

University of Cincinnati Faculty Senate
Report of the Chair
January 12, 2017

Welcome everyone.

- **Administration Changes** – The last day at UC for Interim President Beverly Davenport will be January 31. I would like to thank Dr. Davenport for her service to UC, first as Provost and most recently as Interim President. Senate Cabinet has prepared a resolution of thanks for President Davenport that I would like to read to you prior to taking a vote of the Senate.
- **Incoming President** – As you are no doubt all aware, the new President of the University of Cincinnati is Dr. Neville Pinto, who was appointed by the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees to serve as the university's 30th President on December 17, 2016. He will begin his service on February 21. Some of you probably know Dr. Pinto already. He served for 26 years on the chemical engineering faculty at UC, where he established the Absorption Exchange Laboratory. His laboratory attracted over \$6 million in external research funding and trained 32 graduate students including 16 PhD students. Dr. Pinto also served as Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Engineering and as Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School. Many faculty had requested that the incoming president have strong academic credentials and experience. It appears that the Board of Trustees took those considerations very seriously in hiring Dr. Pinto.
- **Unauthorized Course Access** – An issue that has come to the attention of Faculty Senate from multiple sources is unauthorized access to courses via Blackboard, sometimes without the knowledge or consent of the instructor. Reports have included so-called “back door entry” by IT personnel, instructional design consultants who may have been assigned to certain courses, advisors tracking student performance, and outside contractors, such as Pearson. Both the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs and IT Committees have been working on these issues. We will likely suggest to Cabinet that a Task Force be convened to investigate and develop policies regarding course access. The Provost has indicated support for such policy development.
- **Student Activism** – We are entering a period when increased student activism is anticipated. The presidential election was unusually divisive, and the country itself is deeply divided. The university is an environment where we hope to encourage dialogue and peaceful and constructive expression of ideas. Faculty are urged to think about how you intend to handle absences that occur if a student misses class to participate in a demonstration and to consider and make clear your attendance policy.

This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Moomaw, EdD
Chair, UC Faculty Senate