

## Mid-Year Report 2002

21 January 2002

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, last year the Loyola Chicago faculty approved a new Faculty Senate constitution. Among the main differences between that document and our present constitution is the basis for increased faculty/administration collaboration in university direction and decision-making.

In order to ensure such collaboration, however, two things are needed. One is the assent of the administration, including Fr. Garanzini. The other is a clearly defined structure. In other words, collaboration can neither be imposed nor left to chance or individual good will. During the past semester, Faculty Council members have been working with Fr. Garanzini and members of his cabinet on both issues; mutual assent and conducive structure. Fr. Garanzini has identified improved shared governance as one of his nine strategic agenda goals and Faculty Council is clearly committed to continuing the work already done on the Faculty Senate.

#### Mutual Assent

At Faculty Council's August retreat, we agreed that the most productive course toward a constructive relationship would be to step back temporarily from the issue of the new constitution per se in the interest of discovering common ground on the topic of shared governance. Moreover, given the likelihood of new people in key administrative positions [e.g., AAVP, CAS Dean], we think it is critical to establish strong working relationships with these people. To that end, Faculty Council members have participated in some strategic planning meetings and have received three reports from President Garanzini, Vice President Gibbs, and Vice President Beane. In January, February, and March, faculty selected by Council [though not necessarily all Council members] will participate with selected administrators in three discussions about the principles, benefits, difficulties and options regarding shared governance. More information about these discussions will be found on our website, <http://www.luc.edu/resources/faccouncil/>

#### Conducive Structure

President Garanzini requested and Council concurred that we establish a clear picture of existing decision-making bodies [e.g., university standing committees] before establishing any new ones. In other words, we want to assess existing opportunities for faculty participation before requesting change. Although it has been more difficult than you might imagine, we believe that we are close to getting an accurate "map." Also, Dr. Braskamp's office has worked with Council to establish a more open, logical, and consistent process for obtaining faculty representation on university committees.

#### Communication

Another of Faculty Council's goals this year was to facilitate two-way communication between faculty and administration. We are mindful that we serve as your representatives. As such, we have certain obligations to address issues important to you; make them known to the administration, and convey useful information to you. This goal has been greatly hampered by changes and inefficiencies in the university email system. However, greatly assisted by Jack Corliss in Information Services, we believe that progress has been made [one test is whether all full time tenured/tenure track faculty receive this!]. Moreover, with the generous help of librarian Patricia Xia, Council Secretary Carolyn Saari and executive assistant Mimi Newton, we have an improved website that you can use to get and give information. I hope that you know your area's faculty council representative and that you feel comfortable contacting them and/or me by email, telephone or whatever other means you prefer. If this email distribution method succeeds, I will use it also to notify you of Faculty Council actions. Please note that the full minutes of each Council meeting are posted on our website, usually within a week of each meeting. Remember that the meeting dates/place are posted on our website and, finally, remember that you are always welcome at our meetings.

Bren Murphy  
Chair, Faculty Council  
<http://www.luc.edu/resources/faccouncil/>

*Revised January 2002 by Patricia Xia ([pxia@luc.edu](mailto:pxia@luc.edu)), University Libraries*  
<http://www.luc.edu/resources/faccouncil/reports/midyearreport02.htm>