

CHAIR'S REPORT OCTOBER 2018

September was busy. I am sure I am going to be able to say that every month. This one was special though. A number of my meetings involved a member of the planning committee for the inauguration of our 18th president, Dr. Neeli Bendapudi. I was very happy that my request for inclusion of our Executive Committee to participate in the processional was met with immediate support from Michael Wade Smith, Chief of Staff for Dr. Bendapudi. It was very gratifying to hear Dr. Bendapudi speak of her commitment to shared governance in her inaugural address. I was very happy to see such a great turnout of staff at the event. I think that speaks to the new attitude and excitement that is pervading all of our campuses with the installation of Dr. Bendapudi.

Our retreat was held on Monday, September 10. 56 senators were able to attend the morning portion of the retreat that was conducted prior to our full meeting at 2:30 that afternoon. The retreat was very informative and productive. Senators generated a number of good recommendations. The executive officers are meeting soon to evaluate and discuss implementation strategies for those. It was noteworthy to me personally to conduct one of the speed sessions which told me just how many senators we have that in their first year to three years of service. I recognize the need to do more for those at the very start of their service, which should translate into a quicker ability for those to contribute to the senate and their constituents rather than spend time going through the learning curve on their own.

The Board of Trustees had committee meeting day on Sept. 19. There are 5 committees. Executive and Compensation, Finance, Audit/Compliance and Risk, Academic and Student Affairs and Human Resources. I am a voting member of the Audit/Compliance and Risk and Human Resources committees. On committee meeting days, all 5 committees meet in succession. Even though I am a member of two, I am able to speak and give input during any committee meeting. Because of that, I attended all 5 committee meetings. The most significant items included a recommendation to declare Myers Hall on Broadway as a surplus facility. That would allow us to move forward with selling that property as it has been un-occupied for a number of years and is in need of extensive, structural repairs before it could be used again. Other items of note took place during Executive Session so cannot be commented on here.

The more I am involved with BOT proceedings and soon to start Foundation Board proceedings, the more I am grateful for the people who have stood in my position in the past. Board of Trustee meetings are now being conducted quarterly. I am about to participate in my first Foundation Board meeting. I know Will had 40 or more Foundation Board meetings in his second year and the Board of Trustees met monthly or even weekly through part of his tenure. The more I learn, the more I am appreciative of Will and Angela's leadership of our group before me.

The Executive Committee met on Monday, September 24. We had a very informative and productive meeting which included updates on HS Campus parking and the custodial issues we have discussed. That information is going to be shared at our full meeting on Monday, October 8.

We were all surprised by the news of the elimination of the Operations area and Dr. Han. I do not know details other than what were released to the University as a whole.

Thank you for all you do.