



Faculty Senate Newsletter

Spring 2014: Issue 2



An Interview with First Faculty Senate President Jon Olson



Faculty Senate President Deni Galileo presenting First Faculty Senate President Jon Olson with a plaque, commemorating his 40+ years of service

When asked what it means to be a Faculty Senator, Jon Olson replied: “It’s an honor to represent the faculty in a way which impacts the operations of the university, and most importantly it’s an opportunity for service to the institution. It gives a way to add stature to what the faculty really is.” (Continued on Pages 5-6)

Faculty Awards & Honors

Five faculty members received UD’s Excellence in Teaching Awards, based primarily on nominations from current and past students:

- **Dana S. Chatellier**, education specialist in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences;
- **Iris Busch**, assistant professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in the College of Arts and Sciences;
- **Dannagal Goldthwaite Young**, assistant professor in the Department of Communication in the College of Arts and Sciences;

- **Robert M. Dyer**, associate professor in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; and
- **Debra Gassner Dragone**, instructor in the Department of Accounting and Management Information Systems in the Alfred Lerner College of Business and Economics.



Excellence in Teaching Award winners are (from left) Dana S. Chatellier, Dannagal Goldthwaite Young, Debra Gassner Dragone, Robert M. Dyer, and Irish Busch. (Photo c/o UDaily).

Two faculty members received UD’s Excellence in Advising and Mentoring Award, based on student nominations:

- **Diane M. Rudolphi**, instructor in the School of Nursing in the College of Health Sciences; and
- **Laura Simmering Glass**, assistant professor in the School of Education in the College of Education and Human Development.



Excellence in Advising and Mentoring Award winners Diane M. Rudolphi (left) and Laura Simmering Glass. (Photo c/o UDaily).



Faculty Senate President Deni Galileo (left) and Jon Olson (right) present the Jon Olson Faculty Senate Exemplary Service Award to Steven E. Hastings, professor of applied economics and statistics. The senate's Exemplary Service Award was recently renamed in his honor, the Jon Olson Faculty Senate Exemplary Service Award.

Senate President's Corner

Greetings again, faculty colleagues, and thank you for taking the time to read the second, and final, Senate newsletter this year.

As we wrap up this year in the Senate, I just wanted to say a few words. You have a lot to be proud of in all of the accomplishments of the Senate, which only are a result of the dedication and hard work of the Senators and committee members. We have had good and worthwhile debates that ended in decisive actions. That is how the Senate is supposed to function.

Most of our business has been consideration of academic program proposals, which is our main responsibility. We also have considered other issues of interest to faculty and the university community as a whole. For instance, we considered RBB, faculty input into administrative searches, the proposed TDC project, the proposed tobacco-free policy, and CNTT concerns this year. Although some of these are not under our academic faculty responsibilities, they clearly fall under our privilege of considering and making

recommendations on matters of general interest to the university. This also is an important function of the Senate, and I hope that such considerations and recommendations will continue into the future.

Another milestone this year was the reestablishment of the Senate Budget Committee. In this era of increased importance of budgets for both our academic programs and the university as a whole, it is vital that the faculty, through the Budget Committee and Senate, have sufficient knowledge and input to be able to make the best decisions (and recommendations) for our university on those matters for which we have responsibility.

Again, the duties fulfilled by Senators and Senate committee members provide a vital service to the university- one without which the university cannot function. If you served this year as a Senator and/or Senate committee member, then I give you my sincere thanks. If you have not yet served, or it has been some time since serving, then please consider doing so in the future.

It truly was an honor to have served you this year as Senate President.

Deni S. Galileo
2013-2014 Faculty Senate President



Editorial Corner

The second issue of the Senate Newsletter provides a news wrap-up of a very eventful year for the Senate. During the term of President Galileo, the Senate was transformed into a highly visible and active entity at the University. The first President of the Senate, Jon Olson, came back to the podium after a gap of 44 years.

The Senate approved a very large number of academic programs during its last term. The Senate had passed resolutions twice requesting that administrative searches be conducted in as open a manner as possible. Provost Grasso responded with two open searches for the positions of Vice President for Enrollment Management and Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Diversity.

