



Faculty Senate Newsletter

Synopsis of the March 31, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting

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. President Snyder reported that fall 2014 undergraduate enrollment is going very well. The first admitted student reception was held last week and a number of faculty were involved. This is extremely important to parents and prospective students. Richard Bischoff, Vice President for Enrollment Management, is working hard to bring the class in on target. Attendance at receptions in cities outside of Cleveland has increased 25% over last year.
2. Revisions to the interim sexual misconduct policy are being finalized and if faculty have any additional comments or concerns, they should be sure to communicate them to Marilyn Mobley, Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Opportunity, or Lou Stark, Vice President for Student Affairs, as soon as possible.
3. The President and Provost have started meeting with the academic units to discuss the state of the university.
4. Provost Baeslack said that the strategic plan implementation process is underway and he is meeting with the deans of the college/schools to determine the progress being made on their individual plans.

Chair's Announcements

5. Prof. Sandra Russ, chair, Faculty Senate, reported that an *ad hoc* committee on undergraduate course evaluations is being formed to work on implementation issues. The committee will meet over the summer. The plan is for undergraduate course evaluations to be implemented in the fall.

Report from the Executive Committee

Prof. Robert Savinell reported on the following items from the March 18, 2014 Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting:

6. A healthcare equity proposal was presented by Professor Matthew Garrett with support from Liz Roccoforte, Director of the [LGBT Center](#), and endorsement from three FS standing committees: Compensation, Personnel, and Minority Affairs. The proposal requests that CWRU provide transgender health care coverage to faculty and staff and that it establish a means to equitably manage taxation of domestic partner benefits. The proposal also requests that there be LGBT faculty and staff representation during discussions of LGBT health care equity issues, and that a working timeframe be established for implementing health care equity for LGBT faculty and staff. This proposal will be considered at the April Faculty Senate meeting along with information from Human Resources on the financial impact of these proposals.
7. Prof. Savinell had presented information to the Executive Committee on priority issues for the CSE. This information had been solicited from the dean and executive committee of the CSE.

Agenda Items

8. [Classroom Scheduling Proposal](#)
9. [PhD Program in Clinical Translational Science](#)
10. [Draft Language for Faculty Handbook on School Executive Committees](#)
11. [Revision to FSCICT Charge](#)

Reports

12. [Report from Faculty Senate Committee on University Libraries](#)
13. [Outcome Assessments](#)
14. [Report from the Center for International Affairs](#)

More Information

8. Professor John Ruhl, vice chair of the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education (FSCUE), presented the [classroom scheduling proposal](#). The proposal is not intended to be a substitute for addition of new classroom space but is designed to provide guidance to the registrar when there are conflicting demands for current classroom space. The proposal relates only to classroom space controlled by the registrar's office, and not space within the professional schools. The proposal was vetted through the Undergraduate Program Faculty schools and the Undergraduate Student Government (USG). FSCUE was purposeful in not prioritizing the criteria listed in the proposal in order to provide the registrar with flexibility. A motion was made and seconded to amend the proposal to include language allowing for an appeal to the Provost's office when a conflict cannot be resolved. The motion was approved. A motion was made and seconded to substitute "in *or near* its home building" for "in its home building" in the second to last criterion on the list. The motion was approved. The member of the Senate representing the USG said that they had suggested some courses be offered outside of the peak hours. Prof. Ruhl said that FSCUE had determined that this would be too difficult. The proposal, as amended, was approved by the Senate.
9. Professor Jim Spilsbury, SOM, presented the [proposed PhD program in clinical translational science](#). The overall goal of the program is to produce clinical-translational scientists who will lead sustained, innovative research agendas to address the challenging health and medical problems facing the US and world. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other organizations charged with the nation's health have prioritized the need to accelerate translating discovery into application to benefit the individual patient and population at large. Twenty-two US universities have already launched programs of this type. The program has received support from the deans of the SOM, SON, SODM and CSE. It was approved by the SOM Faculty Council and the Faculty Senate Committee on Graduate Studies. In response to a senator's suggestion that representatives from the other schools involved in the program sit on the steering committee, Prof. Spilsbury said that the research deans from the SODM and the SON had been contacted and appointments would be made. The Senate voted to approve the program.
10. Professor David Carney, chair, Faculty Senate Committee on By-Laws, presented [revised language for the Faculty Handbook and Senate By-Laws on school executive committees](#). "Corresponding agency" will be added to references within both documents to school executive committees, and in the event of a conflict over which body constitutes the school's executive committee, the decision would be made by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and communicated to the school. The Senate was asked to approve the revision to Chapter 2 of the Faculty Handbook first. If approved, the revision will be presented to the University Faculty at an annual meeting in the fall. Once the change is approved by the University Faculty and the Board of Trustees, the By-Laws revisions will be brought to the Senate for review and approval. The Senate approved the revisions to Chapter 2 of the Faculty Handbook.
11. Professor Ray Muzic, chair of the Faculty Senate Committee on Information and Communication Technology (FSCICT), [proposed amending the committee's charge contained within the Senate By-Laws](#), to add the Chair of the Council of Technology Officers (CTO) as

