

Academic Senate President's Report

September 21, 2016

Academic Senate Fall Retreat

- The retreat convened at Pepperwood Preserve, September 16, 9:30-3:00. We had three sessions which largely consisted of vibrant conversation, split by lunch, and preceded by a continental breakfast.
- 1. Responsibilities of being a senator, including what it means to represent a constituency, and how and when to communicate with constituents;
- 2. On senate purview, an on-our-feet exercise outside, which resulted in lively dialogue about various components of online instruction, and professional development;
- Lunch ala Goji, and were joined by guests: Drs. Chong, Rudolph, and Saldaña-Talley, and Trustees Fishman and Battenfeld;
- 3. Senate goals: having identified accomplishments, we settled on 13 goals for the year. All present were give ten flat marbles to distribute into containers labeled with goals any way they wanted. The results are interesting, but only about half of the sitting senators were present to vote. Therefore I will delay reporting the voting results, until the remaining senators have an opportunity to vote.

AFA/Senate Dialogue

Two meetings have been set in which leaders from the Academic Senate and All Faculty Association will discuss issues of common interest and overlapping purview. The first meeting is directly after the Academic Senate meeting on October 5th. It will convene at about 5:15 and go to about 7:00. The main topic will be professional development. A second meeting will be November 30, which is a fifth Wednesday that month, 3:00-5:00 pm. There is room for about 10 members of the senate to attend these meetings. Some of you participated in our meetings last year and may want to again. If you would like to participate and are available at these times, see me after the meeting or email me (and cc Jessica Melvin) expressing your interest.

The Sonoma Promise

A Task Force has been formed to study the issue of instituting a "Sonoma Promise" on the model of the Long Beach Promise, which is a coordinated program involving high school, community college, and Cal State systems to promote student success and completion through economic relief (free tuition) and streamlined, guaranteed transfer pathways. I haven't yet attended a meeting as of this writing, so I will say more about it in my next report when I will have more information.

Senators Still Needed on Committees

We still have vacancies on several committees and councils. If you know someone who has some extra slack, even a little bit, send them to us. The best up to date information on committee vacancies can be got from Jessica Melvin.

Eric Thompson