

University Senate

February 6, 2014 Post-Meeting Email

Compiled by Ryan Zerr

Dear Members of the University Senate,

As after previous University Senate meetings, I write this email to thank all of those who were able to attend last week's meeting, to recap what occurred at that meeting, and to foreshadow some things you can expect in the coming weeks.

In addition to recommending four individuals for honorary degrees, and approving the tenure and promotion policy changes that were first discussed at the December 5 Senate meeting, last week's meeting resulted in Senate approval for a constitutional amendment that expands membership on the University Council by including all benefited faculty. With University Council elections about to begin, this action will have a pretty immediate impact. Council elections will be conducted electronically for the first time this year, and in the next few weeks you can expect to see an email directing you to the first step in the process – the nominating ballot. I hope everyone takes advantage of their chance to participate.

At the February 6 meeting Provost DiLorenzo spoke a bit about the program and services prioritization process that is officially commencing this week. I urge everyone to be alert for more information about this, in particular a solicitation for nominations to serve on the two task forces that will carry out the primary effort. Separately, the budget model redesign process is progressing, and has reached a point where the consultants will soon be facilitating sessions with the campus community. These sessions should help everyone understand what a new budget model might look like, and allow for input into the process. For both of these initiatives – program and services prioritization, and budget model redesign – the Senate's Budget, Restructuring, & Reallocation Committee has been working hard to provide Senate representation. I want to thank the committee members for their efforts, especially chair Margi Healy, whose expertise has been invaluable.

Of course, our next Senate meeting will occur on March 6, and I will send an email in advance of that meeting with more specifics about the items on the agenda. We'll again be in Education 113 (which we should now consider our permanent home), and will again have cookies, coffee, and soda starting at 3:30. I hope as many as possible will be able to come early to converse, and that everyone will be able to make the meeting itself.

Until then,

Ryan