

Faculty Senate Leadership Committee End of the Year Report - 2023

In terms of what we accomplished this year, I'd recommend going back and reading my monthly reports. It has not been a banner year for FSLC legislation!

The following action items are recommended for the FSLC and Senate to pursue in the coming year:

1. Clarify with the administration the role of faculty senate in the policy-creation structure. Faculty senate sought revisions to several policies this year, including 10.50, faculty misconduct and discipline, and 3.63, the free speech policy, only to be blocked even before the policies had the chance to enter the policy flowchart. It has been suggested that a way to override this would be to pass any policy-related legislation, let the chancellor veto it, and then pass it directly on to the regents.
2. Make whatever changes have to be made to the Senate Constitution and Bylaws to bring them into conformity with the Regents Policy Manual.
3. Follow up on the question of institutional data collection with regard to faculty roles, responsibilities, assessments and salaries. Shelly Stovall mentioned at ADAC that the university has to undertake some quality improvement as recommended by the HLC, and the lack of good data collection to even make decisions about things is clearly a stumbling block. So she might be a good person for one of the committees to work with.
4. Come up with a better system to conduct voting for senators. For some reason, a system that used to work fine has completely broken down, with messages getting lost in the ether among senior senators, department chairs, deans, and ICT. I'm not sure what to recommend but it should not take from February until May to elect senators for the coming year!
5. Prop 5, on asking the administration to study workload inequities, died in committee this year, but it might be a good idea for the Faculty Success committee (currently University Planning until we update our constitution and bylaws) to take up in the coming year.

6. Prop 7, which was going to be a proposition to update ARP 11.01, will be submitted through the policy portal this summer by RCA chair Erik Lenhoff and Senate Chair Gaylene Fassenko.
7. During the last FSLC meeting of the spring semester, FSLC met with Vice President of Student Success Renay Scott and with Tony Marin, who is the direct supervisor of the centralized advising system. The meeting revealed many concerns about centralized advising, and the recommendation was made at the end of that meeting that the student success committee meet at the beginning of fall semester with Scott and Marin to work out some issues like:

- how to encourage faculty mentoring without adding to unfunded mandates

- getting Faculty Senate Leadership access to the reports on retention and its relationship to advising that are in the Office of Institutional Analysis

- making sure that advisors are better-trained when it comes to individual majors, by having them meet with the faculty in those departments at the beginning of each semester or each year.

Overall, it has been a challenging year in terms of faculty governance, and it's not clear where any of this is trending.

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Jamie Bronstein