

TCNJ Faculty Senate Newsletter



Greetings from the Faculty Senate President Recent Changes in Governance and the Faculty Senate

This spring was marked by major changes in both the College governance system and the Faculty Senate. The Senate's adoption of its first new Constitution in thirty-six years largely had to do with bringing theory (the Constitution) in line with practice (this institution is, to put it mildly, rather different from what it was in 1969). The changes to governance are more significant; they are designed to make College decision-making more democratic and to give faculty a greater voice.

First, the changes to governance. This process, shepherded by the Steering Committee, began last spring and is still ongoing. However, the major changes are in place.

Most significant is the replacement of Advisory Councils with Program Councils and Planning Councils. There are eleven Advisory Councils in the current system; they will be replaced by seven Program Councils and six Planning Councils.

The Program Councils are largely continuations of current Advisory Councils. There is one exception: the Advising Program Council. This council continues the work of the current Special Services Advisory Council but will also be concerned with the improvement of academic advising—a crucial part of our academic mission that has not received adequate big-picture input from faculty in recent years.

The Planning Councils, which originated in a proposal from Provost Steve Briggs, were designed to respond to the Faculty Senate's call last spring for more faculty input in such crucial planning areas as admissions and finance. Three of the Planning Councils—Diversity and Human Relations, External

Affairs, and Information Technology—replace current Advisory Councils. However, three others are new: Enrollment, Facilities and Construction, and Finance and Budget. These three new Councils will give faculty a much stronger voice in decisions that have a major impact on the entire College.

The Faculty Senate has played a key role in governance changes, and we're particularly pleased that we were able to collaborate with the Student Government Association and the Staff Senate in pushing for changes to the governance document that emphasize the important role in governance of the faculty, student, and staff representative bodies.

The Faculty Senate's previous constitution, originally approved in 1969 and in force until recently, was a lengthy, extremely detailed document that did not reflect current realities at The College of New Jersey, such as a smaller faculty distributed among seven Schools, a new governance system, and faculty representation on the Board of Trustees. The new constitution is up-to-date, brief, and flexible. Its major changes from the old constitution:

- Instead of forty-five elected members, the Senate will have forty elected members, plus the president of the AFT local and the two faculty representatives to the Board of Trustees.
- The Senate Executive Board, which formerly consisted of the Senate's three elected officers plus six other members, will now have ten members: the three officers, the two Board of Trustees representatives, and five at-large members.
- Officers and the Executive Board will serve one-year terms, opening up opportunities for more members to serve.

(cont. p.2)

- Appointments to college-wide Standing Committees and Councils were formerly recommended to the Senate by the Executive Board. In order to make the process more open and inclusive, recommendations will be made by a Senate committee on appointments.

You can review the new constitution on the Senate's website: www.tcnj.edu/~senate.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll see a call for self-nominations for the upcoming Faculty Senate elections. I hope you'll consider running yourself or encourage outstanding teacher-scholars in your School to do so. And when ballots arrive later in April, please vote. We've been fortunate to have an outstanding group of Senators this year, and that's a tradition we're eager to continue.

Michael Robertson, Professor of English

Board of Trustees Meeting Report

Faculty Representatives:

Deborah Knox, Michael Robertson

At the February meeting, the following promotions were approved.

To Full Professor:

Jay Hoffman (Health & Exercise)
 Jie Kang (Health & Exercise)
 Romulo Ochoa (Physics)
 Melinda Roberts (Philosophy)
 Qin Shao (History)
 Donald Vandegrift (Business)

To Librarian I:

Marc Meola

To Associate Professor:

Rachel Adler (Sociology & Anthropology)
 James Graham (Psychology)
 Janet Gray (Women & Gender Studies)
 Ann Marie Nicolosi (Woman & Gender Studies),
 Kim Pearson (English)
 Susan Ryan (Communication Studies)
 Jayne Zanglein (Business)

The following new faculty were appointed. Welcome!

