

The Senator

The Newsletter of the Wake Forest University Senate

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Harry Titus, President

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The Senate Encounters the Hatch Administration

Harry Titus, President

As we welcomed President Nathan Hatch to Wake Forest University in the fall term of 2005, the members of the University Senate sought to reinvigorate discussion of ongoing campus issues and to define new goals for future consideration.

A search for improved communication across campus was the focus of Senate activities in 2004-2005. A central issue was the financial management of the university. The College faculty had charged their representatives on the Senate and the AAUP to pose questions to the administration about matters of finance. After intensive discussion, the Collegiate Senators summarized their findings and presented a series of recommendations to the College faculty, which that body endorsed at its April 2005 regular meeting. Meanwhile, Senators received periodic updates from their Collegiate colleagues about this process.

One result of the dialogue between the faculties and the administration was the creation of the Provost's Budget Advisory Council. This group of faculty members from the Reynolda campus faculties meets with the Provost to consider aspects of the annual budget. The Senate hopes to receive the first report from the council in the spring of 2006.

The Senate Senior University Appointments Committee was involved in the search for a new President of Wake Forest. Senator Joe Tobin, the chair of the committee in 2005-2006, has summarized the participation of the SUA in the search. His summary will be attached to the minutes of the February 15, 2006 regular meeting. During the fall of 2005 the SUA also interviewed the candidate for the position of Vice-President for Administration, an appointment recently announced by President Hatch.

The change in the Wake Forest presidency made it difficult to resolve some ongoing Senate initiatives during 2005. Various committee proposals were delayed in order to give the new President an opportunity to review their impact. An example is the Salary Dependent Healthcare Premium Plan, which has been discussed in at least three different committees as well as in the President's cabinet. As we enter 2006, it is difficult to assess the Senate's role in evaluating and promoting discussion of this issue.

A very positive step has been taken toward recognition of a Reynolda campus Staff Council. As will be seen from Gloria Stickney's report from the Ad Hoc Staff Issues Committee below, the new administration is engaged in discussions with staff members about the nature of an organization that would represent our loyal, hard-working staff. This is a long-awaited development that should work to the benefit of the entire Reynolda campus. President Hatch and Provost Gordon deserve our thanks for their support of this effort.

Committee Reports

The Ad Hoc Committee on Reynolda Campus Staff Issues (SI)

Gloria Stickney, SI Co-chair

Following a feasibility study request by President Hatch, the Staff Issues (SI) committee has drafted bylaws for a Staff Advisory Council to be formed on the Reynolda Campus. Gloria Stickney, co-chair, met with Dr. John Anderson, Dr. Bill Gordon, Harry Titus, Neal Walls and Brenda Balzer in November. Anderson and Gordon asked the SI committee to draft a plan for the formation of a Staff Advisory Council (SAC) under the direction of the new VP for Administration. These draft bylaws were sent to Anderson and Gordon on December 1. After revisions, the SAC plans will be distributed to Reynolda Campus staff members for input. Once the staff body has reviewed the bylaws, Anderson and Gordon will present them to President Hatch for implementation.

In addition, the SI committee has addressed several other issues within the past year.

1. Through the efforts of the SI committee with Veronica Cruickshank (ARAmark) and Connie Carson (Residence Life), a meal plan was implemented with the opening of The Fresh Food Company (the Reynolda Hall Cafeteria) in August. Employees may now purchase a meal plan (\$55 for 10 meals) for use at the Fresh Food Company or the Magnolia Room. This meal plan significantly reduces the cost per meal.
2. The SI committee assisted with promotion of a tax preparation program by Calloway faculty member Yvonne Hinson and her maser's of accountancy students. This service was made available to Reynolda campus employees.
3. The 2005 Artisan's Fair held in November was a great success with 28 vendors participating.
4. The SI committee sent a letter to President Hatch regarding areas of concern. Concern items included recognition and value, communication, etc.
5. Bruce Sanspre from the Security Council met with the SI committee to discuss avenues of promoting safety on campus and means of communication during emergencies.
6. Per the request of Human Resources, the SI committee reviewed draft HR policies.
7. With the high gasoline prices, a carpooling initiative was launched. (NOTE: To post an ad for offering a ride or seeking a ride go to: WIN, Info Central, Classified Ads, Post an item, select your topic from the drop down box and enter your contact information. Items posted on WIN will remain for a period of two weeks.)
8. Gary Alwine, Biology, was selected from nominations for the Staff Senator position vacated by Dana Hutchens.

Any ideas or concerns regarding staff issues may be addressed to Staff Senators: Gloria Stickney, stickngd@wfu.edu, Julie Groves, grovesjl@wfu.edu or Gary Alwine, alwinegn@wfu.edu.

University Oversight Committee (UOC)

David Coates, UOC Chair

These are early days in the life of the new administration, but already the signs are good that we are moving into new governance times. The creation of the Budgetary Advisory Council has opened the budget-making process to direct faculty participation *ahead* of policy formation, creating the space for the Oversight Committee to act as the monitor of budget decisions *after* they have been made. The Committee's oversight this year will take two forms. We intend to monitor the coordination of this more open mode of decision-making, looking for a full reporting back by members of the Council to their respective constituencies in the spring, and for their willingness to carry into the new budget cycle the

concerns and priorities expressed by faculty during that reporting-back. And we intend to build a systematic data base on which to monitor the nature and trajectory of the University's spending priorities and endowment performance. All this work lies ahead of us in the spring. It should be a fascinating and important semester – the first, we hope, of many to come.

Intra-University Operations (IOC)
Barry Maine, IOC Chair

The Intra-University Operations Committee (IOC) will provide a brief report at the February 2006 meeting on the implementation of the Senate recommendation for regular evaluation of academic administrators. The IOC has also written to President Hatch to offer its assistance in developing and/or implementing any ideas he may have for strengthening the University's sense of common educational purpose. At our next meeting we will discuss ideas for improving communication between schools and campuses.