



**Faculty Office
138 Fawcett Hall
facultyoffice@wright.edu**

***Faculty Line #242
October 9, 2020***

Dear colleagues,

I hope that you and yours each remain well and that you are finding ways to appreciate the beauty of Autumn this year, in spite of the many challenges we continue to face. In this communication, I provide some brief updates about our work in the Faculty Senate, as well as spotlight the recent work of one of our standing committees.

October Faculty Senate Meeting:

As a reminder, the Faculty Office in 138 Fawcett will remain closed for Fall Semester, and our staff will be working remotely during this time. We will be checking for mail or deliveries at least once a week, but email will remain the most efficient form of communication; facultyoffice@wright.edu or laura.luehrmann@wright.edu.

We hope many of you will join us for the second Faculty Senate meeting of the Academic Year: **Monday, October 12, at 2:30**. All Faculty Senate meetings for Fall Semester will be conducted remotely via Webex; the link is available from the Faculty Senate agenda on our webpage: wright.edu/faculty-senate.

RaiderStrong Initiative: Support our Students:

Many of you may remember participating in the efforts last spring to individually call every currently enrolled student, undergraduate and graduate, to check in and provide guidance after our switch to remote learning. We are reviving the program for Fall 2020, and hoping that we can count on many of our faculty colleagues to join in on this very tangible way of demonstrating support for our students. Please sign up asap to be included in a brief training program and receive your list of students to call. Thanks in advance!

<http://bit.ly/RaiderStrongHelp>

Important Deadlines for Curriculum Committees:

As was discussed in the September Faculty Senate meeting, as well as in both the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC) and Graduate Curriculum Committees (GCC), the integration of our curriculum approval process via Curriculog and the online catalog necessitates more careful attention to submission and approval deadlines for courses, certificates and programs. Most importantly, items that have not made their way through the full committee approval process by the end of the Academic Year will be cleared from the queue and therefore need to be re-submitted from scratch for consideration at the beginning of the following Academic Year.

Items that require Faculty Senate, Board of Trustees, and/or approval by the Ohio Department of Higher Education need to be submitted to the UCC or GCC in January (meaning that they need to have completed the college-wide approval processes prior to this time; ideally, by the end of December). New programs that are out of committee but not approved by the Faculty Senate before the end of the Academic Year may be considered at the following September Senate meeting, but they will not be included in the catalog for that

Academic Year. Additionally, beginning Fall 2020, all combined degree programs (sometimes referred to as 4+1 programs), must originate in UCC.

Please note these important deadlines, and make sure all members of departmental and college curriculum committees are aware of them. If you have any questions, reach out to UCC Chair Barb Dunaway, GCC Chair Misty Richmond, or your college representative on either of these committees.¹ Thanks to all who are serving on these committees, as well as to our staff colleagues in the Registrar's Office for their continued support of this important work.

Faculty Senate Committee Spotlight: FBPC:

This year, the Faculty Budget Priorities Committee (FBPC) is chaired by Laura Luehrmann, with Eric Bennett serving as Vice-Chair. As one of the 12 standing committees of the Faculty Senate, the FBPC is charged with "requesting information from the university budget director and the university administration regarding university income and expenditures and all other items of budgetary concern, including projected and actual budget reports; examining all fiscal affairs of the university; and recommending fiscal priorities to the faculty Senate and university administration."² In keeping with this charge, over the summer, the committee began drafting a document to guide considerations and decision-making in the committee and beyond. After significant discussion and involvement by members of the FBPC, the committee formally approved the document, and requested that it be shared with the faculty, the administration, and the WSU Board of Trustees. The full text is included at the bottom of this newsletter for your reference.

Concluding Thoughts:

In closing, continue to take care of yourselves and each other. In this mostly remote environment, please also remember to be as intentional as possible in communication, especially with our students. Sometimes, just a small extra effort can make a world of difference. As always, don't hesitate to reach out if I may ever be of assistance, and I hope to see many of you Monday afternoon!

With warm regards,

Laura Luehrmann, Professor
Faculty President
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¹ https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/page/attachments/AY2020-21_CommitteeRoster.pdf

² <https://policy.wright.edu/policy/2010-faculty-constitution> (Section 8c, 9).

