

**Remarks for University Senate**  
**Virginia Horvath, Vice President for Academic Affairs**  
**March 2, 2009**

**A Few Updates**

- Progress continues on approved nine **tenure-track faculty searches** across campus (incorrectly reported as *eight* searches last month). Here is the status of each search:

BIOL: Molecular Genetics	Scott Ferguson hired
COMM: Television Production	Verbal offer accepted
MODL: Spanish/French Education	Verbal offer accepted
VANM: Interactive Media Arts	Interviews completed
SPA: Speech Pathology/Audiology	Interviewing
BUAD: Marketing	Interviewing
MUS: Piano	Preparing for interviews
BUAD: Economics	Preparing for interviews
SOC: Criminal Justice	Preparing for interviews

- Over the next month, we will be starting plans for using **Activity Insight (Digital Measures)**, a web-based tool that allows faculty to keep track of research/creative activity, courses, and service all in one place. This tool can be used to generate an updated *curriculum vitae* or annual report, and chairs can use this to list activities for the department as a whole. The Senate Executive Committee saw this product last year; if you would like a brief demonstration at the April meeting, I'd be glad to arrange that.

**Policies on Reappointment, Continuing Appointment, Permanent Appointment, & Promotion**

- Task Force in 2007-08 presented recommendations for improving the processes for reappointment, continuing appointment, permanent appointment, and promotion.
- Members of the VP Council in Academic Affairs have been revising/supplying policy for faculty, library faculty, and professionals, based on these recommendations:
  - No required external evaluation
  - Need for some consistency in procedures (appeals)
  - Need for clearer definitions and expectations
  - Need for improved timetable for reviews
  - Need for attention to first-year reviews
  - Need for broad policies that departments adapt
  - Need for clearer process for professionals
- Timeline for review and comment:
  - March 2: Introduce at University Senate
  - March 4: Distribute document to Senate, Faculty and Professional Affairs Committee, UUP Leadership, Departments and Units
  - March 31: Open Forum for Discussion (5:00 PM, Fenton 105)
  - March-April (dates to be announced): Focus groups for tenure-track faculty, tenured faculty, professionals
  - April 6: Discussion at University Senate

- April 24: Open Forum for Discussion (3:00 PM, McEwen G-26)
- May 4: Discussion/Vote at University Senate

### **Course Evaluations**

Course evaluations were discussed at open forums on February 9 and February 24. In addition, the Student Association devoted much of its February 19 meeting to a discussion of this issue. The content proposed by the Task Force is now awaiting discussion/recommendation from the Academic Affairs Committee.

### **Summer Orientation Advising**

Based on the concern about course scheduling raised by Joe Straight at the February meeting, I asked Academic Leadership whether we might want to move to a new system for Summer Orientation, with schedules being developed in advance and given to first-year students. This suggestion was discussed at Academic Leadership and in departments, and I am hearing strong support for continuing our current practice of advisors and new students developing the schedule together.

### **Center for Community Engagement?**

SUNY Fredonia has many initiatives—ongoing and new—that relate to public or community engagement, a commitment that is appropriate for a regional public university. The draft of the reappointment, continuing/permanent appointment, and promotion policies includes statements on the value of engaged scholarship as an appropriate faculty commitment. The academic components of the Sustainability Committee are leading to strong student involvement in a broad range of efforts. Several people have expressed interest in expanding our work with the American Democracy Project. A proposal is in development to add Service Learning, which occurs in a number of courses, as an additional course hour for courses that the instructors approve. A federal Learn and Serve grant is in development that would provide opportunities for faculty development and infrastructure to support public engagement. Several faculty—Christina Jarvis, Jon Titus, and Bill Brown—participated in the AASCU/ADP Yellowstone Project last summer; David Rankin continues to participate in ADP meetings and events; Kate Levy and Christina Jarvis will be participating in the regional meeting of Imagining America later this week.

A Center could bring visibility and coordination to the academic aspects of these initiatives:

- Service Learning
- American Democracy Project
- Sustainability
- Technology Incubator
- Center for Rural and Regional Development and Governance

I am eager to hear your ideas about this and welcome you to a discussion of public engagement on Thursday, March 12 (10:00 – 11:00 AM, S-104 Williams Center). I expect to develop a proposal about this before next month and would welcome comments ([horvath@fredonia.edu](mailto:horvath@fredonia.edu)).