

March 3, 2011

Academic Senate
Santa Cruz Division

Dear Colleagues:

As Winter quarter ends and the budget reduction process intensifies, the time for faculty to gather our forces is more urgent than ever. We will hold our one and only Senate meeting this term on Wednesday, March 9, 2:30 PM, in the Stevenson Event Center. The agenda can be viewed at: <http://senate.ucsc.edu/meetings/11March9/A11March09.html>

Among the critical items for this meeting:

- We have major unfinished business in the form of the Graduate Council resolution on grades and narrative evaluations. This is the companion legislation to the changes in undergraduate assessment enacted at the end of last year, in May 2010, and as such represents the final step in the campus reform of narrative evaluations. Having failed to vote on it during the past two meetings, we must do so now.
- The Senate is working on a comprehensive proposal for restructuring of all academic-related undergraduate functions and activities, from admissions, recruitment and retention to advising, learning support services and graduation, under the academic oversight of the campus office of the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education. On the faculty side, Committee on Educational Policy Chair John Tamkun will present a potentially radical new mapping tool to help departments plan their curricula more comprehensively, in order to avoid duplication and enhance collaboration across departments and divisions. The aim: to concentrate faculty time and energy on courses that directly serve the teaching needs and research aims of the major or program.
- Both Chancellor Blumenthal and EVC Galloway will be at the meeting, available to answer any and all of your questions.

I urge everyone to come to the meeting on Wed., March 9 at the Stevenson Event Center. As usual, we try to structure the agenda so that key items won't come up for discussion until about 3:15 PM, to allow for the greatest possible participation. The budget "situation" is not the only game in town nor is it the only reason to care about our campus and the university.

Sincerely,



Susan Gillman, Chair
Academic Senate
Santa Cruz Division