Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee met several times over the summer to determine how to advise the administration with their plans to reorganize the upper-level administration. The Executive Committee is pleased with the administration’s decision to appoint Thomas Sudkamp as Provost and Mark Polatajko as Chief Operations Officer.

The Senate will ask the University Buildings and Grounds Committee to account for parking spaces that were lost during the construction of the new buildings and to follow up on the Parking Resolution passed in April 15, 2013.

The Library of the Future Taskforce is being formed and will be charged to review the Wright State Dunbar Library's collection with respect to faculty teaching and scholarship needs and to the student learning and research needs. The GE Core Assessment Taskforce will conduct a thorough assessment of the current Wright State Core, with attention to student progress through general education and course availability. Last year’s GE review subcommittee report remains on the table until assessment is complete.

Commencement Committee

Commencement Committee chair Dr. Eric Rowley met with the Faculty Senate to discuss possible changes in Wright State's current commencement driven by its increasing enrollment. Dr. Rowley presented to the Senate a short questionnaire to gather information from faculty and possibly students. Faculty members, who have suggestions concerning the commencement ceremonies, are invited to contact Dr. Rowley at eric.rowley@wright.edu.

New Business

Distance Education Task Force Report

Dr. Sean Pollock presented findings from the Taskforce on Distance Education’s (TDE) report. The Taskforce found an increase from 4,608 students taking distance education courses in the fall 2013 to 6,357 students in the fall of 2014, an increase of 37.9%. The success rate for undergraduate distance courses was 83% compared to 81% for traditional courses, and 94% for graduate distance courses compared to 96% success rate. However, the report also showed that a startling 84% of courses had un-proctored exams, and only 8% had proctored exams. 5% of classes had proctored quizzes, and 3% had both. Success rate was determined by students receiving an A, B, or C in the course and does not measure persistence of grade. The TDE report made a case for more centralized oversight and support for developing effective distance learning and recommends universi ty standards for terminology and designations of distance education. The report includes a number of policy proposals for implementation in distance education. The TDE suggests that the University make distance education a part of its strategic plan and budget. It also recommends that online ordinance courses be set up in order to ensure student preparedness for online learning.

The report advises that classes be examined for use in distance learning environments. Finally, the report proposes a task force be developed to ensure online accessibility to safeguard compliance with disability standards.

Wright State Assessment

Dr. Carl Bruin and Dr. Renee Atken presented a report on assessment. To ensure continuous accreditation, the university needs a robust assessment process of systematically examining patterns of student learning across courses and programs and using this information to improve educational practices. To facilitate assessment, the administration is offering seven 2-hour online workshops. Those who complete them will receive a certificate.

Council Reports

Research Council

The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to reject the Research Council’s summer report following discussion of various details in the report. After the rejection, the Senate also voted in favor of having the Research Council submit a fully revised report for the October Senate meeting. The VicePresident for Research and Graduate Studies, Dr. Fufko, is set to speak before the Senate at the October 12 meeting on the reorganization of the Wright State Research Institute (WSRI).

Faculty Line

Faculty Senate Meeting dates, agendas and minutes: www.wright.edu/administration/senate.

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