



TCNJ Faculty Senate Newsletter

Greetings from the Faculty Senate President

This Faculty Senate newsletter (the first in what we hope will be a series) provides a wonderful opportunity to remind the campus community of what the Senate has achieved in recent years, discuss what we hope to accomplish, and explain how the Senate functions.

The Senate's primary function in the College governance system is to appoint faculty to serve on collegewide committees and advisory councils, ensuring that committees represent the diversity of disciplines and viewpoints across the campus. Aside from that official duty, the Senate serves in an advisory role, offering its input on policy matters to the administration, to the standing committees, and to the campus as a whole.

Under the leadership of Dan Crofts from 1998-2004, the Faculty Senate played a major part in setting the College's agenda and ensuring that faculty had a strong voice in determining academic policies. The Senate's "Ten Big Issues" document of 1998, addressed to newly hired President Barbara Gitenstein, largely set the agenda for the administration and College over the next few years. The Senate was able to play a major role in the overhaul of the governance system that took place in 2000, participated in the renewed emphasis on strategic planning, and helped to ensure that faculty took a guiding role in the massive academic transformation of the past few years. Last spring the Senate revisited the "Ten Big Issues" of 1998 and issued a report that we anticipate will guide the College's forward movement in the years ahead.

With the transformed curriculum in place this fall, the Senate has been able to step back, catch our collective breath, and set our agenda for the coming year. At a planning retreat in September, we set a number of goals, including increasing communication between the Senate and the faculty as a whole. This newsletter is one result. The idea came from the Senate committee on Communication and Community, one of eight working groups established this fall. The Senate Executive Board members who chair those groups report on their work in this newsletter.

In brief, we're tackling issues such as the following:

— How can we ensure that academic transformation delivers a more intensive, rigorous, and demanding education for our students?

— What can we do to support excellent teaching across the College?

— How can we mentor and support both new and experienced faculty as teacher-scholars?

— How can we help foster a rich and healthy intellectual climate on campus?

— What changes in the governance system are needed to increase faculty involvement and improve its effectiveness?

— What forms of department and program planning and assessment should replace the old "departmental review" process?

— What role can faculty play in gaining more state and external support for the College?

You can read about how we're addressing those questions in this newsletter, and you'll hear more about them in the months to come. Each of the groups will be issuing public reports and making recommendations regarding policy to the standing committees. In addition, the Faculty Senate, through its 11-member Executive Board, works daily in significant but often largely unseen ways to ensure that faculty have a voice in important decisions.

(cont. p.2)

To give a few examples, in recent weeks we have:

- Met with finalists for the position of Vice-President for Facilities. We're pleased that Curt Heuring, the candidate we recommended, has now arrived on campus. We'll follow the same process when finalists for Vice-President for Development and Alumni Affairs come to campus early next semester.
- Co-sponsored with AFT an Open Forum on the issue of administrative reassigned time.
- Proposed a new Wednesday afternoon meeting schedule that both preserves 80-minute meeting periods and opens up numerous time slots.
- Recommended revisions to the Provost's proposal for planning councils.

Finally, thanks to the work of our new staff Secretary, Paulette LaBar, we have established a new Faculty Senate website at: www.tcnj.edu/~senate. Our "Resources" section provides a convenient collection of documents related to current hot topics on campus. Our Membership Roster (on the last page of this Newsletter) can show you the Senate representatives from your School. I urge you to contact them or me at any time with questions or concerns.

Michael Robertson, Professor of English
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Faculty Senate Working Groups

Communication

Chair: Tom Hagedorn

Our working group has recommended that the four standing governance committees (CAP, CFA, CPP, CSCC) regularly inform the Faculty Senate of their work and that the Senate inform the faculty of its work through a regular newsletter. We are also discussing holding a meeting of the full faculty.

Departmental Planning and Assessment

Chair: Cynthia Curtis

We are examining the process by which departments and programs undergo periodic planning and assessment. We are drafting 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 will be soliciting input from chairs and from the Senate in the coming weeks; thereafter we will forward the recommendation to Steering.

Governance

Chairs: David Venturo and John Karsnitz

We are currently working on two projects. First, we are revising the constitution of the Faculty Senate in order to bring it into conformity with the governance system at TCNJ. Second, the committee is reviewing a proposal submitted by the Provost to the Committee on Planning and Priorities to create a series of Planning and Program Councils to aid in the task of strategic planning at the College. In addition, the committee is prepared to lend its expertise to the review and revision of the College's governance system during the 2004-2005 academic year.

Implementation and Assessment

Chairs: Don Vandegrift, Deborah Compte

We are reviewing current assessment efforts at TCNJ and will make recommendations to increase accountability, quality and consistency. The Committee has produced recommendations on five separate issues: the First Year Seminar (FYS), program assessment, student evaluation forms and alumni surveys, the National Survey on Student Engagement, and grade inflation. Some recommendations include designating a faculty coordinator for FYS and creating a FYS advisory committee, more faculty training and development in program assessment, substantially revising the student evaluation forms to include course assessment, and creating an ad hoc committee to examine grade inflation.

Intellectual Climate

Chair: Ann Marie Nicolosi

We are working on two issues. First, a bequest by Mildred Dahne has enabled the college to create the Mildred Dahne Endowment Fund from which an \$8000 annual award for department or program excellence will be given. Our committee is working to create a committee to establish the criteria for the award (up to 20) and the length of time for review of those criteria. We expect that criteria for the award will be established in fall '04 and that applications will be accepted in spring '05. Secondly, the committee is seeking to create a program that highlights outstanding faculty scholarship. One idea is to select two Faculty Senate Scholars per year from the TCNJ faculty to present their work to the campus community.

