

# FacultyLine

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Office of the University Faculty, 138 Fawcett Hall (775-2039 / 775-3560)  
Faculty Line #223, November 29, 2017

Colleagues,

In this *Faculty Line*, I would like to call attention to a few current events and issues. Full agendas and approved minutes of all Faculty Senate business are available online for your consideration.<sup>1</sup> Please contact your Faculty Senators<sup>2</sup> with your thoughts, concerns, and positions on these (and future) issues so that they can fairly and completely represent you in Senate deliberations and resolutions.

## **Voting for the revision of the Faculty Constitution, Nov 28th – Dec 1st**

Every four years the Faculty Constitution undergoes a constitutionally mandated review. Changes suggested by the Quadrennial Review Committee were discussed, amended, and a final draft approved by the Faculty Senate as regular business on October 9th. These revisions were distributed to the general Faculty for consideration and potential amendment prior to a general Faculty Constitution Meeting held on October 25th. No additional changes were proposed at that meeting. A final proposal is now ready for your consideration for approval.<sup>3,4</sup>

Most of the changes recommended to our constitution are of the housekeeping variety – simple changes that reflect changes in practice or need over time. One significant change proposed is the end to the practice of delegating Faculty Senate powers over graduate curriculum to the Graduate Council. The proposed constitution normalizes the oversight of graduate affairs to standing committees of the Faculty Senate closely parallel to the committee structure used for the oversight of undergraduate affairs. Another significant change is the removal, from the constitution, of reference to University Councils whose activities and authority are independent of the Faculty Senate.

The final step of the Faculty approval process for a change to the Faculty Constitution is a vote of the Faculty. A new constitution will only move forward to the Provost if a two-thirds majority of the Faculty voting (with a minimum of 100 votes cast) approve the proposed revision. This process will take place this week.

By now all fully-affiliated University Faculty members should have received an electronic ballot to vote on proposed changes to the Faculty Constitution. If you did not receive a ballot, please check your junk, spam, and clutter folders or search your email for messages with the following attributes:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wright.edu/faculty-senate>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wright.edu/faculty-senate/about/2017-18-officers-and-members>

<sup>3</sup>

[https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Oct/meeting/Constitution2017\\_FinalSenateVersion-clean.pdf](https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Oct/meeting/Constitution2017_FinalSenateVersion-clean.pdf)

<sup>4</sup>

<https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Oct/meeting/Constitution2017changesummary.pdf>

**From:** Faculty Senate [<mailto:noreply@gemailserver.com>]  
**Reply-to:** [facultyoffice@wright.edu](mailto:facultyoffice@wright.edu)  
**Subject:** Faculty Senate Ballot – Faculty Constitution Proposed Changes

If you are unable to locate your ballot, please contact [facultyoffice@wright.edu](mailto:facultyoffice@wright.edu). A set of reminder ballots will be distributed to those who have not voted by close-of-business Wednesday, November 29. The deadline to submit a ballot is 5:00pm, Friday, December 1st, 2017.

### **New Grade definitions available this term**

In Spring 2017, the Faculty Senate approved a new grading system to be effective Fall, 2017. A reminder of these distinctions will be provided every term via the email sent from the registrar reminding all Faculty of each term's grade submission deadline. The changes to the grading system are primarily focused on more accurately recording distinctions between circumstances related to failing grades and situations in which the student did not attend and/or did not complete a full semester's worth of learning activities.

Failing grades are an important indicator of student success. Federal financial aid regulations require that we have a clear record of whether a student participated in academic activities as a determinant of the student's federal financial aid eligibility. The following failing grades should be used as appropriate:

For letter-graded classes (used in GPA calculations):

- F – student completed the course, but did not pass
- X – student participated in some course or course activities but did not complete the course and did not officially withdraw. This grade is treated like an F in GPA calculations.
- NR (NEW) – there is no record that the student participated in the course or course activities. This grade is treated like an F in GPA calculation.

For P/U classes (not used in GPA calculations):

- U – student completed the course, indicates work below a C quality
- XU (NEW) – student participated in the course or course activities but did not complete the course and did not officially withdraw.
- NU (NEW) – There is no record that the student participated in the course or course activities

Incomplete (I) grades may be assigned for a student who participated in a course but did not complete all course work, AND has been granted permission by the instructor to complete specific work after the end of the term before determination of the final course grade is made.

