



TCNJ Faculty Senate Newsletter

Volume II, Number I
December 2005

Greetings from the Faculty Senate President

How can you get involved in College Governance?

The answer to this question would seem simple: volunteer for a college-wide committee. Most faculty are familiar with the college's five Standing Committees: Academic Programs (CAP), Faculty Affairs (CFA), Planning and Priorities (CPP),

Steering, and Students and Campus Community (CSCC). Each April the Senate issues a call for volunteers for Standing Committees, which are open to all faculty.

Of course, the Standing Committees as a whole include only 27 faculty members, almost all of them tenured. However, there are numerous other opportunities to serve on college-wide governance committees. The six Program Councils—Athletics, Graduate Programs, Honors and Scholars, International Education, Liberal Learning, and Teacher Education—include both untenured and tenured faculty and, combined, involve 51 faculty members. The Committee on Support of Scholarly Activity (SOSA) also welcomes untenured and tenured faculty and has 10 members. Promotions, the only elected committee, includes 12 faculty.

The seven new Planning Councils, whose members are appointed by the President, have opened up new opportunities for service. Currently 22 faculty are serving on these councils, which we expect will offer reports in the Spring issue of this newsletter.

The Faculty Senate calls for volunteers for these seventeen committees and councils every spring. However, they do not exhaust the possibilities for participating in governance. This year, as in years past, President Gitenstein established task forces to address specific but crucial issues that go beyond the responsibility of any one committee or council. This year's task forces have taken up the topics of the Teacher-Scholar, Inclusive Selectivity, and Summer Utilization; you'll hear from them in our Spring issue.

The Senate also regularly establishes ad hoc committees to deal with specific issues. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you can read about the work of Senate committees on Chairs and Program Leaders, Student Evaluation of Teaching, and Peer Evaluation of Teaching. In general, these committees are open to the entire faculty.

These various college-wide committees (and the Faculty Senate itself) involve scores of faculty. However, you don't have to serve on a committee or the Senate in order to be active in governance. Several faculty attended the Senate's recent forum on Student Evaluation of Teaching, which provided a chance to offer suggestions about the proposed new Student Feedback Form. We'll be holding additional forums in the spring.

In addition to attending forums, individuals can help to shape college policies simply by contacting me or any other Senate member (listed in this newsletter). The Faculty Senate Constitution lays out the Senate's responsibility to consider any issue brought forward by faculty members and to let them know how it was handled.

Some of the Senate's most important current initiatives are the result of suggestions by individual faculty members. The ongoing work of the Chairs and Program Leaders group came about because chairs expressed the need for more support. We established a committee on Peer Evaluation of Teaching when faculty expressed concerns about the procedure recommended in the new draft of the Promotions Document. The Senate's recent forum on Grading and Assessment was a result of conversations among faculty concerned about grade inflation.

How can you get involved in college governance? There are lots of possibilities. What's important is to be attentive and active. At a time when, at many colleges and universities across the country, shared governance is threatened by top-down corporate decision-making models, it's crucial that TCNJ faculty stay engaged in this time-consuming but vitally important work.

Michael Robertson, mroberts@tcnj.edu

New Senate Constitution

Prior to last spring, the Faculty Senate worked under a constitution approved in 1969. As a practical matter, the 1969 Constitution of the Faculty Senate of Trenton State College no longer reflected the organization of college wide Governance or the operational structure of the Senate. A working group consisting of John Karsnitz, Stuart Koch, David Venturo, and Michael Robertson was formed to make recommendations concerning the constitution to the full Senate.

The group began by reviewing faculty senate constitutions from similar institutions. At the same time, work began on writing a mission statement to further guide the development of the new document. On December 8, 2004, the following mission statement was approved by the full Senate.

MISSION STATEMENT:

The College of New Jersey Faculty Senate is the representative body of the faculty established to support the mission of the College, promote faculty involvement in College affairs, and provide a faculty voice on issues facing the institution. Working in conjunction with College governance, the Senate ensures a faculty perspective on college-wide issues; promotes diversity through its appointments to college-wide committees and councils; encourages and supports excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service; and fosters community and collegiality.

The approved Mission Statement served as a guide for the new constitution by providing focus to Senate functions and structure. The new Constitution of the Faculty Senate of The College of New Jersey was adopted March 23, 2005 by a vote of the full Senate then ratified by a vote of the entire faculty. The Constitution has six articles including the mission statement, functions and procedures, membership and elections, officers and executive board, meetings, and amendments.