Edward Corrado (Library)
 Delores Jones-Brown (Criminology & Justice)
 Lara Kohl (Art)
 Peter Velikonja (Music)

Finally, best wishes upon retirement to:

Fred Goldstein (Physics)
 Nicholas Greenbaum (Mathematics & Statistics)
 Regina Kenen (Sociology & Anthropology)

Faculty Senate Update

The reports in this newsletter from Senate working groups provide updates on the Senate's work of the semester, as do the reports from the four Standing Committees—the Senate has been involved in every significant issue that the Standing Committees have taken up. In particular, we've had a major influence in the following areas:

Administrative Assignment Within Load (AAWL)

Last semester, working with the AFT and the Design Team, we sponsored a forum on the important issue of reassigned time for department and program chairs. We passed a resolution calling for this issue to be brought back into the governance process, and we worked with the Committee on Faculty Affairs (CFA) to appoint an ad hoc committee of faculty who will work with the Provost over the summer to devise a system that will be approved by CFA next fall.

Promotions

The Senate enthusiastically commended CFA's draft revision of the Promotions Document. However, we also saw the need to reverse four proposed changes to current practice, and in our March meeting, attended by the chair and several members of CFA, we passed a resolution calling for those reversals.

Reading Days and Final Examinations

A relatively minor issue regarding the Spring 2006 final exam schedule led the Senate to ask the Committee on Academic Programs to conduct a major review of College policies on reading period and final examinations.

Course Enrollment Caps

When two department chairs asked the Senate to take up this issue, we began working with the Provost to ensure that faculty will play a major role in helping to bring average class sizes to a level in line with fiscal needs, while still giving departments flexibility in setting course caps.

Department Chairs and Program Leaders

In response to widespread concern across the College, the Senate convened an Ad Hoc Committee on Department Chairs and Program Leaders. Its charge is to determine how the College can better attract and support outstanding teacher-scholars as department chairs. The committee, which consists of one representative from each School, has begun its work under the leadership of Ellen Friedman (Culture and Society). The other members are Marcia Blicharz (Nursing), Suzanne Hickman (Art, Media and Music), John Karsnitz (Engineering), Jean Konzal (Education), Marcia O'Connell (Science), and Al Pelham (Business).

Faculty Senate Working Groups

Curriculum Implementation and Assessment

Chairs: Deborah Compte, Don Vandegrift

Our report was approved by the Senate in December and a meeting to discuss its recommendations was held with the Provost in February. Provost Briggs has agreed to establish a First Seminar Advisory Committee and appoint a Faculty Coordinator for First Seminar. A call for interest was recently sent to the campus and the committee hopes that faculty will volunteer. The Faculty Coordinator position will include reassigned time to oversee faculty recruitment and development, ensure consistency among First Seminars, coordinate student preferences, and provide for the articulation of common goals. The Advisory Committee will consist of four faculty members in addition to the FS Faculty Coordinator, the Director of the Writing Program, two representatives from Student Life, and a student representative.

Our report also recommended replacing or substantially revising the end of semester student evaluation forms. This issue will be among the Senate's top concerns for the new academic year, and the Senate will put out a call to the faculty at large in September to establish an ad hoc committee. The intent is to draw from the considerable expertise campus-wide that is needed to draft a new evaluative instrument.

Finally, our working group's report recommended that the campus examine issues related to grading practices. As a first step, we are sponsoring a forum with the Senate's Intellectual Climate working group on grading practices. We have invited speakers to initiate an informed dialogue on this topic and set the stage for further discussion of an issue that concerns us all.

