

**Faculty Line #231
December 2019**

Colleagues,

Last month I completely lost my voice just as I was getting over a rotten head cold. For those of you who know me, you're well aware of the struggle I faced. But it gave me the opportunity to think about how important our metaphorical voice is, and the importance of not only being at the table but also accurately representing the priorities of faculty in a wide variety of venues. Please know that your faculty leadership and senators attempt to amplify our voice in every venue possible, most recently in discussions about the formation of a new Health College, meetings with Vice Provost Brun on program review, members of the Board of Trustees, and more. Please help us accurately represent your voice by speaking with us and sharing your priorities, values and concerns.

We all know that enrollment is the lifeline of the University. This Academic Year, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has decided to focus on the role that faculty members play in the recruitment and retention of our students. We partner with staff members, administrators, and students --especially Student Government Association (SGA) leaders -- in these vital efforts. As part of this focus, we are happy to invite D.K. Adrian Williams II, the Vice President of the Student Body and Executive Director of the Ohio Student Government Association, to speak at the December 9th meeting of the Faculty Senate. Adrian will be speaking about the "Retain the 9" initiative at Wright State, a program that was created by the WSU SGA via an executive order last fall, and designed to focus on all underrepresented minority students at Wright State. We look forward to learning more about this student-led initiative and its impact. As we plan for invited guests at the monthly Senate meetings in the spring semester, we will continue this focus on retention and recruitment.

Research Symposia

This April, our students at both the Dayton and the Lake campuses will have the opportunity to present their research at campus-wide symposia. At the Lake Campus, the symposium will be held on Thursday, April 16, and at the Dayton Campus, it will be on Friday, April 17, 2020. Faculty Vice President Brian Boyd is coordinating a committee for the symposium at the Dayton Campus, and he could still use a few volunteers to help make it happen. Please contact him at brian.boyd@wright.edu if you are able to assist. Please contact Dr. Megan Faragher (megan.faragher@wright.edu) if you are able to assist with the Lake Campus Symposium.

We especially appreciate the assistance of our Dunbar Libraries Staff in helping with much of the planning for the symposia, including the coordination of proposal submissions via CORE Scholar. Please encourage your students to submit their proposal at:

(http://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/urop_celebration/)

And, please mark your calendar to attend at least one of these events to show your support of our students and their research.

Commencement

We look forward to seeing many of you at commencement on Saturday, December 14, in the Nutter Center. Your presence means a great deal to your students (and their families). Please remember to arrive early and visit with your colleagues in the Berry Room.

If you are able to participate, **please register no later than Friday, December 6:**

https://epay.wright.edu/C21810_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1211&SINGLES_TORE=true

Upcoming meetings

Please remember that the Faculty Senate meets monthly at 2:30 in the Endeavor Room of the Student Union (E156). Our last Faculty Senate meeting of the calendar year will take place next **Monday, December 9**. All WSU Faculty, Staff and Students are welcome to attend. You can access the meeting schedule, agendas, supporting documents, meeting minutes, and more at <https://www.wright.edu/faculty-senate>.

Final thoughts

The WSU Faculty Senate is a representative, deliberative body. It operates best when all constituents are informed, engaged and active. Please familiarize yourself with university policies,¹contact your elected representatives² and share your thoughts. Please also join us at the monthly Faculty Senate meetings or volunteer to serve on one of our many standing committees, ad hoc committees, or working groups. We look forward to working closely with each of you. In the meantime, good luck wrapping up the semester!

Laura Luehrmann, Professor
Faculty Senate President

¹ <https://policy.wright.edu/>

² <https://www.wright.edu/faculty-senate/about/2019-20-officers-and-members>