State and External Support

Chair: Michael Robertson

How can faculty play a more direct role in fundraising? In the past, faculty members with ideas for fundraising have often felt frustrated by an overly hierarchical structure that led to their ideas being shelved before they ever reached the desk of the Vice-President for Development. Our working group has discussed problems and solutions among themselves, met

with the President, and drafted a memo to President Gitenstein and the incoming Vice-President. With a new development head coming to the College, we anticipate that this is a perfect time to initiate changes in the office and get faculty more involved.

Support for Teaching

Chair: Brenda Leake

We have been engaged in a dialogue focusing on potential ways to support faculty in providing instruction that is commensurate with the goals of our curricular transformation. Initial discussions have covered a range of ideas including revisiting the notion of establishing a Center for Teaching Excellence. We plan to present a formal set of recommendations to the full Senate at its December meeting.

College Governance Committee Reports

Committee on Academic Programs (CAP)

Andrew Clifford, Chair, cliffan@tcnj.edu

Deborah Compte, Vice-Chair, dcompte@tcnj.edu

Now that Academic Transformation is almost entirely phased in, the work of CAP has returned to its principal work of reviewing and making recommendations on new academic initiatives on campus such as: the development of a biomedical engineering specialization within the School of Engineering, the expansion of the seven-year medical school program, the restructuring of the School of Engineering, and the development of new graduate level tracks in the School of Nursing. CAP is also charged with making recommendations concerning academic policies on campus. To this end, the committee has been focused on revisiting policy recommendations made last year concerning academic dismissal and the creation of a new Ungraded Option analogous to the Pass/Fail grading option. In the case of the former, CAP considered a recommendation by the Office of Academic Affairs to clarify that office's role in academic dismissal; in the case of the latter, CAP considered a recommendation from the Student Government Association to extend the period during which a student could exercise the ungraded option in a course.

Comm. on Student & Campus Community (CSCC)

Glenn Steinberg, Chair, gsteinbe@tcnj.edu

This year, CSCC is working on two major initiatives. First, the CSCC has formed a working group from the leaders of the various campus disciplinary bodies (i.e., Academic Integrity, Athletics, Student Life, and Residence Life) to draft uniform procedures regarding student misconduct. Currently, procedures in each jurisdiction, while often similar, do not match up exactly and can be confusing to students, faculty,

and staff. In addition, the CSCC hopes to create more consistency in terms of the sanctions that are imposed against students for comparable offenses in different jurisdictions. The CSCC hopes to have a preliminary draft of uniform disciplinary procedures ready to distribute across campus for feedback from stakeholders by April 2005. Second, the CSCC is gathering information about student travel on campus to create a student travel policy. The CSCC is soliciting information from individual faculty, deans, the Student Government Association, Student Life, and Residence Life about student travel that is organized and/or funded by The College. The projected student travel policy will primarily address liability issues, rights and responsibilities of students and "chaperones," and fairness in funding issues. The CSCC hopes to have a preliminary draft by May 2005.

Committee on Planning and Priorities (CPP)

David Venturo, Chair, dventuro@tcnj.edu

Tom Hagedorn, Vice-Chair, hagedorn@tcnj.edu

This semester, CPP has continued its work from last academic year of coordinating the College's Middle States reaccreditation. The committee oversaw a self-study by three subcommittees of the College's planning and assessment processes. Based upon the recommendations of those subcommittees, CPP is currently studying establishing a new system of planning and program advisory councils to assist CPP and the administration in their review and oversight of strategic planning at TCNJ. A recommendation is expected in the next few months. Secondly, CPP is currently taking testimony on a draft program closure document. Last spring, CPP recommended amending the College's existing policies on the closure of academic programs and establishing similar procedures for academic centers and nonacademic programs. The new proposal can be viewed on the governance website (under 2004-2005 items). Finally, CPP is brainstorming possibilities for a number of major new initiatives consistent with the College's mission. The committee welcomes faculty suggestions for such major new initiatives.

Committee on Faculty Affairs (CFA)

Janet Morrison, Chair, morrisja@tcnj.edu

Ann Marie Nicolosi, Vice-Chair, nicolosi@tcnj.edu

This year, CFA is charged with realigning the Promotions document to make it similar in process and format to the Reappointment and Tenure document, which went through a revision via governance and the Union in 2001. Our revisions may include both language and standards to insure consistency between the two documents and processes. We have been asked specifically to consider the external review process and we are identifying other issues as well in consultation with various stakeholders.

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

President
Michael Robertson
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Vice President
Cynthia Curtis
ccurtis@tcnj.edu

Secretary
John Karsnitz
karsnitz@tcnj.edu

Staff Secretary
Paulette LaBar
plabar@tcnj.edu

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

Art, Media, and Music

Anita Allyn, Art
Robert McMahan, Music
Ruane Miller, Art

Business

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

Culture and Society

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

Education

Stuart Carroll, EECE
Colette Gosselin, EASE

Jie Kang, Health & Exercise
Jean Konzal, EECE
Brenda Leake, EECE +
Jacqueline Norris, EASE
Ruth Palmer, EASE +
Jerry Petroff, SELL

Engineering

Ralph Edelbach, Technological Studies
Orlando Hernandez, Engineering
John Karsnitz, Technological Studies

Library

Maureen Gorman

Nursing

Leslie Rice
Gladys Word

Science

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

** Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees
+ Senate Executive Board Member*

The Senate's Upcoming Meetings:

*All faculty are welcome to attend Senate meetings.
The Senate meets in Biology, room 209.*

December 8 3:00 P.M. March 23 12:00 P.M.
January 26 12:00 P.M. April 27 12:00 P.M.
February 23 12:00 P.M.

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

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



The College of New Jersey