

Chair's Report
Dr Dave Eakin
Faculty Senate
February 4, 2008

Dr. Jim Conneely was in attendance to discuss different partnership opportunities available for faculty. One area of opportunity is with service learning initiatives. Another opportunity is with the living/learning communities in the residence halls. The Executive Committee asked Dr. Conneely to present some of this information as an informational item in our February 4 Senate meeting.

Dr. Judy Short, Corey Bray, Teresa Belluscio, and Sandy Douglas were in attendance to discuss the proposed regulation regarding early registration. The primary purpose was to get feedback and decide when this would come before Senate. It was suggested that it be vetted by the Provost's Council first – before coming to Faculty Senate for our recommendations.

The new ECU Colonel 1 ID Cards will begin to be issued in April. While the cards will be issued to the entire campus community - the change will primarily affect students. Student reimbursements, as well as student payroll checks, will be posted to the Colonel 1 ID cards, and students will be able to use the card like a debit card. The cards will have a MasterCard logo imprinted on them. I would like to thank Debbie Newsom, Karen Pettit, and Barry Poynter for providing us such complete background of this new development. The committee working on this process needs a faculty volunteer. These meetings are each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Anyone interested in serving should contact Karen Pettit at karen.pettit@ecu.edu or call her at 622-2179.

David "Doc" Fifer was in attendance to present formal ideas from SGA with regard to the current Bulletin Board posting policy for the university. It was presented in the form of a draft policy to the Executive Committee for the purpose of feedback to the student body. The Student Senate will continue making revisions to the policy and Mr. Fifer will bring it back to the Executive Committee in February. We believe the policy recommendations will be ready to come to the Senate by the March meeting.

Dr. Sherry Robinson came to ask for feedback and judgment on how to best involve the Faculty Senate in the review of existing academically-related policies. It is possible to use our standing committees to review specific topics – or perhaps a new Ad hoc or Standing Committee should be established. The Executive Committee asked Dr. Robinson to forward some policies as examples for us to consider. We will then bring this to the Executive Committee for consideration.

I want to thank Senator Ciocca for agreeing to convene the Senate Budget Committee. Currently there are two vacancies, and we will vote to fill those vacancies at this next meeting. In light of the recent announcements regarding State Budget Cuts I went back and reviewed the original purpose of this committee in the by-laws. I think we need to reestablish the original intent for the Committee on the Budget.

The following purposes were given :

- a. The Committee on the Budget shall consist of the Chair of the Faculty Senate, five members elected by the Senate from its elected membership, and the administrative member elected by the Dean's Unit. Elected members shall serve for the duration of their current term while the administrative member shall serve a one year term. The Vice President for Government Relations and Planning shall serve as a non voting member of the Committee.
- b. The Committee on the Budget shall elect annually a chair from among its membership.
- c. The purpose of the Committee on the Budget shall be to provide a channel of communication between the Faculty Senate and the Administration on matters relating to the formulation of the University budget.
- d. The Committee shall be available as an advisory agency to the President of the University in those matters relating to the budget formulation process. The Committee shall meet with the President at least once each semester to receive information about budgetary matters.
- e. One week before each Executive Committee meeting, the Chair of the Committee shall submit written minutes or a progress report to the Chair of the Senate who will forward them to the Secretary of the Senate for permanent filing.
- f. The Chair of the Committee shall report to the Senate at least semiannually. After receiving its report, the Senate shall, at its discretion, provide suggestions, reactions, and comments to the Committee for subsequent Committee consideration.

In his report for the Welfare Committee, Senator Collins reported that the Benefits Committee made a new recommendation of a 5% increase in co-insurance which will increase individual out-of-pocket expenses. The Benefits Committee also is creating a sub-committee to further discuss domestic partner benefits.

Senator Shadur, reporting for the Withdrawal Committee, mentioned that the committee has processed many appeals. In addition, he stated that there is some real confusion regarding the proper use of our "Exception to Academic Policy" form; even by department heads and Deans. Just a reminder that there is no specific form for withdrawal after the published withdrawal date – it is an appellate process requiring documentation by the student. Some departments have been using the "Exception to Academic Policy" form – leaving students with the assumption that their withdrawal request has been approved with the completion of that form. This appears to be a problem requiring some education of staff and students.

I have worked with Lindsey Cross of SGA and established the new joint Ad hoc Committee to review ECU's Dead Week Policy. The names of the student and faculty members are listed on our Faculty Senate website.