From the President’s Report

Provoit 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.
  • The budget includes a $20 million Innovation Fund that supports specific initiatives to improve efficiency and affordability in Higher Education.
• The Kasich administration also proposed permitting community colleges to offer four-year degrees in applied and technical fields. Such four-year degree programs must go through the usual approval process.

From the Provost’s Report:

• 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 Transfers Module, Transfer Assurance Guides, and statewide articulation projects; Dr. Brun will head Wright’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

House Bill 616: Textbook Policy

The Ohio Faculty Council has requested feedback on Ohio House Bill 616, which would prohibit faculty from assigning proprietary or custom textbooks for a course unless that course is offered exclusively by the institution. The intention of the bill appears to be prevent faculty from profiting from textbook selection. However, as written, the bill fails to consider customizations that might save students money. If this policy is implemented, instructors will be unable to use custom material that that may reduce costs. Faculty would also be prohibited from assigning textbooks they have authored, regardless of savings to students. Because of these concerns, the Executive Committee has agreed to request that the bill be amended to include provisions that would include a list for the service units to be listed at, and we also have a letter to the Council of Deans, we hope to be able to announce the first three units that will be assessed as we move forward with the budget model.

The Council of Deans has reached consensus on a 0-50 tuition split between 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 Sudhamp reporting for the Provost:

• Dr. Craig Woolley, WSU’s new Chief Information Officer, introduced himself before the Faculty Senate at its February 23rd meeting. Woolley will oversee information technology, including the Innovation Fund that supports specific initiatives to improve efficiency and affordability in Higher Education.

February Business

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 from 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

Proposal:

• Dr. Stephanie Davis involves faculty in the student selection process. It includes a proposed 2% increase in tuition for the first year, and 0% for the second year.

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 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 Professors (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 Tenure;

Whereas the AAUP-WSU and Wright State Faculty Senate stand together in their desire to promote shared principles of academic freedom and tenure. Therefore, be it Resolved that the Wright State Faculty Senate:

1. Supports the principles of academic freedom and 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 academic freedom and tenure;
3. Expresses the student’s support for the AUP’s Centennial Declaration. All senators present were in favor of the resolution and by a unanimous decision, the Faculty Senate approved the resolution updating 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.

Volunteer for the Athletic Council

Dr. Susan Carrafello, Associate Professor and Director of the University Honors Program, is the new Faculty Senate representative to the Athletic Council.

From the President’s Report:

• House Bill 616: Textbook 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 and tobacco products 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.

Executive Committee Report

Introduction of Craig Woolley, CIO

Craig Woolley, WSU’s new Chief Information Officer, introduced himself before the Faculty Senate at its February 23rd 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.