

INTERIM PROVOST'S REPORT – TIMOTHY MULCAHY

Interim Provost Mulcahy invited everyone to ~~have~~enjoy coffee and cookies, ~~to~~ be provided by the Provost's Office. Coffee and cookies will be served at each Senate meeting for the rest of the academic year. He joked that he took the mock vote at the last Senate meeting establishing a policy requiring that coffee and cookies be served at each Senate meeting very seriously.

He then announced President Jones has asked him to appoint ~~and chair~~ 2 committees this coming academic year on issues related to the recent budget announcement. The first committee will deal with graduate student stipends and related activities, reviewing the status and those of our peers here and nationally. ~~We~~He will be appointing the committee within the next month, and one of their first items of business will be to consult with governance groups for recommendations on these issues in time for consideration in the upcoming budget cycle. The ~~aim~~ objective will be identification of ~~is to help strategies develop a strategy~~ that will help make our graduate programs ~~be~~ more competitive and equitable, when it comes to stipends. ~~as we recognize these stipend issues are a challenge for our students.~~

The second committee is equally important and will look into issues around the contingent faculty experience here at UAlbany. President Jones has asked that ~~t~~the committee be charged with making recommendations addressing two important areas relevant to contingent faculty at UAlbany. The first ~~first to look at what~~ is the appropriate right size proportion of contingent to full-time faculty at a university delivering the curriculum we do. There have been ~~comments~~opinions offered that perhaps they are relied on too heavily. ~~We~~The University community needs ~~want~~ to know what is right for UAlbany and then make sure we do it well. ~~Secondly, we~~The second area will address issues of ~~fe~~consider fair and equitable compensation for contingent faculty. ~~Again, we~~ The committee will consider ~~will be looking at the~~ national trends nationally ~~but with an eye~~

developing recommendations that would work well here. Provost Mulcahy announced that a~~A~~ third item, was not part of the initial charge but Interim Provost Mulcahy asked it be~~will~~ also be added to the scope of the panel's work. The committee will examine and make recommendations ~~for about~~ methods of that will provide fair and consistent ~~vetting~~ processes for evaluating contingent faculty and f, ~~particularly to allow for offering~~ professional development opportunities. This third element of the committee's charge was prompted in part by ~~partly to address~~ recent UUP concerns regarding mechanisms to provide effective feedback and evaluation for those who contribute so meaningfully to our academic mission. The Provost shares similar concerns and interests and believes the committee will provide an opportunity to begin to address them. He acknowledged that ~~t~~ This is a large charge, so it is expected the committee will report ~~out on progress~~ to the Senate at various points over the course of the next academic year.

Interim Provost Mulcahy pointed out the appointment of these two committees speaks to the value we place on both our graduate students and our contingent faculty. ~~We~~ He and the President want this to be an exercise ~~to~~ that will benefit, and to use the words of the President, “move our University to the next level of excellence.” He noted that he was hopeful that the Senate would ~~We count on your participation and help as~~ the work of both committees moves ~~we go~~ forward. For ~~our~~ his part, ~~we~~ he will be sure to provide ~~you~~ feedback along the way.