SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES
April 28, 2009


**Absent:** H. Singaravelu, J. Ammann, P. Harrison, R. Edgell

**TOPIC** | **DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION** | **FOLLOW-UP**
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Call to Order | President Miriam Joseph called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. in auditorium B of the Learning Resources Center. |  
Call of the Roll | Secretary J. Turner called the roll. |  
Approval of the Minutes | The minutes of the March 24, 2009 meeting were approved without changes. |  
Q&A, Report of the President and EC | There were no questions from the floor regarding the President’s report. M. Joseph pointed out to Senators that she’d included in the report the issue surrounding the meaning of “consultation.” She also noted that in her message she informs faculty of their right to participate in academic planning in their respective units. Several senators indicated that they had heard no information about current academic planning activity from either their chair or dean. M. Joseph suggested Senators email her or President-Elect Joanne Langan if they have questions or comments about faculty members’ role in academic planning. |  
Introduction of New Student Government Association President | M. Joseph introduced Michael Harriss, President of SGA. M. Harriss discussed the primary issues of concern to students at present, which include Chartwells’ customer service and accountability, development of a mentoring program, and penalty processes related to parking violations. In response to a question from Senator William Hubble, M. Harriss stated that SGA is concerned about mandatory campus housing in that by Fall 2011 there may not be enough beds available. Also in response to a question from Senator Gregory Marks, M. Harriss commented that SGA would propose as a permanent policy that students have 24 hour access to the Pius and Medical libraries from Sunday through Thursday. |  
Faculty Senators’ Reports from Faculty Assemblies | Secretary Jane Turner solicited reports from the floor. There were none. |  
Remarks from Phil Alderson, Dean/School of Medicine and VP/Health Sciences Center | P. Alderson discussed education, research and clinical issues at the Health Sciences campus. He reported that the School of Medicine went through the review process for accreditation this past year. The SOM received an excellent review and was granted accreditation for the maximum of 8 years. P. Alderson noted innovations in technology, teaching, and service at the SOM, including the recent upgrade in the simulation training center—one of only three such centers in the country. As for research, he praised the endeavors of researchers across the units and commended the work of Ray Tait, Interim Vice Provost for Research. P. Alderson stated that the name of the Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Research would be announced soon. In response to a comment from Senator Tom Geller, Provost J. Weixlmann reported that the University is
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<td>purchasing software to facilitate input of research publication/interest data in a searchable format for the purpose of enhancing collaboration across the units. P. Alderson lastly discussed the clinical practice at SLU, the University Medical Group (UMG.) He commented on the development of a strategic plan for the UMG, implementation of the electronic health record and the team effort in developing the “medical home” model of healthcare. EC member Mark Ferris asked P. Alderson about the financial status of the SOM, given that the school represents a significant portion of the University’s budget. P. Alderson replied that the UMG has operated in the black the last few years and that enrollment at each of the HSC units is increasing.</td>
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| Old Business | 1. Slosar Shared Governance Award—J. Turner reminded senators that the deadline for provisional nominations of faculty is April 30th.  
2. Research Task Force—EC member Mark Knuepfer announced that the online survey has been extended to end on May 11th.  
3. Faculty Appreciation Event—M. Joseph related that Fr. Biondi would publish his remarks next week in his monthly message to the SLU community as he was unable to present them at the event due to technical problems. |          |
| New Business | Senator Ian Redmount questioned new guidelines and policies at the College of Arts and Sciences regarding summer teaching. M. Joseph recommended that he bring this up with the CAS Faculty Assembly. |          |
| Announcement—FS EC Election Results | M. Joseph thanked each of the nominees for their willingness to serve. She announced Linda Hoechst as the new Secretary and Judy Durham and Mark Ferris as retained EC Members-at-Large. |          |
| Senate Leadership Changeover | M. Joseph reviewed her experience as President and acknowledged the contributions of the 08-09 EC members. J. Turner presented M. Joseph with a plaque acknowledging her dedication and service on behalf of the faculty. Joanne Langan addressed the Senate as the new President. She pledged to keep the channels of communication open with the Administration. J. Langan asked faculty to have the following information available when contacting her about a Faculty Senate issue: 1. Identify the issue. 2. Identify the related policy or Faculty Manual provision. 3. List what steps you have already taken. 4. Identify what it is you want from the FS. |          |
| Remarks—Provost Joe Weixlmann | The Provost opened his remarks with an expression of appreciation for Miriam Joseph and the current EC. He discussed the impact of the economic crisis on the University, but also pointed out heartening news of increased student deposits compared to the same time last year and increased student enrollment generally. The Provost thanked faculty for making students feel welcomed and he praised the excellent leadership in the undergraduate admissions office. He commented on the efforts of the Research Office in streamlining the process of doing research and obtaining funding. J. Weixlmann discussed other developments at the University, including preparation underway for the re-accreditation process by the Higher Learning Commission, the establishment of the President’s Diversity Council, and moving toward making Ray Tait’s position as Vice Provost for Research permanent. |          |
| Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. |          |

Page 2  Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  April 28, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Willman Turner  
Secretary of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Saint Louis University

Meeting of the Faculty Senate

April 28, 2009
3:30pm – 5:30pm
Auditorium B
Doisy Learning Resource Center

Report of the President and Executive Committee (EC)

I. Faculty Senate Meeting on April 28, 2009
Incoming Student Government Association (SGA) President Michael Harriss has been invited to speak briefly about his plans for SGA next year, particularly with regard to those he sees having commonality with academic/faculty interests.

