

President's report

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Abstract

Summary of some issues discussed at Senate Executive Committee meetings over the summer and various other points for Sept. 24th A&S Senate meeting.

1. **Stony Brook's Middle States Decennial Review** Charles Robbins and Dan Davis are the co-chairs in charge of the planning committee. The overview of the process as generated by Dan Davis is attached. This is going to be a lot of work, there will be a need to populate the various committees and working groups. The self-study reports are a big part of the review. The working groups are to begin soliciting comments and input beginning fall 2012.
2. **Cluster Hire Program** The proposal review committee met several times over the summer and the committee's recommendations passed to the Provost. The intention was for five to be funded this coming year. The Provost reports (9/17/2012) that the report from the committee is undergoing final review. An announcement will be made in a few weeks. Dennis wants everything in place before awards are announced. Will have a web site with announcements and individual clusters will have their own site. Call for new proposals going out very soon.
3. **Gyrodyne Lawsuit.** The University has reportedly paid a judgement of between \$170 and \$180m because further interest payments would have been crippling. However, there will be an immediate impact on areas of the University budget. About 50% will come from operations, impacting some maintenance at least. The judgement will likely be appealed and it is hoped that the State will eventually contribute at least some of the total. Meanwhile, tight budgets may affect hiring and the proposed increases in TA stipends, for example.
4. **Meeting with Senator LaValle.** Senate EC members met with Senator LaValle in early summer. The meeting was useful and we were encouraged to arrange such meetings more often.
5. **Meeting with VP for Research.** New VP for Research, Ben Hsiao, met with the Senate EC in late May. He has plans to set up an Endowed Chair program with a substantial annual research budget. Possibly also a scheme for 3-year rotating grant/fellowship scheme for faculty. He recognizes that the external funding situation is tough. Strategic plans are on the CAS website, these are tied to the cluster hire program. Peter Saal will be the RF point person on cluster hires and fund raising.
6. **Provost's distinguished lecturer awards.** The Provost reported that approximately 17 awards were made in the early summer, from something over 20 nominations. The awardees were notified by letter but not yet publicly announced. A University Senate sub-committee will be constituted to review nominations and make recommendations to the Provost in the future. The call for nominations for 2013 awards will be going out soon, with a deadline of March 15th, 2013.
7. **Changes to the General Education Curriculum** are planned and details are in a report from a committee chaired by Gene Hammond that is now publically available. Gene will report to the A&S

Senate in the Sept. 24th meeting. There is approximately one month planned for comments that will be funneled through the Undergraduate Council. It is proposed that the changed curriculum will be phased in for students beginning in the 2013 academic year.

8. **MOOCs** Massive open online courses. The Provost reported on the formation of a committee to study the issues involved and recommend actions for Stony Brook as soon as possible. For-profit or not-for-profit models exist. Berkeley, MIT, etc have a non-profit consortium, other universities, e.g. Georgia Tech, Illinois, Michigan have joined a for-profit group, Coursera. Others groups also exist, but it is not clear how or whether these ventures will be successful in the longer term.