increase in FTE for this fall (& possibly Spring) to help mitigate this reduction. Some \$\$ can also be found in positions to fill.

Student Government

13. SGA President Andrew Lundsten – working on major revision of constitution and structure of student government. He is using a Univ. Penn model.

Administration Response to Senate Recommendations (from 06-07)

1. Approval of University Handbook requirement for final exams in Liberal Learning Foundations courses – language approved for HB, Section V, 18b, 7a, first paragraph:

“Unless exempted in advance in writing by the appropriate academic dean, each course that can be used to satisfy the Liberal Learning Foundations requirements requires a final exam or a similarly comprehensive assessment of a student’s ability to analyze and synthesize material presented over the entire semester.” (12/1/06 Faculty Senate Minutes)

2. Catalogue language regarding academic progress: Approval of language found on pg. 35 of 2007-08 Undergraduate Catalog as follows:

“Academic progress should be sufficient to support graduation in a timely manner. Students are expected to graduate within four years after matriculation as a full-time student, but no later than six years after full-time matriculation.” (3/16/07 FSM)

3. Academic calendar recommendations: Approval of recommendation to begin fall semester on first Monday after the fourth Friday in August (approx. range 8/25 – 8/31).

Recommendation to begin the Spring semester on first Monday after the second Thursday in January (start range 1/12 to 1/18) is not approved. This only allows a 4 week winter break with is not consistent with the university’s desire to provide a future January intersession.

Spring semester will begin on the first Monday after the third Thursday in January (approx. range 1/19 to 1/25). This start produces a 5-week window which might be used for intersession and faculty research. This start also avoids graduation conflict with Mother's Day. As always, those faculty members requiring dispensation from graduation attendance in order to lead study abroad courses or attend academic conferences may contact the provost office to request such permission.