

## Walter - Remarks – Fall Faculty Meeting, Oct 2, 2017, Auditorium, Lang Hall

### MHWalter – Fac. Sen. Chair

#### 1. Myself – 1997, Biology, Tenured 2003

- a. Service – Most Recently - Faculty Senate – since 2012
  - i. Vice Chair, 2016
  - ii. Chair 2017
  - iii. Current Vice-Chair (and next Chair: Amy Petersen, Assoc Professor, Special Education
  - iv. Immediate Past-Chair (now Secretary: Gretchen Gould: Collection Strategist Librarian & Assoc Professor, Library
- b. Amy, Gretchen & I work as a team to manage FacSen Agenda & ensure smooth operation of meetings, etc
  - i. You'll find us (usually) Sunday mornings, 10AM, at SideCar Coffee... please join us.

#### 2. Main Point to make: Faculty Senate is The Embodiment of 'FACULTY GOVERNANCE'

- a. And is THE principal representative agency of the university faculty in their role on educational policy & curriculum.
  - i. The Faculty Constitution grants The Senate the duty to work with policy.....
    1. Formation, integration and coordination, consultation, and adjudication (bylaws section 5).

#### 3. Faculty Constitution (approved by Board of Regents February 20, 1986), "*The faculty has the right to be adequately informed about, and to participate jointly ..... in determination of policy touching all the phases of the University's operations. The faculty shall play a central role in all decisions regarding educational policy and curriculum."*

#### 4. We're now early in FY18, but so far Senate has:

- a. Consulted on Faculty Handbook (May & ongoing...)
- b. Speeded (and made less tedious) Fac' Sen meetings by adopting a 'Consent Agenda'
- c. Consulted on a 'Civic Action Plan' for the, *Community Engagement*.  
Part of the Strategic Plan
- d. Consulted on Academic Freedom and Shared Governance Policy
- e. Reviewed & voted on numerous Faculty Emeritus Requests
- f. Reviewed & Voted on various Academic Programs - Initiation, Suspension, Termination, Reorganization, Renaming, etc, ..before such program policies move on for Regents Level Committee Review.
- g. So this is important work.... Our work.

#### 5. President Nook, Provost Wohlpart, Associate Provost-Dean Pease, Associate Provost Vallentine usually attend Fac Sen Meetings

- a. Conversations are informative, useful and congenial.
- b. We are trying to promote a congenial atmosphere and encourage discussions on the larger issues of Academics and Faculty Governance.

**6. So, even if you know little about the above-mentioned processes, let me encourage you to participate, at least at the committee level, or at the Senate Level (3-year gig)..... why?**

- a. Because 'Faculty Governance' doesn't mean '*ignore it and all will work out just fine*'. Rarely the case...
- b. Because the University's and The Regent's recent emphasis on 'Openness & Transparency' requires vigilance, participation, engagement..... By US.
- c. Because when you part with YOUR Valuable Time, THAT VALUE Validates these WORKING activities and FURTHER validates the concept of 'FACULTY GOVERNANCE'
- d. We have a natural expectation that OUR VALUABLE TIME be fairly compensated....  
So:

**7. I will close by re-emphasizing Becky's (Joe's?) points about the upcoming vote on Union RE-Certification:**

- a. Voting will be electronic or by phone ... Probably Oct 18<sup>th</sup>?
- b. Please participate, EVEN if you are NOT a Union Member
- c. You ARE still a member of the 'Bargaining Unit'
  - i. So a NON-VOTE = 'No' vote
  - ii. We need a MAJORITY (50% plus 1) to retain the legal certification of OUR Union.
- d. **A 'No' vote makes NO SENSE for YOU, because, honestly:**
  - i. **No one else, besides the UNION, HAS YOUR BACK!!!**