Departmental Planning and Assessment

Chair: Cynthia Curtis

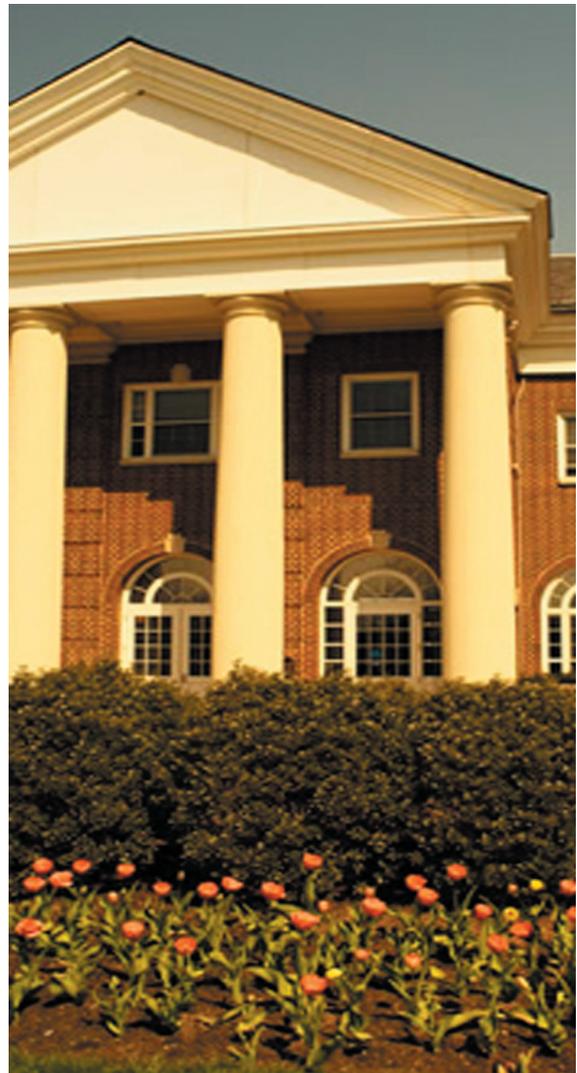
We have spent the year examining the process by which departments and programs undergo periodic planning and assessment. We have drafted a recommendation for the Steering Committee asking that a procedure for such review be developed within the governance system. Included in our recommendation is a list of guiding principles we feel any such process should respect. We recommend that departments focus on a particular aspect or aspects of student learning, faculty, or administration/infrastructure, rotating through these areas over time. We have consulted with the department chairs and program leaders and will bring our proposal to the Senate at its May meeting.

Intellectual Climate

Chair: AnnMarie Nicolosi

The Mildred Dabne Award has been established and calls for applications were sent to the campus in mid-March. The deadline is April 15. *The Mildred Dabne Award* is an \$8000.00 annual award for department or program excellence. The committee is preparing to read the applications and choose the first recipient by the end of the semester.

Together with Angela Sgroi and the Senate's Faculty Development working group, we are planning a campus panel and forum on assessment and grade inflation in May. The forum will occur during the week following commencement. More specific details will be announced shortly.



Committee on Academic Programs (CAP)

*Andrew Clifford, Chair, cliffan@tcnj.edu
Deborah Compte, Vice-Chair, dcompte@tcnj.edu*

Much of CAP's work this semester has been clarifying and updating existing policies. We have recommending changing the maximum number of majors that a student can take; clarified the way transferred credits are interpreted in the definitions of the dismissal policy; and clarified the new Ungraded Option policy vis-à-vis minors. We have also released to the Steering Committee a statement concerning the 2006 end-of-the-semester schedule. In terms of specific programs, CAP has reviewed and recommended proposed new minors in Photography, Linguistics and Professional Selling. We are in the process of reviewing the current Academic Program Closure policy and expanding it to be applicable to Academic Centers. In the future we expect to be looking at the college policy on final exams and reading days.

Committee on Faculty Affairs (CFA)

*Janet Morrison, Chair, morrisja@tcnj.edu
Ann Marie Nicolosi, Vice-Chair, nicolosi@tcnj.edu*

The Committee of Faculty Affairs has continued its work on revision of the promotions document, which has also entailed some revision of the tenure and reappointment document, and the creation of a new joint application format for reappointment, tenure, and promotion. After gathering preliminary testimony, our Preliminary Recommendation was released to the campus community and discussed at two public forums on March 15 and 16 and at the Faculty Senate March 23. We plan to release an intermediate recommendation for further discussion and then finish our Final Recommendation by the end of the semester. In addition, CFA has appointed a faculty group to review the Design Team's report on alternate assignment within load for departmental and program administration and work with the Provost to agree on a plan. The group's report will be submitted to CFA for review. Finally, CFA is reviewing a policy on joint appointments and related issues that was developed by the Deans' Council.

