

THE COLLEGE AT  
**OLD WESTBURY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

FACULTY SENATE

Sept. 2, 2004

Dear Colleagues:

As incoming Faculty Senate chair, I would like to welcome you to the new academic year, whether you have been on campus for part of the summer or throughout or are coming back after a break. I want to extend special greetings to those who are coming to Old Westbury for the first time, and I hope to meet you soon.

This year the Faculty Senate enters its 14<sup>th</sup> session, having evolved from the former Faculty Council in 1991. According to the Faculty Bylaws, the Senate serves as "the deliberative body for organizing and carrying out the business of the Faculty." It is the primary body of faculty governance, and I encourage everyone to get involved.

Each department should already have elected, or be about to elect, a representative and an alternate. The representatives are voting members of the Senate and are responsible to attend meetings. But all faculty are welcome and encouraged to attend, joining our members and visitors from among the faculty, professional staff and the administration.

Collegiality is one of the precious benefits of our vocation, sustaining us personally and professionally and, at best, advancing our collective interests. New communications technology is a wonderful tool, but there is nothing that replaces face-to-face interaction. Two hours every other week is all it takes to be part of the Senate. If you are absent, you miss a lot, and the Senate's misses you—an important measure of its strength.

You probably have already received a schedule of Senate meetings. The agenda for the first meeting, Friday September 10 at 12:30 p.m., is enclosed, as are the minutes of the last Senate meeting for your review.

I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,



Caroline Sawyer  
Senate Chair/ Dept. of Humanities and Languages (X 3115)