

Amy Lawton-Rauh

Good morning everyone and Happy Solar Eclipse day! What an exciting day for all of us, may it remind us all of the true scale of our existence and bring us all together.

For the Faculty Senate report today, I will discuss a few items:

- 1) Invitation to Faculty Senate meetings
- 2) The 'lead senators' project in the Executive and Advisory Committees
- 3) A very short list highlighting efforts in the 5 faculty senate committees
- 4) Resources and opportunities for all faculty through Faculty Senate

Our elected body consists of 35 voting tenure-track faculty senators that serve 3 years, alternate senators serving 1 year, and non-tenure track delegates serving 3 years. These dedicated representatives span all Colleges and the Library, are assigned to committees and actively participate in monthly meetings, yet did you know that non-elected faculty can also participate? All faculty are warmly invited to full faculty senate meetings and committees. If you are interested, take a look at the meeting dates and minutes on our website and contact us at senate@clermson.edu. We meet in the Academic Success Center once a month as a full senate on Tuesday afternoons 2:30~4:00/4:30pm.

Another meeting that takes place once a month is a joint meeting of the Executive and Advisory Committees.

All of the Committee chairs plus the lead senator from each College and the library meet to troubleshoot and strategize faculty senate activities and actions.

Since April, this joint committee has been getting the committees rolling and has specifically focused on strengthening the roles of the Lead faculty senators for their Colleges and all units within each College (not just those represented on the Faculty Senate roster).

This is resulting in some additional leadership activities you may have noticed within Colleges regarding shared governance... including review of engagement of faculty advisory committees within units and stepping up to help facilitate following the faculty manual in searches, interim posts, and elections to committees.

Most activity in Faculty Senate takes place within our committees, which are Finance & Infrastructure, Policy, Research, Scholastic Policies, and Welfare.

A quick list from each committee:

Finance & Infrastructure... chair Jennifer Ogle
compensation review, University budget flow transparency

Policy... chair Danny Weathers
faculty manual items related to Committee on Committees and transparency in committee operations across the university (w/Faculty manual consultant Mary Beth Kurz)

Research... chair Josh Summers
benchmark comparisons for resources of aspirational peers and Intellectual property procedures,

Scholastic policies... chair Cassie Quigley
facilitating study abroad, CU1000, ADA compliance

Welfare... chair John Whitcomb
Mentoring Circle, childcare center

Each of our committees has also been tasked with action items that fold in the results of 2 *ad hoc* committees enacted last year: Diversity & Inclusive Excellence and the Status of Lecturers and Senior Lecturers.

In addition to the hard work of our committees, there are other ways that elected representatives and non-senators can BOTH participate in the shared governance and free speech...

this would be through Resolutions, Free Speech presentations within Faculty Senate meetings and Open Forum.

All of documents related to these are archived and maintained on the Faculty Senate website so you can go see what has been communicated in the past.

You may have seen the two Open Forum documents that have posted during the past few weeks. The latest Open Forum was submitted midday last Tuesday by the Faculty Senate officers and the Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees. If you feel compelled to sign it, you still have the opportunity to on the Faculty Senate website.

It was written to acknowledge that what is happening at other campuses and communities is not impossible at Clemson and to help precipitate active dialog and unity.

These are unfortunately NOT unprecedented times --- our society has grappled with the atrocities of hate, bigotry and racism for ages.

What is unprecedented is HOW we communicate.

The words we SPEAK, that we WRITE, that we READ are not necessarily our own in the Social Media world.

It is more important than ever to help lift one another, to work with each other to speak through words and to know that for some across the university, at all ranks, actions speak louder than words and can be harder to see and acknowledge.

We have the opportunity as faculty to lead in this moment and the days ahead...

...to lead by our written and spoken WORDS and ACTIONS to keep the academy rolling while we work to make it more inclusive and diverse

...to be charitable during the learning process as those around us grapple with internal and external pressures and fears while maintaining professionalism in the classroom, research lab, studio, and in our travels.

We must take this opportunity to support one another through words and actions to keep knowledge and the pursuit of knowledge flourishing for each other, our students, our community, and for society.