

# SENATE YEAR-END REPORT

2012-1013

Michael Frank, Senate President (2011-2013)

The Faculty Senate completed its fourth year of operation with several major accomplishments and has begun work on significant ongoing deliberations for the coming year. In certain respects, this was an atypical year for the Senate in that there were only four official meetings of the Senate with four meetings of the Faculty Assembly. Although our history is rather short, the Senate usually meets five times per year and the Faculty Assembly meets three. Nevertheless, the Senate along with its committees accomplished some excellent work.

## BRIEF SUMMARY OF SENATE ACTIONS 2012-2013

1. The Senate Task Force on University Status was formed to lead a discussion and exploration of whether Stockton shall remain a college or pursue university status (October, 2012). The Task Force was continued to AY Year 2013-2014 (May 2013).
2. The Transitional Doctorate of Physical Therapy was voted to be phased out. (May 2013).
3. The Bachelor of Science in Health Science-Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies was approved (May 2013).
4. The Senate voted to implement the Minor in Childhood Studies (May 2013).
5. A Task Force on Campus Accessibility was established to determine whether there are specific areas of concern with a final report expected by May 2014 (May 1013).

## SENATE ACTIONS

Creation of Task Force on University Status. The Senate approved the establishment of Task Force on University Status and voted to appoint six faculty members, the Chair of Academic Programs and Planning, a seated Senator elected by secret ballot, and three deans (October 2012).

The Task Force was charged to lead a faculty discussion and exploration of whether Stockton shall remain a college or pursue university status. This taskforce will facilitate discussions among as many constituent groups as possible, and inform itself through research. The Task Force shall consider potential gains and potential losses associated with this change including, but not limited to: student recruitment and retention, the library and its collections, educational offerings to our community, campus physical plant and satellite campuses, perceived valuation of Stockton degrees, student and alumni employment opportunities, faculty and student interactions, faculty teaching and research expectations, faculty performance evaluations, funding opportunities, faculty governance, curricular control of academic programs, administrative staff organization, collective bargaining agreements, alumni attitudes and opinions, and any other area which may be impacted by the change. At the completion of its work the Task Force is expected to produce a written report to the Senate, which will

subsequently be shared with the entire Stockton community. The Senate constitution specifies that Task Forces expire at the end of the academic year unless continued by formal Senate action. The Senate voted to continue the Task Force on University Status through the 2013-2014 Academic Year in order to complete its work (May 2013).

Proposal on student veterans and active service members. The Standing Committee on Student Affairs was assigned to consider measures to help faculty better address the needs of student veterans and active service members, and that the committee report back to the Faculty Senate with proposals addressing issues such as: Whether faculty should be notified when veterans and active service members enroll in their classes, and if so, when and how. What is the best way to publicize to faculty the laws on grading options for students unable to complete course work due to military service? How shall we provide faculty with training and resources to help them address the needs of student veterans and active service members. How do FERPA and other privacy considerations relate to the issues raised above? A report from the Standing Committee on Student Affairs was to be returned to the Senate for discussion early in the spring semester 2013, but this has been carried over to AY 2013-2014.

Phase out of transitional Doctorate of Physical Therapy. The Senate voted to accept the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Academic Programs and Planning to phase out the transitional Doctorate of Physical Therapy. No additional students will be admitted to the program and it will cease to exist when the last current student completes the program (May 2013).

Minor in Childhood Studies. The Senate voted to implement the Minor in Childhood Studies (May 2013). It is expected that this minor will be implemented no later than September 2014.

Creation of Task Force on Campus Accessibility. The Senate constituted a Task Force on Campus Accessibility to identify accessibility challenges that students, faculty, staff, and community members experience while on campus. Further, the Task Force was empowered to survey appropriate constituent groups and to hold hearings to determine whether there are specific areas of concern (May 2013). The findings of the Task Force on Campus Accessibility are to be presented in a written report to the Senate and discussed at the May 2014 Senate retreat.

BSHS—Physician Assistant program. The Senate voted to implement the Bachelor's of Science in Health Science (BSHS) combined with a Master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies offered by Philadelphia University in collaboration with Reliance Medical Group. This degree program is in the process of undergoing review by the State of New Jersey and is expected to be completed during the 2013-2014 Academic Year (May 2013).

