Faculty Senate Newsletter

Synopsis of the October 25, 2012 Faculty Senate meeting

Please note: A meeting of the Undergraduate Program Faculty (UPF) will be held to discuss SAGES governance on Monday, November 26, 2012, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Strosacker Auditorium. An electronic ballot will be sent out shortly after the meeting for the UPF to vote on the proposal.

This newsletter will be sent out monthly and will provide you with a snapshot of what took place at the most recent Faculty Senate meeting. To learn more about any issue, click on the item and it will take you to more information further down the page; the numbers below correspond with the numbers above. If you have any questions, please contact one of the senators for your school or college. The list of senators can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

President's and Provost's Announcements

1. More than 2000 people attended the Blue Block Party
2. Over $774 million has been raised as of September 30 in CWRU's Capital Campaign
3. Robert E. Widing II has started as the new Weatherhead dean
4. Glenn Nicholls, Vice President for Student Affairs, retiring June 30, 2013
5. Memorial for Tinkham Veale II, October 26

Report from Executive Committee

6. Artist Julian Stanczak to be awarded honorary degree
7. The Committee on Undergraduate Education is reviewing a proposal for SAGES governance

Agenda Items

8. FSCUE: Resolution on Course Repetition and Restarting GPA Post-Separation Policy
9. FSCUE: New Majors (Chemical Biology and Dance)
10. Mandel School Bylaws Revisions
11. School of Dental Medicine Bylaws Revisions
12. School of Nursing Bylaws Revisions
13. Grievance and Conciliation Policy

Reports

14. Report on Faculty Conciliation & Mediation Program
16. Report from University Director of Outcome Assessment

More Information

7. The Committee on Undergraduate Education (FSCUE) is reviewing a proposal for SAGES governance. Senators are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the proposal and to seek feedback from their constituents.

8. Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Jeffrey Wolcowitz, presented a proposal from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education Academic Standing Subcommittee. The subcommittee proposed that grades for all iterations of repeated courses be included in the
calculation of a student's GPA and that the prohibition for using the P/NP for a repeated course be lifted. The subcommittee also proposed that the GPA no longer be restarted after a period of academic separation and that students be allowed to maintain all grades earned before separation, not just those where the student earned a grade of C or better, as the current policy indicates. Finally, the committee recommended that a cumulative GPA of 2.000 still be required for students to graduate. Dean Wolcowitz stated that these policies are in line with our peer institutions. The Faculty Senate approved this resolution.

9. Dean Wolcowitz presented proposals for two new undergraduate majors in the College of Arts and Sciences: one in chemical biology, to be housed in the Department of Chemistry, and one in dance, to be housed in the Department of Dance. Both proposals were approved by the Senate.

10. Cleve Gilmore, dean of the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, presented a proposal to revise the Mandel School bylaws. The revisions reflect the changing roles of two school committees and also the changing names of these committees. This proposal was approved.

11. Jerry Goldberg, dean of the School of Dental Medicine, presented a proposal for revisions to the dental school bylaws. The school proposed to change the name of the Committee on Graduate Studies and Research to the Committee on Graduate Studies. A separate committee on research is necessary due to the large amount of research being conducted by graduate students within the school. The proposal was approved.

12. Professor Deborah Lindell of the School of Nursing presented a proposal for revisions to the School of Nursing bylaws. The revisions reflect the new organizational structure within the school and the name change of the Master of Nursing program to the Graduate Entry Nursing Program. The proposal was approved.

13. Professor Emeritus Wallace Gingerich, Conciliation Counselor, presented revisions to the grievance and conciliation policy of the Faculty Handbook. An ad hoc committee led by Professor Emeritus Wilbur Leatherberry had been formed in 2008 to revise the grievance policy procedures. In January 2010, the Senate approved recommended changes designed to streamline grievance procedures, which also included changes to the number and selection of faculty on grievance hearing committees. The ad hoc committee had also recommended the creation of a pilot program for a conciliation process. In April 2011 the Senate approved formalizing the conciliation process and charged the Faculty Senate Committee on By-laws with formulating language for the Faculty Handbook. In addition to drafting this language, the By-laws Committee proposed revisions to Articles IV and V of the handbook, making the language pertaining to board membership and other process-related matters consistent within faculty disciplinary procedures and faculty grievance procedures. The proposal was approved by the Senate and will be going before the Board of Trustees for final approval shortly.

14. Professor Gingerich gave a report on the past year's activities of the Faculty Conciliation and Mediation Program. There were 24 users of the program and Professor Gingerich noted that many users came for advice on how to manage issues that could develop into more serious conflicts later. Most users preferred to manage their issues on their own and therefore were interested in consultation and/or coaching on how to approach the other party. No grievances have been filed by the 24 users of the Conciliation and Mediation Program to date.

15. Dr. Marilyn Mobley, Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion and Equal Opportunity, reported on recent activity in her office (OIDEO). Receptions for underrepresented faculty, students and staff have been extremely successful. The second cohort of the Train the Champion program includes 30 people. Dr. Mobley has been meeting with the deans from the schools and college to review their diversity plans. These plans are required by the university's Diversity Strategic Action Plan (DSAP). In February 2013, Dr. Mobley will report to the university campus about the progress being made on the school's plans. Dr. Mobley also introduced Dr. Melissa Burrows, Faculty Diversity Officer, who presented data on faculty diversity.

16. Susan Perry, University Director of Outcome Assessment, discussed her role at the university and presented information on outcome assessment. Under the CWRU Philosophy of
Assessment Statement approved by the Faculty Senate in April 2004, the schools and college are charged with carrying out appropriate outcome assessments and Dr. Perry's role is to assist them.

Learn more about the Faculty Senate.