Two surveys by Senate and AAUP had shown that almost half of the faculty were concerned about the current RBB (Responsibility Based Budgeting) system of budgeting. The RBB task force formed by the Provost Grasso responded with its report on a revised RBB policy and presented its findings to the Senate at the May meeting. Among the major inputs to the task force was the earlier comprehensive analysis completed by the Senate ad-hoc committee on RBB. The Senate Budget Committee has also been formed and is expected to play an important role in the future. Alan Fox will chair the committee and it has a faculty member from each of the seven colleges. The goals of the Provost's RBB task force include openness, transparency and good communication with the faculty. The Senate is expected to play a major role in this process.

Respectfully,
Prasad Dhurjati
2013-2014 Faculty Senate Secretary
2014-2016 Vice President Elect
Professor of Chemical Engineering



Selected Senate Meeting Highlights

March 2014

- A resolution was approved for changing the undergraduate and graduate catalog, which states that students must follow the degree requirements stipulated in the academic catalog for the year they matriculate. Undergraduates will have seven calendar years to complete such requirements for a bachelor's degree.
- Senators agreed to change the Faculty Senate bylaws and regulations to stipulate that the senate shall hold its regularly scheduled meetings on the first Monday during which classes for the regular fall or spring semesters are in session.
- Senators approved a request to delete the GRE admissions requirement for the master's degree in foreign languages and literatures.
- The "tobacco-free" campus policy was discussed by the Senate as a "committee of the whole."
- Provost Domenico Grasso updated senators on new hires, including Christopher Lucier, vice president for enrollment management, and Starnes Walker, founding director of the UD Cybersecurity Initiative. Grasso also noted that a search for a vice provost for faculty affairs and diversity has been ongoing, with the field narrowed down to three potential candidates.

April 2014

- The “General Faculty Meeting” preceded the April Senate meeting. President Patrick Harker updated members of the faculty on the successes of the University’s Associate in Arts Program (AAP) and the Commitment to Delawareans in providing financial and academic support for First State residents. Harker noted that through its Commitment to Delawareans initiative, University financial aid currently benefits 2,800 resident students who comprise nearly 43 percent of the undergraduate student population. Applications from Delawareans have risen 19 percent since 2008, while admissions increased by 29 percent and enrollment rose 32 percent. UD admits 93 percent of Delawareans who apply but because not every student is ready for a four--year on--campus program, a significant number are admitted into the AAP.
- Harker noted that future challenges include changing demographics for potential student recruitment areas, a more competitive environment for attracting graduate students, creating more diverse student body and a faculty with more gender equity, and reconnecting with UD alums.
- Senators approved three committee of the whole recommendations made during the senate’s previous meeting held March 24.
- Recommendations approved included changing the name of the award honoring senate service to the Jon Olson Faculty Senate Exemplary Service Award. Olson, professor emeritus of chemical and biochemical engineering, was elected on March 16, 1970, as the first president of the Faculty Senate.
- Provost Grasso reported on his recent visit to China. He spoke about a UD alumnus, Joseph Chen, who started the equivalent of Facebook in China, called the Renren Network. Joseph Chen founded Renren in 2005 and he is currently chairman and CEO

of the company. There were two alumni club reunions in China and Jo Chen was a big draw at the alumni event. There is a robust UD alumni club in Shanghai.

May 2014

- Data Center with Power Plant: The University of Delaware Faculty Senate unanimously approved a resolution recommending that the University not proceed with the construction of a data center with a power-generating facility on the Science, Research and Advanced Technology (STAR) Campus. The resolution was approved by a 43--0 vote with eight abstentions.
- Michael Chajes, professor of civil and environmental engineering, former Dean of Engineering and author of the amended substitute resolution, addressed an audience that included members of the UD faculty and state and local elected representatives. “This resolution speaks to the core values of our University,” Chajes said. “As a local resident, it is something I feel very passionate about, and regardless how it comes out, I think it is inconsistent with what we stand for.”
- The Faculty Senate elected new officers that included, President-elect Robert Opila, Professor of Material Science, Vice President, Prasad Dhurjati, Professor of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, and Secretary, Anu Sivaraman, Assistant Professor of Business Administration. Brian Hanson, Professor of Geography was elected as Committee on Committees chair and member-at-large. Fred Hofstetter who is currently President-elect will be the Senate President for the 2014-2015 academic year.
- Senate President Deni Galileo, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, announced the recipients for the 2013--14 Excellence in Teaching Awards, Excellence in Advising Awards and graduate student Excellence in Teaching Awards.

