



Faculty Senate Newsletter

Synopsis of the February 26, 2015 Faculty Senate Meeting

Of Particular Importance to All University Faculty

Faculty Handbook: Honorary Degree Nomination Provision

The Faculty Senate approved revisions to the honorary degree provision of the Faculty Handbook (*Chapter 3, Part Two, Article X*). The honorary degree committee will now have greater flexibility in the number of nominations it recommends. Also, under unusual circumstances, the degree may be awarded *other* than at commencement or other major university convocation.

Report from the Senate Executive Committee

Professor Sandy Russ, past chair of the Senate, reported from the February 10th Senate Executive Committee on the following matters:

1. Faculty Handbook: Notices of Appointment

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee had discussed the provision of the Faculty Handbook relating to notice of acceptance of appointment terms (*Chapter 3, Part One, Article I, Sec. A, Par.2*). The Senate By-Laws Committee was charged with clarifying this provision and sought guidance from the Executive Committee. The Handbook provides that if the University doesn't receive notice of acceptance by a faculty member, of his/her appointment terms, the faculty member's appointment may be terminated by notice given within 60 days of the delivery of the appointment form. The Executive Committee advised By-Laws that in drafting revisions to this section, it should take into consideration situations in which it may not be prudent for a faculty member to sign and return his/her appointment letter as required under the current rules, but also take into consideration the university's need to staff courses on a timely basis.

2. Report from Subcommittee Discussing Tenure-Related Issues

A subcommittee of members from the Executive Committee were charged with discussing several issues that had been brought to the Executive Committee at its January meeting. The subcommittee met and recommended that the Committee on Faculty Personnel be charged with:

- Determining how to monitor the required proportion of tenure-track to non-tenure track faculty within the constituent faculties, and
- Determining when faculty search committees should be mandatory

The subcommittee also recommended that the issue of monitoring compliance with affirmative action policies when hiring tenure track and non-tenure track faculty should be referred to the Provost's Office.

The Executive Committee approved these recommendations.

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.

Approval of Academic Calendar

The Senate approved the CWRU 2015-2020 Academic Calendar.

Diversity Annual Report

Marilyn Mobley, Vice President for Inclusion, Diversity and Equal Opportunity, presented the Diversity Annual Report to the Senate.

Sexual Misconduct Policy Clarifications

Peter Poulos, Chief Risk Management Officer and Chief Litigation Counsel, reported on clarifications to the university's sexual misconduct policy. The clarifications are required in order to comply with federal legal requirements and other federal guidance documents.

Update on Sexual Misconduct Education Activities

Lou Stark, Vice President of Student Affairs, provided the Senate with an update on activities intended to educate the CWRU student population on the sexual misconduct policy.

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 faculty senate@case.edu to your address book to make sure these messages make it to your inbox.