**Ongoing/Addressed Concerns Placed Before Faculty Senate (1/12/16):**

As per the usual, this isn’t a comprehensive list – we’re addressing what we can, where we can, when we can. Please feel free to continue to bring your concerns (and those of your constituents) forward to the Senate for further consideration and clarification.

1. ***“What is the University's policy about student activities during the last week of classes? Is there something different for varsity athletes?”***
   1. This one has come up often, and recently, in one slight variation or another. Where it recently stood was that the faculty do NOT want a universal attendance policy, as it might lead to greater paperwork to keep track of, hampering what we can do in our courses with the time we have. We will recheck on the specifics of THIS concern, though, to see if there is an official policy for the final week of classes in regards to athletes. To my knowledge, there is no such policy, but I will check with Dr. Runge and Dr. Teague to follow up and verify.
2. ***'What is the justification for placing artificial turf on the intramural fields? What is the cost and funding source for this project? How does the cost of installation and whatever limited maintenance is required compare with the ongoing maintenance of grass fields?***
   1. In consultation with Diane Newton and Ronnie Williams, we discovered that the money for this initiative is strictly coming from HPER student fee-generated funds. Once we discovered this, I didn’t seek further clarification, as I didn’t feel it was in the purview of the Faculty Senate. But NO academic money is being used for this project.
   2. On a related note, I asked Brad Teague to look into actual savings on the striped artificial turf at Estes Stadium. You all may remember that it was argued that we could save $100,000 per year by making the move, justifying the expense of the turf. It was due to last a minimum of 10 years. Dr. Teague states that the turf is holding up very well, and should easily last that long. He also supplied a spreadsheet with year-over-year savings (see Excel document provided). I did pull out the staff names from that information – I know it can be easily obtained, as we’re a public institution, but it felt like I should pull the names before distributing that document. The bottom line is that we are very close to the stated savings – so it’s good news.
3. ***We’ve been inundated by students who have signed 8-semester completion plan agreements and we have been forced to take these students even though we don’t have the resources. One of the problems is tracking who has agreed to the plan and whether students are still on the plan. This doesn’t seem to be tracked by advising and there isn’t a reasonable way of having a list of which students agreed to the plan and are still on it. It is causing us a lot of problems and it seems that there needs to be mechanisms in place for dealing with tracking these students easily.***

***I’m also concerned that the 8-semester agreement is being advertised as a way freshmen can get into full classes.***

* 1. I got in touch with Leigh Ann DenHartog out of Advising. I’ve asked her to come and address the Senate on this issue at our first meeting in January. She knows it’s an issue, too, but they’re fighting with the problem on their end as well. I thought it might be useful for the Senators to hear the problem isn’t originating with Advising, and that Advising is going to try to tackle it in the immediate future (and how they plan on doing so). I’ll let her address it, and then the Senators can take her comments back to their constituents (and they’ll be in the minutes of the meeting).

1. ***Admissions Committee has not met this academic year. Can you look into when they will meet?***
   1. I have been in touch with Courtney Mullen on this issue – she assures me that the Admissions Committee is gearing up to meet very early in Spring semester. The delay in meeting in Fall semester was partially due to her transition into UCA, as well as a transition in software systems utilized by Admissions. I strongly encouraged her to have the Admissions Committee meet throughout the academic year moving into the future. It’s been a time of transition in this area, and we simply lost a semester of good communication between the Admissions Committee and Admissions itself. We’ll work together more closely on it moving forward.
2. ***Curriculum committee concerns – on-line format has specific means for getting approval but they are going through departmental, college committees after they have already been approved. Committees are not sure why they are “approving” the classes again when they have been approved but are just being taught on-line as well. 2) Timeline for bulletins – December 4th is the date that items must be turned in and January 1st is the absolute deadline for items to be published. The bulletin is not published until August and is electronic. Why is the deadline so early?***
   1. Still pursuing some answers on this one – bear with me until next time.
3. ***Is it possible for the university to set policy that no bicycles and skate boards should be ridden on university sidewalks?  University sidewalks should be reserved for pedestrians and people using wheelchairs.  People with bicycles should walk their bicycles and people with skate boards should carry their skate boards when using the sidewalks.***
   1. While I’m mostly in agreement on this one, I believe it would take Board action, either to amend existing policies or to enact new ones. We can pursue this if we feel it’s required – but we would likely need a resolution in support of specific changes out of Faculty Senate first, as well as with support indicated from Staff Senate and SGA. We could then pursue getting it put on the Board agenda. While I value the concern, I think that depth of action may be unwarranted at this point in time. I feel we may want to look into it a little further to see if there are more subtle ways of achieving some of the same desired changes there. I’ll bring it forward to the University Safety Committee first to see if there’s some action that could be taken there.
4. ***Also, is it possible for the university to remind personnel that all golf carts should be driven on streets and yield to pedestrians and people using wheelchairs on the sidewalks?  Pedestrians and people using wheelchairs should not have to yield to golf carts.***
   1. We had all units send out reminders on proper use of the golf carts this past Fall. We can do so again, I believe. I’ll follow up with Provost Runge and President Courtway. We may just need more frequent reminders to keep people thinking about golf cart use and safety for people on the sidewalks.