Committee on Student & Campus Community (CSCC)

Glenn Steinberg, Chair, gsteinbe@tcnj.edu

The CSCC has had a busy year with a number of issues on its agenda. After gathering information from institutions comparable to TCNJ and consulting with various constituencies on campus, the CSCC endorsed a statement that affirms the value (and future scheduling) of both Senior Week and reading days. Asked by Steering to review TCNJ's smoking policy, the CSCC has surveyed students who live in the residence halls, examined smoking policies at other institutions, and consulted widely on campus before drafting a preliminary revision of the policy. The CSCC has, however, tabled its draft revision until the fall because of the short time remaining in the semester for circulating and getting feedback on the draft. The CSCC has also been working on gathering information for a new student travel policy and is now ready to begin drafting the policy itself. Over the summer, a small working group will work on generating a draft for circulation and feedback in the fall. Finally, the CSCC reviewed a new web page policy drafted by the Information Technology Advisory Council, and the CSCC has tentatively approved the policy with some minor revisions.

Committee on Planning and Priorities (CPP)

*David Venturo, Chair, dventuro@tcnj.edu
Tom Hagedorn, Vice-Chair, hagedorn@tcnj.edu*

This semester, CPP continued its work on the Program Closure and Planning Council Documents. We expect to make final recommendations to Steering on both documents by the end of this semester. CPP's Subcommittee on Scheduling intends to make a final recommendation on the Wednesday afternoon meeting schedule. In addition, CPP has discussed ways of improving its role in strategic planning at TCNJ. Finally, CPP will recommend that a task force be convened in 2005-2006 to study models of, and support for, the teacher-scholar at TCNJ.

Officers and Members of the Faculty Senate of The College of New Jersey

The Faculty Senate is made up of forty-five members elected by the faculty for a term of three years.

President

Michael Robertson
mroberts@tcnj.edu

Vice President

Cynthia Curtis
ccurtis@tcnj.edu

Secretary

John Karsnitz
karsnitz@tcnj.edu

Staff Secretary

Paulette LaBar
plabar@tcnj.edu

Art, Media, and Music

Anita Allyn, Art (05)
Robert McMahan, Music (05)
Ruane Miller, Art (05)

Jacqueline Norris, EASE
Ruth Palmer, EASE +
Jerry Petroff, SELL
Kathryne Speaker, SELL

Business

Sunita Ahlawat, Accountancy
Pamela Kravitz, Business Administration
Bozena Leven, Economics
Gerald Miller, Accountancy
Don Vandegrift, Economics +

Library

Maureen Gorman

Nursing

Leslie Rice
Gladys Word

Culture and Society

Deborah Compte, Modern Languages +
Tim Clydesdale, Sociology
Art Hohmuth, Psychology (05)
Richard Kamber, Philosophy
Stuart Koch, Political Science (05)
Rebecca Li, Sociology (05)
Ann Marie Nicolosi, History/WGST + (05)
John Pollock, Communication Studies (05)
Consuelo Preti, Philosophy (05)
Michael Robertson, English *+
Susan Ryan, Communication Studies
Teresa San Pedro, Modern Languages (05)
Glenn Steinberg, English
David Venturo, English +

Science

Georgia Arvanitis, Chemistry
Ed Conjura, Mathematics/Statistics (05)
Cynthia Curtis, Mathematics/Statistics +
Tom Hagedorn, Mathematics/Statistics +
Deborah Knox, Computer Science *+
Don Lovett, Biology (05)
Amanda Norvell, Biology
Marcia O'Connell, Biology (05)
Ursula Wolz, Computer Science (05)

** Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees*

+ Senate Executive Board Member

(05) Term expires this semester

Engineering

Ralph Edelbach, Technological Studies (05)
Orlando Hernandez, Engineering
John Karsnitz, Technological Studies+(05)

Senate Elections

Self-nominations for the Faculty Senate are due Thursday, April 14. The following openings are available:

Art, Media, and Music: 3 seats
Culture and Society: 7 seats
Engineering: 2 seats
Science: 4 seats

Education

Stuart Carroll, EECE
Jie Kang, Health & Exercise
Jean Konzal, EECE
Brenda Leake, EECE +

To run for a Senate seat, send an email to the Senate's staff secretary, Paulette LaBar: plabar@tcnj.edu by the end of the day on April 14.

