

SCSU Faculty Senate President's Report - October 30, 2019

Updates

1. *Students First No Confidence Resolution* - Based upon the outcome of our last meeting, the Executive Committee agreed that I would extend an invitation to President Ojakian and Dr. Stephen Adair to present information to our campus on both viewpoints regarding Students First. The EC decided that, if the invitations were accepted, the discussion would take place from 1-3pm during one of the weeks of the Senate standing committee meetings. There would be a list of questions formulated by the Senate that would be answered in turn by each individual, followed by Q&A from the audience. The invitation was accepted by Dr. Adair, however President Ojakian respectfully declined.

The event will therefore not take place and we will move forward with our discussion of the resolution where we left off at our previous meeting. Please come prepared to discuss and vote on the resolution tomorrow.

2. *Provost Prezant* will join us at our meeting tomorrow. This will be a wonderful opportunity to ask questions and discuss any issues of interest with him.
3. *Update on digital evaluation files*

The committee is working to have a template available by the end of the semester, for all faculty involved in any stage of evaluation, that will enable the uploading of documents, materials, etc., in an ongoing basis. Four templates will be created: teaching faculty, counselors and library faculty, athletic trainers, and coaches and each member will have the appropriate template loaded into BB under *Courses*. The templates will be generic and appropriate for any stage of the evaluation process.

Faculty who are utilizing digital review this year currently upload their files in BB *Organizations*. These faculty will continue to use these templates for the remainder of the academic year. In the fall, only BB *Courses* will be utilized and all materials will be transferred automatically to *Courses*.

The reason *Courses* has been selected, moving forward, instead of *Organizations*, is the ability in *Courses* to transition from one level of reviewer to the next automatically. For example, on the required date, access for a reviewer or committee (e.g., the DEC), will be turned off and access for the next level (e.g., Chairperson), will be turned on. This will remove the responsibility on the part of the candidate to do this manually, thus reducing the likelihood of error.

4. President Bertolino has requested that the Faculty Senate appoint four “Faculty Leads,” two for a Curricular Flexibility Working Group, one for a working group on Transfer Student Support, and one for a working group on Finances. These working groups are based on priorities that were identified following two campus leadership retreats, where the administration was tasked with creating the groups to address the priorities. To date, President Bertolino has asked the following individuals to serve as co-facilitators: Curricular Flexibility, Craig Hlavac, Transfer Student Support, Steve Marcelynas and Michele Vancour, Finance, Judite Vamvakides and Nine Cote.

These individuals will work in partnership with the faculty leads to do the following:

- Invite individuals to join the working group and convene the working group (membership will be voluntary – a call will go out to all those who were invited to participate in the retreat).
- As a follow-up to the discussions conducted at the retreat, develop a list of actionable items that can be implemented – 6 months, 12 months, 18 months. The list should include the action item, a recommendation for a lead(s) for that item and a proposed timeline for completion.
- The deadline for each working group to complete its work will be tight (December 18th).

If you are interested in serving as a lead for one of these committees, please submit your name to me before the next Senate meeting. If more than one person indicates interest, we will hold an election for the positions at our next meeting.

5. President Ojakian will attend our next Senate meeting on 11/13. The topics he has been asked to address are:
 - State budget
 - BoR budget
 - Legislation that was approved that enables private universities to approve new programs without going to state for approval. Are we planning to propose similar legislation to expedite our proposals?
 - What are the implications for the CSUs of free tuition for community colleges and for UConn (for families with incomes under 50k) and how do we deal with these challenges?
 - Any other relevant issues that we should know about that may be imminent in the near or distant future

Ample time will be available for Q&A. Please extend an invitation to faculty in your department to attend. President Ojakian will speak at the latter part of our meeting (from about 1:00 or 1:15 on) so that we will have time to address our routine business first. Please note that this invitation was extended to and accepted by President Ojakian prior to and separate from the invitation that was extended regarding Students First and should therefore be viewed as an event independent of that.

