

FACULTY SENATE

Provost's Report

May 3, 2017

- **President's Report**

- **Budget**

The FY2018 budget is being prepared for presentation to the BOT in 3 workshop sessions (no quorum, but public) Monday-Wednesday before the 5/18 BOT meeting, when it will receive formal first review. It will be presented for the Board's approval at the June meeting.

The unit impact of the adjustments to meet the deficit are just now being analyzed. Some RIFs have already been made and others are expected; HR will track and report RIFs monthly with the personnel attrition reports. The president still does not expect across-the-board layoffs of staff or program closures, although attrition of any kind, staff or faculty, will have to be considered as we move through the strategic decisions leading to the FY2019 budget.

The Budget Development Committee will receive a new draft charge that emphasizes strategic decision-making in the context of ongoing budget constraints. The membership has expanded to four Faculty Senators (*Hadley* and *David Owen*, A&S/FSP&B, *Feldhoff* (HSC/basic sciences) and *Saeed Jortani* (HSC/clinical) and a Staff Senator (*McWilliams*, CEHD). Other members include

- the three constituency heads
- Deans Leonard, Fox, Ganzel, Bradley and Mardis
- EVPRI representative Kevyn Merten and EVPHA representative Celeste Carter
- COSW representatives Melissa Long-Shuter and CODRE rep Fannie Cox plus
- Vice Provost and Chief Budget officer Susan Howarth
- the acting provost.

The members are committed to meeting through the summer and will make periodic reports as the FY2019 budget preparations go forward.

Provost Personnel

- Ombuds search (refer to Tracy)
 - 7 applicants are scheduled for phone interviews with the committee next week
 - 3 individuals to be invited for Skype interviews (probably week of 5/15) to meet with various groups: COSW and CODRE leadership teams, vice provosts, provost, and search committee.

Unit Personnel and Administration

Faculty promotion and tenure salary increases will be awarded at the customary rate by unit. Staff reclasses, in-range adjustments and other awards will be managed at the unit level.

Decanal Searches and Reviews

- Law –Colin Crawford (Tulane) has been voted tenure as a full professor in Brandeis and the president will recommend him to the BOT 5/18 as dean, to begin duties January 1.
- Speed – Dr. Gail Depuy, associate professor of IE and associate dean for academic and student affairs, will serve as acting dean of Speed School of Engineering. The search committee has been charged and Isaacson Miller will assist with the national search that will be posted next fall. The summer will be spent identifying the characteristics and qualities of the new dean and working professional networks informally. The timeline is aggressive, and we hope to have a permanent dean in place 1 July 2018.
- Nursing – Dean Hern has resigned, effective before the end of the year. The search is managed from HSC by the EVPHA under the usual REDBOOK process.

SACS work toward the completion of regular required end-of-year reports goes forward as usual. Assistant provost Connie Shumake and VP Leslie Strohm have advised the BOT governance committee on the alignment the BOT bylaws with the enacted SB 107.

Student application and recruitment continues strong.

- The admissions office's weekly reports (28 April attached with the reminder that these comparisons are subject to fluctuation week by week) show that the UG numbers continue to run ahead of last year's by about 11%; I have not taken the time to check back the trend on this increase, but the margin is good now.
- URM enrollments in the new class are unusually good; I am glad to report that acceptances to our major mentored scholarship programs have come in more quickly than usual, which I take to be a sign of good confidence among academic high-performers.
- *Admits by exception*, however, are almost exactly twice the number of last year's, with some slight but unsettling effect on the overall profile, depending on many variables.
- A Royall + Co. (EAB) survey of admitted students not intending to enroll (DNIE) showed 16% of respondents citing SACS status as an issue; how much weight to give such a drop-down response on a new survey, the Admissions staff is still working out, but to me it appears that the December announcement and flurry of commotion thereafter had less impact than we might have expected .
- Gale Rhodes has proposed an online "winter session" (December-January) as a pilot that may be a way both to increase tuition revenue and to bolster performance toward the "credit for credits" project, which we have yet to validate since the numbers won't be available for a while.

Student persistence and success

- Two policies — *syllabus posting* and *book orders* — are useful to promote student interest and success. Please remind your colleagues to respond on time when the requests are made each term. I have asked the Faculty Senate leadership to encourage and promote compliance with these policies for their persistence as well as their regulatory or legal purposes.
- The BLU platform provides flexible, nuanced structures for delivery of surveys. The platform accommodates variations in questions on the interest- or competency-mapping principle that will vary content according

to audience or capacity. This system provides the opportunity for more sophisticated as well as more uniform and content-rich teaching evaluations, which have been the subject of inquiry from students, personnel committees and deans. I have asked the Faculty Senate chair to establish an *ad hoc* committee to study best practices and to develop from them a university-wide set of meaningful and pointed teaching evaluation questions and metrics to improve the depth and comparability of this pedagogical, heuristic personnel process requirement for implementation during the next academic year.

New Faculty Professional Development Workshops and Academic Leadership Workshops are suspended for the summer. Will begin anew in the fall.

Reminder that Commencement is next week. Students look for their teachers and friends. Too late to order regalia, but try to be there if you have fancy dress or just want to stand in the voms as the graduates walk in.

The doctoral hooding is at 3PM on Friday afternoon, Yum! Center. The Commencement exercises are at 10 and 2 on Saturday.

10:00 a.m.

Arts and Sciences, Kent, Dentistry, SIGS, Law, Medicine, Public Health and Information Sciences

2:00 p.m.

Business, CEHD, Speed, Music, Nursing