

***Faculty Line #260
November 3, 2025***

Dear Colleagues,

As we move further into our fall semester, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the evolving landscape of higher education in Ohio, particularly with the implementation of Senate Bill 1. This legislation introduces new expectations for institutions across the state, and we recognize that many faculty members have concerns and questions about its implications for Wright State University.

The Faculty Senate remains committed to ensuring that faculty perspectives are represented in all discussions regarding policy interpretation and implementation. We are working with university leadership to maintain transparency and to uphold the principles of shared governance and academic integrity that define our community.

Thank you for your ongoing engagement, collaboration, and dedication to our students and to the mission of Wright State University.

SENATE BILL 1 AND HOUSE BILL 96

[Senate Bill 1](#) (SB1) became law on June 27, 2025 and established a phased timeline for implementation. [House Bill 96](#) (HB96) provides the funding and operational framework for the academic reforms outlined in SB1, with several deadlines spread over the next two years. The DEI-related requirements took effect on September 25, 2025, followed by curriculum governance reforms on September 30, 2025. Additional provisions will roll out through 2026 and 2027. For detailed guidance and updates, visit the [Ohio Department of Higher Education's Senate Bill 1 page](#).

NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICIES

The Wright State University Board of Trustees has adopted five key policies required by SB1, as detailed in this [policy document](#). While the Curricular Approval Process policy is already in effect, the implementation of the other four policies will be deferred until June 30, 2026. These policies introduce important changes affecting faculty evaluations, tenure, curricular oversight, and other aspects of faculty life. Faculty members are strongly encouraged to review the full policies at the provided link. For any questions or to discuss these changes further, please reach out to your [senators](#) or the [Faculty Office](#) or visit the Senate Office in person. The specific policies are as follows:

- Promotion and Tenure
- Annual Faculty Evaluations
- Post-Tenure Review
- Curricular Approval Process
- Retrenchment

Office of the Faculty President and University Faculty

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NEW EMAIL POLICIES

Discontinuation of Emeritus Faculty Email

The Faculty Senate passed a [resolution](#) supporting all emeritus faculty to retain lifetime access to their university email accounts, opposing the new policy to deactivate all employee emails upon separation. Emeritus faculty represent a distinct category of retirees recognized with a lifelong honor for exceptional service to the university. It affirms that emeriti remain vital members of the academic community and should have continued access to essential tools like email to support their ongoing scholarly engagement, including corresponding author capability for their many publications using the wright.edu domain and writing official letters of recommendation for students who have graduated under their mentorship. There is a [request form](#) for continued email access for emeritus faculty and retirees who have some type of documented active affiliation with the University. Criteria for affiliation are not explicitly stated, so it is important to work with your department chairs on this matter.

New University Email Policy

Over the summer, Wright State University shared a draft email policy for public feedback. This policy outlines how the university provides, regulates, and monitors email accounts used for official business. It defines appropriate email use, sets expectations for privacy, and details consequences for misuse. The final version has not yet been released, so please stay alert for updates.

SUMMER POWER OUTAGE

The Faculty Senate passed a [resolution](#) urging Wright State University to activate its WSU Alert system during campus power outages to help protect valuable property and critical research materials. The May 2025 outage demonstrated how delayed communication contributed to significant losses for some of our researchers. Expanding alert criteria beyond immediate life-safety threats will better support the university's academic mission and research continuity. We look forward to working collaboratively with university leadership on comprehensive reviews and improvements to emergency communication protocols to safeguard our community and assets moving forward.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your attention to these important updates. Please stay engaged with ongoing discussions and do not hesitate to reach out with questions or feedback. Please feel free to visit my open office hours listed below. Together, we can keep our university faculty informed, prepared, and resilient.

Sincerely, Dawn Wooley
Faculty President
dawn.wooley@wright.edu

Open Office Hours at 104 Health Sci Bldg., Wednesdays 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and Fridays 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Exceptions are noted on the calendar next to the door.