



Faculty Senate Newsletter

Synopsis of the February 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. Undergraduate admissions decisions for fall 2014 will be released on Saturday, March 15th. The application volume was extremely high this year with over 21,600 received. This is a 200% increase since 2007. The quality of students is also very high. The response from the early action admits has been positive and many are scheduling visits to campus. Approximately 525 people attended the President's Day open house, which was a record number.
2. The university received a gift of \$2.6 million for the creation of a new professorship in data science within the CSE. The chair was created by [Bob Herbold](#). This gift coincides with efforts to create a new undergraduate degree program in data science. Don Feke is leading this effort with several other faculty members. The university's corporate partners are [IBM](#), [Accenture](#) and [Explorys](#).
3. As of January 31, 2014, \$952.3 million has been raised in the capital campaign. More than \$143 million (or 15%) has been raised for student scholarship and support. The goal is 17%. In comparison, Cornell University's goal is 7% and University of Chicago's goal is 15%. \$338.8 million in gifts have been made for endowment support. Funding from the capital campaign will go towards the Tinkham Veale University Center, slated to open in the fall, and for [ThinkBox](#).
4. New projects that have emerged since the capital campaign began are the new medical education building, the new joint project with the Cleveland Museum of Art for the CIA site, and a new flexible science building to house science faculty from the CAS and the CSE.
5. There is a continuing need for scholarship dollars. Currently approximately 90% of students at CWRU receive financial aid. In comparison, about 62% of students at Carnegie Mellon and less than half of the students at Northwestern receive scholarship. Of the \$89 million in financial aid that our undergraduate students receive, only \$8 million is funded. More funded scholarships are needed.
6. The Board of Trustees authorized the university to move forward with construction of the [Maltz Performing Arts Center](#).
7. Provost Bud Baeslack encouraged the senators to engage with newly admitted students as much as possible.

Report from the Executive Committee

Professor Robert Savinell, chair-elect of the Faculty Senate, reported on the following items from the February 12, 2014 Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting:

8. FSCUE and its Curriculum Subcommittee developed a protocol to govern the process and timetable for review of proposed undergraduate programs and courses from non-UPF schools. The draft protocol was sent to the deans and executive committee chairs of all schools this week as well as to PHED and USG. Feedback is sought by April 1st.
9. The Faculty Handbook states that the University Faculty shall have an annual meeting early in

the fall and that the agenda for the annual meeting shall include a report from the President on the state of the university. The state of the university address has been poorly attended and President Snyder has asked the Executive Committee to consider revising this provision to provide her with flexibility in how and when the address is delivered. This issue is still being discussed between the Executive Committee and the President.

10. Draft language clarifying which body of a constituent faculty is considered to be the "executive committee" for purposes of the Faculty Handbook and By-Laws was discussed. It was proposed that the language "or corresponding agency" be added wherever a constituent faculty's executive committee is mentioned and that the determination of which body shall serve as the executive committee or corresponding agency is to be determined by a vote of the constituent faculty. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to revise the language to make the school's decision on this issue advisory to the Senate. If a controversy arises over which body is appropriate, the Senate will be the decision-maker. Revised language will be considered at the next Executive Committee meeting.
11. The Executive Committee is reviewing issues that have arisen with respect to the Faculty Handbook and By-Laws and is assigning these issues to the appropriate Senate standing committee for consideration.

Report from the Secretary of the Corporation

12. Ms. Colleen Treml, deputy general counsel, reported that the Board of Trustees met on February 21-22, 2014. Among other items the Board approved undergraduate minors in creative writing and leadership as well as the honorary degree nominations recommended by the Senate Executive Committee.

