



# Faculty Senate Newsletter

## Synopsis of the January 27, 2014 Faculty Senate meeting

This newsletter will be sent out monthly and will provide you with a snapshot of what took place at the most recent Faculty Senate meeting. To learn more about any issue, click on the item and it will take you to [more information](#) further down the page; the numbers below correspond with the numbers above. 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](#).

### President's and Provost's Announcements

1. Provost Bud Baeslack reported that the [final strategic planning document](#) was posted on the website last week. Implementation working groups have been formed and will be meeting over the next several months. The college/schools are working on their individual plans.
2. The Provost addressed the issue of weather-related closings of the university. The President and Provost have to weigh safety concerns with the need to keep the university operating. They take these issues very seriously.

### Chair's Announcements

3. Prof. Sandra Russ, chair, Faculty Senate, congratulated Professor Robert Savinell, newly-elected chair-elect of the Senate.
4. Senators are encouraged to attend [A.L.I.C.E.](#) training. Please contact [Corporal Paul Owens](#) for more information.
5. The President and Provost emailed the Case Western Reserve community on December 26, 2013 with a [statement opposing an academic boycott](#) against Israeli academic institutions that had been initiated by three US scholarly institutions. The Executive Committee at its January 17th meeting discussed whether to bring the issue to the Faculty Senate for consideration. The Senate had declined to make a statement on a previous academic boycott and the Executive Committee decided that there was no need to bring the issue to the Senate now. The Committee applauded the statement issued by the President and Provost.

### Report from the Executive Committee

6. Professor John Fredieu reported on the January 17 Executive Committee meeting. The Committee voted to approve the awarding of honorary degrees to [Stanley Bergman](#), [Ton Koopman](#) and [Donshon Wilson](#).
7. The Executive Committee was presented with a document listing comments and suggestions for revisions to the Faculty Handbook and Senate By-Laws as part of the 5-year review process. This document represented only about half of the comments received. There were significant comments and suggestions relating to the faculty grievance process and these issues will be considered by the Faculty Personnel Committee. Additional comments will be reviewed at the next meeting.
8. The Committee also discussed whether to mandate that each constituent faculty establish or identify its executive committee. The Committee decided that the Senate should not mandate the establishment of an entity known as an "executive committee" within the college/schools, but that each school should identify within its by-laws the highest level faculty governing body on which its Faculty Senate Executive Committee representative shall serve *ex officio*.

### Report from the Secretary of the Corporation

9. Colleen Trembl, deputy general counsel, reported that the Executive Committee of the CWRU Board of Trustees at its January 14 meeting approved several items including faculty appointments and endowed scholarships.

## Agenda Items

10. [Revisions to Recommendation from \*ad hoc\* Committee on Appointments Outside Constituent Faculties: Instructor of Record Issue](#)
11. [Renaming of the Chemical Engineering Department](#)
12. [Revisions to SON By-Laws](#)
13. [Amendment to FS By-Laws re: Budget Committee](#)

## Reports

14. [Master Planning Report](#)

## More Information

10. Last year the Senate approved recommendations from the *ad hoc* Committee on Appointments Outside the Constituent Faculties. One of the approved recommendations called for all instructors of record to be members of the University Faculty. In the CAS, graduate students in certain departments serve as instructors of record but are not members of the university faculty. This practice had been approved by a previous CAS dean but a policy governing the practice had not been adopted by the CAS faculty until this year. Professors Alan Levine and Gary Chottiner, co-chairs of the *ad hoc* committee, proposed to change recommendation 2 as follows:

*2. The Faculty Handbook should state very clearly that all instructors of record for Case Western Reserve University courses must be members of the University Faculty **or be approved to serve as an instructor of record for a course within a constituent faculty via a process that has been approved by that constituent faculty.***

Members of the *ad hoc* committee agreed to the proposed revision. Prof. Chottiner said that each school should develop its own policy if it has or plans to have graduate students or others who are not members of the University Faculty serve as instructors of record. The Senate may want to establish a timeframe for the development of these policies and may also want to review the policies. The Senate voted to approve the [proposed revision to the recommendation](#).

A senator noted that ROTC instructors, who have been reporting to the Provost, must receive a permanent home by May of 2014 (according to the Faculty Senate resolution dated March 22, 2012). The *ad hoc* committee had recommended that ROTC instructors be appointed through Physical Education and Athletics and this transition should take place by the end of May.

11. Professor Uziel Landau presented a [proposal](#) from the CSE to rename the Chemical Engineering department the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. The proposal had been approved by the faculty of the Chemical Engineering department as well as the faculty of the CSE. The name better reflects the increasingly important role of bio-related topics in the expanding field of chemical engineering and more accurately represents the department's strategic plan, which includes an increased emphasis on biomolecular-related research and teaching. The new name would enhance the department's ability to attract a broader range of highly motivated undergraduate and graduate students, and to hire outstanding faculty in the area. Prof. Landau had not yet discussed with Dean Cyrus Taylor (CAS) how the renaming of the department would affect departments in the CAS. The Senate voted (with one dissenting vote) to defer action on the proposal until after the discussion between Prof. Landau and Dean Taylor. It was suggested that the Senate develop a protocol for review of department name change proposals as part of the 5-year review of the Faculty Handbook.

12. Professor Patricia Higgins, SON, presented revisions to the [SON By-Laws](#). The SON is eliminating their appeals board and replacing it with grievance and academic integrity boards. Membership in and functions of both boards are clearly described in the new sections of the By-Laws. The Senate voted to approve the revisions to the SON By-Laws.
13. The University Faculty voted to amend Chapter 2 of the Faculty Handbook to rename the Faculty Senate Budget Committee the Faculty Senate Finance Committee. The Senate By-Laws also need to be amended to reflect this change. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the [amendment](#) to the Senate By-Laws.
14. Irwin Lowenstein, advising university architect, reported on the 2015 campus [master plan](#) which is an outgrowth of the 2013 strategic plan. Themes from the strategic plan which inform the master planning process are "boundless opportunities" and "significant growth." Some of the issues that will be taken into consideration during the planning process are the increase in undergraduate enrollment, interdisciplinary learning and research, optimization of space and land, and an emphasis on sustainability. Components of the process include design and planning principles, a space utilization analysis, land use, precinct and development plans, a land acquisition plan, landscape plans, and transit and parking plans. It will be a 14-month process broken down into three distinct phases with substantial community input. Class scheduling issues will be considered as students are often late for class because of the distance between classroom buildings. A question was asked about parking availability for students. Parking will be a part of the plan and the university intends to collaborate with University Circle, Inc. as it conducts a wider transportation study. The consultant chosen to work on the master plan will be coming to campus frequently and will be looking for input from the Senate on a regular basis. A goal is to keep the campus safe but welcoming. This is a hard balance to strike. There will be a number of additional reports made to the Senate over the next year or so.

Learn more about the [Faculty Senate](#).

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