**NAU Faculty Senate *Meeting Quick Notes* December 1, 2014**

*From notes taken by Susan Harris (Senate Secretary) and Kate Ellis (CAL Senator). These are "quick notes." For detailed minutes, check the Senate BbLearn shell after the next meeting.*

**Announcements**

* Daniel Eadens (COE) was elected as senator-at-large on the Executive Committee for spring 2015, to replace Phil Mlsna (CEFNS) who will be teaching in China.
* Faculty Senate elections (for AY 2015-16) will be held early in spring 2015, before SOEs are due, to allow for better planning. If you are interested in serving make sure to get on your unit’s ballot!

**Astrid Klocke,** Faculty Senate President, reported from the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) meeting at ASU, Nov. 19-21, where she attended the ASU Faculty Senate breakfast with regents. These meetings, held regularly at each hosting institution, build connections between faculty and regents and allow for explorations of topics that impact our work. This year’s topic is how we deal with “philosophical differences.” (The NAU Faculty Senate hosted a breakfast with the regents in September. UA will be next in the spring.) As the board has become more conservative, in line with our state legislature, there is an increased interest in how conservative viewpoints are represented at campus events, in classes, and in our interactions with students and with each other. Read about ASU’s new “Center for the Study of Economic Liberty,” partially funded by the Charles Koch Foundation, to get a sense for new developments at the intersection of politics and higher education: <http://bit.ly/1yepyMX>

**President Cheng** reported that the upcoming legislative session will be dominated by the state budget. For us, the question of tuition increases is crucial in case we need to fill gaps left by state budget cuts. It is going to be a difficult year. President Cheng expects to meet with the new governor soon and hopes to convey the importance of NAU to the region and our contributions to the economic future of the state. Conversation with the Flagstaff community about partnering on student housing and discussions with the Green Fund about solar panels on the San Francisco parking garage are ongoing.

**Pauline Entin**, Associate Vice Provost, reported from the ABOR Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting. Agenda items included reports on Veterans Affairs, performance metrics, and the AZ Transfer System. Materials are publically available on the ABOR website:

<http://www.azregents.edu/publicmeetings/publicmeetings.aspx>

**John Tingerthal**, Associate Professor of Construction Management and Associate Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering, presented the report of the SETE review committee. A video recording of the presentation is available to all NAU faculty in the Senate BbLearn shell. The committee recommends we discontinue the use of SETE and suggests a process for replacement. (However, no decision has been made yet; SETE will still be used this semester and in spring 2015.) **Denise Helm**, Provost’s Faculty Fellow, gave an overview of the delivery system: *CoursEval* will replace the NAU legacy system in spring 2015. (Her presentation is included at the end of John’s video.) Important: distinguish between survey “instrument” (SETE) and survey “delivery system” (*CoursEval*). The Faculty Senate Council on Learning is looking into developing other tools for evaluating faculty teaching, for use by departments—similar to efforts at the UA. Our 2012 task force on faculty evaluation recommended use of multiple instruments, not just end-of-term student opinion surveys. Contact Shadow Armfield (COE) if you would like to work with the Council on Learning. (You don’t need to be a senator to get involved.)

**Denise Helm**, Provost’s Faculty Fellow, presented the results of the NAU Blended Learning Survey. A video of her presentation is available to all NAU faculty in the Senate BbLearn shell.

**Steven Barger and Eric Yordy**, Faculty Senate representatives on the COACHE working group, reported that one area of increased attention for follow up work is non-TT faculty work expectations, conditions in departments, and promotion at NAU for non-TT faculty. **Roy St. Laurent**, Executive Director of the Academic Chairs Council, added that chairs are aware that this area of concern exists and will be addressing some of the issues directly.