

University of Cincinnati Faculty Senate
Report of the Chair
September 8, 2016

Good afternoon members of the faculty, Faculty Senate, and guests. I would like to once again welcome everyone to the start of a new academic year. We have a record number of students attending UC, which is clearly evident on campus. We are also in the midst of a much needed conversion of the UC-IT operating system to the new Catalyst system. This is an enormous undertaking, and as is probably typical of such large-scale changes, it has brought considerable frustration to students, families, faculty, staff, and administrators at UC. I have discussed the concerns of faculty members on the need for more information with Provost Peter Landgren and Dr. Nelson Vincent, Vice President for Information Technology. We are in the process of organizing a University Forum where faculty can be updated on the progress of the conversion, voice concerns, and ask questions of the appropriate personnel. Please watch for the announcement of this event in the near future.

The next Life of Mind Lecture will take place on September 20, 3:30-5:00, in the Myers Alumni Center. The speaker will be Professor John McNay, who will speak on the topic of "Presidential Decision for Peace." This is the same topic he spoke about at the Nobel Institute last spring. A faculty panel will participate in the discussion. The Life of Mind lecture series is co-sponsored by the UC Libraries and the Faculty Senate, with support from the President and the Provost. This lecture series is designed to celebrate UC faculty research, scholarship, and creative output and to foster the free and open exchange of ideas and discourse. All are invited.

The Senate is in the midst of an election for additional Grievance Pool members and several other committee positions. Just prior to this meeting we held an All-University Special meeting to accept nominations from the floor, as is required by our by-laws. Marla Hall, Chair of the Senate Committee on Committees and also the Nominating Committee, will give an update on election dates later in this meeting.

Several Senate Committees are already hard at work. The Senate IT Committee, which is chaired by Victoria Wangia-Anderson, has met with Nelson Vincent and Chris Edwards, Assistant Vice President for UC-IT and ELearning, to discuss faculty concerns about Catalyst and IT. Victoria is compiling a list of IT services and the managers that map to them to send out to faculty. This will give faculty a better idea of where to direct their questions.

A Task Force on Archiving of Senate Data has been formed under the direction of Arlene Johnson. Important data appear to have been lost when Senate moved to an electronic reporting method. This committee will determine what data should be archived, methodologies for archiving the data, and missing data that we may be able to recover. If you are interested in serving on this task force, please contact Arlene.

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

One of my goals for this year is to increase communication between Senate and all faculty. Our Secretary, Dan Carl, is responsible for providing the official minutes of Senate meetings, which are approved at the following meeting and posted on the Senate website. This

creates a month's lag between what occurred at Senate and availability to faculty. In order to provide more immediate feedback to faculty members, the Senate Vice Chair, Datina Juran, will take informal notes from the Senate meetings which I will then send to faculty senators. Senators can choose to forward these notes to their constituents, amend them, or write their own notes. The goal is faster and more consistent communication between Senate and Faculty.

Thanks to all of you for your service to the faculty and the university. This concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Moomaw
Chair, UC Faculty Senate