

Faculty Senate President's Report
Bill Caldecutt
February 2015

1) Who's my Senate Representative?

I sent a message to all full-time faculty members last week, reminding them that their Senate representatives should have contacted them recently about documents that would need their input. Many people responded to me privately, asking which individuals were their representatives. This provides the perfect opportunity to provide a refresher on the Faculty Senate hierarchy from the Senate Bylaws:

Arts

(Humanities, Art, Drama, Philosophy, Religion, Foreign Language, Music)

Cary Gardell - WH

Derek Menchan - LK

Business and Technology

(Business Admin, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, Digital Media, Early Childhood Education, Electrical Distribution, Fire Science, Military Science, Office Administration)

Tina Feleccia - WH

Greg Richeson - LK

Charter Schools

Misty Sparling - WH

Lee Childree - LK

Letters

(College Success, English, Speech, ESL, Reading, Writing)

CR Junkins - WH

Sally Fitzgerald - LK

Mathematics

Dimitriodis Alexandros - WH

Kaye Betz - LK

Mike Malone - LK

Nursing

LouAnne Harto - WH

Lorrie Jones - WH

Cindy Courtney - LK

Science

(Biology, Chemistry, Physical Science, Wellness)

Anthony Cornett - WH

Bruce Dubendorff - LK

Michael Harrison - LK

Social Sciences

(Anthropology, Economics, Education, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology)

Greg Harris – WH

Jim Haischer – LK

Reminder: Each representative will contact the faculty members in his or her area each month with various updates and requests for feedback. This is an essential process--it is the faculty's link to the Senate and the governance of the College.

2) Objectives for 2015

As we move into the spring semester, please give some thought to what you think the faculty should be focused on in terms of objectives. Please let us know if you have any particular or general concerns or suggestions.

3) Passport Issues

There were significant “bugs” in the Passport search functions at the beginning of the semester. Several people noticed that full sections could not be searched, which caused problems. The Registrar (Kathy Bucklew) is aware of these problems and temporary solutions have been applied. Long-term solutions will be sought as the software consortium completes an update.

4) Meeting Schedules

Many faculty members have expressed concern over the scheduling of meetings that require (or would benefit from) faculty attendance. For example, several people contacted me after we were informed about the forums in the search for the position of Winter Haven Dean of Student Services. Faculty and Administration have opened a conversation about including faculty early in the process of determining meeting dates and times, and we should be able to expect more notice in the future.

4) Faculty Pay Scale

Faculty have articulated many questions, and expressed much concern over our pay schedule. We did receive a step increase this January, but the step was applied six months late. We did not receive a raise. Certainly, there are many budgetary reasons for these two outcomes, and there is no simple solution. Dr. Holden has communicated willingness on the part of the Administration to hold discussions and seek solutions or alternatives. We can expect another all-faculty meeting to be scheduled toward the end of the spring semester where we will engage in open dialog regarding our pay scale. In the meantime, please let us know your thoughts or concerns so we can be as productive and constructive as possible.

5) Graduation March

Faculty members have been asked if they would be willing to line the aisle at graduation while students enter and/or leave. Please let me know if this presents a concern for anyone.

5) Perceived Presence of Workplace Values

The Office of Instructional Research, Effectiveness, and Planning conducted a survey of Polk State employees in the Fall 2013 Semester. We were asked about our perception of the presence of workplace values, and full-time faculty responded with a conspicuously low rating regarding a sense of “collaboration.” We were also asked to rate our perceived workplace experiences, and there was a conspicuously low response for both faculty and career employees for the statement, “I feel informed about things.” With the results of this study, I am confident that Administration will be working with us to rectify these concerns across various levels and areas of the College.

The Faculty Senate is our official mechanism and best opportunity to increase our collaborative presence at the College, pursue self-governance, and ensure that faculty members are informed of projects, opportunities, and changes. As we begin 2015, the Faculty Senate will strive to make a positive difference in these measures as well, through buttressing our hierarchy of communication and input. Please stay in close contact with your representative, and let him or her know if you have any concerns.