

Dear Colleagues:

We meet today, having recently learned of the death of two of our students. On behalf of the faculty Senate I would like to express our sincere condolences to the families of the two students.

It has just been a short while since we had our assembly and then our Question and Answer session with the Chancellor. Nevertheless, we have a full agenda today, to consider matters arising from SEC deliberations.

In this regard, on the virtual motion of how to designate the Sabbatical Leave Committee, the vote tally was reported to you, and the Senate Parliamentarian has rendered an opinion that the motion carried. The procedure decided by vote is to designate this committee along the same lines as the UCRCP, which is five members appointed by the Chancellor in consultation with the SEC during the initial two years, and then subsequently (that is after the initial two years) to have 9 members elected. However, the one issue still to consider today, upon a unanimous recommendation from the SEC is the large size of this committee when time is ripe for elections. For various reasons, that undoubtedly will come out in our deliberations today, the SEC deemed that nine might be an inefficient and too cumbersome number.

Another weighty matter, is one that pertains to the future make ups of Faculty Personnel Committees at all levels. Ongoing concerns have been expressed with regard to the FPCs being elected, which has lent itself to allegations of politicking and possible manipulations of the system. In its most recent deliberations, the SEC agreed that instead of elections, the Senate considers an initial proposal, which is submitted to you in hard copy.

Thirdly, on the item of the amount of computer storage allowed for each faculty, the SEC unanimously agreed to (i) recommend that faculty who are storing material extraneous to their University tasks be requested to remove the items (ii) that I.T. issues individual communications to faculty with especially high level of stored material to find out whether this was university related. If so, the individual faculty would be invited to request special permission from the University. (iii) The SEC also recommended increasing the storage capacity per faculty and the storage capacity for email communications. The specific levels of increase needed as well as other relevant aspects will be determined by the Senate I.T. Committee.

The SEC discussed the possibility for faculty to apply for a two-year contract instead of a four-year contract. It was unanimously agreed that after the 2nd two-year contract with the University, a faculty member could only apply for a four-year rolling contract. However, it was also unanimously agreed that the Chancellor has the right to grant two-year contract to faculty members applying for a rolling contract if a four-year contract is denied.

The issue of evaluating the credentials of Faculty who come in with considerable experience in industry was also discussed by the SEC. It was agreed that a set of standards be developed by the Senate Curriculum Committee and submitted to the Senate for consideration.

The SEC discussed that a separate office be established to handle students' evaluations of faculty. In reply to the SEC recommendation in this regard, Chancellor Thompson suggested that the Office of Planning and Evaluation would be the appropriate body for administering such evaluations.

The SEC has also selected chairs for all Senate standing committees except for the IT and Budget committees, for which the officers of the Senate will contact those Senators who would be particularly qualified and interested in serving on these committees. As to the actual membership of Senate committees, the membership of the committees has been reactivated, except in case of merger. Accordingly, elections have been called for members of the IT Committee, and the Faculty Handbook and FOP Amendment Committee.

Under announcements I would like to report that the Faculty Senate Newsgroup is now active, upon an initiative by Secretary Mokhtar. Also please mark your calendars tentatively for a Senate Iftar on November 5. A Seminar on Parliamentary Process will be held by the AUS Faculty Senate, and details will be communicated to fellow Senators in due time.

I now open the floor for questions.