

Colleagues:

As we complete this semester, we not only enter a particularly busy time in our teaching responsibilities, but also enter a key juncture in our Senate endeavors to further develop procedures of self governance in key areas of University life. Two Senate Committees on Recruitment and Advisement, respectively, have been recently formed and announced to you. There is still work ahead in operationalizing the findings of the Committee and putting these findings into practice. Fellow Senators, Committee Chairs have been invited to submit their Committee reports to the SEC by January 12, for discussion before the full Senate at its January 20th meeting. As the second semester gets under way, therefore, our second phase in this regard, will be to fine-tune and implement of the Committees findings.

At its most recent meeting, the Senate Executive Committee has discussed an updated document on FPCs membership taking into consideration the Deans' feedback on this document, as well as recommended Senate election procedures submitted by Senator Gilbertson on behalf of the Committee of Elections, a policy proposal on Airline Tickets from Vice President Sahraoui, all of which documents are submitted to the Senate for discussion at our meeting today. This business lies before us, in addition to a proposal pertaining to Conference grants presented by Senator Capar, and a two-part report from the Academic Affairs Committee.

In view of the full agenda, let us move with deliberate attention to the various items for evaluation. However, if we do not complete the agenda, let us reconvene at 5:00 in these Chambers to complete our tasks or perhaps schedule an additional meeting sometime next week—the choice, fellow Senators is yours.

As an announcement, the faculty whose files were being considered for evaluation for contract renewal are advised that the personnel files are now in the respective Deans' office. The files are available for review by individual faculty members in the office of the Dean. Faculty members are entitled to look into their files in presence of personnel from the Dean's Office. Faculty are also entitled to identify documents from their file that they wish to have copied by the Dean's office personnel.

As you might have noted, the Faculty Handbook is now in print, and copies have been made available for each Senator by the Chancellor's Office.

Finally, I would like to remind you that the Faculty Grievance Code as it presently exists in the AUS Faculty Handbook as well as the proposed alternative Grievance Code, as it was considered by the previous Senate session under President Al

Homoud, have been sent to you electronically by the Senate President on November 12, 2003.

Please take a few moments to familiarize yourselves with these two documents, so that we may begin, in due time, informed discussions on the contents of the proposed document with all deliberate speed.

Let us now begin our deliberations.