Faculty Senate
President's Report
November 14, 2016

Dr. Hopkins

I.   Dr. Hopkins informed the Senate that Thursday, November 17th is the Great American Smokeout, an annual event held by the American Cancer Society to encourage Americans to stop smoking. On Thursday, the University will announce its plans to become a tobacco-free campus effective July 1, 2017. Wright State will be the ninth public university in Ohio to go tobacco-free. Smoking cessation programs for students & employees will be made available during Spring Semester.

In response to a question from the floor, Dr. Hopkins clarified that the policy will also prohibit smoking in personal vehicles and electronic cigarettes.

II. Given concerns regarding the outcome of the U.S. Presidential Election, Dr. Hopkins reiterated an earlier public statement that "Wright State will continue to be inclusive and strive to become the best university FOR the world. We value our diverse community, family." Dr. Hopkins thanked Vice President for Student Affairs Gary Dickstein for aggressively addressing related instances of student misconduct.

III. Dr. Hopkins announced that he received a question regarding the role of the Faculty with regards to investigating and making recommendations to the administration. Dr. Hopkins reaffirmed that he supports Faculty investigations and recommendation as an integral part of a shared governance structure. Furthermore, Article I Section 1 of the Faculty Constitution delineates the Powers and Duties of the University Faculty including the right to "Investigate, discuss, and make recommendations to any appropriate body within the university regarding any matter of interest to the university" (Article I Section 1.F.2)

In response to a question asking to what extent the University will protect Faculty from legal action in the course of pursuing investigations, Dr. Hopkins stated that the pursuit of investigations is welcomed, encouraged, and will be protected. However, everyone has a responsibility to act within legal statutes during the course of investigations, and legal protections cannot be extended to those who go beyond that line.