

Faculty Senate Report to the Board of Trustees.

June 17, 2014

Senate Highlights of 2013-14:

*** Faculty Leadership Luncheon**

Proposed by Dr. Linda McIntyre, and organized with Drs. Bobbie Perdue, Evelyn Fields, and Larry Watson, with the help of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Association of University Professionals (AAUP), this was an open faculty discussion of what faculty leadership means especially in an environment of diminishing resources.

In any environment, faculty represent the intellectual capital of the university. As such faculty have the duty to protect the value of

- Student outcomes

Degree Programs

- the Faculty body..

The follow up we plan to this is a faculty discussion that defines a Faculty Vision and Mission to be embedded in our revised Faculty Senate Constitution.

*** Completion of the Faculty Handbook Draft**

This was the result of 18 months of concerted effort, led by Drs. Don Walter and Sheila Littlejohn, with administrative support from Dr. Learie Luke and his office.

* Course and degree updates. New and revised degrees and courses are subject to rigorous peer review scrutiny. The faculty approved one new degree program (Industrial Engineering) and the substantial revision of four others.

Major Senate Goals for 2014-15:

* **Update the Faculty Senate Constitution** –to reflect the current structure, to allow for electronic voting, and to refresh our portfolio of standing committees.

*** Second annual Faculty Leadership Luncheon**

As proposed in the first one, the goals would include define faculty vision and mission statements relating to research, teaching, and service.

* **Partner with the provost and the Division of Academic Affairs to effectively implement the revised tenure and promotion guidelines.**

* **Work with the VP for Enrollment Management, the Deans, and the Department Chairs to enhance the faculty role in recruitment and retention.**

*** Continue to revise the Faculty Handbook and the policies therein**

* especially as pertaining to tenure eligibility for various faculty holding master's degrees.

At the moment, MFA's in studio art and dramatic art are eligible for tenure and promotion. The proposed Handbook recommends that librarians be eligible for tenure with the MLS or MLIS. This presents the question, what about other masters? SCSU – like all university's—has long recognized the MA as appropriate for teaching in certain disciplines;

what about tenure? This is an issue that needs to be researched and discussed.

*** Work to establish meaningful guidelines for evaluating degree programs.**

This is something that has not been done on a consistent basis, in part because of the many administrative changes, and then it usually comes down to a numbers game—which degrees have how many students? The harder questions to evaluate concern the role of a degree in fulfilling the University mission.

*** Revise the General Education Curriculum and implement the revisions through revised curricula.** A taskforce met and made recommendations, which now have to go through the policy bodies; program curricula will have to be updated to reflect the new GEC.

*** Continue to protect and enhance the value of our academic degrees.**

If we meet even our “Mission ready” goals for enrollment, there will be need for faculty to teach those freshman, especially in English and math. If we exceed those, the need for additional faculty increases. Overloading classes does not lead to effective learning or retention.

*** Continue to advocate for Faculty Welfare**

- Ensuring the tenure and promotion process

Addressing the issues of salary equity. Even if the need can not be addressed this year, it should not be forgotten. Faculty represent the intellectual capital of the university, and in down times, we risk losing some of our most valuable assets.

*** Work with the Provost and the President to ensure effective communication between Faculty and Administration.** In what promises to be a year of cutbacks and furloughs, effective communication becomes all the more important.

Respectfully Submitted,

Prof. Thomas Cassidy
Faculty Senate President