

# Note in Advance of Meeting w Board on Thursday

Wright, Richard

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Inbox

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 1 attachments (19 KB)

Issues Agenda.docx;

Steering Committee Colleagues:

[I am writing to you in advance of our scheduled luncheon meeting with the Board tomorrow. As you know, the meeting time will be from 12:30 – 1:30, and I am requesting that we all try to arrive early so that there is little delay in getting started.](#) Because we requested this meeting, the Board is fitting us into its retreat activities as an expression of openness to a working relationship with the Faculty Senate. I consider this a statement in itself. The meeting will take place in one of the meeting rooms on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the A-Building.

As for meeting dynamics, I have forwarded to general Counsel the revised Issues Agenda (Attached) from the last SC meeting. The items listed there cover the essence of our expressed commitment to work with the Administration and Board in addressing (1) Academic Matters that impact the life of the Academic (Handbook, PPTF, Strategic Planning, Research & Research Administration, etc.); (2) Conditions that negatively impact the Academy and its effective functioning (Occupational safety & Health, Infrastructure, etc.); (3) Quality of Life Issues (Faculty Welfare, etc.); (4) Other (Ombudsman, etc.).

Since we did not have a chance to meet and Plan our approach at this meeting, I hope that we will focus our attention on our commitment to work with the Administration and Board, as necessary, to ensure that the Academy at Howard is structurally and functionally serving the best interests and needs of the academic community.

Additionally, we should take advantage of this opportunity to discuss and clarify the ruling from general Counsel that allows Associate Deans and Assistant Deans to serve as Faculty Trustees. The area of concern relates to language in the FS Constitution regarding who is a member of the faculty Senate, specifically

## Article II – MEMBERSHIP OF THE FACULTY SENATE

The Senate shall consist of:

**Section A. Faculty Members:**

All faculty members, both tenured and untenured, who are currently serving in full-time faculty appointments or positions, and department chairs, if they have been appointed with the advice and consent of the faculty of the department.

That is, the spirit of the Constitution makes clear that Faculty Senate members must be either (1) faculty in full time faculty positions, whether tenured or untenured, or (2) full-time faculty serving as department chairs as a result of departmental faculty participation in their appointment (advice and consent). This being the case, Associate and Assistant Deans do not qualify as members of the Faculty Senate during the time that they serve in these roles since School/College faculty members do not usually participate in any way in their appointments to these positions. They are appointed and serve at the pleasure of their respective Dean. So, according to the FS Constitution, Associate Deans and Assistant Deans are re-positioned as administrators in the Office of the Dean, and no longer eligible to count as Faculty Senate Members.

Richard