

Dear Fellow Faculty,

Hello. Hope you all enjoyed your long weekend. I want to let you know right away that I am not sure if I will hold an office hour this week. I was at the doctors today and seem to have contracted walking pneumonia. Therefore I need to rest and take it easy so that this damn thing goes away. I probably will not be in tomorrow depending on how I feel. Anyway, I fully intend to teach my classes so if it is an emergency and you need to talk to me, give Karen a buzz. She will be back on Wednesday (Thank God!). Anyway, if I decide to have an open hour, I will email you the day before. Thanks.

Besides the usual meetings with various issues grievances and such, there are basically three meetings that I want to discuss.

1. I had my monthly one on one with Dr. Cevallos this past Tuesday. Once again I pressed him on budgetary issues and the possibility of retrenchments. The administration continues to say that they have no plans for retrenchment at this time. It is also important to note that their window for retrenchments is closing. If you look on page 91 of your contract, it spells out dates for when faculty that are being retrenched must be told. For TENURED faculty, they must be informed by October 30th. Probationary Faculty that are not tenured, but are past their second year must be told by December 1st. Second year probationary faculty that are not tenured must be told by December 15th. First-year probationary faculty that are non-tenured must be told by March 1st. If they are going to eliminate departments, as some people think, that would mean an announcement would have to be made by October 30th. Once again, the president has said NOTHING to me about retrenchment.
2. We had Representative Council on Thursday where we voted with an overwhelming majority to switch our student SRI, to the new IDEA model. With this there were concerns raised about the use of a "question 20" on this new instrument. We are going to address this concern by putting language in the Promotion and Tenure guidelines to make it clear that the ENTIRE evaluation instrument should be used, NOT just one question. This language will be discussed at a future Rep Council Meeting so we can get it in the guidelines this year. This new instrument will not be implemented until the spring of 2011. This gives us time to work out the details of this new SRI and how it will be used at Meet and Discuss. There will be a local agreement that ensures this new instrument is implemented and used properly.
3. I had a meeting with the Provost this week where he once again affirmed his commitment to funding the new IDEA model. WE also talked about the College of Business reorganization and the impact it was having on the University and its faculty. One other topic that we discussed was Distance Education at Kutztown. There are once again issues about Office Hours and Evaluation and such for people teaching these courses. I think what I will try and do is get together with faculty that teach online courses and listen to what they have to say about issues such as office hours and evaluations. This will help me to get a better understanding of the problems as well as the success amongst our Distance Education Faculty.

That is about it for this week. I will be in touch. Thanks.

Paul  
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