

OPENING FACULTY MEETING – APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY
FALL 2018

Barbara Howard, Faculty Chair
September 7, 2018

Greetings to all!

I am honored to serve once again as Chair of Faculty Senate and to serve this year as a member of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Assembly. I look forward to another year at Appalachian during which we will continue to challenge each other to be the premier university for undergraduate education and will become the premier university for graduate education as well. We will embrace our differences and grow through conversations and dialogues that honor the Academy's long-standing traditions of academic freedom while honoring and respecting the responsibility to hold civil discourse.

At our August 2017 Faculty Senate Retreat, we adopted four major goals, which I will summarize here. They may be found in entirety on our website, facsen.appstate.edu.

- 1) Shared governance. During the past year, we increased faculty participation in most, if not all, university-level committees, Task Forces, and initiatives. We continue to strengthen the faculty voice through solid collaboration with our administrators. From the Chancellor's office, the Provost's offices, Deans and Chairs, we are working to establish a climate and culture of shared governance in which faculty have a voice in those decisions that directly impact the academic life of this university. I have yet to ask for involvement by faculty and be turned down!
- 2) Advocacy on behalf of the faculty, students, and staff. We continue to request that visitors with information on issues related to faculty, students and staff such as salaries, benefits, parking, etc., present at Faculty Senate so that information can be directly relayed back to respective departments. Faculty Senators are then able to ask questions and engage with the visitors to present their viewpoints as well.
- 3) Provide a forum within the university. In addition to inviting visitors and opening our sessions to any stakeholders within the university community, our senators take relevant information back to their constituents, who are encouraged to provide information and ideas back to the Senate.
- 4) Maintain and safe-guard morale and welfare. Our Faculty and Staff Welfare Committee worked diligently on a issues such as the child care center. The Chair of Staff Senate is an ex officio member of this committee. The President of SGA serves as an ex officio member of the Student Welfare Committee.

Each Senate committee establishes goals for the year and reports regularly on their progress. We hope to continue strengthening our committee work. Working with our administration, we hope to establish a culture and climate of respect, listening, and problem-solving through non-adversarial approaches of cooperation.

I invite each faculty member to reach out to their Senators this year with comments, suggestions or issues that can be addressed by Faculty Senate.

Thank you.