

Report to Faculty from Faculty Senate Chair Alisa Kessel 27 January 2017

The Faculty Senate convened on December 5, 2016 and January 23, 2017. In those meetings, the Senate did not take any formal action, except to approve a candidate for an honorary degree.

The Faculty Senate considered:

- a proposal from the Professional Standards Committee to formalize a review cycle for Departmental guidelines (once every eight years). The Faculty Senate forwarded some questions and concerns to the Professional Standards Committee.
- a proposed revision of standing charges of the International Education Committee. The Faculty Senate forwarded some questions and concerns to the International Education Committee.
- a measure to create an *in memoriam* recognition to honor students who have died while attending Puget Sound. A revision of this measure will be reviewed in the February 6, 2017 Faculty Senate meeting.
- the situation involving the flyer distributed on campus in November, the conduct process, and appropriate avenues for faculty response. The Faculty Senate is considering how to increase faculty awareness of trends (or other systematic concerns) around incidents of bias and hate on campus, how to support and augment the educational work that is already being done on campus, and how to address the disproportionate burden placed on the members of the faculty and staff on campus who do the lion's share of this educational work now.

The Faculty Senate has continued its work to:

implement and assess the common period

A committee of the Faculty Senate is working in collaboration with the Office of the Registrar, the Office of the Associate Deans, and the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) to create a plan for review of the common period, including its effects on student accessibility to courses and enrollments in majors, minors, and programs. Another committee is working to determine how best to use the common period toward the goals articulated in the faculty meetings (such as community-wide events) that can support a campus community oriented toward shared governance.

gather faculty attitudes about the criteria for promotion to the rank of Professor

A committee of the Faculty Senate collaborated with the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) to develop a survey of faculty attitudes about the criteria for promotion to Professor. The survey, which was distributed to the faculty in December, was created with input from a recent past member of the Faculty Advancement Committee and the Chair of the Professional Standards Committee. Once the data from the survey has been analyzed, OIR will conduct focus groups with faculty members of each rank to learn more about faculty perspectives.

consider equity and community expectations in support of the university's mission

A committee of the Faculty Senate, in collaboration with the Office of Institutional Research, is gathering data to assess equity in light of changing (often expanding) expectations regarding faculty workload in support of university initiatives.