



FAC'S SHEET



**Newsletter of the University of Scranton Faculty Affairs Council
February 2009**

Mark Your Calendar!

FAC Members Set to Meet On Feb. 10th in DeNaples 407

The fifth FAC meeting for 2008- 2009 is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th in the DeNaples Center, Room 407.

Lunch will be served beginning at 11:15 a.m. with the business meeting starting at 11:30 a.m.

The Executive Committee urges all members to attend. Check in the right hand column for the agenda.

FAC Meetings for Spring 2009

The FAC Executive Committee has scheduled monthly membership meetings for Spring Semester 2009 on the following dates and at the places indicated. All regular meetings are set for Tuesdays, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Additional meetings may be called to address special issues or concerns.

February 10, 2009 – DeNaples Center, Room 407

March 10, 2009 – DeNaples Center, Room 407

April 14, 2009 – DeNaples Center, Room 407

May 12, 2009 – DeNaples Center, Room 407

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is published periodically by the Faculty Affairs Council at the University of Scranton. The editor is Betsey Moylan. Comments and suggestions from the membership are welcomed. Members may also check FAC's Web site at www.scranton.edu/fac for further information on the Faculty Affairs Council, an affiliate of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). Copies of the Faculty Contract and Handbook are found on the site. Members may also link to the national AAUP home page.

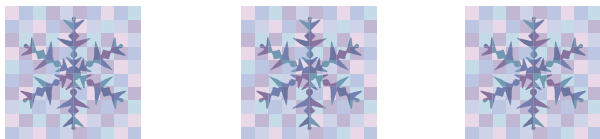
AGENDA

For February 10th Meeting

1. Chair's Report (Michael Friedman)
 - a. Rosenberg Award
 - b. Update on Negotiations
 - c. Changes to the FAC Constitution
 - d. Emeriti teaching stipends
2. Contract Administrator's Report (Kevin Nordberg)
3. Treasurer's Report (Dan West)
4. Grievance Officer's Report (Ned Warner)
5. New Business (Michael Friedman)

FAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR 2009 ROSENBERG AWARD

The FAC Executive Committee invites applications for the Sheldon I. Rosenberg Union Leadership Development Grant, given annually to a member of FAC to pay for all expenses related to that faculty member's participation in the AAUP Summer Institute, tentatively scheduled for July 23 – 26, 2009 at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. The Summer Institute features seminars on subjects like academic freedom and legislative issues that impact on higher education, along with training workshops that deal with contract administration, grievance procedures, and collective bargaining negotiations. The Institute also incorporates social events and many opportunities to network with colleagues from around the country. (Continued on Page 2)



FAC OFFICERS 2008-2009

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Rosenberg Award

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To be considered for a Rosenberg Grant, applicants must submit an essay of approximately 500 words (two typed pages) describing the contributions that they believe they can make to the welfare of the University through their connection with the union. This essay should touch upon the following topics: the reasons for the applicant's interest in working with FAC, any background or previous experiences that would help prepare the applicant for such work, the skills that the applicant hopes to sharpen by participation in the Summer Institute, and any future plans for involvement in union activities.

Applications should include standard contact information, including the faculty member's name, rank, department, campus phone number, and email address. Please submit applications to Betsey Moylan, FAC Secretary, by hard copy or email attachment (*moylanm1@scranton.edu*), by March 15, 2009. The members of the Executive Committee will assess the applications and announce the winner of the Rosenberg Grant during the spring semester.

Membership Approves Changes to Handbook: Revision of Online Compensation and Academic Freedom

As reported in an email to all faculty on December 18, 2008, following changes to the Faculty Handbook have passed:

Online Programs (Appendix X)
 110 Approve 16 Disapprove

Academic Freedom (Section 5.3)
 123 Approve 25 Disapprove

MINUTES

From the December 9 FAC Meeting

The December FAC meeting was called to order by Chair Michael Friedman at 11:40 in the DeNaples Ballroom.

Chair's Report: Friedman informed the membership that he received an inquiry from an Associate Dean who had been asked to serve on a faculty search committee. It was determined that advice and consultation would be permitted, as long as the Associate Dean did not serve as an official member of the committee.

