

Senate Chair's Report

May 1, 2014

Activities

In the past month I have met with the Senate Leadership Committee, the Academic Dean's Council and the University Executive Council as well as the Board of Regents, the Student Technology Committee and the Faculty Technology Committee. I also met with the Provost and the President on two occasions. The Board of Regents meets next week, prior to Commencement. The Board approved a subordinate bond sale to finance energy efficiency improvements on campus.

Update on propositions

The change in registration period will be implemented effective with the Fall 2014 semester. You may recall that this limits adds without instructor permission to the first two days of classes. The Provost is concerned that this change be broadcast widely so students are not caught by surprise.

Current Issues

The Education Retirement Board has opened discussions with our Human Resources Office about changes in the return-to-work program. Currently, there are time (no more than 0.25 FTE) and dollar restrictions on retiree earnings, *and* a twelve-month layout period. The proposal would reduce the layout period to six months and eliminate the caps. In return, all program participants would make contributions to the Plan as regular employees, but would not receive any enhancement of their pensions. Current participants would be grandfathered in under their current status. Please make your colleagues aware of this. Comments should be directed to the University Employee Council. Action cannot be immediate, because some provisions require Legislature approval and the Governor's signature.

Elections

It pleases me to announce that Stu, Senator from ACES and Vice Chair has been elected as the 2014-15 Senate Chair. I know you will all work with Stuart and the Senate Leadership diligently and collegially. I also know my friend will do a great job managing the Senate and representing the Faculty.

Stuart's election causes me concern, in combination with some other trends I've noted over the past year. When asked to stand for election to one or another University body, I have noticed that too many of our colleagues decline to get involved. I see the same faces showing up to do the faculty's policy work. We have shared governance at our University. The burden is lighter when the load is shared. I do not know how to get our colleagues to participate. I believe it is critical that you find a way.

Farewell

The Senate has been important to me. I spent almost one-third of my NMSU career involved with this body in one way or another. I will remember you all fondly. I will probably hate you all a little when I'm shoveling snow in Cincinnati. Whatever I may do and wherever I may go, I will always be an Aggie-by-adoption. You have a friend in Cincinnati – please call on

me if I can help. Thanks for your support and your service. We have not always agreed, nor should we always agree. But when we have disagreed, we have been civil about it and we have remained friends. I treasure that, and I treasure you. Thank you for a wonderful year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis L. Clason
Faculty Senate Chair 2013-14