

Fellow faculty,

I am writing to update you on what has gone on the past week. There were three major meetings that I had as well as a slew of smaller ones. The first meeting we had was a special executive committee meeting to look at the preliminary draft of the new general education proposal. As representatives of the union, our job is to look at the new general education model and see if it presents any problems or concerns with the contract. Being that we have a letter from President Cevallos, saying that he WILL NOT lay off faculty, eliminate programs, or force people to teach outside their discipline, I am fairly confident that there will be little if any contractual issues with this new program. However, we were presented with the model at exec and will take time to read it over, so we can discuss it more thoroughly in October. The General Education Task Force will be presenting a more formal draft to the Representative Council in October. In the meantime, there will be meetings set up for the entire faculty as well as faculty by their respective colleges.

The next meeting that I had was our first Representative Council Meeting of the year. At this meeting, the SRI task Force presented their proposal to change our SRI from the current model to the new IDEA model, which we piloted last semester. The committee will be making a full blown report available for all faculty to see I believe on September 15th. They will be presenting it to the University Chairs via Chairnet. Personally, I think that this new model will be a great improvement over what we currently use. The IDEA instrument has been used by colleges all over the country. I know that we have tried to change this before at KU, but this time the administration has agreed to fund this model, if we choose to select it.

We also received budget numbers from the university, which we asked for at Meet and Discuss. The union and your representatives now have the University budget for this academic year and the previous 4 academic years. KU is actually ahead of the other sister schools on this issue. Currently there has been discussion on the state level about getting budget numbers from the respective administrations. Our administration has been very cooperative, as compared to the others.

We had a visit to our representative council from our State APSCUF President Steve Hicks. Dr. Hicks talked about the current budget and the state of affairs with Harrisburg. The chancellor has asked us to give our 3 % raises back, and we have refused to even consider it. He also talked about the importance of preparing for our next round of negotiations, which are going to be tough, particularly in this academic climate. I will know more about this in two weeks, when we have our 1st Legislative Assembly of the academic year.

The last big meeting I had was with former members of the union, APSCURF. They had a fall picnic and I attended. I got the chance to talk to many different retired faculty, in particular a past APSCUF-KU President. I like meeting these folks because they have a lot of history and words of wisdom to share. It is very important that we do not forget these people and all that they have contributed to Kutztown University.

Let me just tell you about two events this upcoming week. First, we have our New Faculty Social on Thursday at 4:00 pm. The event will be held on the porch of Weisenberger. Any of you that have new

faculty members in your departments, make sure you bring them over to meet some of the other faculty in the union. We will be there a couple of hours so don't worry about being a little late. Second, I will be having my first open lunch hour this week on Wednesday at noon. I will be holding this one in my office in Boehm 423. If a lot of people come, we can move to one of the classrooms in the building. If no one comes, I will get a lot of grading done. Anyway, feel free to stop by and chat if you would like.

I hope you all have a good week. I will be in touch next week.

Paul Quinn
APSCUF-KU
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