Faculty Congress report to the University Senate

September 2009

1. Our committees are all staffed and have active agendas for the coming year, though all are prepared to be responsive to needs and interests of the faculty.
   1. The Committee On Faculty
      1. Jointly a committee of the Faculty Congress and of the Senate
      2. Awards subcommittee
         1. COF will make standards, procedures, policies related to the existing awards and any new ones that come about. Award criteria will be specific enough to assure that the award represents an achievement that will be valued, but not so specific that a suitable candidate is very difficult to find each year.
         2. The awards subcommittee will manage the call for nominees, review of nominations and selection of award recipients. They will report to the COF, which will approve the selections unless there is a serious flaw in the process.
      3. With the Academic Policy Committee, continue work on the Faculty Handbook revisions.
      4. Manages procedures for the Gallen Award. A separate subcommittee continues to organize the process.
      5. Continue to follow up on the status of the proposed parental leave policy.
      6. Will investigate the possibility of a distinguished professor for service recognition.
   2. Academic Policy Committee
      1. Further consideration of the evaluation of teaching at VU, esp. the CATS process
      2. Formation of an ad-hoc committee on scholarship in the digital age. APC and Joe Lucia are sponsoring this effort.
      3. Discussion of departmentality, programs, centers, interdisciplinary work.
         1. Faculty governance of programs, centers, etc.
      4. Whatever else members wish to put on the agenda.
   3. An elections committee is staffed. Elections will be held later in the year.
2. Faculty handbook
   1. The FC sponsored an open forum for discussion of proposed changes in the Faculty Handbook last Spring. The session was lively and raised a number of valid issues with the proposed changes. Further revisions are under review and an additional faculty forum will be scheduled when the committee representatives and Dr. Johannes have met to discuss the current status.
3. Some general themes for the coming year:
   1. Communication.
      1. A number of things happened last year that could have been handled differently with a bit more attention to the form of communication used. What we can do to make a positive impact on communication related issues will be a general theme. (Travel policy, faculty handbook, Activity Insight, etc.)
   2. FTNTTF and Adjunct faculty issues
      1. There are connections with the handbook.
      2. There was a survey of department chairs and program directors last Spring. We will continue the process of determining the role of the FTNNF across the university, then consider recommendations.
   3. Parking committee report
   4. Voluntary contributions from faculty to assist students with special financial needs
   5. Other topics that arise. The Faculty Congress is open to learning about and addressing issues of interest or concern to the faculty.