

Faculty Senate Newsletter

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College of Liberal Arts

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Faculty Senate Meeting Highlights

The March 21, 2017 meeting covered a variety of topics including the Financial Governance Policy, UAPC Grading System Policy Changes, and various curriculum changes. To learn

more about the issues discussed, please read below.



Provost's Report

Dr. Sudkamp opened his report by thanking Faculty President Carol Loranger and Faculty Vice President Travis Doom for their leadership during this past year. Dr. Sudkamp also extended his congratulations to Faculty President-elect Doom and Faculty Vice President-elect Dan Krane.

Interim President

Dr. Sudkamp announced that Dr. Curtis McCray began his term as Interim University President today, March 20, 2017. Dr. McCray will serve until Dr. Cheryl Schrader becomes the President on July 1, 2017. The Board of Trustees has charged Dr. McCray with overseeing the budget remediation process:

The Board has required a reduction of \$25-\$30million from budget by July 1, 2017.

Budget Cuts

A Presidential Transition Advisory Board, consisting of the Provost, CFO, Student Government representative, Staff Council representatives, and Faculty President Loranger, will meet weekly over next three months to assist with the process.

Deans and Vice Presidents have been asked to provide a priority evaluation of the activities in their units based on the mission of providing high quality academic programs to the students, develop cost reduction scenarios, and make suggestions to merge or consolidate services and identify efficiencies.

Federal Textbook Requirement

Dr. Sudkamp reminded the Senators of the federal law requiring textbook adoptions to be submitted prior to when students are first able to register for classes, and of the proposed state law to require colleges to supply all books at a capped rate of \$300 per year. Dr. Sudkamp deferred further conversation on textbooks to Dan Krane who spoke more during the Executive Committee report.

ODHE Duplicate Program

The ODHE-required regional duplicative program report is ongoing. By the end of this academic year the university needs to submit a report to ODHE stating which programs it intends to continue offering. Deans have been asked to provide rationale for continuing programs that have been identified as being duplicated at Central State. The university will need to decide to continue offering the program(s), collaborate with Central State to share the program(s), or discontinue the program(s). While the goal is to not close any programs, the Board of Trustees has also asked that these programs be examined to determine if they are financially sound.

The university recently received \$800k dollars from the Choose Ohio First Scholarship program to award to students in high-demand STEM degree fields in the region.

Dr. Sudkamp announced that he met with the President and Provost of Edison Community College to demonstrate WSU's IVDL technology and discuss a trial of extending WSU 4-year degree programs to a community college partner.

Q&A

Senator Rooney raised a question about Summer teaching budgeting compared to Fall and Spring budgeting.

Dr. Sudkamp replied that the current Summer term budgeting rules do not make sense, and that Deans have been assured that any summer course with at least 15 attendees will not lose money.

Senator McClellan raised a question about a memo received by the unclassified

staff regarding changes to the involuntary separation policy.

Dr. Berberich & Dr. Sudkamp answered that it was one part aligning with other State institutions since WSU's policy was much more generous than any other IUC school. The other part is related to the budget remediation process since the university cannot afford to pay salaries up to a year after serving notice of separation.

Senator Kadakia raised a concern regarding the hiring freeze and why hiring with money from a grant has been frozen since it wouldn't impact the budget.

Dr. Sudkamp stated he needs to follow-up with Human Resources and the Strategic Hiring Committee regarding this issue.

Executive Committee Report

Financial Governance Policy

The Executive Committee met with the Faculty Budget Priority Committee and Trustee Doug Fecher, associate chair of the Board and chair of the Trustees' Finance Committee. This meeting was for the Board to share and get feedback on the Trustees' Draft Financial Governance Policy, linked below. Feedback is requested to the Senate by March 29, for reporting to the Trustees by March 31. A second draft will be prepared by April 15th, and the final draft will be completed by June. Among immediate concerns the EC shared with Trustee Fecher were issues of transparency and clear reporting for the future, as well as how to address student concerns about maintaining educational quality and institutional sustainability.

Trustee Fecher reported that the Trustees plan to work with administration on creating a budget website in an effort to keep the university community apprised of the budget status.

<https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Mar/meeting/Draft%20Financial%20Policy%20v.1%20030317.pdf>

Panopto Recommendation

The EC also discussed faculty feedback on the Panopto recommendation from February. As no concerns were received the EC recommended that the Senate accept the February recommendation of the IT Committee that the university proceed with the adoption of Panopto, permitting the Tegrity license to lapse with the provision that faculty receive the proffered assistance in moving the Tegrity files that need to be moved. Link below: https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Mar/meeting/IT_Tegrity_Rec_2017_03March.pdf

Textbook Resolutions

The EC reviewed a resolution passed by the Student Government Association in response to provisions in House Bill 49 regarding textbooks. A recommendation was made to charge the Student Success Committee with the task of seeking ways to reduce the costs of textbooks for Wright State students. A resolution regarding timely adoption of texts was offered and passed by the Senate. Link below: https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Mar/meeting/WSUTextbookresolution_2017_03March.pdf

New Business

Quadrennial Review

The Quadrennial Review Committee provided a list of proposed changes to the Faculty Constitution and a tracked-changes version for review by the Senate. Included in the proposals was the addition of a process by which the Faculty Vice President may be replaced if una-

ble to serve, and a reconfiguration of the Undergraduate Academic Program Review Committee into a more powerful General Education Oversight Committee. The revised constitution will be Old Business for the April senate meeting. All Faculty are asked to read all proposed changes thoroughly and provide feedback to their senators; the executive summary of the revision can be found here: <https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Mar/meeting/QuadReviewProposals.031017.pdf>. The tracked-changes version of the Faculty Constitution can be found here: https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Mar/meeting/Constitution_QR2017.pdf

UAPC Grading System Policy Changes

Changes to Policy #4010 of the Faculty Constitution regarding the undergraduate grading system were presented. Several new letter grades were proposed for both standard and Pass/Fail classes, as well as alterations to existing letter grades. These new grades have implications for student financial aid and institutional financial aid reporting. Particularly significant are the creation of the NR (No Record) indicating that there is no record that the student attended or participated in course effort, as distinct from the X grade, indicating the student attended or participated in course effort but did not complete the course or officially withdraw. For P/U courses the equivalent new grades would be XU, indicating the student attended or participated in a P/U graded class course effort but did not complete the course or officially withdraw, and the NU grade, indicating there is no record that the student attended or participated in course effort for a P/U graded class and the student did not attend or officially withdraw. UAPC chair Geoff Owen reminded Faculty that the I grade remains the appropriate grade for students who attended or participated in a course and were unable to complete the course, but have made arrangements to complete the required work. Assignment of other grades such as X will immediately negatively impact a student's access to financial aid. Proposed for elimination is the M grade. The full text of the recommended policy change can be found here: <https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Mar/meeting/GradingSystemCLEANFINAL.pdf>

Curricular Items

The following curricular items were reviewed: Nonprofit Administration Minor; Medical Laboratory Science Certificate; Medical Laboratory Science BS; Public Health BS; Public Health BA; Certificate in Business Analytics; and deactivation of the International Trade Minor. Senators moved to suspend the rules and put all items on the table for consideration as Old Business, in order to place them before the Trustees at their April meeting. All curricular items were unanimously approved.

There was no Old Business to be discussed at this month's Senate meeting.

Newsletters are co-written by Kat Adams and Nick Green.

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