Case Western Reserve University
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Faculty Senate Newsletter

Synopsis of the February 24, 2016 Faculty Senate Meeting

Of Particular Importance to *All* University Faculty

Revisions to Initiative and Referendum Provisions of the Faculty Handbook

The initiative and referendum provisions of the Faculty Handbook are being revised to provide that voting on matters brought to the University Faculty by process of initiative or referendum shall be by mail ballot. This is consistent with the existing provision for amending the Faculty Constitution. The revisions also provide that a vote on any proposed initiative or referendum requires the approval of sixty percent of those voting members returning ballots. This is also consistent with the provision for amending the Constitution. The revisions also provide that the vote on a matter brought by initiative or referendum is valid only when at least 10% of the voting members of the University Faculty return ballots, thereby ensuring that important issues will be decided by a significant percentage of CWRU faculty members. The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to approve the revisions.

Proposed Policy on Annual Review of Postdoctoral Fellows and Scholars

Professor Paul MacDonald, chair of the Committee on Graduate Studies, presented a proposed policy on annual reviews of postdoctoral fellows and scholars. The policy requires annual progress reports to be submitted by postdoctoral fellows and scholars. The principal investigator or research mentor is responsible for initiating the reports. The report is required for reappointment and must be completed 90 days prior to reappointment or termination (unless the individual is being terminated for cause). The proposed policy was amended during the Senate meeting to add an appeals process if the postdoctoral fellow or scholar objects to the review. The Senate voted unanimously to approve the policy as amended.

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.

2016-2021 Academic Calendar

The Senate voted unanimously to approve the 2016-2021 academic calendar.

Additions to Faculty Senate By-Laws

1. The Senate voted to approve the addition of a student member to the Faculty Senate Committee on Research.
2. The Senate voted to include a provision in the Faculty Senate By-Laws providing that if a Senate standing committee member misses more than 50% of committee meetings, the chair of the committee may ask him/her to step down.

Report from FSCICT/Reimagining IT

Professor Angelina Herin, chair, reported on the activities of the Faculty Senate Committee on Information and Communication Technology. Sue Workman, Vice President of Information Technology Services and CIO, gave a status update on the centralization of IT.