an *ex officio* member of the committee with full voting privileges. Both FSCICT and the By-Laws Committee had approved the addition. The chair is elected by the members of the CTO and will add value to the discussion that takes place in the FSCICT meetings. The Senate approved this addition to the FSCICT charge. Professor David Singer noted that there were a couple of errors in the charge from revisions made in 2010. The errors may be corrected without Senate approval since the revisions had been approved previously.

12. Professor Frank Merat, chair of the Faculty Senate Committee on University Libraries (FSCUL), reported on the committee's activities during the 2013-14 academic year. The committee hopes to educate the university community about current issues affecting the libraries. Of primary concern is the inability of CWRU to provide library materials expected and needed by faculty and students. This is due to increasing costs of materials, decreasing support from OhioLink Central for electronic resources, and reduced funds from the university endowment to purchase materials. The university's budget for library materials is well below that of peer institutions. The committee has requested that the Faculty Senate Finance Committee review the situation and recommend short and long-term financial solutions. It also recommends that the President and Provost give serious and immediate attention to identifying and implementing solutions, beginning with FY2015, that will enable the funding of library materials not only to meet the basic information needs of faculty and students, but also to begin a multi-year process to grow the funding so that it is fully commensurate with that of our peer institutions. Provost Baeslack said that schools will need to reallocate their funds and work with the central administration to prioritize these issues.
13. Susan Perry, University Director of Outcome Assessment, provided the Senate with a report on the activities of her office. Ongoing assessment activities include communication and collaboration (creation of an outcome assessment coordinating committee, website updates, and creation of a Google site to share resources), professional development (facilitation of UCITE sessions, workshops and meetings, and development of an outcome assessment guide) and new tools (Blackboard Outcomes and Survey and E-portfolio). The goal is to make assessment a part of the culture at the university and to analyze results faster.
14. David Fleshler, Associate Provost for International Affairs, reviewed the activities of the Center for International Affairs. There has been a rise in the percentage of undergraduate students studying abroad, from approximately 19% in 2010-2011 to just shy of 30% in 2012-2013. Undergraduate international student enrollment has increased from 2.5% in the fall of 2008 to 11.5% in the fall of 2013. A structure has been built for the Center to support internationalization which includes a newly-created position to assist international scholars, faculty and students acclimate to the university, and the creation of advisory committees. An international risk management policy has been drafted and reviewed and will be presented to the President's Cabinet and Council. The Center's goal is become paperless and they are working with ITS to adopt new technology. Five target geographic areas have been identified for strategic initiatives. They are ASEAN, Brazil, India, Turkey and Uganda. The Center is encouraging faculty to consider undergraduate curriculum initiatives especially as the college/schools complete their strategic plans.

Learn more about the [Faculty Senate](#).

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