



CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY EST. 1826

## Faculty Senate Newsletter

### Synopsis of the November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Faculty Senate Meeting

More detailed information on all items included in this newsletter are available in the draft minutes posted on the Google site for the [November Faculty Senate meeting](#). Once the minutes have been approved by the Senate, they will be posted on the Faculty Senate website along with all related documents.

## Of Particular Importance to All University Faculty

### **Faculty Senate Voting Procedure**

Professor Ken Ledford presented proposed language from the Senate By-Laws Committee amending the provision in the Senate By-Laws on Faculty Senate voting procedures. The proposed language allows for electronic voting. At the September Senate Executive Committee meeting, the Committee had discussed whether electronic voting in Senate meetings should be open or anonymous. The consensus of the Committee was that the default position should be open voting, however, the members of the By-Laws Committee drafted language stating that electronic voting would be anonymous. Prof. Ledford said that members of the By-Laws Committee were concerned about retaliation. This is of particular concern for non-tenured faculty. A member of the Senate said that he was very much opposed to anonymous voting. Currently, when senators vote, they raise their name tents, and it is clear how each senator is voting. Senators learn from each other by evaluating how their colleagues vote. Another senator said that opinions are expressed during the discussion of a particular matter, and senators can learn from the discussion. A suggestion was made to make electronic voting anonymous, but to allow senators to also hold up their name tents if they choose to do so. The Senate voted to approve the proposed language.

### **Proposal to Modify Minimum Requirements for Master's Degrees**

Professor Paul MacDonald, chair of the Graduate Studies Committee, presented the revised Proposal to Modify Minimum Requirements for Master's Programs. The proposal reflected the new compliance date of fall 2018 that had been suggested and approved by the Faculty Senate at the October meeting. The proposal also included the State of Ohio Department of Education requirement that master's degrees consist of a minimum of 30 credit hours as well as the requirement that students earn a 3.0 GPA to graduate. The Senate had voted to send the matter back to the Senate Executive Committee where school representatives were encouraged to discuss the proposal with their constituents. The proposal was discussed again at the November 14<sup>th</sup> Senate Executive Committee meeting, and the Committee voted to include the proposal on the Senate agenda. The Senate voted to approve the proposal.



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## Other Items from the Meeting

### **Academic English Proficiency Certificate for International Students**

The Senate approved a proposal for an Academic English Proficiency Certificate for International Students. It is a two-module, post baccalaureate Certificate for international students who are seeking enrollment at CWRU or other institutions and whose TOEFL or IELTS scores are just below the language proficiency requirements. Students must be provisionally admitted to their graduate program of choice before they can enroll in the Certificate.

### **Epidemiology/Biostatistics Department Name Change**

The Senate approved a proposal to change the name of the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics to the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences. The mission of the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics has broadened considerably to incorporate a number of new disciplines and the new name better reflects the changed nature of the Department.

### **Enrollment and Financial Aid Report**

Rick Bischoff, Vice President of Enrollment Management, provided a fall 2016 enrollment report. The presentation slides are available on the Google site and will be posted with the minutes from the meeting on the Faculty Senate website.