

**XXXVIII Faculty Senate  
President's Report  
12/06/07**

The next Academic Affairs Executive Council meeting is scheduled as a working brunch on December 12<sup>th</sup>. I will report on the meeting in my January comments, unless there is a pressing development, in which case I will send email notification to all senators.

The regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting with President Webb and Provost Radke was held on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, with Provost Radke representing administration: President Webb was in Indianapolis dealing with the ongoing NCAA situation. We spoke about the dependent benefits component of the faculty insurance plan, noting especially that dependent coverage is dropping in price. Ongoing investigations into the insurance plan indicate that UCO is not 'doing badly' when the fine print of coverage is compared with competing plans: this will be addressed in the Personnel Policies Committee report. The current senate bills were presented and discussed, with extensive conversation about FSR 2007/2008-03, Creating a New Vice President for Advancement. The light-hearted part of the conversation revolved around this being an almost unprecedented senate request (adding to administration) but the serious conversation centered upon the overwhelming importance of gaining new revenue: the proposal was considered to be promising. We discussed the Merit Pay Task Force, the suggestions from which are being carefully considered and which seem promising. Enrollment is up for two semesters running, mostly in the graduate student categories, although international undergraduate enrollment is also rising, possibly indicating rule changes at the Federal level. Graduation numbers are up, to approximately 1,200 for the fall ceremony. There was discussion of the graduation ceremony process and space concerns for such ceremonies. Old North is now entering the planning diagram phase, and it seems certain that there will be forty eight faculty offices, five classrooms, and a new president's office area, designated for the next UCO president. There will be an annex for elevators, and heating and cooling machinery. It is probable that, with the Transformative Building and the new forensics building, the total of new faculty offices will be about 70. The Center for Global Competency in the University Center has arrived at the finishing-up stage and Enrollment Management has received a large grant (100,000 dollars) to develop a living-learning center with a global focus.

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, the Merit Credit Task Force met with Provost Radke, Vice Provost LaGrow, and Vice President Kreidler. It was a very important meeting, which I believe will be best reported on by Secretary-Treasurer Cooper, the chair of the task force.

I have been involved in extensive discussions regarding the College of Liberal Arts shift this January to the four-four pay system for adjunct faculty from the five-five system. As part of this series of exchanges, I have determined that a rather significant expansion of the senate record keeping system needs to be undertaken, building upon the splendid work of Senators Hartmann and Hepner. To this end, now that there is a clear set of tasks, I will be hiring a student worker and setting up coherent files in the senate office in the University Center.

I take this opportunity to remind all of the committee members that we have a nice conference table in the senate office (room 414) and that it is a conveniently central location in which to gather.

I will be attending the University Budget Task Force meeting Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. In light of the information which I will gather at the meeting, and questions sent to me by faculty senators, I will discuss with Vice President Kreidler significant points which he may address in his forthcoming presentation to the senate.

In honor of the last, hurried week of the semester, I conclude my report.