Service on College-Wide Committees and Councils

Faculty will soon receive the annual call for service on college-wide committees and councils. If you are not currently serving, please consider volunteering. Following the governance revision of 2005, there are now four types of college-wide groups:

Standing Committees

The four standing committees remain the same: Committee on Academic Programs (CAP), Committee on Faculty Affairs (CFA), Committee on Planning and Priorities (CPP), and Committee on Students and Campus Community (CSCC). In general, the Senate prefers to appoint tenured faculty with a broad institutional perspective to these four committees.

Program Councils

The Senate appoints members to six of the seven Program Councils (all except Teacher Education): Advising, Athletics, Graduate Programs, Honors and Scholars, International Education, and Liberal Learning (which replaces GEAC). All faculty, tenured or untenured, are invited to serve on the program councils.

Planning Councils

The President of the College will appoint members of the six new Planning Councils in consultation with the Faculty Senate. The number of representatives on each Planning Council has not yet been decided, but we expect that most Councils will have three faculty members. The Senate will look for tenured faculty members with special interest and/or expertise in the Council's area. The Councils are Diversity and Human Relations, Enrollment, External Affairs, Facilities and Construction, Finance and Budget, and Information Technology.

Faculty Committees

The two Faculty Committees are Promotions and SOSA. Promotions Committee members are elected by Schools; the Faculty Senate appoints SOSA members. All active scholars, tenured or untenured, are encouraged to volunteer for SOSA.

For the most recent information on college-wide Committees and Councils, see "Governance Structure and Processes 2005" on the Steering Committee website: www.tcnj.edu/~steering

Comments or Suggestions? Send them to
senate@tcnj.edu

TCNJ Faculty Senate Website:
<http://www.tcnj.edu/~senate>



The College of New Jersey

Upcoming Meetings

Faculty Forum with Curt Heuring
Vice-President of Facilities and Construction
Wednesday, April 20, 1:30-2:50
Science Complex P-101

Open to all faculty. Curt Heuring will present the major issues in facilities planning for student housing and academic buildings over the next several years. Academic leaders heard this presentation in March. Now Faculty Senate is providing all faculty with the chance to learn about the issues, ask questions, and provide feedback.

Faculty Senate Annual Reorganization Meeting
Wednesday, May 11, noon-1:20
Science Complex P-117

Instructional Technology Workshop

Hold the date!

TCNJ's Instructional Technology Workshop will be held on Wednesday May 11th, 9 AM – 3 PM, School of Business.

Come join your colleagues for a fun and informative look at new initiatives for integrating technology into the classroom. For more information please visit the Instructional Technology Services website at:

<http://its.intrasun.tcnj.edu>

ANNUAL FACULTY/STAFF TRENTON THUNDER GAME

Last May's faculty/staff picnic at the Trenton Thunder baseball stadium was a huge success, and the Faculty Senate is co-sponsoring the second annual event with Staff Senate.

The event will take place at the Trenton Thunder stadium on Saturday, May 21. The picnic is at 6:30, and the game begins at 7:00. The ticket price (subsidized by the Faculty Senate) is only \$15 for adults and \$9 for children ages 5-12. The evening includes dinner in the stadium's shaded picnic area overlooking the ball field and post-game fireworks.

All faculty and their families are invited to attend. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Send cash or checks (payable to Trenton Thunder) to Rita in the Certification office (117 Forcina) or Libby in Records & Registration (112 Green). The deadline is Friday, May 5.

For directions to the stadium, see:
www.trentonthunder.com