Report of the Faculty Chair, August 17, 2017

Introduction:

I would like to welcome all Faculty and Senators to a new Academic Year. I am honored to begin my second year as Chair of the Senate and to work with such a remarkable Faculty. Last year Faculty Senate engaged in multiple initiatives across campus, which gave me the opportunity to collaborate with faculty from many disciplines. I greatly appreciate the important work we can accomplish by working together.

I want like to thank members of the Administration who shared their time and expertise at our Senate Bootcamp today - Nelson Vincent, Bleuzette Marshall, Caroline Miller, Patrick Kowalski, and Peter Landgren. I also want to thank AAUP President Ron Jones.

Goals for Faculty Senate

I would like to begin by reviewing and evaluating the goals I had as Chair last year.

Goals for 2016-17

1) Increase communication between Faculty Senate and all faculty members.
I believe that strides were made in this area last year. As Chair, I sent notes to Senators following most of the Senate meetings. I believe that many Senators forwarded these notes to their faculty, and I received positive comments about this. I still think we need to do more. As Chair I sit on 25 university committees. Often I discover information that a committee assumes has been shared with faculty, but that has often not been the case. Please share your ideas with me about communicating more broadly with faculty without bombarding them with listservs.

2) Support the shared governance process at UC by maximizing faculty participation.
From my perspective, this goal was achieved. Both as Chair, and prior to that as Chair of the Senate Academic Affairs Committee, I have found that in most situations, administrators at the university level reach out to Senate to weigh in on proposed changes, approve new policies, and recommend faculty for committees. Rarely, something slips through unvetted by Faculty Senate. When this happens, it is important to remind the administrator that faculty need to be part of the process.

3) Develop a comprehensive system for archiving Senate data.
This goal was not met and will be carried forward.

4) Maximize accessibility across campus.
This goal also remains unmet, although it was brought to the attention of the Office of Planning and Construction by the Senate Human Services Committee. The University of Cincinnati campus is difficult to navigate for individuals who are aged or have physical disabilities. Participation in events such as Commencement can be particularly challenging. I’m hoping our Senate Planning Committee can address this issue this year.

5) Maximize opportunities for diverse representation and ideas in all Senate functions.
I'm comfortable that this goal was largely met. Cabinet and Senate Committees were broadly representative as to gender, race, ethnicity, discipline, college, campus, and years at the university. This should always remain the goal of Senate.

6) **Highlight faculty achievements in research, teaching, and service.**
   This goal was partially met. Senate approved the eLearning Champions Award for the All-University Award Ceremony. I would like to highlight faculty on the Senate website and welcome any suggestions for how to accomplish this.

7) **Collaborate with student government on issues of concern for students.**
   This goal was met. Both Graduate and Undergraduate Student Governments have excellent leadership and are good at conveying issues they would like Senate to pursue. Last year Senate passed five resolutions regarding issues brought to our attention by student government, including support for international students.

**Goals for 2017-18**

1) **Increase communication and support among colleges and Faculty Senate in the shared governance process.**
   We are all part of the same university and should be helping one another achieve our mutual goals and solve whatever problems we encounter.

2) **Work with Part-Time Faculty and the Provost to prioritize and develop policies in response to the Part-Time Faculty survey submitted to Senate in May, 2017.**
   Part-Time Faculty conducted an employment survey last year with the help of the Provost’s office and presented the results at the May, 2016 Faculty Senate meeting. Among the many issues revealed by the results were that a majority of part-time faculty have never received a raise, a copy of the University Adjunct Handbook, a space to work in and meet students, a computer, information about benefits they may be eligible to receive, or an evaluation. Working to address these issues will be a major goal for this year.

3) **Facilitate faculty-led policies regarding Open Access Publishing of research and scholarship.**
   I will discuss this topic later in my report.

4) **Respond appropriately to items of concern brought forward by faculty, staff, administration, and students.**
   This will always be one of the primary functions of Senate.

**Announcements and Updates**

- **Course Access Policy** - Development of a faculty handbook will be completed this fall. The handbook will address policies for personnel who have access to courses, what they can see, and how faculty can determine who is accessing their courses.

- **Acceptable Use of IT Policy** - Language in the policy has been changed to reflect faculty concerns. This mainly pertains to more carefully worded definitions and explanations.

- **Life of the Mind Lecture Series**
**Vision** – To celebrate UC faculty research, scholarship and creative output and to foster the free and open exchange of ideas and discourse.

**History** – Began in 2011 as an annual lecture series featuring interdisciplinary conversations with UC faculty from a variety of disciplines around a one-word theme.

**Format** – One faculty member presents his or her work and expertise. A panel of three faculty from diverse disciplines responds.

**Theme** – The theme for this fall is *truth.*

_Nomination forms will be distributed to all faculty early this semester._

**Open Access Publishing**

**What** – Repository of scholarly articles and books made available to all users at no expense via the Internet.

**Why** – There is a rapidly growing need for rapid and global dissemination of research, particularly in the sciences. The rising cost of journals and textbooks is a critical issue.

**History** – European leaders have called for immediate open access to all scientific papers by 2020. 600 institutions have already agreed.

**Supporters** – UC office of the Provost; State of Ohio (Textbook Affordability); UC Press

**Leaders** – Mark Konecny, UC Libraries

**Senate Openings**

We still need Senators from the following colleges: A&S (1), DAAP (1), CoP (1), and CoM (1). In addition, we need representation for the IT Committee from the following colleges: CLER, DAAP, CoL, and CoP. If you are a Senator from one of these programs, please remind your college of the need for these representatives.

I would like to conclude my report with wishes to all of you for a productive and enjoyable year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Moomaw