



Faculty Senate Newsletter

Spring 2014: Issue 1



Senate President's Corner

Greetings, faculty colleagues, and thank you for taking the time to read the Senate newsletter.

This year has continued to be another busy year for the Senate. We welcomed our new Provost, Domenico Grasso, in September, and since have begun to hear in Senate meetings some of his ideas and vision for the university's academic matters.

We have begun to consider and approve many academic programs, either new or revised, which is one of our major responsibilities that cannot be fulfilled by any other group on campus.

The Senate Ad Hoc Committee on RBB presented its very thorough and revealing report to the Senate with several excellent recommendations on how our budgeting system might be improved. A major Senate action based on this report was the establishment of a standing Senate Budget Committee with several important duties. This committee has begun its work.

We passed a resolution revising the Faculty Handbook to give part-time temporary faculty the title of "Adjunct" and those who were previously Adjuncts the title of "Affiliated," which better aligns our titles with other universities. Also passed was a resolution revising the Faculty Handbook policies for faculty appointments and granting of tenure to external candidates.

We posted an outline of the most commonly used parliamentary procedures for Senators to help guide our deliberations, which I believe has resulted in very efficient meetings.

We also have exerted our privilege to consider and/or make recommendations concerning matters of general interest to the university, such as those concerning the proposed data center and power plant,

faculty input into administrative searches, and a potential policy to make our campus tobacco-free.

Our privilege to consider matters such as these is extremely important, and a Senate Open Hearing is often the only venue that provides for free and open discussions.

We have heard from our Director of Admissions, our Chief of Police, and our VP for Information Technologies in this year's Senate meetings on several issues of concern to faculty.

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 currently are serving as a Senator and/or Senate committee member, then you should be proud of this service. If you have not yet served, or it has been some time since serving, then please consider doing so, since this is one of the most important functions that faculty perform.

It truly is an honor to serve you faculty this year as Senate President.

Dutifully,
Deni S. Galileo
Faculty Senate President



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Editorial Corner

Faculty colleagues:

The Senate Newsletter is being launched to provide information about the activities of the Senate for the University faculty community. It is expected to be an important source of communication between the Senate and the University Faculty. The minutes and the podcasts of the regular Senate meetings provide detailed information on the proceedings of the Faculty Senate. The newsletter is intended to provide brief and quick highlights of the monthly Senate meetings and the Special open meetings. In the future, we expect it to be a forum for Senators to express opinions on topics of “burning” interest to the University community. We also hope to add interviews with prominent University newsmakers and faculty senators. We are open to feedback on how to improve the Faculty Senate Newsletter.

The following quote from our constitution emphasizes the important role that was envisioned for the Senate: "There shall be established a University of Delaware Faculty Senate that, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, shall function as the standing executive committee of the Faculty, and that shall, except during regular and special meetings of the University Faculty, exercise all the powers vested in the Faculty of the University of Delaware by the Board of Trustees, and that shall be empowered to determine the duties that it will delegate to faculty committees and to the faculties of the several colleges and divisions of the University."

The faculty have an important role in our shared governance well beyond the traditional roles of teaching, research and scholarship. The Board of Trustees (BOT) Bylaws give certain responsibilities and privileges to the faculty of the University of Delaware. Section 3.2.1 delegates authority to the

University faculty “to formulate and administer the academic and educational policies of the University”. Other responsibilities include “formulate rules and regulations for the government and discipline of the student body” (Section 3.2.4.1), “provide for the establishment of the courses and curricula at the University” (Section 3.2.4.2), “determine the requirements for academic degrees” (Section 3.2.4.5), and “make recommendations concerning the establishment and disestablishment of any degree program” (Section 3.2.4.11). The Board of Trustees has assigned these responsibilities to the faculty and we do not have a choice on whether or not to do these things. We urge you to take an active interest in the activities of the Senate and to participate in fulfilling the responsibilities assigned by the BOT by participating in the many Senate committees.

Respectfully,
Prasad Dhurjati
Faculty Senate Secretary



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Selected Senate Meeting Highlights

September 2013

- The University of Delaware Faculty Senate welcomed new Provost Domenico Grasso.
- Members of the Faculty Senate Approved a resolution to amend Section 4.1.2 of the Faculty Handbook, whereby the title “adjunct faculty” will be given to those who teach on a supplemental contract and are not otherwise fulltime University faculty. These faculty members are now titled “affiliated faculty.”

