

All University Faculty Meeting
Chair of the Faculty Report
April 23, 2015

Please be reminded that the Faculty & Staff Campaign is underway and I encourage you to make an impact by donating to the area you are most passionate about. If you make your gift today, you will be entered into a prize drawing for an iPad mini. The UC Foundation has conveniently placed a pledge card at your seat or you can visit the Faculty & Staff Campaign table as you leave today's meeting to make your gift.

I would like to begin my report by congratulating all of our award winning faculty who were honored at the Faculty Awards Ceremony last week. If you were one of those outstanding faculty, please stand and be recognized. I would also like to highlight our Life of Mind Lecture honoree Jeffrey Whitsett and the panel comprised of Karen Bankston, Joseph Tomain, and James Clark. This was an outstanding intellectual event hosted by President Ono, the Faculty Senate, and the University Libraries. The call for nominations for fall will be coming soon so please watch for it and consider nominating your distinguished and provocative faculty. I would also like to recognize Kristi Nelson for her dedicated service to the University and its students. I know that we all wish her well as she pursues her retirement.

Deciding on the content of this report has been quite challenging. I serve on many committees and could spend quite a bit of time reporting on each one. Each of our Faculty Senate meetings has had a full agenda as well but I know that we don't have time for that since I have a 10 minute timeslot. By the way did you know that information about the Faculty Senate meetings and activity are available on the Faculty Senate website at www.uc.edu/facultysenate?

I'll confess that my inspiration for this report came quite late in the semester while I was in the shower on Sunday. I do some of my best thinking in the bathroom, does anyone else? I

was unsure if I could pull off bathroom humor with this group but it sounds like it went ok. As the Faculty Chair, I serve in a number of roles and those that are most rewarding involve work that bring together students, administrators and faculty in an effort to improve our University and the experiences we provide in and out of the classroom. Shared governance is critical to our success and intellectual growth. Higher education continues to be challenged by both our state and federal governments and changes in society as a whole. Many of these challenges are well-intended... make education accessible to all, decrease cost to students, shorten time to degree, more and better jobs for graduates, etc. Others challenges potentially infringe upon our livelihood and academic integrity. It is shared governance that provides a faculty voice in this important conversation.

As Chair of the Faculty, I see one of my key roles as the person who asks for the “seat at the table” or creates those seats for faculty. I frequently ask the question “should we have faculty representation involved in that process?” On our end as faculty, we need to fill those seats and use them to provide input into the decision making processes here at UC. I sent out results of the Faculty Senate Standing and All University Faculty committee elections via email yesterday so many of these seats are filled but I assure you, there will be more seats and vacancies. If you are not already seated and have an interest in being “the voice” of faculty, I ask you to please send me your name and your interests and I help to find your seat. I hear that we have over 3700 full and part time faculty at the University of Cincinnati. That’s a lot of voices to be heard and I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Ono and Provost Davenport for listening to the Faculty Senate. They have both been engaged with the Faculty Senate in conversations about numerous topics this year and I invite all faculty to attend the Faculty Senate meetings and listen in on the conversation. The information regarding these and

all of the Faculty Senate Standing Committee Reports are provided on the Faculty Senate website.

I would like to close by thanking all the faculty who have served in faculty governance, for their service to the University and to our community. Please stand and remain standing as you are recognized so we can show the impact of faculty service. If you have served on the Faculty Senate Cabinet, please stand. If you have served on the Faculty Senate, please stand. If you have served on Faculty Senate Standing Committees or All University committees, please stand. If you have served on a committee for your college or department please stand. If you have served the community, local, national, international or in your profession, please stand. Thank you to all of you for your dedication. Please join me in a round of applause for the service that has been demonstrated by these dedicated faculty. This concludes my report. Thank you for listening.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tracy Herrmann