

Report from the Chair of Faculty Senate, Sally Moomaw

January 18, 2018

Welcome to the start of Spring Semester, although spring feels far away at this point. I hope all of you had enjoyable winter breaks.

I want to begin by explaining my situation to you in light of my Senate responsibilities. On December 28, I fell and broke three bones in my ankle. A surgeon has skillfully screwed my ankle back together with the help of two metal plates, insuring that I will never pass through TSA again without being searched. I still have five weeks before I can put any weight on the ankle; however, with my husband's assistance, I am able to make the trip into UC for important meetings. Much of my Senate work I am able to do from home. Chair Elect Cynthia Ris and Vice Chair John McNay are able to fill in when necessary. Therefore, in large measure, I am able to fulfill my Senate responsibilities at the same level as before my accident. One thing I am quickly learning is the challenges of maneuvering the Clifton campus in a wheelchair.

- **Accessibility Network Committees**

At our December Senate meeting, Heidi Pettyjohn and Annette Ready presented information about the work being done to create a more accessible online learning environment for students with disabilities and bring us under compliance with relevant laws. They are seeking faculty to serve on four steering committees:

- Public Web Presence
- Procurement/Purchasing Process
- eLearning/Course Content
- Change Management

We are seeking more information about these committees. Once we have that information, I will send it to Senators so that you can share it with your faculty.

- **Cincinnati Online**

As you are aware, UC is in the process of bringing online learning programs in house under the auspices of Cincinnati Online. Provost Nelson brought in a consultant to provide guidance for this process. The consultant has submitted a draft report. Once the final report is received, Cincinnati Online will be reorganized. Faculty will be represented on the Steering Committee by the Faculty Chair and either the Chair Elect or Past Chair (depending on the year). This should ensure consistency and ongoing communication with faculty.

- **Capital Advisory Committee**

The Capital Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the President's Budget Advisory Committee (PBAC) on the capital budget by reviewing and recommending capital projects for priority and funding. Faculty are represented on this university committee by the Faculty Chair and the Chair of the Senate Planning Committee. CAC met on January 11. It was announced that the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher

Education has given UC a Gold ranking, based in part on the university's work in engaging sustainability through academics, the fostering of public engagement, and its work on water.

Also announced was that UC will receive \$37.4 million under the pending State Capital Bill, which is for two years. Projects currently in line to receive funding from this money are:

- Removal of research labs from Crosley Tower in preparation for its redesign and demolition
 - Completion of the Vontz envelop to seal the building and prevent leaks
 - Next phase of Muntz Hall, UCBA
 - Kettering
 - Redesign of Crosley
 - Blegen
- **Strategic Enrollment Management (Caroline Miller)**
 - Compared to 2017, we are up about 700 heads (1.7%) and 800 FTE (2.5%).
 - Cincinnati Eligible Students are up 13%.
 - At its December meeting, Faculty Senate endorsed participation in the COACHE (Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education) survey, from the Harvard Graduate School, which is a research-practice partnership and network of peer institutions dedicated to improving outcomes in faculty recruitment, development, and retention. This Faculty Job Satisfaction Survey provides actionable data on faculty sentiment across a number of salient dimensions, which can be compared to data from more than 250 colleges and universities to guide improvements in faculty recruitment and retention. The survey will launch on February 5. Broad faculty participation in this anonymous survey is important in order to provide comprehensive representation of faculty experiences at the university.
 - **Important Dates**
 - February 5 – COACHE survey launches
 - April 5, 3:30 - All University Faculty Meeting/State of the University
 - April 17, 3:00 – University Faculty Awards

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Moomaw, EdD

Chair of the University of Cincinnati Faculty