A copy of the Senate Constitution is available on the Senate website at <http://www.tcnj.edu/~senate/>. Other useful information about Senate meetings, membership, and resources is also available on this site.

Faculty members are encouraged to discuss any issue of concern with their School Senator or a member of the executive committee (see membership). Any faculty member may bring an issue to the Faculty Senate for its consideration.

John Karsnitz, Parliamentarian

Faculty Senate Actions Fall 2005

- Forwarded report of the Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on Chairs and Program Leaders to the Provost and sponsored an open meeting for chairs to discuss common concerns. This effort resulted in ongoing meetings of an elected group of chairs from each School: Marcia Blicharz, Nursing; Ellen Friedman, Culture and Society (convener); Suzanne Hickman, Art, Media and Music; John Karsnitz, Engineering; Jean Konzal, Education; Marcia O'Connell, Science; Al Pelham, Business. The committee's report is available on the Senate website: www.tcnj.edu/~senate/resources
- Forwarded report of the Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluation of Teaching to governance. At its November meeting the Senate co-sponsored with the Committee on Academic Programs (CAP) an open faculty forum on the proposed new Student Feedback Form (SFF). The committee's report, which includes the proposed SFF in an appendix, is available online: www.tcnj.edu/~senate/resources
- Established an Ad Hoc Committee on Peer Evaluation of Teaching. Members are Ray Barclay, Institutional Research; Lynn Bradley, Chemistry; Stuart Carroll, EECE; Ralph Edelbach, Tech Ed; Terry O'Connor, EASE (chair); and Mort Winston, Philosophy. The committee expects to issue a report in the spring. Its recommendations for procedures and content of peer evaluations, once approved through governance, will appear as an appendix in the Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion documents.
- Held a forum on Grading and Assessment with Matthew Hartley of the University of Pennsylvania, Mary Biggs of English, and Rick Kamber of Philosophy. The forum presentations will be posted on the Senate website in December: www.tcnj.edu/~senate/resources
- Provided feedback to the Committee on Planning and Priorities regarding the college calendar for 2007-08 and subsequent years.
- Provided feedback to CAP on the proposed new policy for double counting of minor requirements.
- Called for faculty volunteers and made appointments to college-wide Standing Committees. Recommended faculty members for the three 2005-06 Presidential Task Forces: Teacher-Scholar, Inclusive Selectivity, and Summer Utilization.

Faculty Senate Committees

Academic and Student Life

Co-Chairs: Deb Compte, David Venturo
Members: Cindy Curtis, Marcia O'Connell,
Glenn Steinberg

The Committee on Academic and Student Life is examining ways in which to enhance the intersection between academic and student life in order to stimulate intellectual life outside the classroom, facilitate more collaborative communication between faculty and students, and support deeper student learning. Beth Paul of Student Life and John Sisko from the Committee on Student and Campus Community have been invited to join the discussions as we explore ways in which to enhance student engagement outside the classroom. The committee has met on a regular basis and has also consulted with student representatives from the SGA, as well as faculty members of the Committee on Intellectual Community. Ideas from the campus community are most welcome.

Collegiality

Chair: Michael Robertson
Members: Philip Tate, Don Vandergrift

The committee has recommended that the Senate continue two recently established traditions: a fall reception for Staff Senate, SGA, and Faculty Senate; and the faculty/staff excursion to a Trenton Thunder game in May.

The committee has proposed two new events. One is a "common room" where faculty could meet for coffee, food and discussion. The Senate will sponsor two common room periods in the spring to gauge faculty interest. The second event will be a bus trip to a Broadway play with reduced-price group tickets.

Intellectual Community

Chair: Chris Fisher
Members: Jean Konzal, Rebecca Li, Jerry Petroff

The Intellectual Community Committee is a recent addition to the Faculty Senate's committee structure. Accordingly, ICC spent this semester identifying its role within the Senate and articulating a mission that would distinguish it from the other intellectual development efforts at TCNJ. After consulting with other Faculty Senate committees, ICC arrived at

the following principles and benchmarks: that it should focus primarily on faculty development; that intellectual community should span departments, schools, and disciplines at TCNJ; and that ICC should rely upon the expertise of TCNJ's faculty. From these guiding principles, ICC intends to present the Faculty Senate with a mission statement and program agenda at the opening of the spring semester.