October 2013

- A general faculty meeting was held prior to the Faculty Senate meeting. President Harker briefed members of the faculty on the need to update and reevaluate the Path to Prominence strategic plan to better address emerging issues in higher education. He said that developing a new strategic planning initiative would present more of a challenge than the initial institutional blueprint from 2008.
- Jose Aviles, director of admissions, addressed the Faculty Senate, updating the senators on recent admissions recruitment success, fluctuating demographic trends in enrollment, and the Office of Admissions’ plan to craft a first-rate and diverse entering class. “There were 26,260 applications for the Class of 2017, the third largest pool in UD history, with applicants coming from 47 states and 79 countries,” Aviles said. “This is the most diverse class in UD history, with 26 percent of the incoming class being students of color or international students.”
- The Faculty Senate passed a resolution recommending provisional approval for five years for a new master’s degree program in speech-language pathology.

November 2013

- The senators approved a resolution to amend the Faculty Handbook’s Section 4.1.1 on

- faculty appointment policy, granting departmental faculty the right to vote on external candidate employment and tenure.
- The responsibility based budgeting (RBB) review process was launched.
- UD Chief of Police, Patrick Ogden, briefed senators on the September 9 “I’m Shmacked” incident on campus, resulting in a student riot blocking South College Avenue and parts of Main Street. Ogden alerted senators that over 200 security cameras had been installed in the past four years, and that the police actively comb through social media looking for large-scale student held parties before they occur.

December 2013

- Senators voted to establish a standing UD Faculty Senate Budget Committee, consisting of seven faculty members. The provost will appoint an eighth committee member annually.
- Faculty Senate President Deni Galileo briefed senators on the creation of an online form for the approval of non-credit certificates by the Faculty Senate Coordinating Committee. New programs require a 45-day lead-time to be approved.
- A new program, "Doctor of Philosophy in Financial Services Analytics" was provisionally approved for seven years effective June 1, 2014. The vote was 47 in favor, 4 against and 7 abstaining. The program had major financial support from JP Morgan Chase.

February 2014

- The Faculty Senate “Committee of the Whole” recommended approval of a provisional five-year master’s degree of engineering in particle technology.
- Provost Grasso noted that there would be an open forum, coordinated with officers from the Faculty Senate, for candidates interviewing for the Vice President of Enrollment Management.

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Open Meeting Highlights

The Data Center

- The Executive Committee held an open meeting on October 14, providing information on the data storage facility and associated power plant. The speakers included Dr. Charlie Riordan, UD Vice Provost for Research, Scott Douglas, UD Executive VP and Treasurer, Gene Kerr, CEO of The Data Center, and Dr. John Morgan, Professor of Physics. Riordan noted that they had acquired 272 acres of land roughly four years ago. He stated he believes that the center will benefit the University, the Newark community, and the state of Delaware as a whole by enhancing job creation and economic development. Kerr introduced some of the goals of the project: using union labor for construction, reducing or reusing all discharge products, partnering with local companies whenever possible, reducing emissions through the best available control technologies, and reducing electricity use through cogeneration. Morgan raised questions concerning sound decibels produced from the center, questioning how the noise will propagate, as well as the three fold increase in carbon dioxide production a year as a result of the new building.

RBB

- The Senate RBB Ad Hoc Committee was commissioned to assess the impacts of RBB on the academic mission and the faculty governance at the University of Delaware. The Committee issued a report that was presented in the October meeting of the Senate. An open Senate meeting was held on October 28th to discuss the report of the ad hoc committee and its recommendations with all members of the University faculty. The open hearing was very well attended and the entire ad hoc committee was present to answer questions. The members of the ad hoc committee included James Morrison

(Chair), Martha Buell, John Courtright, Prasad Dhurjati, Alan Fox, Jackson Gillespie, Deni Galileo and Sheldon Pollack.

Tobacco-free Initiative

- The Faculty Senate Executive Committee sponsored an open hearing to discuss the Student Government Association's proposed tobacco-free initiative. The key speakers included Jessica Borcky, president of SGA, Tom LaPenta, chief human resources officer, and John Morgan, physics and astronomy professor. The initiative from SGA resulted in a task force as well as tobacco-free advisory committee. The initiative would disallow all tobacco products on University property, which drew safety concerns from senators in attendance at the meeting. In order for the initiative to be put into practice, it would have to be approved by President Harker's executive committee.

Recent Appointments

Dawn Thompson, Vice President for Student Life
Christopher Lucier, VP Enrollment Management
Jose-Luis Riera, Dean of Students

Senate Executive Committee

President: Deni Galileo
President-Elect: Fred Hofstetter
Past President: Sheldon Pollack
Vice President: Martha Buell
Secretary: Prasad Dhurjati
COCAN Chair: Brian Hanson
Parliamentarian: John Jebb

Newsletter Staff

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