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 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 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 report to the OFC that the Wright State Faculty Senate opposes this bill, and believes that it has not served its intended purpose.

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

It is resolved that the Wright State Faculty Senate:

- Strongly Supports the principles of academic freedom and academic tenure codified by the AAUP;
- Applauds the AAUP and AAUP-WSU for their leadership in protecting the core values of the institutions of higher education; and
- Congratulates AAUP on their centennial celebration.

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 Each classroom has been given a rating between 1 (outdated and non-conducive for teaching) and 5 (updated to incorporate the latest technology and pedagogical practice).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, 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 the Faculty President
- Dr. Doug Petkie (CoSM) & Dr. Melissa Grays (R5CoB) will be the candidates for Faculty Vice President
- Balloting for Faculty Officers and Senators will begin the week of March 9-13 Faculty Senate Meeting dates, agendas and minutes: www.wright.edu/administration/ faculty-line

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