Teaching Excellence

Chair: Brenda Leake
Members: Ralph Edelbach, Lorna Johnson,
Gladys Word

This committee has been charged with exploring ways that the Senate might support TCNJ's commitment to teaching excellence. Currently, the working group is primarily refining its discussion of two initiatives that will be brought forward to the Senate for official consideration at the January, 2006 meeting:

- The first initiative focuses on Senate facilitation of campus dialogues related to the book *What the Best College Teachers Do*. This book, authored by Dr. Ken Bain, Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence at New York University, is the product of fifteen years of research on teaching excellence.
- The second initiative involves identifying and clarifying strategies to explore the perceptions held by students and faculty of potentially key factors that contribute to variations in the levels of student success at TCNJ.

Board of Trustees Meeting Report

Faculty Representatives:
Georgia Arvanitis, Ruth Palmer

At the October meeting, trustees and representatives met for the first time in their new committees. Faculty representatives serve on four of the six committees: Student Life & Enrollment Management, Academic Affairs (Palmer); Buildings & Grounds, College Advancement (Arvanitis).

Other highlights include approval of 43 temporary faculty appointments and the retirement of Kathleen Malley (Health & Exercise Science).

College Governance Committee Reports

Committee on Academic Programs (CAP)

*Amanda Norvell, Chair, norvell@tcnj.edu
Deborah Compte, Vice-Chair, compte@tcnj.edu*

CAP is currently considering two charges from Steering: review of the current policy regarding double-counting of courses between a major and minor, and review of the new Student Evaluation of Teaching instrument proposed by the ad hoc Committee on Student Feedback. CAP presented a proposed recommendation regarding double-counting to the Faculty Senate on November 16, 2005, and expects to make a final recommendation shortly. CAP has also moved forward on the Student Evaluation of Teaching, reviewing the proposed instrument and making recommendations, and soliciting feedback from the Faculty Senate Executive Board. CAP held its first faculty forum to solicit input about the proposed instrument at the Faculty Senate meeting on November 16, 2005 and met with the ad hoc Committee on Student Feedback on November 30, 2005. Additional student and faculty feedback is most welcome and will again be solicited early in the Spring semester. It is expected that a final recommendation will be made to the Steering Committee so that a new Student Evaluation of Teaching instrument can be in place for use at the end of Spring semester 2006.

Committee on Faculty Affairs (CFA)

*Ann Marie Nicolosi, Chair, nicolosi@tcnj.edu
Jean Graham, Vice-Chair, graham@tcnj.edu*

CFA continues to work on the promotions document as Provost Briggs asked the committee to clarify some points in the new document. In addition to the promotions document, CFA is also looking at some of the issues regarding the equitable distribution of SOSA awards. We are expecting formal charges to revisit some of the issues from last year regarding the promotion document (outside peer evaluations, grade distributions). At our November 9 meeting, Provost Briggs visited with CFA to discuss its role in Strategic Planning and Assessment, specifically in defining strategic aspirations.

Committee on Planning and Priorities (CPP)

*Tom Hagedorn, Chair, hagedorn@tcnj.edu
Joyce Vincelet, Vice-Chair, vincelet@tcnj.edu*

This academic year, CPP has completed several projects and has on its agenda a number of others. It has approved a new academic calendar for the next 7 years (subject to periodic review) and provided input on a survey distributed to faculty earlier this semester to study use of the academic fourth hour and scheduled exam time. CPP anticipates that four major issues will occupy its attention for the remainder of the year: 1.) review of Middle States self-study recommendations; 2.) recommendations for department/program strategic planning; 3.) recommendations for school strategic planning; and 4.) recommendations for facilitating campus communication.

Committee on Student & Campus Community (CSCC)

*John Krimmel, Chair, krimmel@tcnj.edu
John Sisko, Vice-Chair, sisko@tcnj.edu*

This semester CSCC continued its reevaluation of policies and procedures that affect campus life. At the close of the Spring 2005 semester, CSCC revisited its policies on smoking and issued a strong statement that designated areas on campus were "smoke-free." CSCC clarified its policy against smoking in the dorms this semester, which concluded that discussion. CSCC also worked on TCNJ's travel policy. It examined the rights and responsibilities of the students, the organizer (s), and the college regarding the resources, preparation, and the actual excursion. CSCC considered the following issues related to TCNJ's travel policy: TCNJ should have a clear statement on the penalties for violating the expectations and guidelines of the faculty or staff member who organized the trip; the organizers must furnish their respective Deans with a list of participants before leaving the campus; trip organizers must submit the travel forms before the excursion; faculty and staff should avoid conflicts with religious holidays; and faculty who associate the excursion with a course grade should provide a suitable alternative experience for students who cannot participate. Finally, CSCC continued the ongoing examination of TCNJ's web page policy.

