

FacultyLine

Office of the University Faculty, 138 Fawcett Hall (937) 775-2039
Faculty Line #216, March 30, 2012

The Faculty Senate will be considering a number of important matters at its meeting on Monday of next week including a proposed non-BUF workload agreement, and proposed changes to the University's catalog.

Student Success – The Senate passed a series of 13 resolutions and two policy changes at the recommendation of an ad hoc committee on student success. This significant accomplishment created a number of new ad hoc committees including ones charged with: overseeing University College; the formalization of admissions policies; the development of freshman seminars and learning communities; the development of a three-year plan to increase opportunities for students to engage in service learning and undergraduate research; and a three-year plan to increase preparedness of students from local high schools. Working through that number and scope of the resolutions and policies changes in one meeting probably constitutes a record for our Faculty Senate but speaks to the strong commitment of our Faculty to the success of our students. A further testament to that commitment is the work that is now being done by approximately forty faculty who have agreed to serve on one or more of those committees.

In a separate but related effort to improve student success, the Provost's Office has invited two faculty members from Northern Arizona University to give presentations at Wright State on Thursday and Friday of next week about how they established a successful campus-wide First Year Learning Initiative in the summer of 2011. Topics will include the creation of a First Year Seminar Program, the redesign of accounting, science and composition classes to meet student engagement and active learning goals, and the transformation of introductory mathematics courses. More information about these speakers and their presentations can be found at:

<http://www.wright.edu/administration/senate/senators/FacultyLine/documents/Flyer-IncreasingStuEngagementSuccessFirstYear.pdf>.

Non-BUF Workload Agreement – The Faculty Senate's Faculty Affairs Committee has been working with the Provost's Office for almost two years on the generation of a workload agreement that would establish workloads for instructors and lecturers as we make the transition to semesters next fall. The Faculty Affairs Committee would like the Senate to consider the agreement as old business as it was presented last month with only the addition of language pertinent to the College of Nursing and Health (displayed as a "tracked change" in the draft agreement at:

<http://www.wright.edu/administration/senate/senage/documents/NonBUFMFAcultyWorkloadFinal2-24-12withamendment.pdf>).

If you have suggestions or concerns about this proposed workload agreement for non-BUFs please feel free to share them with me, with a member of the Faculty Affairs Committee (Cheryl Conley, COSM, Chair; Annette Canfield, CONH; Diane Huelskamp, LAKE; Greta Knigga, CEHS; Joan Lumpkin, RSCOB; Sarah McGinley, COLA; Vanessa Starkey, CECS), or with your college's representatives to the Faculty Senate.

Catalog Changes – On March 13 the administration asked that the Senate consider a set of proposed changes to the University's Catalog (available at: <http://www.wright.edu/administration/senate/documents/UniversityCatalog.pdf>) that would need to go on-line for incoming and transferring students in May. Most of the proposed changes are relatively trivial (e.g. they replace "3 quarters" with "2 semesters") but some might require more careful consideration (such as the "good standing" policy where a student can be on probation and in good standing at the same time; see the "Catalog Policies" document at: <http://www.wright.edu/administration/senate/documents/CatalogPolicieswchangestracked.pdf>). Recognizing the short time frame to work with and the nature of the proposed changes, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee asked the Graduate Council and the Undergraduate Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee (UCAPC) to give it feedback on the proposed changes. The proposed changes will now come up during the Executive Committee report at Monday's Senate meeting in the hopes that a determination can be made of the Senate's comfort with granting provisional approval to publish a changed on-line catalog (with "Interim pending development of a semester revision" prominently displayed). The Executive Committee expects the proposed catalog changes to come before the Senate as new business at the May Senate meeting so that the changes can be either accepted or the provisional approval can be revoked as old business at the June Senate meeting. Both UCAPC and Graduate Council would then have the opportunity to make recommendations about the proposed changes at the May Senate meeting after they have had a chance to look at them more carefully.

Faculty Governance – Elections for each college's Senate representatives are currently underway. Nominations for Faculty President-Elect for 2013-14 will continue to be accepted until 5 PM on Monday, April 16. A memo from the Provost establishes that the President of the Faculty shall have a teaching-load reduction of approximately two-thirds during the Fall and Spring Semesters of his or her term of office, or the equivalent. In colleges where the standard teaching load is five classes, normally the President of the Faculty will teach one class per semester and will in addition have his or her other teaching-related activities reduced, as far as possible. These include activities like advising, supervision of internships and theses, participation in laboratory instruction, involvement in department assessment of teaching, and so on. In colleges where the standard teaching load is four classes, the President of the Faculty will teach

one class during the year with no reduction of his or her other teaching-related activities. The President-Elect of the Faculty shall have a one-course reduction in his or her full-time teaching load for the Spring Semester of his or her term of office.

Please look for your Faculty Senators and especially those who represent you on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to provide updates on the activities of the Faculty Senate at your College's faculty meetings. Faculty governance will work best if we have a good flow of information both to and from faculty and the Senate. As always, also feel free to send any comments, suggestions or concerns about our efforts to "transform the lives of our students and the communities we serve" to your senators, the Faculty Office (Pam.Zambenini@wright.edu; 775-2039) or directly to me (Dan.Krane@wright.edu; 775-2257).

Upcoming Events – Wright State may well graduate its 100,000th student at our June 9 Commencement. Acting upon a recommendation from the Faculty Senate's Commencement Committee, the Board of Trustees today approved the awarding of an honorary degree to the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra's Principal Conductor, Neal Gittleman, as part of that ceremony. Please plan on attending this celebration of the success of our students – interacting with faculty there means a great deal to both the graduates and their families. And, please let me know (Dan.Krane@wright.edu) if there are faculty who will be in attendance that you feel should be given special recognition for their accomplishments when I give my own remarks during the ceremony.

Monday's Faculty Senate meeting will be at 2:15 PM in E156 of the Student Union. All are very welcome to attend. An agenda for the meeting can be found at: <http://www.wright.edu/administration/senate/senage/documents/SenAgnApril12.pdf>.

Best wishes for a productive spring quarter!

Dan Krane

Faculty President