

Executive Committee Report
Submitted by Mixon Ware, Chair
September 14, 2009

Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Quality – At the convocation on August 17, 2009, the faculty-at-large voted to approve the motion to establish a new committee of the Faculty Senate, a "Committee on Academic Quality." The motion was passed by the Faculty Senate at its meeting on May 4th, 2009. It will be presented to the Board of Regents at its meeting on September 19, 2009. When established, Provost Vice has asked that a member of that committee attend regular meetings of the CAA.

Administrative Evaluation – The Executive Committee completed its survey of the faculty and administrative evaluation in accordance with its charge. The report was submitted to the Board of Regents in June.

Format of Senate Meetings – The Committee discussed the format of senate meetings and considered how we might streamline reports in a timely manner. We welcome the communication and updates we have been receiving from constituencies across campus, but in the interest of time one suggestion is that informational reports should be submitted in writing and distributed in the e-mail packet prior to senate meetings. Individuals can be present at the meetings to address questions on the reports and provide additional information if requested. Senate committee chairs will continue to submit a written report for committee activities and the chair can then address questions at the meeting rather than giving a verbal report. Provost Vice has taken steps to expedite the CAA report as well. Included in the Senate Agenda and packet this month is the CAA agenda, with all documentation included as a separate document. This will provide senators with needed information but alleviate printing the entire packet of information. Items of interest or for questioning can be pulled out and addressed as needed. Dr. Vice will also separate informational items from items requiring a senate vote.

Technology Issues – Senator Ware met with ITDS Associate Vice President Mona Isaacs to discuss technology issues of concern to faculty. Ms. Isaacs has proposed an informal work group consisting of faculty who are "heavy users" of technology and those who are not as active with Blackboard and other technology. The more specific and detailed we can make our suggestions, the more able ITDS is to respond and assist in problem solving. For example, an issue with the Early Alert System was identified by faculty, specific suggestions for improvement were proposed, and the program was altered to make it easier to use. This type of cooperation is the goal of all, so please invite specific and detailed feedback from your constituents to be shared with ITDS.

"Drudgery" – Our President and Provost are committed to working with us to identify specific tasks and concerns that have been affectionately dubbed "drudgery." In many cases there are simple fixes; the key is identifying problems with specific information and suggestions as to how processes can be streamlined. Senators are asked to request feedback from their constituents and forward this information to the Chair.

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Parking – Always a concern, parking has become an even greater issue this semester with all of the construction on campus. Senator Johnson serves on the university Parking Committee and he has asked that the committee address problems with availability of parking. In addition, the Faculty Senate Welfare Committee has taken up this issue.

Policies Update – Dr. Sherry Robinson provided the Executive Committee with an update on progress related to updating the Faculty Handbook. The drafting process is underway and information will come before the senate as appropriate. Policies will continue to be available and housed on the policies website.

Faculty First – All faculty are invited for an informal, social gathering on the first Thursday in October, October 1st, from 4:30 until 6:00 at the Paddy Wagon in downtown Richmond. Faculty discounts are being offered and we hope everyone will come out to meet new faculty and say hello to old friends.

REMINDER: October meeting of the Faculty Senate meeting will be held in the Perkins Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Mixon Ware, Ph.D.