Agenda Items

13. [Rename of Chemical Engineering Department](#)
14. [2014-2019 Academic Calendar](#)
15. [Course Evaluations](#)

Reports

16. [Report from the UBC](#)
17. [Report from the Finance Committee](#)
18. [Report from the LGBT Center](#)

More Information

13. Professor Uziel Landau reported that since the last Faculty Senate meeting, he spoke with Professor Chris Cullis, chair of the Biology department, as well as Dean Cyrus Taylor, both of whom endorsed the rename of the Chemical Engineering Department to the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. The Senate voted to approve the [rename](#).
14. The University Registrar, Amy Hammett, presented the [2014-2019 academic calendar](#), which the Senate voted to approve.
15. Professor Mark De Guire, chair of the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Education (FSCUE), presented FSCUE's [course evaluation recommendations and questionnaire](#). Feedback received from the UPF schools has been positive. FSCUE is proposing that the new course evaluations be used in undergraduate courses starting in the fall of 2014. The number of questions have been reduced to three and prompts have been added to the open-ended questions. These are just the core questions, and each school can customize the questionnaire by adding additional questions relevant to that particular school/course. FSCUE did not discuss how the customization would take place within the schools. The Faculty Senate Committee on Graduate Studies will consider whether the recommendations and proposed questionnaire are appropriate for graduate and professional schools.

The undergraduate student member of the Senate spoke against recommendation #4, which would prevent a student from seeing his/her grade until after the course evaluation had been completed. She suggested that faculty include a statement in their course syllabi that students

are expected to complete the course evaluations. A senator made a motion, which was seconded, to remove recommendation #4. The motion was defeated.

The graduate student member of the Senate made a motion to add the option "I choose not to respond" to the three questions in the questionnaire. The motion was seconded. The undergraduate student member stated that the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) would support this motion. The motion was approved by the Senate. Jeffrey Wolcowitz, dean of Undergraduate Studies, said that recommendation numbers 3 and 4 are meant to be read together. The Senate voted to approve the recommendations and questionnaire, as amended.

16. Professor Chris Cullis, chair of the [University Budget Committee](#) (UBC), reported on the activities of the UBC. The committee has considered alternative budget models, organized a fall financial retreat, considered investments in undergraduate enrollment, reviewed distribution of undergraduate tuition revenue and graduate tuition revenue, and discussed capital planning. The committee recommended establishing a \$3.5 million reserve fund for unexpected costs that arise. The source for this fund would be a contribution from the academic units of 0.6% based on net unrestricted income. It also recommended a \$2.5 million fund for implementation of the strategic plan. The source for this fund would be a contribution from the academic units of 0.4% based on net unrestricted income.

The committee recommends that sufficient investment be made so that the university can offer an early decision option for undergraduate admission over the next three years. This would increase control over class size and reduce tuition discounting. The committee is also in the process of developing models to determine the cost of education for various majors in order to revisit undergraduate tuition revenue distribution. The university's process for distribution of graduate and professional tuition revenue is also being reviewed so that students can take courses in other schools without their home school losing revenue.

With respect to capital planning, the committee recommended that recurrent costs on new projects be identified early on, particularly with respect to buildings and IT expenses. This is essential for long-term planning.

17. Professor Scott Fine, chair of the [Faculty Senate Finance Committee](#), reported on the activities of the committee. The committee's objectives this year were to operationalize its charge, improve the quality and frequency of dialogue among different points of contact within the university, and ensure information and issue flow especially among UGEN, school budget committees and the UBC. The goal is for the committee to represent the faculty to the CFO and the finance committee of the Board of Trustees on strategic financial matters. This year the committee will continue to review the university's 2014-15 budget, focus on special topics such as undergraduate enrollment and financial aid/discount, and the capital campaign. Reports will be given from the representatives of the school budget committees.
18. Liz Roccoforte, director of the CWRU [LGBT Center](#), reported on the activities of her office. In 2013, CWRU was ranked as a top 25 college/university for LGBT students by the national organization [Campus Pride](#). The policies and programs that assist in creating an inclusive campus are transgender-related health care for students, police and security training, and the overall institutional commitment. The Center partners with departments on campus and has created extensive programming such as peer-led student conversation groups, [Safe Zone](#) training, lectures and discussions. A new LGBT course has also recently been developed in which 11 students enrolled. A health care equity proposal will be presented to the Faculty Senate. Programs and initiatives are being developed focused on resources and support for international students and same-sex sexual harassment and general sexual misconduct educational programs will be offered. The LGBT Center will be moving to the Tinkham Veale University Center in the fall. The Center continues to seek supported growth for its mission.

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

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