



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

School of Medicine Faculty Senate News Flash

Volume 1, Issue 1, October 3, 2007

Introducing "News Flash"

You're probably wondering why anyone would want to spend time reading (or writing) another newsletter?

We certainly understand what it's like to juggle multiple competing responsibilities and then sit down to an overloaded inbox!

But the SoM Faculty Senate is designed to represent you.

Without knowing what your needs are, we can't fulfill our mission. And we can't help you fulfill your missions as educators, researchers, scholars, and clinicians.

Thus, we hope "News Flash" will:

- Keep you updated on the activities and initiatives of the School of Medicine Faculty Senate
- Encourage you to tell us your needs as faculty and help us advocate for positive changes
- Motivate you to tell us about your views and suggestions for the Faculty Senate

Roy Steigbigel, President

Laura Fochtman, Secretary

Kicking Off the Senate Session

The SoM Faculty Senate's first meeting of the academic year was held on September 25, 2007 and began with an overview presented by Dr. Steigbigel on the role of the Senate.

The role of the Senate is inextricably linked to the missions of the School of Medicine as a State University of New York campus:

- Education (at the pre-doctoral, doctoral and post-doctoral levels)
- Research and scholarship (with the creation of new knowledge and organization of extant information)
- Clinical Services (of the highest quality as befits a tertiary care institution)
- Community Interactions

As the representative body of the SoM faculty, the Senate should be the forum for faculty to:

- Be informed about issues related to our mission
- Express views about how best to carry out our responsibilities in achieving our mission
- Influence the planning and execution of all matters for which faculty are held accountable

Can the Faculty Senate be effective in these roles?

Historically, the effectiveness of the Faculty Senate has been mixed, despite a huge amount of effort by prior Faculty Senate leaders and senators. But our past successes and those of other Faculty Senates across the country, suggest that we can make a difference.

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Parking in the HSC and Hospital Lots

Vice President for Facilities and Services, Barbara Chernow, presented information and took questions about the renovations in the HSC parking garage and associated problems for faculty in coping with the parking shortage. Ms. Chernow has been working diligently to respond to faculty concerns. She emphasized the essential nature of the repairs from a safety standpoint and noted that subsequent engineering inspections give the structure an "A" rating. Ms. Chernow also described short-term and longer term solutions (e.g, new surface lot, new parking garage) that are being explored.

When the HSC lot is full, signs have been posted to suggest parking in the hospital lot by taking a ticket and having it validated in the hospital parking office. HSC cards no longer work for the hospital lot in an effort to preserve parking spaces for patients and visitors. However, the difficulties in parking and the delays accompanying the validation process have been troublesome for faculty (and particularly so for physicians who work late shifts or are returning to the hospital from Tech Park). The Faculty Senate passed resolutions asking that HSC cards be activated for the hospital lot to allow easier parking access when the HSC lot is full.

HSC Classroom Use, Staffing & Technical Equipment

Kathleen Gebhart of Media Services presented an overview of the process by which classrooms are assigned and showed data on their use. In addition to being used throughout the day by students of HSC schools, classrooms are used in evening hours as well as having a substantial amount of use by the hospital. Particularly with the expansion of class sizes across HSC schools, assessment of classroom utilization and potential for additional classrooms will need further discussion. Staffing is also a pressing concern as no media services support is available for evening classes. The lack of a designated budget for maintenance of equipment in lecture halls and classrooms is leading to delays in fixing essential instructional technologies. This crisis will become even more acute with the advancing age of much of our classroom equipment. The Faculty Senate passed resolutions asking that adequate resources be provided to media services for maintenance/repair of equipment and to address the needs of expanding class sizes.

Dean's Office Update

Dr. Peter Williams shared an update from Dr. Fine on the searches for departmental chairs. Appointments have been made for interim chairs of Pharmacological Sciences (Dr. Michael Frohman) and Preventive Medicine (Dr. Iris Granek) and for permanent chairs of Pediatrics (Dr. Margaret McGovern) and Pathology (Dr. Kenneth Shroyer). Search for chairs of Medicine and of Biochemistry and Cell Biology and for a Cancer Center director are in progress.

Contact us with your ideas

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Visit the Senate's Web Site

http://www.hsc.stonybrook.edu/som/faculty_senate/index.cfm

Save the Date!

The next meeting of the Faculty Senate is scheduled for 5 PM on October 23.