

# FacultyLine

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Office of the University Faculty, 138 Fawcett Hall (775-3560)  
Faculty Line #228, February 11, 2019

Colleagues,

The last few weeks have been difficult for the entire campus community. It is with great relief that we all begin to take steps to return to normal operation.

## **Faculty Senate activity during the strike**

The regularly scheduled January 2019 meetings of both the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Faculty Senate failed to exceed the required 50% voting member quorum constitutionally required to conduct business. Therefore, all Faculty Senate business previously anticipated for January was postponed. Your Faculty Senate Executive Committee will meet as soon as possible to determine if any emergency action need be taken to address delays in Faculty governance. If you are aware of any item of stalled business that requires timely action, please inform me and/or your Faculty Senate Executive Committee representative immediately.

## **Institutional recovery**

The Faculty Senate will be immediately focused on institutional recovery from the consequences resulting from the Faculty strike. There is no doubt that many faculty, students, and staff feel very strongly about events of the past weeks. Let us all, very intentionally, take a long breath. It is vital that we focus on providing our students with an outstanding experience for the remainder of term. They deserve no less.

In the spirit of moving forward, and on behalf of Faculty leadership, I would like to thank all those who worked to move this compromise forward – on both sides. Although we were temporarily divided in action, the path forward requires unity. There is more now for us all to do.

Labor actions often leave hard feelings. To move forward, everyone will have to actively work to restore relations. For the good of the students, the university, and the long-term health of the faculty we must work extra hard to ensure that the events of the past weeks does not change the character of the University to which so many of us have devoted our careers.

Hopefully, our community of scholars will never again experience this kind of division. Everyone in our community should be invested in solving University challenges that have been years in the making. During my two decades at WSU, management and labor have normally worked together in productive cooperation. Faculty pass back and forth between management and labor roles occasionally. We are not and should not be enemies.

## **Classroom work and syllabi**

Teaching assignments are an authority of management. Course content is an authority of the Faculty. Whenever a faculty member becomes unavailable for a significant length of time (e.g. illness, resignation, etc.), chairs and deans must accommodate the instructional needs of the students. Please work with your chairs and deans to determine the status of any classes previously assigned and determine how best to give students appropriate credit for appropriate efforts undertaken in good faith

under alternative instruction. If necessary, consider producing an updated syllabus that specifies how you will use alternative assignments and/or make-up lost instructional time. These documents will be valuable in addressing future accreditation concerns related to this term.

### **Student petitions**

It is likely that students may have elected to change class sections or otherwise made final hour scheduling decisions for Spring 2019 in response to absent instructors and without access to their Faculty advisors. If appropriate, please feel free to invite students whose programs of study may be impacted by decisions made during the strike to make petitions to help them maintain appropriate progress towards graduation. I would hope that all petitions made by students who have acted in good faith in response to conditions outside of their control would be considered in the most favorable possible light.

### **Elections for Faculty Senate Officers**

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee welcomes nominations, including self-nominations, for the positions of Faculty President and Faculty Vice President. These positions have two-year terms, beginning Summer 2019. The nomination period for Faculty President, Vice President, and Faculty Senators are now open. The nomination period closes on Monday, February 25. Please see the Faculty Senate Elections webpage<sup>1</sup> for a complete election schedule, procedures, nomination forms, and a listing of qualifications & duties.

### **Final thoughts**

Please remember that the Faculty Senate is a representative body. Let your Faculty Senators know where you stand on the issues so that we can fairly and accurately represent the Faculty in our recommendations and official opinions. Tentative agendas, final agendas, and approved minutes of all Faculty Senate business are available online for your consideration.<sup>2</sup> Please contact your Faculty Senators<sup>3</sup> or Faculty Senate officers with your thoughts, concerns, and positions on these (and future) issues so that they can fairly and accurately represent you in Senate deliberations and business.

Faculty Senate meetings are open to all. The next Senate meeting is Monday, February 25, at 2:30 pm, in the Student Union Endeavor Room (E156 SU). The Faculty Senate looks forward to hearing from and questioning President Schrader and Provost Edwards on the state of the University. As always, we invite you to join us.

Travis Doom, Professor  
Faculty President

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wright.edu/faculty-senate/about/faculty-membership-senate-elections>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wright.edu/faculty-senate>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.wright.edu/faculty-senate/about/2018-19-officers-and-members>