



**Faculty Office  
138 Fawcett Hall  
facultyoffice@wright.edu**

***Faculty Line #245  
January 22, 2021***

Dear Colleagues,

At the beginning of this Spring 2021 semester, I can't help but think back to where we were just a year ago. Although we knew that a novel virus was emerging in some parts of the world, I don't imagine any of us had much of an idea what we would be facing in the months to come. Just think of how much we have accomplished in this short period of time. We've developed new ways of connecting with our students and colleagues, delivering our course objectives, and continuing our scholarship and service activities. And we've done all this in the midst of a raging global pandemic. Rather than looking back, though, what we need to do now is focus on our steps forward, and how we will continue to respond to the myriad challenges our University, our communities, and indeed, our world, face. I remain confident in what is ahead because I know the dedication, professionalism, and excellence embodied by our faculty.

**January Faculty Senate Meeting:**

As a reminder, the next Faculty Senate meeting takes place **Monday, January 25 at 2:30**; we hope you will join us. This meeting will again be conducted remotely via Webex. The link is available from the Faculty Senate agenda on our [webpage](#). As always, all faculty, students and staff are invited to attend.

The Faculty Office in 138 Fawcett remains closed 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](mailto:facultyoffice@wright.edu) or [laura.luehrmann@wright.edu](mailto:laura.luehrmann@wright.edu).

**Faculty Senate Elections: Nominations for Faculty President and Vice President:**

Every spring semester we conduct elections for the Faculty Senate. Please visit our [Faculty Membership and Senate Elections](#) page for qualifications, duties, terms and deadline information. The nomination period for Faculty President and Vice President will run from January 22 until 5:00pm February 23, 2021. Nominations for Faculty Senators open February 8 and will be accepted until the 5pm deadline, again on Tuesday, February 23.

**Establishing Attendance: January 22 deadline for Full Term Courses:**

As part of our efforts to increase student retention, decrease student financial debt, and meet Title IV Federal Guidelines for financial aid, it is imperative that faculty document non-participation in all of our courses. Every faculty member should have received multiple communications elaborating the steps by which to report attendance issues, including non-participation. Faculty should use the first Progress Report (which will remain viable through **January 22** for full term classes) to indicate if a student has never attended, in which case the student may be administratively dropped from the class. Faculty should indicate any students who have never attended/participated and have never communicated their intentions to their instructor. Even if all of the students on your roster have established a record of participation, please indicate as much on the form provided in the email, by clicking on the link and pressing the "Submit and mark all students as not at risk (I am all done)" button at the bottom of the page.

While faculty should report non-attendance at any point during the term, if the request for an administrative drop is before the 100% refund deadline (January 22 for full term classes) students will not be held financially responsible for the tuition. For the deadline for the other term courses, as well as other helpful information, see the [FAQ page](#), “Administrative Drop for Non-Attendance.” Please contact Tim Littell ([tim.littell@wright.edu](mailto:tim.littell@wright.edu)) with questions regarding the completion of this, and other, progress reports.

**Reorganization: Proposed College of Health, Education, and Human Services (CHEH):**

Throughout much of the Fall, a steering committee consisting of elected faculty governance representatives from the College of Nursing and Health, College of Education and Human Services, and the School of Professional Psychology, along with the Deans of those three colleges and the Chairs of the involved units (including the Department of Social Work), met regularly to chart a reorganization proposal for the “New” college. After significant discussion and feedback, the committee recommended the new unit’s name (College of Health, Education, and Human Services), as well as a leadership and organizational structure. In mid-December, faculty in the impacted units received a survey (“CHEH Reorganization Proposal Survey”) to indicate their support, opposition, and/or comments on the official recommendation. Faculty in the affected units are asked to submit their feedback via this survey by **February 16**. Additionally, support, opposition, and/or comments from faculty across the University may be shared via Faculty Senators, the Faculty President, Vice President, and/or Deans. All may access the [Recommendation for Academic Reorganization](#) from the Faculty Senate webpage.

**Board of Trustees’ Meetings:**

The Wright State University Board of Trustees will be holding Committee Day on Thursday, February 18, beginning at 8:30am. All are welcome to attend. The Board’s next public session will be held on Friday, February 19 at 9:00am. Agendas and supporting documents may be accessed from this [webpage](#). These meetings are open to the public and accessible through livestream via <http://wright.edu/bot-stream>.

**Concluding Thoughts:**

We have much important work ahead of us. Please continue to support each other as we navigate the challenges ahead. As always, know that your Faculty Senate is here to serve all faculty as we work together to best meet the needs of our students and our communities. Shared governance works best when it has the active engagement of the widest array of its constituencies. Stay healthy, keep in touch, and mark your calendar for the February meeting of the Faculty Senate on **Monday, February 22 at 2:30**.

With warm regards,

Laura Luehrmann, Professor  
Faculty President  
[laura.luehrmann@wright.edu](mailto:laura.luehrmann@wright.edu)