School of Medicine (SOM) Dean Phil Alderson will update the Senate on major changes since he joined SLU as dean a year ago, as well as future plans at the SOM. He also will reflect on his role as Vice President of Health Sciences and his expectations for the future in that capacity.

Continuing a tradition of recent years, Provost Joe Weixlmann will offer some remarks to wrap up the year, and respond to senators' questions.

II. Faculty Senate Executive Committee Elections
Senators have received the nominees' biographical statements and should review them prior to the meeting. Ballots will be distributed at the meeting. Per Senate Bylaw V.8., "Each Faculty Senator shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote, and votes must be cast in person by the Senators or their designated alternates."

Joanne Langan (Nursing) will become Faculty Senate President at the conclusion of today's meeting. Continuing At-Large EC members are Mark Knuepfer (Medicine) and Alan Weinberger (Law). The nominees for the two two-year At-Large EC terms are Huliyar Mallikarjuna (Parks) and John Martin (Medicine), as well as incumbents Judy Durham (Arts & Sciences) and Mark Ferris (Business). Linda Hoechst (Doisy) is the nominee slated for the position of Secretary; Jane Turner (Medicine) is term-limited.

III. “Consultation” with Faculty by Administration
Pursuant to the discussion at the March 2009 Faculty Senate meeting, the EC raised with the Provost the concern expressed about the interpretation of the term “consultation” as it appears in the Faculty Manual. Given the Provost’s instructions to the deans and directors earlier this semester that they engage in academic planning and include opportunities for faculty input in the process, this conversation was timely in that the Provost’s more recent reminder to the deans and directors explicitly reminded them that input should extend beyond their and the chairs’ levels to faculty at the department level. Each of the University’s schools, colleges, and libraries has its own culture and governance organization; thus the way in which the Provost’s directive is carried out likely will vary across the institution. The EC is aware of several cases in which senior administrators have, indeed, requested that faculty input at the department level be sought. This is a positive step. M. Joseph’s message to the faculty, dated April 21, 2009, specifically mentioned the Provost’s reminder to ensure that all faculty will have been so informed and still have time to be able to follow up had they not already been aware.
There is, however, another consideration. In the context of academic planning, it is perfectly reasonable to expect that faculty at the departmental level routinely monitor their academic programs and enrollments and external trends. We should not assume—particularly in the economic environment in which we find ourselves currently—that the status quo is sufficient. Taking a more proactive stance, and raising relevant issues and potential problems from the faculty's perspective early on, may help avoid potential “surprises” and lead, instead, to creative alternative outcomes. Probably this is already the culture in some units, but not in all. It may take time to have the impact we desire, but faculty and administrators together can achieve this through the curricular and governance entities of our respective units.

IV. Faculty Senate Standing Committees: Update on Discussion of Possible Changes for Next Year and Future
Taking into consideration the comments expressed by senators at the March 2009 Faculty Senate meeting, and the feedback subsequently provided by the current four topical standing Senate committees, the EC has decided to proceed as follows in 2009-2010:
(1) The Senate will continue to have Academic Affairs, Affirmative Action and Diversity, Compensation and Fringe Benefits, and Governance committees.
(2) Per the Senate’s Bylaws, the membership of each committee ordinarily will continue to include representatives from each of the Senate’s constituent units.
(3) To enhance communication between the EC and each of these committees, the EC will adopt the recommendation of the current Governance Committee that each committee be chaired by an EC member (rather than have an EC liaison as has been recent practice).
(4) Membership of these committees will be modified to accommodate both institutional memory as well as fresh perspective. Further, the EC will endeavor to appoint more sitting senators to the committees in order to further strengthen the connection between the Senate and the committees and to provide senators additional opportunity to participate in the work of the Senate.
(5) The EC will determine committee charges on an “as needed” basis throughout the year. A committee may or may not receive a charge at the beginning of the fall semester; however, all committees will stand ready to address specific charges as they arise. Each committee will hold an introductory session at the Fall 2009 kickoff.
(6) Over the course of the year, and concurrent with ongoing committee activity, the EC will review Senate standing committee charges, outcomes, and staffing for the past ten years to help determine whether to continue/disband the committees for the long term, continue them but modify their scope, and/or constitute additional committees.
(7) The EC will continue to consult on this matter with senators and committee members until a final determination is made.

V. Reminders
A. Faculty Senate Elections in the Schools/Colleges/Libraries – Faculty Senate Bylaws require constituent groups to conduct their elections of Faculty Senators prior to the Spring commencement and report the election results to the Senate secretary by May 31st. Senate terms begin on July 1st.
B. ITS Feedback – A Final Reminder – Please solicit feedback from your unit colleagues on their recent ITS experiences, and send that information to M. Joseph for compilation and forwarding to T. Brooks.
C. Task Force to Enhance the University’s Research Mission – Remind your colleagues that the Task Force’s survey is open for responses through May 11, 2009.
D. Saint Louis University Emergency Scholarship Fund – Contributions to this recently announced new scholarship fund (see http://www.slu.edu/x29547.xml ) are still being accepted. Remember that a high level of participation is the key goal in communicating to our current students that faculty and staff want them to stay at SLU. Breaking News: Tom Keefe reports that contributions received thus far total $461,000 !