

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS REPORT OCTOBER 2016

A search has started for a new Portland State University President. A search committee of 21 has been established. Seven members in that search committee are faculty, academic professional, or classified staff.

Below is a quick scan of issues commanding the attention of the two bodies that articulate faculty participation in university governance, Faculty Senate, and PSU-AAUP, the union and professional association for 1300 tenure-line faculty, non-tenure track faculty, and academic professionals.

Faculty Senate

- Faculty has concerns around the interest in some quarters with offering a Bachelor of Applied Science degree, one that is based on an Associate of Science degree in a vocational field at a community college.
- A Senate task force is examining a Tenure for Teaching-Intensive Faculty concept, and there are deep concerns about how this might work out.
- Post-Tenure Review: concerns around implementation, specifically, lack of consistency and various interpretations of "satisfactory" performance.
- Search Advisory committee for a new President: concerns with the makeup of the committee, which lacks representation from several quarters.
- PSU Strategic Plan implementation: one of the areas we are wrestling with is real change in the curriculum in response to the Diversity and Inclusion mandates.
- The Senate Educational Policy Committee is engaged in an examination of Online Education.

Joint Faculty Senate - PSU-AAUP Issues

- Non-Tenure Track faculty have access to continuous appointments, per the new collective bargaining agreement. We are working on clarifying the new evaluation process (for example, what scholarship and service activities would make up 10% of a person's load, given that they will be teaching up to 36 credit hours?).
- PSU Administration has an interest to establish a "Title" for Distinguished Professor. PSU-AAUP wants to ensure a proper rank is created: open to all, and with transparent procedures; Faculty Senate would need to define a universal academic standard.

PSU-AAUP

Our faculty and the administration ratified a collective bargaining agreement in May, running through December 2019. Currently, there are numerous tables and task forces working on MOU's, proposals, or bargaining new policy changes. Some of the issues:

- Evaluation procedures for Non-Tenure Track faculty
- Intellectual property rights
- Caps on class sizes in the School of Business
- Sick leave bank

The Association is spearheading a new "Faculty Matters Conversation Series," with conversations on Women faculty, faculty of color, LGBT faculty, international faculty, and faculty with disabilities.

The Association is also participating in statewide efforts on (1) A Racially Just University, (2) Ethical University Budget Priorities.