

December 2014

Faculty Senate President's Report

1) Faculty Communication -

After the November Senate meeting, we initiated a new process that we will be using to gather feedback from faculty members. When the Senate needs to take a vote, we will be asking each representative to communicate directly with all members of his or her respective department to gather input. That information will then be presented at the next meeting before voting. If things did not run smoothly this month, please be patient as we settle in to the new routine.

You will again be contacted by your representative before the January meeting about items that require your input that are discussed during the December meeting. Please be alert for this contact as we return in January. Please let your representative know if you have any concerns in the meantime.

2) Honors by Contract-

The Honor's Program will be piloting a new process. Because students in the Program are required to complete 18 credits of Honor's courses, it is difficult for some students to finish with the full 18 credits given the lack of Honor's courses in certain areas (e.g., science, math, and languages). Thus, a student will now be able to join a regular class (that is not offered in Honors format) and sign a contract with the instructor, agreeing to complete additional assignments and meet higher standards, enabling him or her to gain Honors credit for the course. There is a minimum GPA requirement, the student must earn at least a "B" in the course, and the student must have already completed 9 credits of Honor's courses to be eligible for this option. If the concept works well, the Honor's Program will submit a proposal to the District/Campus Group in the spring for official approval.

3) Senate Bylaws-

A comprehensive review of the *Faculty Senate Constitution* and *Faculty Senate Bylaws* is underway, but the Senate has already approved one simple change: the word "written" has been removed from the section that explains presidential elections. This change has been approved by District/Campus Group and will proceed to President's Staff where it will be recommended for implementation.

4) Faculty/Student Services Communication-

I met with VP Webb to discuss strategies for improving communication between faculty members and Student Services. We need more streamlined communication between these two College areas. Please let me know if you have any ideas.