The Negotiations Steering Committee met for the fifth and final time just before Thanksgiving and produced a prioritized list of issues for negotiations based on input from the Town Meetings, the Faculty Survey, and the research provided by the Salary and Benefits Committee. The list has been forwarded to the Table Team and written notice given to the Provost that FAC is ready to begin negotiations. The contract mandates that negotiations begin by January 31, 2009.

Betsey Moylan announced that Kevin Nordberg, Michael Friedman and Len Champney have been elected to serve as FAC officers. She thanked all who agreed to serve as candidates and voted in the election. Friedman will continue to serve as Chair, Nordberg the Contract Administrator, and Champney will replace Ned Warner, who is retiring from the faculty, as Grievance Officer. Moylan will continue to serve as Secretary.

Friedman announced that the Administration has requested an extension of the agreement regarding Parking Lot S, adjacent to the O'Hara lot. The agreement made spots available for staff and part-time faculty parking during Intersession and summer 2009. Hearing no concerns about the continuance of this policy, the FAC officers will agree to extend the agreement for an additional year.

Contract Administrator's Report: Kevin Nordberg reported on BC/BS irregularities regarding charges for specialists' visits. He also advised members to examine their bills regarding deductibles, having heard reports about double charges. Nordberg reinforced his call to be alert to any inequities in tuition remission for foreign study, which he had outlined in the December FAC Sheet. He asked members to contact him with any concerns over fees, financial aid, etc. in regards to foreign study.

Treasurer's Report: Dan West was not at the meeting, but informed the Chair that all bills except ARAMark are up-to-date.

Grievance Officer: Ned Warner reported that there are no outstanding grievances. A complaint has been satisfactorily resolved without progressing to the grievance stage.



New Business: Michael Friedman distributed printed copies of the revised "Compensation in Online Programs" document which had been sent electronically to the members prior to the meeting. The full explanation of the key points was also outlined in the December FAC Sheet. Friedman highlighted the four key points of concern (Section 2b, 2d, 2e, and 3). Following the explanation he called for questions from the membership. Faculty voiced concern over a number of issues, including the extent of course revisions, supervision of courses, royalties, intellectual property, and caps. After clarification of these issues, Friedman called for an electronic vote, since the meeting lacked a quorum.

MINUTES from December 9th Meeting*(Continued from Page 3)*

A second handout entitled “Academic Freedom Outside the Classroom” was distributed. Friedman explained the origin of this proposal, stating that the Faculty Senate charged the Handbook Committee with the task of re-examining Section 5.3 to determine whether changes were necessary to clarify the boundaries of academic freedom. The Handbook Committee decided that there were good reasons for such alterations, and the document distributed was the product of that discussion.

The revisions involved added material including quotes from the 1940 and 1970 AAUP statements on Academic Freedom in order to clarify the basis for extending academic freedom beyond the four walls of the classroom to “all sites where learning occurs” (AAUP language). The handbook committee asserted that faculty members are engaged in academic activities in many aspects of their employment as faculty members, and those academic activities take place in a variety of settings and media: in extramural or service activities, at conferences or workshops, and on the World Wide Web.

According to the AAUP, academic freedom extends to those arenas, and the Handbook Committee agreed that our Handbook should reflect the full extent of this protection. Friedman called on several members of the Handbook Committee and the Faculty Senate to give perspective on the issue, including insights gained during last year’s Open Forum.

A heated discussion ensued with several members voicing their concerns over the impact of this change on the Catholic and Jesuit identity of the University, while other members argued that the revisions were intended to preserve the essence of freedom of speech, not to profess advocacy for controversial issues. At 12:45 P.M. the Chair

concluded the discussion and stated that due to a lack of quorum, an electronic vote would be necessary. Moylan agreed to place the vote before the membership prior to the semester’s end.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsey Moylan



***Luncheon Menu
For February 10th Meeting***

- **Sweet and Sour Soup**
- **Stir Fry Chicken with Vegetables**
- **Stir Fry Veggies**
- **Fried Rice**
- **Rolls and Butter**
- **Favored Cookie Assortment**
- **Coffee, Tea, Soda, and Water**

Serving will begin at 11:15 a.m. in Room 407 of the DeNaples Center