Budget Priorities for Wright State University
Faculty Budget Priorities Committee
Summer 2020

Purpose

The Faculty Budget Priorities Committee (FBPC) is charged with examining the fiscal affairs of the university and recommending fiscal priorities to the Faculty Senate and university administration. The FBPC offers the following lenses through which to view current and upcoming proposals, and to help set the financial priorities for the University. The categories include (1) Ensuring Equitable Access to a Quality Education for All Students, (2) Graduate Education and the Scholarly Profile of the University, and (3) Communication and Organization of Financial Information.

Ensure Equitable Access to a Quality Education for All Students

Wright State University provides access to Raider Country students and others who seek a high-quality education at an affordable price. WSU students, staff, and faculty reflect the diversity of Raider Country, as reflected in race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability status, religious beliefs, military status, and prior academic experiences. WSU values the purposeful investment in the structural development, cultivation, and maintenance, of an inclusive and equitable university system.

WSU's budget priorities should demonstrate a deliberate and continuous implementation of policies, practices, and procedures that enable the success of WSU students, staff, and faculty from marginalized communities. Students, staff and faculty from marginalized populations continue to face barriers created and supported by structural and systemic racism. Budget priorities should demonstrate an investment in supporting members of the WSU community who face these barriers in their educational and professional development. This investment is reflected in organizational designs, programs, policies, personnel, etc. that support, with transparency and accountability, equitable access to a quality education for all students.

WSU budget priorities should include quantitative and qualitative assessments from diverse sets of faculty, students, staff and others who support the success of our students. Priorities focused on equitable access to a quality education can only be ensured when a diversity of students, staff, and faculty are engaged in meaningful ways to establish budget priorities based on meaningful assessments of diversity in the context of the demographics of each unit and program. We recommend that as budget priorities are implemented, processes need to be developed and monitored to ensure that students have appropriate access to faculty, support for their success, advisors and mentors, and resources that contribute to their health and well-being.

Graduate Education and the Scholarly Profile of the University

Wright State University values the contributions that faculty make to their respective professions and society at large. Faculty scholarly endeavors provide opportunities to maintain content expertise, to provide the most up to date information to students, and to guide the next generation of change-makers in their fields. Faculty scholarly projects enhance graduate program quality by providing unique opportunities for graduate students in various fields to gain practical experiences to complement and expand upon theoretical ideas.

Budget priorities must continue to support graduate education at WSU. This support is directly linked to the research and scholarly profile of the university. The budget priorities must reflect and enhance the diversity of both scholars and scholarly work at Wright State. Budget priorities should provide mechanisms to specifically support research and scholarly work of students and faculty of underrepresented groups, and should provide funding for graduate students consistently throughout their program.

Communication and Organization of Financial Information

As a public institution, WSU is committed to accountability in its financial activities. WSU fully discloses financial information to a wide range of stakeholders including our Board of Trustees, publicly elected officials, and the general public. The WSU Finance Budget Priorities Committee (FBPC) is responsible for "examin[ing]

the fiscal affairs of the university and recommending fiscal priorities to the Faculty Senate and university administration”. In order to effectively meet its charge, it is imperative that university provide the FBPC with timely and detailed financial data on a regular basis. Regular and timely financial information affords the FBPC the opportunity to review the data and provide the Faculty Senate and university administration with meaningful recommendations and promotes trust and collaboration between the Board of Trustees, upper administration, faculty, and staff. The transparency and accountability established through this process will foster community support and affirmation of difficult decisions.

This committee will fulfill its role only through unfettered access to comprehensive data and comprehensible financial metrics, and managerial summaries. Examples of required reporting include:

- Goals and targets for any for new and current budget priorities, initiatives, or savings
- Progress toward budgetary goals and targets over time, as a way to track progress
- Establishment of well-publicized, accessible, and regularly updated details of budget projections, initiatives and realizations
- Longitudinal accounting for each unit of all significant sources of income and expenditures along with budget influences including personnel, benefits, enrollment, subsidies, maintenance, investments, etc.
- Specific investments to address diversity inequities in each unit or program
- Longitudinal quantitative assessments of diversity demonstrating the impact of investments in the context of the demographics of each unit or program.