

Greetings Mansfield University Senators,

In addition to the attached agenda for this week's meeting, I would like to draw your attention to the following excerpts from emails I received from the President of faculty Senate at West Chester University. We will be discussing our course of action at Senate this week.

The WCU Senate has drafted a protest letter about the Governor's budget, highlighting its deleterious educational effects (especially as it impacts what goes on in the classroom) and I'm wondering if this is something ALL the PASSHE Senates can sign on to? We are thinking of sending it to members of the PA House and Senate before legislators vote on the Governor's budget. There can be little doubt that the impact of the letter would be much stronger if it was from all of us.

The letter that is referred to has been written in several drafts. I have not yet received a final draft as yet.

The logistical difficulties of presenting this letter (a draft is attached) jointly are considerable. They involve everything from deciding how many Senators/Representative to send it to (all of them? or just the leaders?), figuring out HOW we would send it (signed by all campus Senate presidents? or generically from "all the Faculty Senates"?), to actually stuffing envelopes.

From another school:

Perhaps each of us could be instructed to send the letter out to the representative in certain areas to get all of PA covered.

We need to decide who should receive the letter.

There are mixed feelings about such a letter.

the proposed letter may not have the impact with legislators that we would like, coming as it does from educators whose position on the issues can be predicted. Nonetheless, I still think a letter written and sent *in concert* to a wide range of legislators would make some noise, even if a very little.

So the points to be considered at the Senate meeting are:

1 – Do we want to participate in sending a letter to legislators that points out the potential damage the current budget proposal can do to us?

Pro – even a little noise is better than no noise / maybe they just don't "get it" yet.

Con – may seem self-serving / undo good work already done / may seem condescending to those who do "get it".

2 – If we participate, is it better to send to just our local PA legislators or be part of a mass mailing?

3 – If we participate, is it better to be part of a focused effort here, or part of the large group of schools?

I may have missed something, but these points ought to help guide our thinking and discussion.

Scott

Dr. Scott A. Davis
Professor of Chemistry

President – Faculty Senate
Director of Forensic Science Programs
Mansfield University
(570) 662 – 4544 (office)
(570) 662 – 4107 (fax)

"Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

- Theodor Seuss Geisel