



Faculty Senate Newsletter

Synopsis of the December 17, 2013 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 Barbara Snyder reported that approximately 2,000 employees (slightly more than 50% of all eligible Benelect plan members) participated in the three fall 2013 wellness activities. This was a larger number than had been anticipated. The President thanked the senators for their input on the wellness and incentive programs. More information will be provided shortly on the 2014 programs and incentives.
2. The early action admissions process has been very successful. The average SAT scores of those admitted through the early action process are 5 points higher than they were last year. In addition, approximately 50% more underrepresented minorities will be admitted through early action than last year.
3. Provost Bud Baeslack reported that the [newest version of the strategic plan](#) has been completed and will be available for review after the first of the year.

Chair's Announcements

4. Prof. Sandra Russ, chair, reported that the amendment to Chapter 2 of the Faculty Handbook, changing the name and charge of the Budget Committee, had been approved by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees at their December meeting.
5. Comments on the Faculty Handbook and Faculty Senate By-Laws will be compiled and decisions about which committee will consider the comments will be vetted through the Executive Committee at the January and February 2014 meetings.
6. Prof. Russ said that she has been working with the Faculty Senate Nominating Committee to identify chair-elect candidates for the remainder of the 2013-14 academic year. Robert Savinell has agreed to run for the position but it has been very difficult to find a second candidate, which is required by the Faculty Senate By-Laws. The Executive Committee at its December 9th meeting voted to approve just one candidate on the ballot for this election. Prof. Russ asked the Senate to vote on this issue also and the Senate unanimously approved one candidate on the ballot.

Report from the Executive Committee

7. Professor Susan Case, WSOM, gave the report from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Next semester, each school representative on the Executive Committee will be asked to report on the activities of their respective school. Each standing committee chair will also be asked to make a report.
8. The Executive Committee discussed whether to change the requirement in the Senate By-Laws that there be two candidates for chair-elect given how difficult it can be to find a second candidate. Some members of the committee felt that it is more important that the Nominating Committee vet each candidate and that the candidate rotate from among the various schools each year. This topic will be discussed as part of the 5-year Faculty Handbook and By-Laws

review process.

Report from the Secretary of the Corporation

9. Ms. Libby Keefer, secretary of the corporation and general counsel, reported that the Executive Committee of the CWRU Board of Trustees at its December 10th meeting approved several items of importance to the Faculty Senate:
 - o Resolution to approve the amendment to the Faculty Handbook to change the name of the FS Budget Committee to the FS Finance Committee and to amend the committee's charge.
 - o Resolution to Approve Executive Master of Arts Degree in Financial Integrity – LAW
 - o Resolution to Approve Master of Science in Medical Physiology Off-Site Delivery Program – SOM
 - o Resolution to Approve Master of Science in Social Administration/Master of Public Health joint degree program - MSASS and SOM

Agenda Items

10. [FSCUE: Statement on Value of the On-Campus Residential Experience](#)
11. [FSCUE: WSOM Minor in Leadership](#)
12. [FSCUE: CAS Minor in Creative Writing](#)
13. [Senate Resolution Reaffirming TOEFL Score Requirement](#)

Reports

14. [Review of Faculty Comments on Interim Sexual Misconduct Policy](#)

More Information

10. Louis Stark, Vice President for Student Affairs, presented a [statement](#) on the value of the CWRU on-campus residential experience. The statement had been endorsed by FSCUE. Approximately 80% of undergraduate students live in residence halls and Greek houses on campus. While juniors and seniors are not required to live on campus many have expressed interest in doing so. The Offices of Student Affairs and Undergraduate Studies are working collaboratively to strengthen the undergraduate student experience at CWRU and believe that when students live together on campus it makes a significant difference in the quality of their experience. A senator said that by endorsing the statement the Senate would essentially be making on-campus housing a budget priority. Budget priorities have not yet been discussed by the Senate. Another senator asked whether there was data to support the idea that on-campus housing for all students benefits the entire university community. President Snyder said that studies show that students who live on campus achieve greater academic success. The motion to endorse the statement was tabled until national data on this topic can be presented to the Senate.
11. Professor Diana Bilimoria, WSOM, presented the proposed [minor in leadership](#) from the Organizational Behavior department at WSOM. This will be the first time that the Organizational Behavior department has offered undergraduate courses. The minor will consist of five courses; two required courses and three electives. All but one of the five courses are currently being offered. The minor is intended for non-WSOM students and these students are already taking a number of the courses. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the minor in leadership with one dissenting vote.
12. Professor Mary Grimm, CAS, presented the [minor in creative writing](#). The minor is offered by the English department and consists of 5 courses; three in creative writing courses and two literature courses. The courses are extremely popular and the minor will be particularly attractive to prospective students. Prof. Grimm said that English majors can take other creative writing classes and that the minor is geared more towards students without literature backgrounds. The department does not offer a concentration in creative writing. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the minor in creative writing.
13. Rick Bischoff reported that one year ago the Faculty Senate had approved a recommendation

from FSCUE to maintain the minimum TOEFL score requirement of 90 for fall 2013 applicants rather than increasing it to 100 as had been approved in 2011. The recommendation contained a provision whereby the FSCUE Admissions and Aid Subcommittee would revisit the issue annually and commit to maintaining the quality of the international student population at CWRU. The current recommendation is to reaffirm the approved recommendation and maintain the TOEFL score requirement of 90 for the fall of 2014. It is expected that this will be the last year that the score requirement remains at this level. The admissions office has made great strides in increasing both the number and quality of international students at CWRU. 69% of international undergraduate students who enrolled in 2013 and who submitted TOEFL scores had scores greater than or equal to 100 as compared with 52% in 2012 and 28% in 2011. While 100 is the university's ultimate goal for all international students submitting TOEFL scores (and the standard for highly selective universities), CWRU stepped up its efforts to admit international students later than other universities, so more flexibility is needed to reach the university's enrollment goals. The enrollment of international students has significant revenue implications. The Senate discussed whether international students are able to integrate into the culture and community at the university. Rick Bischoff said that this is very difficult to evaluate but anecdotal evidence indicates that they are. A senator said that there is still a problem in the classroom even with the higher TOEFL scores. Another senator asked about the career placement of international students. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the [resolution reaffirming the TOEFL score requirement of 90](#) for the fall of 2014.

14. Prof. Russ said that former Senate chair Professor Steven Garverick had charged six of the Senate standing committees with review of and comment on the university's Interim Sexual Misconduct Policy. The committees sent their comments to Prof. Russ and she summarized them in a document made available to the Faculty Senate on the Google site. The FS By-Laws Committee's comments were also posted on the Google site since their comments were lengthy and detailed. Prof. Russ presented a [brief overview of the comments](#) and said that all comments will be provided to those who will be revising the policy during the spring semester. Dr. Marilyn Mobley, Vice President for Inclusion, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity, said that the OIDEO office will be accepting further comments on the interim policy but that the goal is to produce a final policy by the end of the spring semester. She is still willing to lead information sessions within the schools or individual departments. Training for the university community on requirements of the final policy may begin as early as next summer.

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

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