This Faculty Senate newsletter (the first in what we hope will be a series) provides a wonderful opportunity to remind the campus community of what the Senate has achieved in recent years, discuss what we hope to accomplish, and explain how the Senate functions.

The Senate’s primary function in the College governance system is to appoint faculty to serve on collegewide committees and advisory councils, ensuring that committees represent the diversity of disciplines and viewpoints across the campus. Aside from that official duty, the Senate serves in an advisory role, offering its input on policy matters to the administration, to the standing committees, and to the campus as a whole.

Under the leadership of Dan Crofts from 1998-2004, the Faculty Senate played a major part in setting the College’s agenda and ensuring that faculty had a strong voice in determining academic policies. The Senate’s “Ten Big Issues” document of 1998, addressed to newly hired President Barbara Gitenstein, largely set the agenda for the administration and College over the next few years. The Senate was able to play a major role in the overhaul of the governance system that took place in 2000, participated in the renewed emphasis on strategic planning, and helped to ensure that faculty took a guiding role in the massive academic transformation of the past few years. Last spring the Senate revisited the “Ten Big Issues” of 1998 and issued a report that we anticipate will guide the College’s forward movement in the years ahead.

With the transformed curriculum in place this fall, the Senate has been able to step back, catch our collective breath, and set our agenda for the coming year. At a planning retreat in September, we set a number of goals, including increasing communication between the Senate and the faculty as a whole. This newsletter is one result. The idea came from the Senate committee on Communication and Community, one of eight working groups established this fall. The Senate Executive Board members who chair those groups report on their work in this newsletter.

In brief, we’re tackling issues such as the following:

— How can we ensure that academic transformation delivers a more intensive, rigorous, and demanding education for our students?

— What can we do to support excellent teaching across the College?

— How can we mentor and support both new and experienced faculty as teacher-scholars?

— How can we help foster a rich and healthy intellectual climate on campus?

— What changes in the governance system are needed to increase faculty involvement and improve its effectiveness?

— What forms of department and program planning and assessment should replace the old “departmental review” process?

— What role can faculty play in gaining more state and external support for the College?

You can read about how we’re addressing those questions in this newsletter, and you’ll hear more about them in the months to come. Each of the groups will be issuing public reports and making recommendations regarding policy to the standing committees. In addition, the Faculty Senate, through its 11-member Executive Board, works daily in significant but often largely unseen ways to ensure that faculty have a voice in important decisions.

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To give a few examples, in recent weeks we have:

— Met with finalists for the position of Vice-President for Facilities. We’re pleased that Curt Heuring, the candidate we recommended, has now arrived on campus. We’ll follow the same process when finalists for Vice-President for Development and Alumni Affairs come to campus early next semester.

— Co-sponsored with AFT an Open Forum on the issue of administrative reassigned time.

— Proposed a new Wednesday afternoon meeting schedule that both preserves 80-minute meeting periods and opens up numerous time slots.

— Recommended revisions to the Provost’s proposal for planning councils.

Finally, thanks to the work of our new staff Secretary, Paulette LaBar, we have established a new Faculty Senate website at: www.tcnj.edu/~senate. Our “Resources” section provides a convenient collection of documents related to current hot topics on campus. Our Membership Roster (on the last page of this Newsletter) can show you the Senate representatives from your School. I urge you to contact them or me at any time with questions or concerns.

Michael Robertson, Professor of English  
mroberts@tcnj.edu  
771-3399

Faculty Senate Working Groups

Communication  
Chair: Tom Hagedorn  
Our working group has recommended that the four standing governance committees (CAP, CFA, CPP, CSCC) regularly inform the Faculty Senate of their work and that the Senate inform the faculty of its work through a regular newsletter. We are also discussing holding a meeting of the full faculty.

Departmental Planning and Assessment  
Chair: Cynthia Curtis  
We are examining the process by which departments and programs undergo periodic planning and assessment. We are drafting a recommendation for the Steering Committee asking that a procedure for such review be developed within the governance system. Included in our recommendation is a list of guiding principles we feel any such process should respect. We will be soliciting input from chairs and from the Senate in the coming weeks; thereafter we will forward the recommendation to Steering.

Governance  
Chairs: David Venturo and John Karsnitz  
We are currently working on two projects. First, we are revising the constitution of the Faculty Senate in order to bring it into conformity with the governance system at TCNJ. Second, the committee is reviewing a proposal submitted by the Provost to the Committee on Planning and Priorities to create a series of Planning and Program Councils to aid in the task of strategic planning at the College. In addition, the committee is prepared to lend its expertise to the review and revision of the College’s governance system during the 2004-2005 academic year.

Implementation and Assessment  
Chairs: Don Vandegrift, Deborah Compte  
We are reviewing current assessment efforts at TCNJ and will make recommendations to increase accountability, quality and consistency. The Committee has produced recommendations on five separate issues: the First Year Seminar (FYS), program assessment, student evaluation forms and alumni surveys, the National Survey on Student Engagement, and grade inflation. Some recommendations include designating a faculty coordinator for FYS and creating a FYS advisory committee, more faculty training and development in program assessment, substantially revising the student evaluation forms to include course assessment, and creating an ad hoc committee to examine grade inflation.

Intellectual Climate  
Chair: Ann Marie Nicolosi  
We are working on two issues. First, a bequest by Mildred Dahne has enabled the college to create the Mildred Dahne Endowment Fund from which an $8000 annual award for department or program excellence will be given. Our committee is working to create a committee to establish the criteria for the award (up to 20) and the length of time for review of those criteria. We expect that criteria for the award will be established in fall ’04 and that applications will be accepted in spring ’05. Secondly, the committee is seeking to create a program that highlights outstanding faculty scholarship. One idea is to select two Faculty Senate Scholars per year from the TCNJ faculty to present their work to the campus community.

