

# FACULTY SENATE NEWSLETTER

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College of Liberal Arts

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## From the President's Report:

The Grand Opening for the Student Success Center is scheduled for Friday, October 9, 2015.

The Rise. Shine. Campaign is currently at \$122M raised for the future of Wright State University and to support the people of Wright State through student scholarships, endowed positions for faculty chairs, and

professorships. President Hopkins completed his sixth regional launch last week in New York City and will soon travel to Los Angeles, Washington D.C., and Cincinnati.

The State Budget updates are as follows:

- The State Support for Instruction (SSI) increased by 4.5 percent the first year followed

by 4.0 percent increase in year two.

- President Hopkins will attend a retreat of presidents from all four year institutions in Ohio. They will discuss capital allocation for deferred maintenance of existing buildings at Ohio universities.



## From the Provost's Report:

Fall Semester enrollment update:

- Undergraduate enrollment has increased .7%
- Graduate enrollment has increased 4.8%
- Direct from high school admits increased 3.2%
- Total new undergraduate students increased 4.1%
- International Graduate students increased 16.8%

Dr. Steve Berberich, Associate Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs will chair the 360 degree review of services to international students across campus. Policies, procedures, and support structures to assist these students will be reviewed in all areas across campus. An external group will be assembled to conduct a comprehensive review upon the completion of the internal 360 review. With the upcoming retirement of Dr. Stephen Foster, a search for leadership for the University Center for International Education will begin in November, 2015.

The Classroom Modernization prototype classrooms are now fully operational in 150 Russ and 135 Oelman; please take a moment to look at these classrooms and provide feedback. The university plans to update 112 Oelman and 101 Fawcett during the winter break and through spring semester.

The 5% Budget Bill Challenge is for each institution to identify a way in which students will have the opportunity to achieve a five percent savings in the cost of attendance. Wright State proposed to offer the following means to provide discounts for students and will submit their report to the Board of Trustees for review and then to the Chancellor's Office in October, 2015.

- Offer a summer discount program to students who complete 24 credit-hours during fall and spring semester
- Ensure all programs have 120-credit hour maximum
- Require course textbooks to be listed at the beginning of registration, which will allow students to find a more economical means of purchasing books
- Offer College Credit Plus courses, which will allow high school students within a 50-mile radius to earn six credit hours while in high school

In addition to the student savings of the Budget Bill Challenge, the Board of Trustees will review courses and programs with low enrollments and report to the Chancellor's Office by January 1, 2016. The development of an implementation strategy to incorporate work experience into curriculum must

be developed, reviewed by the Board of Trustees and submitted to the Chancellor in December 31, 2015.

## Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee met several times over the summer to determine how to advise the administration with their plans to reorganize the upper-level administration. The Executive Committee is pleased with the administration's decision to appoint Thomas Sudkamp as Provost and Mark Polatajko as Chief Operations Officer.

The Senate will ask the University Buildings and Grounds Committee to account for parking spaces that were lost during the construction of the new buildings and to follow up on the Parking Resolution passed in April 15, 2013.

The Library of the Future Taskforce is being formed and will be charged to review the Wright State Dunbar Library services and collections with respect to faculty teaching and scholarship needs and to the student learning and research needs.

The GE Core Assessment Taskforce will conduct a thorough assessment of the current Wright State Core, with attention to student progress through general education and course availability. Last year's GE review subcommittee report remains on the table until assessment is complete.

## Commencement Committee

Commencement Committee chair Dr. Eric Rowley met with the Faculty Senate to discuss possible changes in Wright State's current commencement driven by its increasing length and problematic trends, such as early departure from ceremonies and low participation from both graduates and faculty. In an effort to "make the experience better for everyone involved," the committee is proposing separate commencements for undergraduates and graduates, both to be held on the same day. The Committee plans to circulate a short questionnaire to gather information from faculty and possibly students. Faculty members, who have suggestions concerning the commencement ceremonies, are invited to contact Dr. Rowley at [eric.rowley@wright.edu](mailto:eric.rowley@wright.edu).

## New Business

### Distance Education Task Force Report

Dr. Sean Pollock presented findings from the Taskforce on Distance Education's (TDE). The Taskforce found an increase from 4,608 students taking distance education courses in the fall 2013 to 6,357 students in the fall of 2014, an increase of 37.9%. The success rate for undergraduate distance courses was 83%

compared to 81% for traditional courses, and 94% for graduate distance courses compared to 96% success rate. However, the report also showed that a startling 84% of courses had un-proctored exams, and only 8% had proctored exams. 5% of classes had proctored quizzes, and 3% had both. Success rate was determined by students receiving an A, B, or C in the course and does not measure persistence of grade. The TDE report made a case for more centralized oversight and support for developing effective distance learning and recommends university standards for terminology and designations of distance education. The report includes a number of policy proposals for implementation in distance education. The TDE suggests that the University make distance education a part of its strategic plan and budget. It also recommends that online orientation courses be set up in order to ensure student preparedness for online learning. The report advises that classrooms be examined for use in distance learning environments. Finally, the report proposes a taskforce be developed to ensure online accessibility to safeguard compliance with disability standards.

### Wright State Assessment

Dr. Carl Brun and Dr. Renee Aitken presented a report on assessment. To ensure continuing accreditation, the university needs a robust assessment process of systematically examining patterns of student learning across courses and programs and using this information to improve educational practices. To facilitate assessment, the administration is offering seven 2-hour online workshops. Those who complete them will receive a certificate.

## Council Reports

### Research Council

The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to reject the Research Council's summer report following discussion of various details in the report. After the rejection, the Senate also voted in favor of having the Research Council submit a fully revised report for the October Senate meeting. The VicePresident for Research and Graduate Studies, Dr. Fyffe, is set to speak before the Senate at the October 12 meeting on the reorganization of the Wright State Research Institute (WSRI).

## Faculty Line

Faculty Senate Meeting dates, agendas and minutes: [www.wright.edu/administration/senate](http://www.wright.edu/administration/senate).

By Faculty Senate Interns: Arica Rohn and Jonathan Dillon

## CoLA Senators



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