

Staff Senate 12/11/17

Faculty Senate report

The Faculty Senate approved the new School of Medicine bylaws as well as the new MS in Business Analytics in the College of Business, understanding that the COB would be working with the SPHIS to make their two programs in analytics work together, once both are up and running.

We heard a report from Jim Begany and Joe Dablow about improving student retention. They emphasized how much improvement there has been over the past 10 years and the prospect is of reaching a 60% six-year graduation rate this year or next. That's very good news. They prevailed upon the faculty to be supportive of students who are at risk. The Provost, in his report, emphasized the same thing, including getting students feedback early in the semester, before the drop deadline.

Presidential search "listening tour" is scheduled for January 17-18.

Interim President Postel's report was focused significantly on getting off probation with SACS, and on the likelihood of further cuts from the General Assembly in the next budget. But we don't yet know how deep those will be. Jewish Hospital is likely to be purchased & operated by a private equity firm but that is not yet a done deal. He also emphasized that a lot of progress has been made on hiring administrators (including permanent CFO and COO), which was one of the issues that SACS was worried about.