Happy New Year and New You! Welcome to the inaugural edition of “The Voice,” a monthly publication designed for the University Park Faculty Senate. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep faculty informed about the issues that affect us the most. From updates about Faculty Senate meetings to changes in the system and on our campus, “The Voice” is designed especially for you! This newsletter will feature positive information on full-time and adjunct faculty because we are an interdependent group, working towards the same goals.

In this new year, let us take the time to reflect on the 2012 year and the accomplishments we made as a group. The Akan people of Ghana frequently use the term “Sankofa” to remind the community to “go back and get it.” This is what I am encouraging each of you to do. Learn from your past and use it to build your future and the future of our students. With over 125 adjunct faculty, 25 full-time faculty, and over 6,000 (42% increase) students enrolled on our campus, we are truly a dynamic group and a shining star in the Lone Star College System.

Take advantage of the professional development series orchestrated by Casey Willis or the Adjunct Certification program led by Leslie LaPres. Make it a personal goal to attend at least one Faculty Senate meeting this semester or the faculty roundtable discussions. But more importantly, let us change the student experience on our campus from a “cold,” corporate environment, to a place they can call a home away from home. Smile when you walk into the building, speak to students when you are on the elevators, and always maintain a cheerful demeanor.

As you continue to prepare and execute your classes on a daily basis make it your mission to do something innovative and creative in your classes and share it with your colleagues through “The Voice.” Let us continue to promote and push the “Best Start” practices and the Student Learning Outcomes in the classroom. Be on the lookout for the “Make Your Mark” campaign because we need YOU to make this future program a resounding success!

To our adjunct professors, we thank you for the work you do at University Park on a daily basis. I am reminded of a November 2012 article in The Chronicle of Higher Education titled “Adjuncts Build Strength in Numbers: The New Majority Generates a Shift in Academic Culture.” The author, Audrey Williams June discusses the growing number of adjuncts at community colleges and universities nationwide. It is because of this growth, that we are beginning to see a push for the inclusion of adjunct professors in shared governance on college campuses. At University Park, we can be the agent of change and serve as a model for other college campuses across the state. Last semester the chairs hosted the “Adjunction Function” and other social events as a way to bring full-time and adjunct faculty together. This year, you can expect to see more opportunities for adjuncts to take part in what University Park has to offer. As Faculty Senate President, I am committed to the voices of our adjunct faculty, because without you, we would not be where we are today.

Whether you teach one class or five, adjunct or full-time, we are all a vital component to the University Park campus. Let us strive for excellence and expect the same from our students. As Henry B. Adams would say, “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” Have a wonderful day and a great start to the Spring 2013 semester!

Academically Yours,

Daria J. Willis, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Meeting Schedule
For the Spring 2013 semester, Faculty Senate will meet on the third Tuesday and Friday of each month on a rotating basis from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., in Building 13 Room 835. This is the conference room located on the eighth floor of the Faculty Suite.

Our Schedule is as follows:
February 19, 2013 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
March 8, 2013 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
April 16, 2013 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Credentials
We are now responsible for entering our credentials into the iStar system. If you were hired yesterday or many years ago, you are responsible for entering the required information. Last week the chairs emailed pertinent documents that include the guidelines on how to complete this process. You have a limited amount of time to submit the required information so do it NOW! In this case, procrastination can and will be your worst enemy.

New Positions at UP
This semester we are extremely excited to learn that University Park has officially opened the search for a Dean of Student Services, Dean of Instruction, a Vice President of Administrative Services, and an English Faculty position. All of the postings are sorely needed and we are eager to work with our Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Lawrence Brandyburg, to recruit qualified and dedicated individuals that possess our core values as an educational institution. With enrollment at over 40 percent, we need the HELP!

FYI
In the interest of keeping the communication lines open between faculty and administration, I sent an email last week about installing comment boxes in the instructor workrooms. To update you on those boxes, OTS is in the process of creating an anonymous Faculty Senate online suggestion box. It will work in the same manner as the comment boxes, but all correspondence will be directly sent to myself, Tom Rogers, and Jessica Weisel. This link will appear on the new Faculty Senate website that is currently under construction.
Mission Statement

The purpose of the Faculty Senate of Lone Star College-University Park is to encourage a learning environment of trust and respect while promoting academic excellence in the classroom, college, and community. The organization is dedicated to fostering effective communication among faculty and between faculty and administration while promoting unity and coherence.

“The Voice” is a newsletter distributed monthly by the Lone Star College - University Park, Faculty Senate President. While “The Voice” is meant to represent the interests of all faculty at Lone Star College - University Park, it will not be used as a tool for negativity in any way. All submissions to “The Voice” will be reviewed by the Executive Team, with the final approval from the Faculty Senate President. Faculty are always encouraged to submit information for publication with the understanding that all material must be positive and fit within the realms of the mission of the Faculty Senate.

If you would like to see your story in “The Voice,” please send it to Daria.J.Willis@Lonestar.edu by the 20th day of the month. Anything received after the 20th is not guaranteed for the next issue.

Faculty Senate President Meeting Schedule

First Thursdays--Dr. Richard Carpenter and LSC Presidents
Second and Fourth Tuesdays--Shah Ardalan, LSC - UP President
Third Mondays--Dr. Lawrence Brandyburg, LSC - UP VPISS
Third Wednesdays--Dr. Keri Rogers and Dr. Juanita Chrysanthou, LSC Vice Chancellors