State and External Support  
Chair: Michael Robertson  
How can faculty play a more direct role in fundraising? In the past, faculty members with ideas for fundraising have often felt frustrated by an overly hierarchical structure that led to their ideas being shelved before they ever reached the desk of the Vice-President for Development. Our working group has discussed problems and solutions among themselves, met
with the President, and drafted a memo to President Gitenstein and the incoming Vice-President. With a new development head coming to the College, we anticipate that this is a perfect time to initiate changes in the office and get faculty more involved.

Support for Teaching
Chair: Brenda Leake
We have been engaged in a dialogue focusing on potential ways to support faculty in providing instruction that is commensurate with the goals of our curricular transformation. Initial discussions have covered a range of ideas including revisiting the notion of establishing a Center for Teaching Excellence. We plan to present a formal set of recommendations to the full Senate at its December meeting.

College Governance Committee Reports

Committee on Academic Programs (CAP)
Andrew Clifford, Chair, cliffan@tcnj.edu
Deborah Compte, Vice-Chair, dcompte@tcnj.edu
Now that Academic Transformation is almost entirely phased in, the work of CAP has returned to its principal work of reviewing and making recommendations on new academic initiatives on campus such as: the development of a biomedical engineering specialization within the School of Engineering, the expansion of the seven-year medical school program, the restructuring of the School of Engineering, and the development of new graduate level tracks in the School of Nursing. CAP is also charged with making recommendations concerning academic policies on campus. To this end, the committee has been focused on revisiting policy recommendations made last year concerning academic dismissal and the creation of a new Ungraded Option analogous to the Pass/Fail grading option. In the case of the former, CAP considered a recommendation by the Office of Academic Affairs to clarify that office’s role in academic dismissal; in the case of the latter, CAP considered a recommendation from the Student Government Association to extend the period during which a student could exercise the ungraded option in a course.

Committee on Faculty Affairs (CFA)
janet.morrison@tcnj.edu
Ann Marie Nicolosi, Vice-Chair, nicolosi@tcnj.edu
This year, CFA is charged with realigning the Promotions document to make it similar in process and format to the Reappointment and Tenure document, which went through a revision via governance and the Union in 2001. Our revisions may include both language and standards to insure consistency between the two documents and processes. We have been asked specifically to consider the external review process and we are identifying other issues as well in consultation with various stakeholders.

Committee on Planning and Priorities (CPP)
David Venturo, Chair, dventuro@tcnj.edu
Tom Hagedorn, Vice-Chair, hagedorn@tcnj.edu
This year, CPP has continued its work from last academic year of coordinating the College’s Middle States reaccreditation. The committee oversaw a self-study by three subcommittees of the College’s planning and assessment processes. Based upon the recommendations of those subcommittees, CPP is currently studying establishing a new system of planning and program advisory councils to assist CPP and the administration in their review and oversight of strategic planning at TCNJ. A recommendation is expected in the next few months. Secondly, CPP is currently taking testimony on a draft program closure document. Last spring, CPP recommended amending the College’s existing policies on the closure of academic programs and establishing similar procedures for academic centers and nonacademic programs. The new proposal can be viewed on the governance website (under 2004-2005 items). Finally, CPP is brainstorming possibilities for a number of major new initiatives consistent with the College’s mission. The committee welcomes faculty suggestions for such major new initiatives.
The Faculty Senate is made up of forty-five members elected by the faculty for a term of three years.

Art, Media, and Music
- Anita Allyn, Art
- Robert McMahen, Music
- Ruane Miller, Art

Business
- Sunita Ahlawat, Accountancy
- Pamela Kravitz, Business Administration
- Bozena Leven, Economics
- Gerald Miller, Accountancy
- Don Vandegrift, Economics +

Culture and Society
- Deborah Compte, Modern Language +
- Tim Clydesdale, Sociology
- Art Hohmuth, Psychology
- Richard Kamber Philosophy
- Stuart Koch, Political Science
- Rebecca Li, Sociology
- Ann Marie Nicolosi, History/WGST +
- John Pollock, Communication Studies
- Consuelo Preti, Philosophy
- Michael Robertson, English ++
- Monica Rossi-Miller, Modern Language
- Susan Ryan, Communication Studies
- Teresa San Pedro, Modern Language
- Glenn Steinberg, English
- David Venturo, English +

Education
- Stuart Carroll, EECE
- Colette Gosselin, EASE

Jie Kang, Health & Exercise
Jean Konzal, EECE
Brenda Leake, EECE +
Jacqueline Norris, EASE
Ruth Palmer, EASE +
Jerry Petroff, SELL

Engineering
- Ralph Edelbach, Technological Studies
- Orlando Hernandez, Engineering
- John Karsnitz, Technological Studies

Library
- Maureen Gorman

Nursing
- Leslie Rice
- Gladys Word

Science
- Georgia Arvanitis, Chemistry
- Ed Conjura, Mathematics/Statistics
- Cynthia Curtis, Mathematics/Statistics +
- Tom Hagedorn, Mathematics/Statistics +
- Deborah Knox, Computer Science ++
- Don Lovett, Biology
- Amanda Norvell, Biology
- Marcia O’Connell, Biology
- Ursula Wolz, Computer Science

* Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees
+ Senate Executive Board Member

The Senate’s Upcoming Meetings:
All faculty are welcome to attend Senate meetings. The Senate meets in Biology, room 209.
December 8 3:00 P.M.  March 23 12:00 P.M.
January 26 12:00 P.M.  April 27 12:00 P.M.
February 23 12:00 P.M.

Comments or Suggestions? Send them to
senate@tcnj.edu

TCNJ Faculty Senate Website:
http://www.tcnj.edu/~senate