The Department of Philosophy and Religion Awarded the 2005 Mildred Dahne Award for Academic Excellence

The first annual Mildred Dahne Award for Academic Excellence was presented to the Department of Philosophy and Religion in a brief ceremony at the November 16 Faculty Senate meeting.

When The College of New Jersey received a bequest from Dahne, class of 1932, the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs asked the Faculty Senate to establish an award committee, develop criteria for the \$8000 award for departmental or program excellence, and select the winner.

The Department of Philosophy and Religion was chosen from several applicants for the 2005 award on the basis of its exemplary contributions to campus academic life. The department, consisting of six full-time faculty, has been successful in teaching 10 percent of the FSP seminars in its pilot year, creating the Classics Program, creating a Law and Philosophy concentration, and exemplifying scholarly excellence demonstrated by the department's productivity since 1995. In those ten years department members produced nine single-authored books, two edited or co-edited anthologies, 49 full-length, single-authored, refereed journal articles, 20 full-length single-author book chapters, 59 juried conference presentations, 74 invited presentations and 23 book reviews.

Full-time faculty in the department include Richard Kamber, Pierre LeMorvan, Consuelo Preti, Melinda Roberts, John Sisko, and Morton Winston. Recently retired Emeriti professors Allan Gotthelf and Roy Clouser were also recognized.

The Department of Philosophy and Religion intends to use some of the funds to amplify its department's leadership in interdisciplinary cooperation by sponsoring course development, speakers, conferences, and projects that emphasize interdisciplinary studies, with special, but not exclusive, emphasis placed on applied ethics.



Deadline for applications for the 2006 Mildred Dahne Award is January 30, 2006.

For information contact Committee Chair Ann Marie Nicolosi—nicolosi@tcnj.edu.

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

The Faculty Senate is made up of forty members elected by the faculty for a term of three years, plus the President of the AFT and the two faculty representatives to the Board of Trustees.

President

Michael Robertson
mroberts@tcnj.edu

Vice President

Deborah Compte
dcompte@tcnj.edu

Parliamentarian

John Karsnitz
karsnitz@tcnj.edu

Staff Secretary

Paulette LaBar
plabar@tcnj.edu

Art, Media, and Music

Robert McMahan, Music (06)

Ruane Miller, Art (08)

Phillip Tate, Music (07)

Business

Sunita Ahlawat, Accountancy (07)

Pamela Kravitz, Business Admin. (06)

Bozena Leven, Economics (06)

Gerald Miller, Accountancy (06)

Don Vandegrift, Economics (07)+

Culture and Society

Deborah Compte, Modern Lang. (07)+

Tim Clydesdale, Sociology (07)

Christopher Fisher, AFAM, (08)+

Art Hohmuth, Psychology (06)

Lorna Johnson, Comm. Studies (08)

Richard Kamber, Philosophy (06)

Stuart Koch, Political Science (06)

Rebecca Li, Sociology (08)

Ann Marie Nicolosi, History/WGST (08)+

Melinda Roberts, Philosophy (08)

Michael Robertson, English (06) +

Teresa San Pedro, Modern Languages ***

Glenn Steinberg, English (07)

David Venturo, English (07)+

Education

Stuart Carroll, EECE (06)

Jie Kang, Health & Exercise (06)

Jean Konzal, EECE (07)

Brenda Leake, EECE (06)+

Jacqueline Norris, EASE (07)

Ruth Palmer, EASE *+

Jerry Petroff, SELL (07)

Kathryne Speaker, SELL (07)

Engineering

Ralph Edelbach, Technological Studies **

Orlando Hernandez, Engineering (06)

John Karsnitz, Technological Studies (08)+

Nabil Al-Omaishi, Engineering (07)

Library

Maureen Gorman (06)

Nursing

Eileen Alexy (07)

Gladys Word (07)

Science

Georgia Arvanitis, Chemistry*+

James Bricker, Biology (08)

Cynthia Curtis, Mathematics/Statistics (07)

Tom Hagedorn, Mathematics/Statistics (06)

Don Lovett, Biology (08)

Amanda Norvell, Biology (07)

Marcia O'Connell, Biology (07)

Romulo Ochoa, Physics (08)

** Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees*

+ Senate Executive Board Member

*** AFT Representative*

**** One-year replacement for Susan Ryan (07)*

The Senate's Upcoming Meetings

*All faculty are welcome to attend Senate meetings.
The Senate meets in Science Complex, P-117.*

January 18 12:00 P.M.

February 15 12:00 P.M.

April 19 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