From the President’s Report: The Grand Opening for the new Student Success Center is scheduled for Friday, October 9, 2015. The Rise. Shiane. Campaign currently has $512M raised for the future of Wright State University and to support the people of Wright State through student scholarships, endowed positions for faculty chairs, and professorships. President Hopkins completed his sixth regional launch last week in New York City and will soon travel to Los Angeles, Washington D.C., and Cincinnati. The State Budget updates are as follows:

- The State Support for Instruction (SSI) increased to 4.5 percent the first year following 4.0 percent increase in year two.
- President Hopkins will attend a retreat of presidents at all four year institutions in Ohio. They will discuss capital allocation for deferred maintenance of existing buildings at Ohio universities.

From the Provost’s Report: Fall Semester enrollment update: • Undergraduate enrollment has increased 7.7% • Graduate enrollment has increased 4.8% • Direct from high school admissions increased 3.2% • Total new undergraduate students increased 13.6% • International Graduate students increased 16.8% Dr. Steve Berberich, Associate Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs will chair the 360 Degree review of international students across campus. Policies, procedures, and support structures to assist these students will be reviewed in all areas across campus. An external committee will be assembled to conduct a comprehensive review upon the completion of the internal 360 review. With the upcoming retirement of Dr. Stephen Foster, a search committee for the University Center for International Education will begin in November. 2015. The Classroom Modernization prototype classrooms are now fully operational in 150 Russ and 135 Oelman; please take a moment to look at these classrooms and provide feedback. The university plans to update 112 Olmian and 101 Fawcett during the winter break and through spring semester. The 5% Budget Bill Challenge is for each institution to identify a way in which students will have the opportunity to achieve a five percent savings in the cost of attendance. Wright State proposed to offer the following measures to provide discounts for students and will submit their report to the Board of Trustees for review and then to the Chancellor’s Office in October, 2015.

- A summer discount program to students who complete 24-credit hours during fall and spring semester
- Ensure all programs have 120-credit hour maximum
- Require course textbooks to be listed at the beginning of registration which will allow students to find a more economical means of purchasing books
- Offer College Credit Plus courses will allow high school students within a 50-mile radius to earn six credit hours while in high school.

In addition to the student savings of the Budget Bill Challenge, the Board of Trustees will review courses and programs with low enrollments and report to the Chancellor’s Office by January 1, 2016. The development of an implementation strategy to incorporate work experience into curriculum must be completed, reviewed by the Board of Trustees and submitted to the Chancellor in December 31, 2015.

Executive Committee Report

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 length and problematic trends, such as early departure from ceremonies and low participation from both graduates and faculty. In an effort to “make the experience better for everyone involved,” the committee is proposing separate commencements for undergraduate and graduate students, both to be held on the same day. The Committee plans to circulate 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. 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 to Provost and Mark Polatjak to Chief Operations Officer. The Senate will ask the University Buildings and Grounds Committee to follow up on parking spaces that were lost during the construction of the new buildings and the Parking Resolution passed on April 15, 2013.

The Library of the Future Taskforce is being convened to determine how to meet the University and to support the future of Wright State as follows: President Hopkins will attend a retreat of presidents at all four year institutions in Ohio. They will discuss capital allocation for deferred maintenance of existing buildings at Ohio universities.

New Business

Education Task Force Report
Dr. Sean Pollock presented findings from the Taskforce on Distance Education’s (TDE) report. The TDE was formed to review the Wright State Core, with attention to student learning and research needs. The report makes a number of recommendations, including:

1. 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.
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Student Savings

Student savings continue to be a focus for the University. The 5% Budget Bill Challenge is for each institution to identify a way in which students will have the opportunity to achieve a five percent savings in the cost of attendance. Wright State proposed to offer the following measures to provide discounts for students and will submit their report to the Board of Trustees for review and then to the Chancellor’s Office in October, 2015.

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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 Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies, Dr. Fyffe, is set to speak before the Senate at the October 12 meeting on the reorganization of the Wright State Research Institute (WSRI).

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

By Faculty Senate Interns: Arica Rohn, and Jonathan Dillen