Welcome from the Chair

Hello and welcome to the 2015 Faculty Senate newsletter. Please consider this one of a variety of upcoming means to stay informed and to participate in Faculty Senate initiatives. The last three months have been busy ones for us, as I know many of you are actively engaged in one of our nine committee or task force groups.

A few highlights include:

- **The Finance Committee** welcomed a panel of experts to discuss the current state of the responsibility center management (RCM) financial model. There is a proposal to bring this panel to an upcoming Faculty Senate meeting for questions and comments.

- **The Research, Teaching and Scholarship Committee** is working on a research needs assessment survey in collaboration with Phil Parrish, interim vice president for research, and his team.

- **The Planning Committee**, in collaboration with the Provost, helped craft the [call for proposals for the next pan-University institute](#).

- **The Collaboration, Communication and Engagement Committee** worked hard to plan the first-ever faculty rock band concert. Although thwarted by the weather, plans are ongoing to reschedule for another event.

- **The Race & Racism Task Force** met for the first time. This group of faculty (Faculty Senators and non-Senators), staff (General Staff Council members) and students will discuss how to better support the community with race issues. It stands separate from, but in parallel to, the numerous Grounds-wide efforts to address this timely issue. One charge is to better meet the student needs for faculty engagement when politically charged race events occur either locally or nationally.

- Tom Nachbar, professor in the School of Law, is leading an ad hoc committee to address adherence to faculty review policies. This has implications for ensuring transparency in career development, merit raises/bonuses, P&T advancement, and general discussion of expectations by both faculty and their immediate supervisors. If you are interested in providing input or serving on the committee, contact Tom ([tbn4n](#)).

- Please join me in thanking Bill Keene, research professor in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, for his service on the UVA Committee on Sustainability. Bob Geraci, associate professor in the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, will be the new Faculty Senate appointee on the committee.

This year, we are actively inviting student leaders to join us at full Faculty Senate meetings. At the November 18th meeting, Student Council President Abraham Axler and the council’s Academic Affairs Committee will present to the faculty. In addition, we are collaborating with Cathie Collins, UVA-Wise Faculty Senate chair, and hope to videoconference her into one of our meetings this year.

Please continue to send your thoughts and comments to me (njs2j). I have heard from many of you on a variety of topics, and open communication is encouraged as we move ahead together to shape the type of future you see for yourselves and for the students we serve.

– Nina Solenski, Chair of the Faculty Senate

**Upcoming Fall Meetings:**

- **Monday, October 26**
  3:30-5:30 pm  
  Newcomb Hall South Meeting Room

- **Wednesday, November 18**
  3:30-5:30 pm  
  Harrison Institute and Small Special Collections Library Auditorium

- **Monday, December 14**
  3:30-5:30 pm  
  Newcomb Hall Commonwealth Room

**About:**

The Faculty Senate is a representative body that has the responsibility to “advise the President and the Rector and Board of Visitors concerning the educational and related matters affecting the welfare of the University.”

The updates contained within this publication serve as highlights of the many activities undertaken by the Faculty Senate, but due to space limitations cannot be comprehensive. Within each committee are numerous activities not fully delineated in this newsletter.

Please email David Moltz ([adm7j](#)) if you would like to include a piece of news in the next newsletter.
By-Laws Task Force Seeks Input

The Faculty Senate By-Laws Task Force met for the first time this month. The charge of the task force is to review the Faculty Senate’s constitution and by-laws and make suggestions to revise them so that they may better reflect the Senate’s current operations and meet its future needs. The task force members are:

- Edmund Kitch (chair), professor, School of Law
- Donna Chen, associate professor, School of Medicine
- Walter Heinecke, associate professor, Curry School of Education
- Robert Kemp, Ramon W. Breeden, Sr. Research Professor, McIntire School of Commerce
- Michiko Wilson, professor, College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

Faculty—both Senate and non-Senate members—are encouraged to share their ideas with the task force:

bylawssuggestions

@virginia.edu

Benefits Open Enrollment

UVA Human Resources wishes to remind all faculty of Open Enrollment 2016, which ends Oct. 31. Please review your data and make adjustments accordingly.

Seeking Member for UVA Benefits Committee

The Faculty Senate is seeking a member to serve on the UVA Benefits Committee to advise on a variety of important benefits issues. If this interests you, please contact David Moltz (adm7j) or Nina Solenski (njs2j).

Employee Discount Program Books Arriving Soon

Faculty will receive the latest Total Rewards Employee Discount Program book from UVA Human Resources via interoffice mail soon. Details are also available online.

Enjoy the Autumn!

“Late October"

by Maya Angelou

Carefully the leaves of autumn sprinkle down the tinny sound of little dyings and skies sated of ruddy sunsets of roseate dawns roil ceaselessly in cobweb greys and turn to black for comfort.

Only lovers see the fall a signal end to endings a gruffish gesture alerting those who will not be alarmed that we begin to stop in order simply to begin again.

Harrison Research Awards

Faculty members are invited to tell their students about UVA’s Harrison Undergraduate Research Awards program. Approximately 40 awards of up to $3,000 each will be granted on a competitive basis to current first-, second- and third-year undergraduate students.

Diversity Dialogues is a series of workshops where students, faculty, and staff will engage in dialogues on topics related to diversity and inclusion, with the goal of unifying efforts across Grounds and creating a more inclusive UVA.