Proposed policy on commencement participation. The Senate voted to refer the College's policy on Participation in the College's Commencement Ceremony to the Academic Policies Committee for discussion and review. The newly drafted policy allows students who will have earned 128 credits by the date of the ceremony but who have not completed all requirements for their degree to participate in the commencement ceremony (May 2013).

## SENATE INTERNAL PROCEDURES

Election of Executive Committee members and Vice Chairs of Standing Committees. At the first meeting of the Senate two seated Senators (Tinsley and Rodriguez) were elected to serve on the Executive Committee. Additionally, Vice Chairs were elected to serve on every Standing Committee of the Senate (September 2012). The Vice Chairs serve as a liaison between each standing committee and the Senate, assist the Chair, and perform the duties of the Chair in his or her absence. The election of Vice Chairs was the result of changes to the Senate constitution which were approved by the Faculty in October 2011. The presence of seated Senators on each committee has, in my judgment significantly improved the flow of information to and from the Standing Committees and the entire Senate.

Vacancies in case of sabbaticals or leaves. The Senate passed a motion from the Executive Committee specifying that Officers, Senators, Standing Committee and Task Force Chairs and members with sabbaticals or leaves that will overlap with the terms of their position must notify the President and Parliamentarian that they will either: (1) Continue to perform the duties of the position while on sabbatical or leave, or (2) Resign from the position. Advance notification of intentions will help the Senate in conducting its business and allow these positions to be filled during the April general election if needed (Feb 2013).

## STANDING COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

Academic Policy Committee. The Academic Policy Committee investigated, at the request of the Senate, why there were changes in the required signatures on the CAPP Adjustment form. Previously, the CAPP form required only the signature of the preceptor where it now requires the signature of the Dean and Program Coordinator as a result of Deans' Council action. The recent improvements in the CAPP audit have resulted in more accurate audits; there was a history of errors being made by preceptors due to the intricacies of the audit. The Committee recommends no further action be taken.

Committee on Information Technology and Media Services. The Committee on Information Technology and Media Services discussed and approved a recommendation that the college initiate an annual designated fund to support a five year replacement cycle for all faculty computers. This has resulted in a budget request by Computer Services to make this become reality. The Committee also investigated complaints from faculty members concerning the size of their in boxes attached to the college's outlook accounts. Their investigation resulted in Computer Services increasing the size of in box allocation by 50%, from 400MB to 600MB. Finally, the Committee prepared a report, "Design Guidelines for Electronic Classrooms" which will guide the development of pedagogical issues in the future.

Task Force on Double Majors and Dual Degrees. The Senate Task Force on Double Majors (earning two majors within a single degree) versus Dual Degrees (earning two separate majors and two separate degrees) was established following the February 9, 2010 Senate meeting in which the double major was approved because the College was experiencing problems implementing the program. The Task Force was successful in establishing the double major. In its report presented at the February 2013 Senate

meeting, the Task Force recommended language to distinguish among the many degree offerings of the college separate from the "Double Major". These include those conditions which exist when students complete an additional 32 credits at Stockton beyond the first bachelors degree (Second Degree), degrees done in concert with other institutions of higher education beyond the bachelors degree (Multi-Institution Degree) as well as those earned in conjunction with community colleges (Transition Degree) , those degrees from accelerated study (Accelerated Advanced Degree) and those degrees resulting from Stockton's Education program (Post Baccalaureate Degree)(February 2013).

### CLOSING COMMENTS

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Senate President for the past two years. I have been welcomed by all levels of our administration and have seen willingness on everyone's part to actively work to make our system of shared governance at Stockton a reality. It has been a pleasure to work with colleagues who have given their time, their wisdom, and their considerable talents to these ends. I include all elected Senators, all those who serve on our Standing Committees, the Executive Committee of the Senate, those who were and are willing to serve on Senate Task Forces, and all of the members of our Faculty Assembly. In my view, Stockton is a rare and truly open place to work and to study. I hope we will retain our openness to new ideas, our willingness to assume prudent risk, and our devotion to our students.