

***Faculty Line #261
February 27, 2026***

Dear Colleagues,

As we near spring break, I want to share a brief reflection on where we are as a faculty community and where we are headed. This semester has brought significant developments in higher education, here at Wright State and across Ohio, that require careful attention, thoughtful engagement, and continued collaboration as we move forward together.

Many colleagues have expressed understandable concern about state-level developments, including SB 1, HB 96, and, most recently, the introduction of House Bill 698. These proposals and policies raise real questions about faculty governance, academic freedom, and the long-term conditions under which we carry out our work. It is important to acknowledge that these concerns are not abstract; they touch directly on how we understand our profession and how we carry out our work.

Through all of this, one point remains clear. The work of faculty governance continues to matter. The Faculty Senate's role is to engage with complex issues, represent faculty perspectives, and help guide academic decision-making in ways that support our institution and our students. That work requires patience, perspective, and a commitment to constructive dialogue, especially when conditions are difficult. These values will continue to guide us.

Our faculty's greatest strengths are the professionalism and dedication reflected in our classrooms, labs, studios, clinics, and community outreach. Regardless of shifting policy environments, the core of the university remains grounded in faculty expertise, judgment, and collaboration. Our continued commitment to thoughtful engagement and mutual support, while focusing our faculty energy where it makes the most meaningful difference, strengthens both our institution and our shared work.

The recent introduction of House Bill 698 has generated questions and discussion among faculty, particularly regarding its potential implications for governance, retrenchment, and academic work. At this stage, the bill is early in the legislative process, and Senate leadership is reviewing its language carefully while monitoring developments in Columbus. As more information becomes available, we will share updates and work to ensure that faculty perspectives remain part of ongoing conversations about how proposed changes may affect our institution. Faculty Senate leadership continues to reach out and collaborate with Ohio's 13 other public universities to share information and best practices.

Office of the Faculty President and University Faculty

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Senate leadership and committee members continue to meet, review, and engage with issues that affect faculty work and academic quality. Much of this work happens quietly and collaboratively, but it reflects a consistent commitment to representing faculty perspectives thoughtfully and responsibly. As always, our focus remains on constructive dialogue, careful deliberation, and advancing the shared interests of the faculty and the university.

Faculty engagement also matters beyond formal Senate meetings and committees. When colleagues share perspectives, attend discussions, provide feedback, and participate in governance processes, it strengthens the collective faculty voice. Experience has shown that thoughtful and sustained engagement can influence outcomes and clarify concerns in meaningful ways. Our effectiveness depends not only on leadership, but on the willingness of faculty across the university to remain involved and informed. If you have questions, concerns, or perspectives you would like to share, I encourage you to reach out to your college senators, the Faculty Office, or to me directly.

While perspectives may differ on how best to respond to the challenges ahead, our shared commitment to students, scholarship, and one another continues to provide a strong foundation for the work we do together. Our engagement in governance, in our disciplines, and in our classrooms continues to matter, even when the environment is unsettled.

As we move into spring break, I hope each of you can take time to rest and recharge. The work we do is demanding and meaningful, and it is sustained by the care, professionalism, and dedication faculty bring to this university. Thank you for your continued engagement and service. I look forward to the work we will continue together in the weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely, Dawn Wooley
Faculty President
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Open Office Hours at 104 Health Sci Bldg., Wednesdays 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. and Fridays 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Exceptions are noted on the calendar next to the door.