FACULTY SENATE NEWSLETTER

College of Engineering & Computer Science

From the President's Report
Provost S. Narayanan, reporting for the President

• Governor Kasich has released his biennium budget.

• It includes a proposed 2% increase in the SSI in the first year and another 2% increase in the SSI for the second year.

• The Governor's budget allows for a maximum 2% increase in tuition for the first year, and 0% for the second year.

• There is a $20 million Innovation Fund that supports specific initiatives aimed at efficiencies and affordability in Higher Education.

• The Kasich administration also proposes permitting community colleges to offer four-year degrees in applied and technical fields. Such four year degree programs must go through the chancellor's approval process and may not reproduce a program offered by a four-year university, main campus or branch campus, within a 30 mile radius of the community college.

• The governor has issued an executive order on affordability and efficiency in higher education. The order includes creation of a taskforce that led by OSU chief financial officer Geoffrey Chatas.

• Among the initiatives proposed by the taskforce may be increasing shared services and privatizing nonacademic assets.

• The Ohio Senate is moving forward with SB 4, which would reduce tuition by 5% over two years.

• Faculty Senate Leadership has made a list for the service units to be looked at, and we also have a list from Council of Deans, and we hope to be able to announce the first three units that will be accessed as we move forward with the budget model.

• The Council of Deans has reached consensus on a 50-50 tuition split between the department offering the course and the student's home unit under MDA. This is a change from the original 25 -75 split, with 25% going to the unit offering the course.

• The 2015 campus scholarship Innovation Campaign kick-off has begun.

From the Provost's Report

Vice President Tom Sudkamp reporting for the Provost:

• Dr. Carl Brun has been named Assistant Vice President for University Curricular Programs. He will serve as liaison to the Ohio Board of Regents on the Ohio Transfer Module, Transfer Assurance Guides, and statewide articulation projects; head Wright State's participation in the Prior Learning with a Purpose-Ohio Board of Regents initiative on competency based education; and will provide administrative support for the Wright State Core and the Writing Across the Curriculum programs.

• One year remains before the Higher Learning Commission visit. On March 20, everyone will be invited to a presentation and lunch at 12:30 in the Endeavor Room of the Student Union to learn where we are, what the process is, what to expect the coming year, and what to expect when the review team comes to campus.

Executive Committee Report

Tobacco Free Policy

The Senate Executive Committee met with Dr. Mary Chase, Professor of Public Health, to discuss the administration's proposed Tobacco-free policy (tabled at the January meeting) that would ban smoking everywhere on campus. If implemented, students, faculty and staff who are caught violating this policy would face increasing penalties. Chase, who has some expertise on tobacco policy, recommended that the WSU administration work to develop a policy that would lead to positive changes instead of focusing on penalties. The senate decided to table the resolution indefinitely.
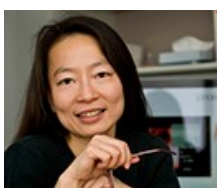
Volunteer for the Athletic Council

Dr. Susan Carrafiello, Associate Professor and Director of the University Honors Program, is the new volunteer for the athletic council and representative for the senate.

House Bill 616: Textbook Policy

The Executive Committee reported on Ohio House Bill 616 that proposes a textbook policy that would limit the use proprietary or custom textbooks. As proposed, a customized textbook is defined as any combination of journal articles, photographs, book excerpts, any compilation of original manuscripts, and any supplementary educational material authored in part by the faculty member. Although the goal of this policy appears to be to reduce the cost of course materials for students; as written the policy limits a faculty member's ability to create custom content such as laboratory manuals or compendiums of reading materials even if these materials are sold at cost to students. Because of these concerns, the Executive Committee informed the Ohio Faculty Council that the Wright State Faculty Senate opposes this bill.

Introduction of Craig Woolley

Craig Woolley, WSU's new Chief Information Officer, introduced himself before the Faculty Senate at its February 23 meeting. Woolley will oversee information technology policy, programs and planning. He is also responsible for the leadership of Computing and Telecommunications (CATs). Woolley brings to Wright State more than 27 years' experience in managing higher education information technology with a strong focus on the customer.

February Business

Resolution in Support of the AAUP Centennial Declaration

This year marks the centennial celebration of the 1915 AAUP Declaration of Principles of Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure. The Executive Committee introduced the following Resolution in Support of AAUP as new business:

Whereas the core mission of the American Association of University Professor (AAUP) is to advance academic freedom and shared governance;

• Whereas this year marks the centennial celebration of the 1915 AAUP Declaration of Principles of Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure; and

• Whereas the AAUP-WSU and Wright State Faculty Senate stand together in their desire to protect faculty rights and promote principles of shared governance; now therefore, be it Resolved that the Wright State Faculty Senate:

1) Strongly Supports the principles of academic freedom and academic tenure codified by the AAUP;

2) Applauds the AAUP and AAUP-WSU for their leadership in protecting the core values of the institutions of higher education; and

3) Congratulates AAUP on their centennial celebration

Senator Doom (CECS) moved to suspend the rules, citing the timeliness of the AAUP's Centennial Declaration. All senators present were in favor of the suspension and by a unanimous decision, the Faculty Senate approved the resolution upholding core AAUP values of academic freedom and academic tenure, as well as the AAUP's and Wright State's leadership role in protecting these values. The resolution was approved by unanimous vote.

Building and Grounds

Wright State is close to implementing a $5 Million Renovation Classroom Project. Building and Grounds Committee Chair Dr. James Menart discussed B&G's role in the decision-making process in determining which classrooms have the potential to be renovated and why. A study conducted by Woolpert assessed the condition and quality of all of the classrooms on campus. Each classroom has been given a rating between 1 (outdated and non-conducive for teaching) and 5 (updated to incorporate the latest technology and pedagogical practice). Because the $5 million renovation will not cover all of the classrooms, B&G is asking members to deliberate with their Deans about any pressing issues— furniture, spatial layout, outdated technology or inadequate lighting—and to submit that information to james.menart@wright.edu. A list will be compiled and then sent to the university administration.

Faculty Line

Election Updates

• Dr. Carol Loranger will be the candidate for Faculty President

• Dr. Doug Petkie & Dr. Melissa Gruys will be the candidates for the Faculty Vice President

Election ballots or Faculty Officers and Senators will begin the week of March 9-13

Next scheduled Faculty Senate Meeting: March 23, 2015

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

By Faculty Senate Interns: Elizabeth George, Arica Rohn, and Talya Flowers

CECS Senators

Dr. Caroline Cao
BIE Professor and Professor of Surgery
caroline.cao @wright.edu

Dr. Travis Doom
Associate Chair and Professor of Computer Science
Executive Committee
travis.doom @wright.edu

Dr. Fred Garber
Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
fred.garber @wright.edu