Report from the Chair of Faculty Senate, Sally Moomaw  
December 7, 2017

The University of Cincinnati Libraries and the Faculty Senate hosted the Life of the Mind lecture series on November 14, with Dr. Jeffrey Blevins, Associate Professor of Journalism in the College of Arts & Sciences, speaking on the topic of “Manufacturing Truth: The Political Economy of Fake News, Bots, and Double-Speak.” Panelists who provide commentary were: Dr. James Canfield, Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work, CAHS; Dr. Leland Person, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, A&S; and Dr. Tina Stanton-Chapman, Associate Professor of Education, CECH. This was a highly successful event. The room was filled with faculty, students, staff, administrators, and President Pinto. The conversation could have continued well beyond the allotted time. Life of the Mind is sponsored by the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost with the purpose of celebrating UC faculty research, scholarship and creative output and fostering the free and open exchange of ideas and discourse. For those who were unable to attend, the lecture can be viewed at: www.libraries.uc.edu/lifeofthemind/html.

Four finalists for the position of Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost visited the university in November. They gave presentations at all four campuses, and faculty were able to ask questions and submit evaluations.

Faculty Senate is beginning to work on addressing barriers that may arise when faculty engage in interdisciplinary, collaborative work. A subcommittee of the Research Advisory Board is currently working to address problems with cluster hires, in which faculty are hired and shared by at least two departments. Problems can arise when work that is recognized and accepted as progress toward tenure in one discipline is not recognized in another. As an example, historians generally publish single author books or articles, while in the sciences there are frequently multiple authors. Therefore, faculty members hired in a cluster might think they are doing great work by collaborating in multiple-author pieces only to find out that such things are not valued by one of their departments. Dr. John McNay, who is Vice-Chair of the Senate, is serving on this committee and can help Senate consolidate efforts in working on this issue.

It has been a very busy semester. I hope you all enjoy a relaxing winter break.
Respectfully submitted,
Sally Moomaw, EdD
Chair of the University of Cincinnati Faculty