Report of the Vice President for Academics, September 15, 2009
Daniel Kinney

Fred Floss, statewide Vice President for Academics, is planning a number of regional meetings for academics in the fall. The regional meetings will each be held on a Saturday from 9; 00 AM until 1:00 PM and would consist of workshops on such topics as writing grants, getting tenure, running a good meeting, etc. Fred is interested in suggestions for other workshop topics. The suggested dates for the Downstate Regional Meeting are November 14, 21, and 28. The chapters that would be included in this regional meeting would be Brooklyn HSC, Farmingdale, Maritime, Old Westbury, Optometry, Purchase, Stony Brook West Campus/Southampton, and Stony Brook HSC.

There will be a welcome back luncheon for academics on September 16 at noon in Jasmine. Since many academics were unable to attend the retreat last June, this meeting will be a planning meeting for the new academic year. Members of the council have been asked to invite a new faculty member from their department or an academic who might be interested in participating in the work of our chapter.

An important indication of the new administration's attitude towards Stony Brook employees and its commitment to making Stony Brook a healthy place in which to work will take place at the end of September when a review team composed of the directors of the libraries at Delaware, Cornell, the University of Connecticut, and Columbia will be visiting the campus with the goals of evaluating the organization and management of the library, bench marking of resources and their allocation, and the relationship between the West Campus and HSC libraries. The impetus for this review is, in part, the morale problem that has been communicated to Provost Kaler from several sources, including UUP.

Michael Zweig will present the first Front Page Discussion on Wednesday, October 14 at noon in the Women's Studies Colloquium Center. The program is entitled "Why Are We in Afghanistan? The War in Regional and Historical Context,"