

Dear Colleagues,

As this academic year like no other draws to a close, I wanted to offer a summary of some of this year's activity in shared faculty governance. This has been a highly productive year, featuring:

- Landmark legislation to create new professorial titles for our instructional colleagues effective this fall
- A series of measures to revise and update scholastic and academic regulations, reinforcing the unique and critical role of the faculty and the Senate in establishing academic policy, and easing the way for many of our students as they face challenges academic and otherwise
- A move away from the use of standardized tests as part of our ongoing holistic admissions policies, opening doors through which generations of wonderful young people will pass in years to come
- Development and endorsement of the principles and foundations which will guide the drafting this summer of Code language to modernize our processes of dispute resolution
- Support of and direct participation as part of the University Libraries' contract renegotiations with Elsevier

And of course, we have responded to the unprecedented effects of COVID-19 on our campus.

Since the very earliest days of the pandemic, there has been close and productive cooperation, consultation and shared decision-making between faculty leadership and the administration on a wide range of issues, from the very detailed to broad institutional strategy. We are in regular contact with numerous offices and organizations across the university, including but not limited to: Academic and Student Affairs, the Office of Planning & Budget, Student Life, OMAD, the Registrar's Office, Academic HR, Title IX, Research, Capital Planning, Finance, Advancement, Alumni Relations, Marketing & Communications, Athletics, and of course the President, Provost, Regents, Board of Deans & Chancellors, student leadership, and the elected faculty councils in all units. Thousands of people, including the extraordinary work of those who keep our campuses safe and clean and functioning, have risen to the moment and we pay tribute to them all.

Our work – including the participation of faculty leadership through the defined duties of the Senate Executive Committee and Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting – will continue over the summer. Among the most critical sets of decisions that our university has faced in many years is how we will proceed with Autumn Quarter and beyond: welcoming thousands of new students, teaching our classes, undertaking our scholarly and clinical work, maintaining continuity and tradition, in new and unfolding circumstances. Difficult budgetary and strategic questions are to come as well in an uncertain and quickly changing landscape. We in faculty leadership will participate in those critical discussions and plans in the weeks and months to come, to provide the best possible environment for our students, staff and faculty.

Thank you to the members of the Senate, the Senate Executive Committee, and our faculty councils for your hard work this year; we have accomplished much and you have a record to be proud of and great momentum for next year. Thank you also to our colleagues in the elected faculty councils in the units, in departmental and school committees, and in so many other bodies and venues. You in your hundreds fulfill important and often invisible roles, and you are appreciated. A personal note of thanks also to my friends and colleagues in the Information School community, and to my husband Terry, for their love and support.

In my message at the beginning of this academic year, I described our system of shared governance as strong and vibrant. Those are easy words to throw around in good times; it's only when tested that such systems show their true character. In the last several months, I believe we have passed that test, and feel confident that as the university moves forward to our next chapter, that system will continue to serve us all well.

When we look back on this time, it will be with admiration for your resilience, hard work, grace, professionalism and generosity of spirit, in many cases under unimaginably difficult circumstances. Someday, not long from now, Kane Hall will be full of students, the HUB will smell like pizza, students at Tacoma will be walking and lounging along the Prairie Line Trail and chatting over coffee at the Metro, the libraries will be buzzing, students at Bothell will be working in and around their spectacular wetlands, music will flow from Meany, the tables will be up on Red Square, and we will have a Commencement ceremony that will blow the roof off Husky Stadium.

I wish you a smooth end to the quarter, a safe, healthy and refreshing summer, and better days for us all very soon.

Joe

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