

**XXXVIII Faculty Senate
President's Report
08/23/2007**

I welcome all of you to the Faculty Senate, those who are completing their terms of service as well as those who are just beginning their terms. The wealth of knowledge and experience evidenced by this body is a vital component of shared governance at UCO.

Discussion on the floor is always important, but I must emphasize that the careful and deliberate working through of complex issues and the crafting of bills is done, usually, in the committees, as in any deliberative body. If there is an overwhelmingly pressing matter, that cannot wait for committee consideration, it is best to move to a committee of the whole, allowing for freer discussion, and then returning to the normal assembly rules to vote upon the committee report. There are special rules for committee deliberations, as linked on the Senate web site, noting that in committees, seconds are not required to raise an issue for discussion, and there can be no calling for a vote to shut down discussion: the topic must be discussed until there is agreement that a vote is acceptable. Minority reports can be generated, and the senate as a whole may choose to hear or not hear the minority report.

I have no information at this time about the merit pay taskforce recommendations, beyond what Provost Radke presented at the college meetings. The taskforce has proposed meeting with the Provost before the documents coming in response to the taskforce suggestions go before the faculty in college fora.

As I emailed, an Athletic Advisory Council will be set up, as per the Senate Bill, with President Webb's strong support. Vice President Hartmann will answer any questions about the Advisory Council as he is the person who has been charged with the implementation of the Council.

The new Academic Early Warning System is another great achievement, among many, of the last senate season.

I represented the Senate at the Security Summit, which was a very well attended event. Our new documentation of emergency procedures is in harmony with suggestions at the Summit. I have talked with Senator Shukla, who also attended the Summit, and who will be forthcoming with a series of suggestions, such as class lists with pictures of the students in our classes.

On the Budget meetings, I have no information to share beyond the series of papers from Vice President Kreidler, which I have forwarded.

State Bill 2103, the Tuition Lock and Textbook will require Senate investigation. This bill, unless modified, will seriously impact many departments across campus, restricting sources of student scholarship money. The tuition lock component is primarily an

administrative issue, requiring close monitoring of enrollment dates. The forbidding of publisher rebates to departments for textbook selections, which money is used standardly for scholarship money and awards, is a problem. The forbidding of course packet rebates to departments is also a worry. Less of a worry is the forbidding of sales of advance copies/ instructor copies to book dealers, but that is something that all faculty need to be clear about. The bill has been passed, and signed by the Governor, but there are attempts being made to modify it. Regardless of the outcome, faculty will need to be aware of all aspects of this law.

I have been notified of Resignations from Business and Advising, and there will be forthcoming special elections (Will McCormick and Wede Brownell).

It is important to emphasize that I am the representative of the Senate, as a body, to the administration and that the Senate is to represent the faculty. If I seem to start off on a personal crusade that conflicts with the wishes of the Senate, please tell me, because it is an inadvertent error.