

## Faculty Senate President's Report

November 2014

1) **Technology Refresh** - Polk State will be initiating a new process that will update faculty computers at a faster rate. During the turnover, each faculty member will be given a choice between a desktop or laptop with docking station options. Details will be available in the near future.

2) **Budget** - Enrollment is down this semester by nearly 3%. There has been a decline in headcount and FTE. After years of steady growth, this is a significant change. This loss of revenue, combined with rising costs, has had an impact on our budget; however, the Budget Council met in October and reviewed a host of savings that could be made in various departments. They approved recommending the implementation of a step increase effective January 2015. This recommendation will be presented to the DBOT for approval soon. Feel free to contact me for additional details.

3) **Communication** - In October, the Faculty Senate outlined a new approach we will be using to transmit information between department members and the Senate. Each month, items that require attention from individual faculty members will be distributed by the Senate Representatives to all faculty in their department. After discussion and deliberation within the department, feedback will be presented by the department's Senator at the next Senate meeting. This process is meant to encourage discussion within departments and between campuses, and to ensure that Senate representatives feel confident that they are speaking and voting on items with the opinions of the department in mind.

This is not meant to pre-empt direct communication between faculty members and Senate officers, but rather we hope to support active participation and ensure that all opinions are represented.

4) **Faculty Credentials** - Human Resources has contacted all full-time faculty members with a request to provide consent for Polk State to verify the validity of earned degrees. Please contact me or Jill Hall if you have any questions or concerns.