

**Report to the Senate
Interim Provost
November 6, 2006**

Things seem to be getting into a routine after the SACS Compliance Report was submitted. We are starting to move, however, into the time period when we start gearing up for budget submission and the end of the semester. Some updates of interest:

Workload

We continue to have discussion on this important aspect of faculty professional and personal lives. Building from the O'Connor Faculty Senate report of 2001 that sets a base of 12 hours of instruction per semester, the discussions have focused primarily on research. Senator McKenney and I met with faculty for a conversation on faculty workload on October 25, 2006. The event was sponsored by the AAUP and the TLC. There also was another session of the scholarship learning community group (an ad hoc group generated by the visit of Dr. Delattre). In both sessions the idea of having faculty complete a distribution of effort plan for the coming year, in conjunction with their chairs, was put forward. Dr. Ziegler, Dean Pogatshnik, and I will be requesting some time at one of the Chairs Association meetings to discuss this proposal. Such a document would allow faculty to have a clear statement of what is expected of them before each year begins. This will be helpful particularly to new and junior faculty and for planning purposes.

Approval of Policies and Procedures

Subsequent to the last Senate meeting, there has been formal and informal discussion regarding what needs approval from whom. I am contacting and working with a number of people to see if we cannot more clearly delineate what needs to go to the Council on Academic Affairs, to the Faculty Senate, to the Provost, to the President, and to the Board of Trustees as well as flow charts for such items. Most of this information is available but needs to be brought together and more clearly articulated and communicated.

Graduate Education and Research

At a recent Provost Council meeting Dean Pogatshnik reported on several items that may be of interest to you.

- Three finalists have been selected for the position of Director of Sponsored Programs.
- The University has contracted with an outside firm to review the new policies and procedures manual for sponsored programs.
- Review of applicants for Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Research will begin on November 13.
- The Graduate School has conducted a survey of graduate program coordinators regarding the process of admission to candidacy and as a result the Graduate Council soon will consider elimination of the candidacy process.
- There is a new Graduate School website that contains in the *Faculty Information* section guidelines and examples for 500/700 courses. This is an area of concern that we need to strengthen relative to our SACS accreditation.

Jim Chapman