To: ftpt_faculty@slu.edu
Subject: Faculty Senate President’s Communication

September 16, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 2010-2011 Academic Year and the Faculty Senate (FS). The purpose of the FS President’s message is to keep you informed of the work the FS Executive Committee (EC) and to inform you of work yet to be accomplished by the FS and the EC.

We had a very active summer of meetings and e-mails, including discussions with a number of administrators. The EC met with Fr. Biondi recently and hopes to continue to meet with him on a periodic basis. Some of the issues discussed with Father include 1) the need to review and evaluate the decentralization of the Graduate School after the restructuring has been in place for one year; 2) the recommendation that Father visit academic units on an informal basis; 3) a request to have salary quotes/contracts delivered to faculty closer to the Faculty Manual stated date of May 1; 4) development of a standard tool for evaluation of SLU faculty with provisions for unique characteristics in various academic units; 5) consideration of different talents/strengths of individual faculty in performance reviews (rewarding excellent teaching equally with excellent research); and 6) annual evaluations of administrators by faculty using an objective instrument.

The EC will meet monthly with the VP/Frost, Dr. Patankar, and the VP/HSC, Dr. Alderson. By virtue of my position as FS President, I am a member of the President’s Coordinating Council and Council of Academic Deans and Directors. I also serve on the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

The EC is comprised of Linda Hoechst (Secretary, DCHS), President-Elect, Mark Knuepfer (SOM), and Members-at-Large Judy Durham (A & S), Mark Ferris (CSB), Tonie FitzGibbon (SOL), Terry Tomazic (A & S) and Joanne Langan (President, SON).

The FS meeting calendar for 2009-2010 has been posted on the Senate’s website.
http://www.slu.edu/organizations/fs/calendar.pdf

Here are a few FS events:

- The EC welcomed new Senators Tues., Sept. 7 with a brief orientation.
- The Kick-Off Event for Senators, FS committee members, and FS reps to other committees will be Tuesday, Sept. 21.
- The first regular Senate meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 12.

**Convocation August 20, 2010**

A special thanks to those faculty who were able to attend the Convocation. The steady stream of faculty members in regalia was very impressive. The students and parents were grateful for the speakers’ remarks and positive messages. Many commented favorably about the ability to speak informally with faculty, administrators, staff, and students following the formal program. The timing of this event and the individual academic unit events the same day will be discussed further among the Council of Academic Deans and Directors (CADD) members.
**Spiritual Life**  
The Mission and Ministry website is: [http://slu.edu/missionprograms.xml](http://slu.edu/missionprograms.xml)

The FS will continue the practice of having a moment of silence/prayer at the beginning of our regularly scheduled meetings.

The Mass of the Holy Spirit was a beautiful celebration of our Jesuit mission. While the College Church was packed, there is still some concern about time allotted to facilitate the travel of HSC campus students, faculty, and staff to the church. Students also voiced concern about having time for lunch after Mass and getting back to class on time. I welcome suggestions on ways to rectify this matter so that more HSC campus members can attend.

**Sympathy**  
Please keep those in our SLU community, family, and friends in your prayers who are suffering from illness or loss. All are invited to celebrate the life of former FS Senator, Theresa Bernsen (Dept. of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training) who died July 9. A Memorial Service will be held tomorrow, **Sept. 17 at 1230 p.m.** at the St. Francis Xavier College Church. There will be a gathering in the Ballroom (lower level of College Church) immediately following the memorial service.

**Faculty Manual Change/Amendments Process**  
A FS task force was assembled this summer to begin identifying areas of the Faculty Manual that would need to be updated due to last year’s reorganizations and other issues that have arisen since the 2008 amendments were approved and adopted. The EC will propose and discuss these changes with Senators at FS meetings in the coming months. In turn, Senators will consult with their unit colleagues. Further, the text of all proposed changes or amendments will be posted on the Web for additional review by and input from all faculty. Senators will vote on the proposed amendments at a FS meeting. The EC will consult with pertinent University administrators throughout this process. Faculty Manual Revision Task Force members are: Miriam Joseph (chair), John Griesbach, Ian Redmount, Mark Knuepfer, and Joanne Langan.

**FS Standing Committees**  
The Senate will retain the four topical committees of Academic Affairs, Affirmative Action and Diversity, Compensation and Fringe Benefits, and Governance. Each standing committee will be chaired by a member of the EC. Senators were given the opportunity to volunteer for committees of their choice. The Professional Relations Committee (PRC) is Co-Chaired by Andy Lechner and Jack Kennell. We welcome Jack to his new position and give sincere thanks to Mike Alderson for his years of dedicated service to the PRC. The first formal meeting for each of the standing committees will be at the Kick-Off Event. EC members will suggest items from the Shared Governance Action Plan, which emerged from the Governance Committee’s 2008 Report on the Shared Governance Survey (2007), to be considered as charges for respective committees. Committee members will be polled for recommendations of committee charges based on suggestions from their constituent units.
Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association is the University’s regional accrediting agency. Work continues on SLU’s institutional self-study in preparation for the HLC team’s site visit in April 2012. The SLU self-study team is planning open fora and other means by which to share related information with the University community. Opportunities to meet with faculty, staff, and student groups are welcomed; please contact self-study chair Miriam Joseph (977-3584; josephme@slu.edu). SLU’s institutional accreditation Web site is at http://accreditation-hlc.slu.edu/.

In the year ahead, I wish to facilitate and maintain collaborative relationships among faculty, administrators, staff, and students. Above all, we collectively need to consider what is best for Saint Louis University today and in the future.

Please contact any member of the Executive Committee with questions or suggestions. Best wishes to all for a happy, positive, and productive academic year!

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne C. Langan
Faculty Senate President 2009-2011