



Faculty Senate Newsletter

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College of Science & Mathematics

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Faculty Senate Meeting Highlights

The January 23, 2017 meeting covered a variety of topics including the BRIDGE Resolution, the UAPC Credit Hour Policy,

budget remediation updates, and various curriculum changes. To learn more about the issues discussed, please read below.



From the President's Report

Dr. Hopkins invited everyone to attend the first Presidential Lecture Series of 2017 featuring Dan Rather, former long-time CBS news anchor & 60 Minutes correspondent. The lecture will start at 7:00pm, Tuesday, January 31st at the Nutter Center. <http://www.wright.edu/events/presidential-lecture-series-dan-rather>

Dr. Hopkins invited Greg Sample to the podium to address concerns raised by Senator Rizki at the December Senate meeting regarding the hiring of contractors, architects, and other outside agencies that have failed to deliver as promised in the past (poor quality work, cost overruns, etc).

Mr. Sample gave the Senate a brief overview of the ongoing overhaul of the Facilities Management Division, including a reduction in personnel, restructuring to break-up silos, and to expand interaction with building occupants and stakeholders.

In response to a question from the floor, Mr. Sample expressed that Facilities Management will continue to work within State and Federal guidelines with regards to the Campus Woods, and that a point of contact will be made available for faculty who use the Woods. Mr. Sample also mentioned a new conservation easement protecting 15 acres of the Woods. <https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Jan/meeting/SenateWoodsCmteRept0117.pdf>

Budget Remediation Updates

Dr. Hopkins spoke at length regarding the ongoing budget remediation. The following is a summary of the topics discussed:

Anticipated Revenue

The University did not plan for State Share of Instruction dollars in the original budget, however the university has received \$3.1 million in SSI funds this year.

For over 20 years the university used returns on investment to help balance the university budget, however the university lost \$10 million in anticipated investment return to budget over a recent 2-year period. The current budget forecasted a \$2.5 million return for FY17, which we are slightly above at this time. Starting in fiscal year 2018, the university will no longer use return on investment forecasts when developing the yearly budget.

While retention and domestic enrollment is up slightly, total enrollment is down, mainly due to a 21% decrease in international students. This has resulted in a \$9-\$10 million reduction in enrollment revenue compared to the anticipated budget.

Expenses

While nearly 70% of the university budget is in personnel expenses, the university has already taken some substantial actions through the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program and targeted workforce reductions.

Dr. Hopkins will be meeting with all of the Deans and Vice Presidents this week to discuss additional actions that can be taken to reduce expenses. Every unit will be challenged to identify more areas to forgo or delay non-essential expenses. Dr. Hopkins also stressed that the university must continue to examine areas of duplication and focus on developing innovative approaches to grow our revenue streams through recruitment and retention.

Reserves

Some of the upfront costs of recent building projects and the budget remediation were met by using reserve funding with the goal to replenish those reserves via fundraising. A major challenge is that 99% of donations are restricted to certain uses; the administration is working with the Foundation to identify and reimburse the university where applicable.

The Wright State Applied Research Corporation has made \$2.4 million in debt repayments to the university this fiscal year.

The administration is also investigating several private/public partnerships and monetizing assets. The university recently sold property in Yellow Springs and has additional land for sale. The university is also continuing to investigate the parking opportunities.

Provost Report

In reference to the DACA / BRIDGE Act Resolution on the meeting agenda, Dr. Sudkamp informed the Senate that all of the IUC Schools have signed a letter in support of the BRIDGE Act.

The B.S. in Neuroscience and B.S.B. in Entrepreneurship were presented to the Board of Trustees last week. They will be up for approval during the public Board meeting in February, if approved they will be sent to ODHE for final approval.

Dr. Rosalie Mainous, dean of the College of Nursing and Health, has accepted the position of director of academic nursing development for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in Washington, D.C. Dr. Deb Ulrich will serve as interim dean during the transition.

As required by law, the university is conducting a review of duplicative programs in the region as identified by the State of Ohio. Central State is the only other university in the same region as Wright State. A preliminary report is due by April 30th, a follow-up report in September, and a final report in December. If duplicative programs with low enrollment are identified, the university will first work with Central State in an effort to share programs.

The university has received \$2 million earmarked for laboratory renovations. The university will work with the Senate Building & Grounds Committee and faculty to prioritize current needs.

Executive Committee Report

BRIDGE Resolution

The Executive Committee presented a resolution in support of the bipartisan BRIDGE (Bar Removal of Individuals Who Dream of Growing our Economy) act currently before the U.S. Senate which would provide to non-U.S. students at U.S. universities, including Wright, State the authorization to work and protection from deportation. The resolution was unanimously approved, and can be viewed at the link below. https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Jan/meeting/DACAresolutionWSU_final.pdf

Gen Ed Ad Hoc Report

Co-chair Senator Laura Luehrmann presented the report of the General Education/Core Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee, which can be viewed at the following links. Report: https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Jan/meeting/Core_Report_January_2017.pdf. Presentation: https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Jan/meeting/Core_Committee_Report_2017.pptx. The committee recommends that the university "Promote importance of Core" through better communication to faculty, students, and advisors; and systematically gather (and share) exit interview data. The committee also recommends a return to stronger Faculty oversight of the Core through recharge of the appropriate committee. Senator Carrafiello moved that the Senate instruct the EC to present a plan for addressing the committee recharge recommendation at the February meeting. This motion was unanimously passed.

Enrollment Management

Vice President Ashley gave the following presentation on Enrollment Management actions and outcomes. https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Jan/meeting/BOT_January_2017.pptx. This semester the Senate plans to look into the university's recruiting efforts for undergraduate, graduate, and international students.

Library Taskforce

As a result of the Libraries of the Future Taskforce report received in December, the Senate will charge and populate an ad hoc Library Advisory committee for 2017-18.

Charge to Research Council

At the Senate's direction, the EC has drafted a revised charge to the Research Council for inclusion in QR and implementation on ad hoc basis this year. The committee is fine-tuning the charge in conversation with the VPR and faculty membership of the council.

Presidential Candidate Forum

The EC was asked to develop a guiding topic for Presidential Candidate presentations to faculty forums in February. The topic the EC provided was "The University Faculty are particularly interested in the candidate's prior experience with budget remediation and the strategy s/he has or would employ in addressing pressing budget issues while preserving the integrity and quality of academic programs, particularly with respect to the candidate's understanding of the Faculty's role in shared governance."

Faculty are urged to make every effort to attend the public fora for each Presidential candidate.

Old Business

UAPC Credit Hour Policy

Faculty Vice President Doom opened for Senate discussion a motion to substitute certain wording regarding study abroad in the UAPC Credit Hour Policy. The change, arrived at in consultation with faculty and staff closely involved with study abroad programming, omitted the separate Study Abroad section, incorporating study abroad courses with "Other" courses. The substitute language also addresses how travel time may or may not be counted as "student work effort." The motion was unanimously passed by the Faculty Senate. The full text of the motion can be found here: https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Jan/meeting/UAPC_CreditHourMotion.pdf

New Business

Curricular Items

The proposed new Electrical Engineering program, Computer Engineering Technology, was moved to old business for the February agenda without discussion.

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