



CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY EST. 1826

# Faculty Senate Newsletter

Synopsis of the September 28, 2015 Faculty Senate Meeting

## Of Particular Importance to All University Faculty

### Annual Meeting of the University Faculty

An annual meeting of the University Faculty is scheduled for Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00-2:00pm in the senior classroom of the Tinkham Veale University Center. The agenda for the meeting will be sent to all faculty shortly.

### Emeriti Academy

Professors Terry Hokenstad and Sandra Russ reported on a proposal to create an Emeriti academy. The idea originated at a meeting of Distinguished University Professors. Professor Hokenstad, Professor Russ and Professor Alan Rocke invited a number of Emeriti from each one of the schools to attend a focus group to consider the idea. A survey was sent to all Emeriti to gauge the broader interest. 107 Emeriti responded and 90 expressed interest in an academy. Profs. Hokenstad, Russ and Rocke researched academies at other universities and reported their findings to the Provost. The response from the President, Provost and deans has been positive. The purpose of the Academy is to connect Emeriti with the university and with each other. An executive committee of eight Emeriti plus 2 DUPs will be formed. Activities will include lectures and seminars (including presentations from Emeriti) and possible research collaborations. Video conferencing may be used for Emeriti living outside of the area.

### Secondary Major Proposal

Professor Cheryl Killion, chair of FSCUE, presented a Faculty Senate resolution recognizing a secondary major for undergraduate students. A secondary major would allow undergraduate students to complete a second major in a different degree program without having to complete the general education requirements for the secondary major (unless required for the major). Students would be required to complete all prerequisites for the courses in the secondary major. Most students would be able to complete the secondary major within four years unlike a dual degree that typically requires an extra year. The secondary major will appear on the student's diploma. The proposal does not require a department to make any changes. If a department wishes to include one or more elements of the general education requirements as part of the major, it can do so by redefining major requirements for all students, regardless of degree program, to include those courses, following the usual process for changing major requirements. The Senate voted to approve the resolution with 2 opposed and 2 abstaining.

### Course Scheduling Grid

Professor Cheryl Killion presented a proposal to revise the university's course scheduling grid. The revised grid provides for 15-minutes between each time period, removes overlap during the MWF 8-10 time slots, creates more options for 75-minute time blocks, moves the exam block from Thursdays at 11:30am-12:45pm to a less popular teaching time, and standardizes and posts available evening time slots, including the possibility of 150-minute slots. With a larger class of undergraduate students, more time slots are required for classes. All UPF schools were provided an opportunity to review the revised grid and the feedback was positive. The Senate also reviewed a statement from FSCUE that strongly encourages faculty to adhere to the new grid. The new grid would be implemented in the fall of 2016. It was pointed out that a 150-minute class can begin in an earlier time slot and extend into an evening slot. The Faculty Senate voted to endorse the revised grid with 2 senators abstaining.

## Update on Course Evaluation Implementation

Professor Robin Dubin provided an update on the status of the course evaluation implementation process. The EvaluationKit course evaluation system was piloted last spring. The ad hoc committee charged with implementation oversight has recommended that the university abandon the EvaluationKit system. They found that among other issues, adding questions to the EvaluationKit program was cumbersome and the vendor was not sufficiently responsive when contacted. The university will use a homegrown system which should be available at the end of the fall 2015 semester. The homegrown system will include platform mobility. Not all features of the course evaluation system will be implemented at the end of the semester. For instance, FSCUE had requested that students not be able to obtain their grades until they completed course evaluations. This will not be added to the system yet but can be added at a later date if needed to improve participation rates. Prof. Dubin said she believes that if course evaluations are rolled out with sufficient communication, and faculty understand that they can ask students to complete the evaluations in class, the participation rate will increase without the need to withhold grades. Course evaluations will be open for two weeks prior to the final exam period.

## Other Items from the Meeting

*More detailed information on the items below will be available in the minutes which will be posted on the Faculty Senate [website](#) once they have been approved.*

### 5-Year Review: Proposed Revisions to Faculty Handbook

Professor David Carney, chair of the Senate By-Laws Committee, presented a number of proposed revisions to the Faculty Handbook and Senate By-Laws. The Senate voted to approve these revisions. Revisions to language in Chapter 2 of the Faculty Handbook (the Constitution) require approval of the University Faculty. There will be a discussion of the changes at the annual meeting of the University Faculty in October, and a electronic ballot will be emailed to all faculty following the meeting.

### Campus Planning Presentation

Irwin Lowenstein, advising university architect, presented an update on the 2015 Campus Master Plan. The plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the October meeting.

**Note:** This is the time of year to complete the following requirements in order to take advantage of the Wellness Program Premium Incentive:

- health risk appraisal
- biometric screening
- tobacco attestation form

For information, see <https://www.case.edu/wellness/the-wellness-program/how-to-participate/>

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](#).

Be sure to add [facultySenate@case.edu](mailto:facultySenate@case.edu) to your address book to make sure these messages make it to your inbox.