

Faculty Line #232
February 13, 2020

Colleagues,

I've always found the terminology of "spring semester" odd in Ohio, especially in January and February. Nevertheless, each day we have more sunlight, activities are transitioning more toward spring and summer, and we're already reviewing plans for summer (and even fall) semesters. One of the many gratifying aspects of life in a university is that we are always in motion. The Faculty Office has been no exception: faculty Senators have been closely engaged in many important activities across our campuses, from program review and the visioning for the new health college, to online education, petitions, curricular processes, capital plans, budgeting, collaborations with Admissions, Student Government, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, and much more.

As we discussed in the December *Faculty Line*, this Academic Year, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has decided to focus on the role that faculty members play in the recruitment and retention of our students. As you may recall, the Faculty Budget Priorities Committee recently sent out a call for proposals in the first ever "Faculty Initiated Recruitment Program." Proposals are currently under review, and the committee will be distributing \$25,000 to faculty to use in support of efforts that will bring potential students in closer contact with our faculty and our programs. Stay tuned for a similar initiative –focused on retention efforts –that will again be grounded in faculty-led initiatives. We are grateful to President Sue Edwards for the financial backing of these efforts. There are many other ways that faculty can and do impact the recruitment and retention of students, and we invite all of you to continue to share your ideas so that we can bring as many of these programs into fruition as possible.

Research Symposia

We all know that research opportunities –in all disciplines –are closely connected to student retention.¹ One set of opportunities that we have at Wright State to promote these research skills, for undergraduate and graduate students alike, are our spring research symposia. At the Lake Campus, the symposium will be held on Thursday, April 16, and at the Dayton Campus, it will be on Friday, April 17. Please mark your calendar to attend at least one of these events to show your support of our students and their research. Stephen Jacquemin is coordinating the event at the Lake Campus, and the deadline for proposals is March 6. Please contact Dr. Jacquemin at stephens.jacquemin@wright.edu with any questions or if you are able to assist with the Lake Campus Symposium. Brian Boyd is coordinating the symposium at the Dayton Campus, and the deadline for proposals is February 28. Proposals can be submitted via CORE Scholar (http://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/urop_celebration/). Please contact Dr. Boyd at brian.boyd@wright.edu with any questions, or if you are able to assist on April 17.

¹ <https://srhe.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03075079.2015.1035248#.XkCi8TJKjiU> (*Studies in Higher Education*, 2017); <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23752696.2018.1425097%40rhep20.2018.3.issue-V1> (*Higher Education Pedagogies*, 2017); <https://srhe.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03075079.2015.1035248#.XkCi8TJKjiU> (*Journal of Marketing Education*, 2018).

Senate Elections²

Per our Faculty Constitution,³ the nomination period for new Senators for AY 2020-2021 has already begun, and will continue until February 24. February 28 (the Friday before Spring break) is the last day for individuals to accept a nomination and be included on the ballot. Voting begins right after spring break (opens March 9), and closes March 20. Newly elected Senators will be seated at the second half of the final Senate meeting of the year, on Monday, April 20. Please reach out to your colleagues and encourage them to run for a seat in the Senate –or nominate yourself.

Some of you may remember when Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai came to Wright State's campus in 2007, as part of the Honors Institute. Perhaps her words will speak to some of you who are considering becoming involved in a different area of life at Wright State, whether that is Faculty Senate, or some other opportunity for service: "Finally, I was able to see that if I had a contribution I wanted to make, I must do it." We hope many faculty will decide they have a contribution to make toward shared governance – if not as a Senator, then perhaps by joining a standing committee or working group. We welcome your participation and engagement, and we are all better for it.

Upcoming meetings

Please remember that the Faculty Senate meets monthly at 2:30 in the Endeavor Room of the Student Union (E156). Our next Faculty Senate meeting will take place **Monday, February 17**. All WSU faculty, staff and students are welcome to attend. You can access the meeting schedule, agendas, supporting documents, meeting minutes, and more at <https://www.wright.edu/faculty-senate>. (Remaining Senate meetings for AY 2019-2020 are March 16 and April 20.)

Final thoughts

The WSU Faculty Senate is a representative, deliberative body. It operates best when all constituents are informed, engaged and active. Please familiarize yourself with university policies,⁴ contact your elected representatives⁵ and share your thoughts. Please also join us at the monthly Faculty Senate meetings or volunteer to serve on one of our many standing committees, ad hoc committees, or working groups. We look forward to working closely with each of you. In the meantime, keep on plugging through the snow and ice and know that more sunlight and warmer days will soon be here. (And, we hope to see many of you at the Faculty-Staff appreciation events this Sunday at the Nutter Center!)

Laura Luehrmann, Professor
Faculty Senate President

² <https://www.wright.edu/faculty-senate/about/faculty-membership-senate-elections>

³ <https://policy.wright.edu/policy/2010-faculty-constitution>

⁴ <https://policy.wright.edu/>

⁵ <https://www.wright.edu/faculty-senate/about/2019-20-officers-and-members>