Effective Fall 2017, the M grade (satisfactory progress) is no longer an active grade. Faculty are encouraged to set specific achievable outcomes for a project, thesis, or dissertation and assign the appropriate earned grade for those specific outcomes at the end of each term. In the event a student is unable to complete the agreed upon outcomes for the course prior to the end of the semester, the Incomplete grade may be used in accordance with the University Grading System policy.

For more information about the grading system, please visit The Grading System Policy at: <https://policy.wright.edu/policy/4010-grading-system>.

For questions or additional information, please contact the Registrar's Office at 775-5200.

## Instructions for Faculty Sponsoring J-1 Scholars

The International Program Collaboration Committee (IPCC), a Subcommittee of the Faculty Senate International Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) has recommended procedures that could help improve the process of faculty sponsoring J-1 Scholars at Wright State University. The proposed procedures include information on how to go about issuing an invitation letter and the computer account application process.<sup>5,6</sup> If you have been involved with sponsoring faculty visitors (or have been a sponsored visitor), please share your thoughts on these recommendations with IPCC Chair, Dr. Rosemary Eustace (rosemary.eustace@wright.edu).

## Academic Organization Review<sup>7</sup>

Provost Sudkamp recently announced and charged a joint administration, staff, student, and faculty Steering Committee for Academic Organization Review to consider if/how academic reorganization might:

- Enhance student retention and progression to degrees
- Create programs and synergies to increase enrollment
- Facilitate multidisciplinary programs and research
- Provide students with career preparation for critical jobs in the region

Steering committee membership includes:

- Administration: the Deans of CEHS, BSoM, CoLA, SoPP, CoNH, and CoSM. The administrative co-Chair is the Associate Provost.
- Staff: one USAC and one CSAC representative
- Student: SGA President and Vice-President
- Faculty: the elected EC representative (or their designee) from each main campus senate constituency. The EC representatives appear to be best positioned to represent the interests of, and to facilitate participation of, a wide number of faculty from diverse interested departments in their colleges. The Faculty co-Chair is the Faculty President.

The initial charge of the steering committee is directed towards understanding WSU's health and health services capabilities and future regional/student market/need/success. Specifically, the steering committee is charged to consider if reorganization can:

- Align programs to provide career opportunity pathways
- Align faculty expertise to facilitate development of new programs
- Align organization to better meet regional needs and employment

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[https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Nov/meeting/Issuing\\_Invitation\\_Letters\\_for\\_Visiting\\_Scholar.pdf](https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Nov/meeting/Issuing_Invitation_Letters_for_Visiting_Scholar.pdf)

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[https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Nov/meeting/Computer\\_Account\\_Application\\_for\\_Visiting\\_Scholar.pdf](https://www.wright.edu/sites/www.wright.edu/files/uploads/2017/Nov/meeting/Computer_Account_Application_for_Visiting_Scholar.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.wright.edu/about/topics-open-for-comment>

The steering committee is still in the initial phase of determining potential need and matching capability. There is not yet, as of the drafting of this Faculty Line, a specific actionable plan to present or evaluate. It is the committee's hope to have an initial strawman for the community to consider early next term, around which we can begin to collect specific data and evidence for/against action. To paraphrase one committee discussion, we need to first define what "it" is, before we can even begin to discuss if "it" is a good idea, let alone if "it" is a good idea today. An initial strawman will allow us to begin an iterative design process in response to specific data and community feedback.

This is certainly a topic which we all will be discussing for some time. As President Schrader mentioned in Monday's "Let's Talk" session, these discussions are likely to get "messy". I, personally, find it encouraging that, after multiple cycles of budget cuts, the University is considering something that might lead to long-term strategic investment in an academic area. The faculty certainly have a critical role in making certain this possibility is appropriately investigated to best serve the long-term interests of our mission, students, and program health.

### **Final thoughts**

Budget issues continue to dominate many campus conversations. We, the faculty, must and should continue to focus primarily on the success and progression of our students. One specific action that we can take to help both student success and university fiscal health is to remind continuing students of the importance of registering for courses early. You may want to remind your current students to finalize spring registration before they leave for break. Also, we should all consider reminding students of the importance of enrolling for summer course offerings as soon as they are eligible to register this Spring; course offerings in the summer may be very much driven by early student demand.

Please remember that the Faculty Senate is a representative body. Let your Faculty Senators know where you stand on the issues so that we can fairly and accurately represent the Faculty in our recommendations and official opinions. Faculty Senate meetings are open to all. The last Senate meeting of this academic term is Monday, December 10th, at 2:30pm, in the Student Union Endeavor Room (E156 SU). As always, we invite you to join us.

Travis Doom, Professor

Faculty President