- A special guest at Monday's meeting was Jon Olson, the first president of the Faculty Senate. President Galileo introduced him and announced that the senate's Excellence in Service Award has been renamed, in his honor, to the Jon Olson Faculty Senate Exemplary Service Award. Olson then presented the newly named award to this year's recipient, Steven E. Hastings, Professor of Applied Economics and Statistics
- Provost Domenico Grasso updated senators on admissions and offered a look at the Class of 2018. "Our yield of non--resident students is up from 18 percent to 21 percent. We have over 4,200 deposits, and we hope to matriculate 4,060 students, which is 185 students over our target of 3,875 students."
- Grasso also discussed a recently submitted \$70 million grant proposal to the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation.
- The issues of changing titles for new faculty members who will hold non--tenure track positions also was addressed by Grasso, who referred senators to a letter posted on the Provost website.
- Deputy Provost Nancy Brickhouse and Donald L. Sparks, S. Hallock du Pont Professor of Plant and Soil Sciences, presented an update on the Responsibility Based Budget Task Force. "After reviewing an External Review Committee report, the Faculty Senate Responsibility Based Budget Report and other relevant documents, and holding multiple meetings, the RBB task force formulated a set of recommendations to guide the development of the new RBB model," Brickhouse said. "The recommendations address the distribution of revenue, the use of centrally allocated funds and support for central administrative units."
- Sparks noted that the interim report represents the first step in achieving greater transparency and clearer communication regarding how budgetary decisions are made to advance excellence in academic and scholarly activity at UD. The final report is expected to be completed by Feb. 1, 2015.

INTERVIEW WITH JON OLSON (continued from Page 1)

The Faculty Senate was formed between 1968 and 1969 by a group of professors who recognized that the faculty had little input into the control of the academic programs at the University. The Senate was created to improve this situation. The entire faculty voted for it creating the University of Delaware Faculty Senate in 1970.

Olson said that the original committee structure was appropriate at the time, but over the years the structure changed quite a bit. He added that over the first several years the senate wasn't functioning optimally, with meetings running over several sessions totaling many hours. However, being humble, Olson said that the startup of the Faculty senate was a learning experience for him, and that there were moments when his ignorance of how the Senate should proceed might have made the meetings more difficult than they needed to be.

"There was a lot of hot air floating around these early meetings," said Olson. "We got smarter as we moved along, and the Senate has evolved into a more efficient organization."

Forty-four years later the Faculty Senate is going strong. He noted one specific difference between the past and current Senate. He said the initially there was contention and even hostility between the administration and the faculty that carried over into the Senate, but he believes that this conflict has diminished with time.

According to Olson, an issue that remains widely discussed by the Faculty Senate, past and current, is funding. "When I was President, the College of Marine Studies was proposed as a

new unit, and without a doubt this proposal produced a contentious debate in the Senate,” said Olson. “It was voted to be established by a single vote, and it is in fact a great success, especially because the college was able to provide funding from external sources.”

Olson said that the most exciting moment he had during his time as Faculty Senate President was in the tense period that followed the shooting of four students at Kent State University on May 4, 1970. University students throughout the nation were very close to rioting, and many universities were shut down.

UD replaced regular classes with student and faculty discussion groups, organized peaceful protests demonstrations, and were able to finish the term. The community of students, faculty and administration worked together through this crisis.

Recently the Faculty Senate voted to name the Faculty Senate Exemplary Service Award after Olson. The award was established by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to recognize those faculty members who have contributed an extraordinary amount to service directly to the Faculty Senate for at least three years. Olson said he is absolutely honored to have the award named after him. “I am flattered beyond all belief, and I am very thankful to the Executive Committee, and particularly Prasad Dhurjati, for this honor.”

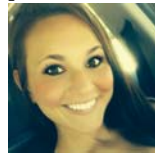
Olson wanted to leave one piece of advice for current and future Senators. The backbone of the Senate is the work done by the committees. For example, modification of academic programs appears on the Announcements for Challenge. This process works because the appropriate committees have reviewed the issues

carefully and completely. Hence, he urges faculty in general and senators in particular to volunteer for committee assignments and then participate with dedication.

- Rosie Brinckerhoff interviewed Jon Olson April 30, 2014

Newsletter Staff

Founder and Editor: Prasad Dhurjati
Assistant Editor and Layout: Rosie Brinckerhoff,
pictured below



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