



FACULTY SENATE NEWSLETTER

College of Science & Mathematics

Feb. 3, 2015



From the President's Report

- The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has selected Wright State to receive its 2015 Community Engagement Classification.
- The Rise, Shine Campaign for Wright State University is in full swing and has raised \$112 million of its \$150 million goal.
- Degree completions statewide are up 7%. It remains to be seen how this increase will affect SSI, which is now entirely attached to completions.
- Watching closely: Proposed legislation in the Ohio Senate would mandate reducing university tuition by 5%.



From the Provost's Report

Associate Provost Thomas Sudkamp reporting:

Innovations to support intrusive advising—getting support to students when it is most critical—include

RAPS (Raider Academic Progress System): a software tool that tracks student progress and notifies advisors if a student is not achieving designated milestones in the student's degree path. RAPS also provides historical data on degree completion, helpful for making course selection and major choices.

The Student Academic Success Center and CaTS have collaborated to create an early alert system to notify advisors early in the semester of students who are not on track to succeed in the course. The course instructor provides information on student attendance and performance, which is available to the advisor. The system is currently being piloted in a number of critical General Education courses.

Classrooms in the new Student Success Center and Classroom Building will feature card-swipes at all entrances to assist in tracking attendance. Student absence data will be provided to the instructor and the advisor. A retrofit for other buildings and classrooms where popular first year courses are taught is planned. The Student Academic Success Center will also use this Accutrack system for tracking usage of supplemental instruction, tutoring, and attendance at other events. This information will be available to advisors to aid in creating an intervention program for academically at-risk students.

Executive Committee Report

Space Utilization Survey

Faculty Senate expressed concern with a planned space utilization survey set to take place during the

winter break. The survey was to be conducted by student workers who would enter each room on campus to catalogue how the rooms are being used. Workers would have been unaccompanied although campus police and environmental safety officers were to have been present in each building. It is the Senate's position that faculty members should be informed in a timely manner prior to entering their offices and laboratories so that any sensitive materials can be properly secured and laboratory experiments protected. The Senate also suggested that the Administration gather more extensive data during the space utilization survey to aid service units during emergency situations. The Administration has elected to delay the survey.

International Education

The Senate Executive Committee met with Directors and staff of UCIE and WSIG to address questions and concerns regarding international student recruitment and admissions. The EC is concerned that there appears to be little strategy in place to tie recruiting to actual academic program capacity and needs, in particular that academic programs are not driving recruiting activities. Recruiting activities are too narrowly focused on a few locations and schools, and departments are not given the information needed on applicants (e.g. fully annotated transcripts) to aid in admissions decisions. Various Senate committees are tackling policy implications related to international education, but the Senate is calling for clearly articulated institutional strategy.

January Business

MDA Resolution

A resolution for calling for maintaining the quality of academic programs when determining how funds will be allocated under MDA, was unanimously approved. Senator Garber reminded the Senate this was the most important piece of business the

Senate had completed this year.

Tobacco Free Policy

WSU administration requested feedback on a proposed Tobacco-free policy which would ban smoking anywhere on campus. If implemented, students, faculty, and staff violating the policy would face penalties of increasing severity. The Senate tabled the resolution pending clearer details about the policy.

B.S. In Integrated Science Studies

Faculty approved a new bachelor's degree program in Integrated Science Studies at the Lake Campus. This four year degree was requested by Lake Campus students and shepherded through the approvals process by Lake Campus senators Cubberley and Zhang. The major includes core requirements in biology, chemistry, earth and environmental science, mathematics, physics, and psychology.

Faculty Line

Nominations for Senate President and Vice President may be submitted through February 20th. The nomination period for Faculty Senators will run from February 9th-20th. Senators with expiring seats will be informed via email, and may run for reelection. Nominations can be submitted either mail, [email](#), or [online](#).

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

By Faculty Senate Intern: Elizabeth George

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