

TO: Faculty Senate
From: Chris Rollins, Faculty Senate President
RE: President – year-end report
Date: May 14, 2024

I write to provide the Faculty Senate with an update on many things that the FSEC has accomplished this past academic year. I will try to list as many things as I remember - knowing that I have likely forgotten important items – for those I apologize. In addition, attached you will find the comments I made to the Board of Trustees at their May meeting.

- Ombuds – We began the year with an Ombuds position for south and downtown campuses for the first time in the fall of 2024. Usage data indicates that we will continue with this program into the next academic year.
- The revival of the Faculty Senate Suggestion box was able to find over 90 answers to questions that faculty posed. Additional ones were sent to individuals at their request.
- Faculty Senate Blog was established to house both archived Q&A + faculty resources.
- The FSEC met monthly with Provost Lewis, and I met with President Pestello monthly, advocating for faculty items throughout the year.
- Faculty participated in the bookstore task group which interviewed vendors so a new partner could be found for SLU.
- Building on the past work of the FSAAC, a policy was developed to allow for longer-term contracts for those faculty with NTT designations by a working group jointly charged by the Provost and the Faculty Senate President.
- Again, building on the past work of faculty senate committees, the FSAAC is working on a multi-year teaching assessment project jointly charged by the Provost and the Faculty Senate President.
- Over twenty faculty served on working groups and three members of the FSEC provided feedback as part of the Presidents Research Council. Many compliance areas have been cleaned up and movement is being made on the rest.

- Faculty Senate Committee work (FSEC liaisons for each group)
 - *Faculty Manual* Committee
 - Gender Equity Committee
 - Academic Affairs Committee
 - Compensation and Fringe Benefits Committee
 - Budget and Finance Committee
- FSEC was involved in two dean searches and in the Rector search for Madrid.
- FSEC provided feedback to the Provost for the Glint Survey this academic year and to HR for improvement in the fall.
- Two issues were sent to the Professional Relations Committee for review and resolution.
- FSEC members provided feedback on
 - IRB concerns,
 - OVPR communications,
 - structural discussions for the Academic Integrity Policy/logistics,
 - CADR testing center issues,
 - Career Services,
 - Title IX policy review (this summer),
 - FMLA policy review (this summer),
- And for all the things reviewed and forgotten....

Faculty Senate President
Report to the Board of Trustees
May 3, 2024

Good morning,

I think I have met and worked with many of you, for our new members, my name is Chris Rollins. I am finishing my 21st year as a faculty member at the School of Law and this is my first of a two-year term as the elected Faculty Senate President. I am a proud Alum of the School of Law and a parent of a current junior and a recent graduate. I am a Billiken trifecta.

Most in academia understand that a faculty member's relationship with the University is described as a three-legged stool (research/scholarship, teaching, and service). Each is important, least the stool become unstable.

Research and scholarship can grab headlines such as a Madrid faculty member's work on diverting asteroids from impacting earth, a TGI faculty member's work using remote sensors to study permafrost, and a faculty members' work in creating a state-of-the-art computer lab which will analyze how humans interact with computers using eye-tracking equipment.

Teaching is likewise an easily understood cornerstone of a university. Everyone in this room could tell stories of faculty members who engaged them in intellectual journeys that informed the people we are today. I went to a retirement party last evening at the School of Law; wherein four faculty were celebrating 147 years in the classroom. Looking to the future, SLU has just begun a multiple-year project to better understand what defines excellence in the classroom and other "teaching" opportunities students and faculty engage in.

I would like to take a couple of minutes today to provide you with an update on the third leg of the stool, that is service and leadership that is done on behalf of the University by faculty members. Service and leadership can be hard to define. I think it is important to ponder how this adds to the SLU Community.

Service leadership to the University.

Here at SLU, over 150 faculty members serve on higher level committees that help the university get its jobs done. You have met some who serve on Board-of-Trustee

Committees, others serve on university level committees focusing on diversity, civil discourse, academic integrity, budget and finance, mission, Faculty Senate, and program review. This year faculty have been part of countless discussions regarding a new vendor for the bookstore, the Presidents Research Council regarding grant and compliance management, implementation of the Provost's Strategic Plan initiatives, multiple dean searches, policy creation, and academic integrity hearing logistics to identify just a small scope of this work at the university level.

In addition, faculty provide service at and for their college/schools in such places as faculty assemblies, admissions/recruitment/retention committees, internal and external assessment working groups and **curriculum development**. We cannot teach what you were taught, many of us cannot teach what we taught even five years ago. Each change in technology, medical advancement, archaeological discovery, change in regulation or opinion delivered by the judiciary requires adjustment within the classroom. Hundreds of faculty across four campuses spend countless hours developing and changing curriculum to meet the needs of an ever evolving world in which our students will be the workforce, managers and leaders.

While not all faculty choose to be engaged in this high degree of service and leadership and outcomes manifests in different ways, there is commonality among those that do. They are engaging in work they think is for the betterment of SLU.

Looking to the future.

We are at a thrilling, wonderful, point in time for SLU. So many opportunities and yes challenges that will keep you up at night. Faculty who choose to engage in service and leadership, and in servant leadership, are proud to be Billikens and proud to be partners with you on this portion of SLU's journey.