



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY EST. 1826

March 2018 Faculty Senate Newsletter

This newsletter encompasses business conducted during the March 28th, 2018 Senate meeting.

Of Particular Importance to *All* University Faculty

Update from Ad hoc Committee on the Bias Reporting System

Professor Peter Harte, past chair of the Faculty Senate and member of the ad hoc Committee on the Bias Reporting System, provided the Senate with background on this matter and presented the ad hoc Committee's recommendations. Prof. Harte said that Dean Patterson, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, had already begun the process of implementing the recommended changes, including renaming the online system to "Community Concerns Reporting System" and will report to the Senate next fall on his progress.

Proposed Changes to Undergraduate Academic Standing Regulations

Professor Gary Chottiner, chair of the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education, with Jeffrey Wolcowitz, Dean of Undergraduate Studies, reported that FSCUE approved proposed revisions to the undergraduate academic standing regulations. The revisions would make academic probation discretionary as opposed to automatic as is the current practice. Under the revised regulations, students will be able to appeal academic probation, and will be given clear guidance on the appeals process in the letter that they receive from the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. The Academic Standing Board's decision regarding probation will only be indicated on the unofficial transcript. If probation is successfully appealed, the unofficial transcript will show that there was "No Action Taken" and no restrictions associated with probation will be enforced. The student will be apprised however, that if their consecutive semester's record does not meet the criteria for good academic standing, that they may be considered for academic separation. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the revisions to the undergraduate academic standing regulations.

Student Success Initiative

Richard Bischoff, Vice President for Enrollment, presented the university's new Student Success Initiative which had been introduced by the President to the campus via email on March 1. The university's undergraduate retention and graduation rates have not increased despite enrolling academically better prepared undergraduates. This lowers the university's rankings. Other institutions

using data-driven decision-making and more high-touch interventions have seen improvements in their retention and graduation rates. The Student Success group is looking at ways to combine retention efforts from various offices into one organization to create better synergies and collaborations. The group is recommending that each undergraduate student be assigned a “navigator” (not the official name) who will support the student and the student’s faculty advisor by connecting them with available university resources. This will allow faculty advisors to spend more time advising students on academic matters. The goal is for these changes to be implemented and available to incoming first-year students in the fall of 2018.

Other Items from the Meetings

Undesignated Undergraduate B.S. Degree Program in Engineering- Name Change

Professor Marc Buchner, Associate Dean for Academics at the School of Engineering, presented a proposal to change the name of the Engineering Undesignated major to General Engineering. Engineering. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the major name change.

More detailed information on all items included in this newsletter are available in the draft minutes posted on the Google site for the [2017-18 Faculty Senate Meetings](#). Once the minutes have been approved by the Senate, they will be posted on the Faculty Senate website along with all related documents.