



Faculty Office
138 Fawcett Hall
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Faculty Line #249
August 27, 2021

Welcome to the Fall 2021 Semester. It is hard to believe that our first week is behind us! For many of you this week meant a return to in-person classes and seeing colleagues (in three dimensions) for the first time since the spring of 2020. While the semester will surely have some challenges ahead, it has been exciting to see many of our colleagues and students on campus.

Below are a few updates to share as we move into the fall semester.

Student Union

As many of you are aware from previous university communications, the Student Union will be closed for the foreseeable future. The closure is the result of a significant fire that sparked in the main electrical/mechanical room of the Student Union. That fire resulted in the setting off of sprinklers in the room which addressed the fire but created additional complications. The fire was contained to the single room. However, the entire Student Union suffered significant smoke and soot impact. Joshi and Student Success buildings were also impacted because those buildings are served by the cooling tower located on the Student Union, which lost power as a result of the fire.

Units located in the SU are in the process of moving to other spaces on campus. Please be patient with, and offer any support you can to, our colleagues as they shift their working space at an already busy time of the semester. Please also be patient with students who may have had delays in getting texts through the bookstore because of these issues.

Participation Roster

The Provost Office sent a message on August 26 to all faculty teaching fall classes regarding documenting student attendance. For the past few semesters, this process was completed through RAPS, and was only required if you had students not attending/participating. Over the past eight months, faculty and representatives from Student Success, Financial Aid, the Registrar's Office and CaTS have worked on a system that is embedded in Wings and Wings Express. This year, we are asking for **100% faculty participation in documenting attendance through this new process**. Please complete this for each of your classes by the deadline (**Sept 3 for full term classes**) The link to the Provost's message, with some helpful steps to complete this process can be [found here](#).

Searches

Below are some updates I am able to share regarding a few of the significant searches that will be happening during the fall semester

Provost

The President is working to put together a search committee and ensure the draft of the position description is available for the committee to review. The aim is to commence this search in the coming weeks and complete it as soon as possible, with the hopes of completing it this fall. This will be an external search, and no search firm will be engaged.

Dean, College of Health Education and Human Services

Due to the failed search in the Spring, the search committee will be seated in the next couple of weeks and the position will be posted. The hope is to complete the search this fall. This will be an external search, and no search firm will be engaged.

Dean, College of Science and Mathematics

Interim Provost Evans is currently working to put a search committee together and ensure the job description is complete. This search will also be conducted in the fall and will be an internal search.

Faculty Office

The Faculty Office in 138 Fawcett will remain closed for Fall Semester, and our staff will be working remotely during this time. We will be checking for mail or deliveries at least once a week, but email will remain the most efficient form of communication; facultyoffice@wright.edu or brian.boyd@wright.edu.

Faculty Senate Meeting

Our first Senate meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 20 at 2:30. This meeting will take place via Webex, as approved at our meeting last April. A participation link and further details will be sent after the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meets on September 13. The Executive Committee will decide the modality of future meetings and we will inform Senators as the semester progresses. In the meantime, please remember that you may access the Faculty Senate meeting schedule, agendas, and minutes, as well as the Senate and committee rosters on our webpage, wright.edu/faculty-senate.

Challenges and Hope

I know that many of us are facing challenges as we begin the semester. The summer has seen an increase in COVID cases across our state and our region. The Senate Executive Committee is aware of, and shares in, faculty concerns over the safety of students, staff, faculty, and loved ones due to the resurgence of COVID-19 and the Delta variant. Executive Committee members have attended university-level discussions over these topics and continue to advocate for policies that prioritize health and safety of our faculty and a positive and safe experience for our students. As you have concerns, continue to discuss this with your chair and with Senators from your college. Members of the Executive Committee are also in contact with university faculty representatives from across the state to observe trends in faculty and administrative responses at other state institutions.

And, of course, many of us this summer learned of the departure of so many of our colleagues at WSU. Many have already separated from the university, and more are to come through the separation agreements and retrenchment process. This will be a difficult year in many ways. And yet, there is meaningful work for us to do at WSU. We are still blessed with amazing students, and they will depend on us to teach and support them. And we have talented and dedicated colleagues that are still here who inspire us with their work and dedication. We will need and depend on one another to navigate the upcoming year. I ask you to keep this in mind as we begin the semester. Please take time to take care of yourselves, but to also check in on one another, and help take care of one another.

Brian Boyd
Faculty President