



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY EST. 1826

Faculty Senate Newsletter

Synopsis of the **September 29, 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. President Barbara Snyder reported that the [Tinkham Veale Student Center](#) had opened on Sunday, August 24th with a dessert reception and music by Ok Go. The ceremony went very well. Unfortunately 24 hours later the university heard the tragic news that four CWRU undergraduates had been killed in a private plane crash. It was a difficult way to begin the academic year. The campus community response has been tremendous and the team from Student Affairs has worked extremely hard. A memorial service took place and three out of four families attended.
2. Two upcoming events will be held in the new Tinkham Veale Center Ballroom. The first, which is scheduled for September 29th, is author Zadie Smith who is speaking as part of the [Writers Center Stage Series](#). This series had previously been held at Playhouse Square but has moved to the CWRU campus. The second event is the Inamori Ethics prize symposium and award ceremony on October 1st.
3. Provost Bud Baeslack reported that Sue Workman, new CIO, started today. She comes to CWRU from Indiana University. A new Vice President for Research will be announced in the next week or so.

Chair's Announcements

4. Professor Robert Savinell welcomed all senators and thanked them for allowing him to serve as chair of the Senate. Prof. Savinell also welcomed Jennifer Jackson, new department assistant in the Office of the Faculty Senate. There will be a special session at the end of the meeting for new senators.
5. A memorial bench for Professor Steven Garverick has been installed on campus. Prof. Garverick passed away unexpectedly last year after serving as chair of the Senate for a very brief period.

Report from the Executive Committee

6. Professor Roy Ritzmann, Vice Chair, reported on the following items from the September 8th Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting:
 - The Executive Committee discussed proposed revisions to the [research misconduct policy](#). The Committee approved sending the revisions to the By-Laws Committee for review.
 - Professor Andrew Rollins, CSE, was approved as the Faculty Senate representative to the

Conflict of Interest Committee. This appointment only requires Executive Committee approval and not approval of the Faculty Senate.

- Several items on the meeting agenda were postponed due to insufficient time including a presentation from Carolyn Gregory, Vice President of Human Resources, on gender affirmation services and revisions to the charge for the Faculty Senate Graduate Studies Committee.

Report from the Secretary of the Corporation

7. Ms. Colleen Trembl, deputy general counsel, reported, that since the last Faculty Senate meeting in April, the CWRU Board of Trustees approved the university's [sexual misconduct policy](#) effective as of July 1, 2014. The Board also approved five CSE graduate certificates.

Agenda Items

8. [Minor in Social Justice](#)
9. [Minor in Data Science](#)
10. [Non-UPF Course Review Protocol](#)
11. [Update from ad hoc Committee on Course Evaluation Implementation](#)
12. [Revisions to Faculty Handbook: State of the University Address](#)
13. [Tobacco Free Campus](#)
14. [Faculty Senate Position on Ohio House Bill 597](#)

Reports

15. [Approval of Conciliation Counselor / Conciliation Report](#)

More Information

8. Professors Rhonda Williams, Susan Hinze and Dianna Morris presented the proposed [minor in social justice](#). The minor has been developed over the past four years and was an outgrowth of the Alliance on Social Justice. The minor has been approved by all requisite bodies. Even though it will be housed in the CAS it is a university-wide program. The Introduction to Social Justice course is being taught for the third time this semester. A senator asked whether the university will offer a major in this field. It is anticipated that if all goes well, a major will be offered in the future. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the minor in social justice.
9. Professor Roger French, CSE, presented the [minor in data science](#). The minor will be housed in the CSE but will have faculty from five different schools teaching courses. The minor is directed towards students studying in "domain" areas; Engineering and Physical Sciences, Health and Business. Other domains may be developed in the future. Students in the current domains will satisfy most of their prerequisites through their majors, however if additional domains are added, the question of prerequisites for those areas will need to be considered. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the minor in data science.
10. Professor John Ruhl, chair of FSCUE, presented the proposed [non-UPF Course Review Protocol](#). The proposal details the process for review of undergraduate courses and programs, including requests for one-term course approvals, from non-UPF schools. The protocol was distributed to the college and schools and the feedback had been mostly positive. A senator suggested that in the future there be more communication between FSCUE and the non-UPF school making the request. A motion for a friendly amendment was made to include a representative from the non-UPF school in FSCUE's deliberations. Prof. Ruhl accepted the friendly amendment and the following amending language was proposed: "A representative from the unit proposing the action will be invited to participate in the Curriculum Subcommittee's discussion." The Senate voted to approve the amending language and subsequently approved the protocol.
11. Professor Robin Dubin, chair of the ad hoc Committee on Course Evaluation Implementation, presented the committee's recommendations. The committee would like to see the new course evaluations implemented this fall and recommends using the vendor EvaluationKit to

pilot the program. FSCUE had recommended that students not receive grades until they completed course evaluations. The ad hoc Committee determined that this would be too difficult to implement for the fall semester. FSCUE also recommended that evaluations remain open until all grades are due. The ad hoc committee suggested that course evaluations remain open only until the end of the final exam period. This compromise would allow individual faculty members to determine whether students could see their grades before completing the evaluation because faculty could choose to post their grades after the evaluations closed. When the recommendations were presented to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, several members expressed concern because the variation in whether the students know their grades before completing the evaluation would make it difficult for promotion and tenure committees to interpret the results. After receiving this feedback from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Prof. Dubin discussed various options with FSCUE. In order to avoid this issue, FSCUE voted to continue the university's current practice of keeping evaluations open until the end of classes. Professor Dubin noted that since EvaluationKit would give professors the option of having students complete the evaluations in class, this might not be a burden on students.

Other recommendations from the ad hoc committee included permitting faculty (and others, as appropriate) to add questions from a question library, and adding a textual analysis function in the future. The Provost's office will work with ITS to oversee implementation of the evaluations and will make a decision about what to do at the end of the pilot. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will craft a system to monitor and recommend changes to the course evaluation system.

Since the ad hoc Committee had been charged with determining the procedures for course evaluation implementation, Senate approval was not required.

12. Professor David Carney, chair of the By-Laws Committee, presented proposed revisions to [Chapter 2, Article IV, Sec A](#) of the Faculty Handbook. The proposed revisions give the President the option to provide a written state of the university report rather than having to provide an oral report at the annual meeting of the University Faculty. The meeting has been poorly attended in the past. If the President chooses to provide a written report, the proposed revisions state that he/she must make another in-person opportunity available to faculty. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the revisions.
13. Professor Elizabeth Click, CWRU Medical Director, is asking the Faculty Senate to endorse the concept of a tobacco free campus. Prof. Click is seeking endorsement from several groups on campus. If the concept is endorsed, a task force will be convened to draft a policy. Members of the Senate asked about e-cigarettes and smokeless tobacco and whether the policy would prohibit both of these from campus. Prof. Click said that she expected that both would be prohibited. Concerns were raised about international students who may have a very different cultural perspective on this issue; rules for visitors on campus; and whether students will be forced off campus into unsafe areas in order to smoke. A member of the Senate asked whether endorsing the concept of a tobacco free campus would prevent the Senate from objecting to the terms of the policy once it has been drafted. Prof. Click said that this question had come up with USG also and that endorsement of the actual policy would not be required if there are objections. The charge to the task force, however, will be to work on developing a tobacco free policy for the entire campus. The Faculty Senate approved the concept of a tobacco free campus, with one dissenting vote.
14. Professor Glenn Starkman and Professor Patricia Princehouse presented a [draft Faculty Senate resolution](#) in opposition to Ohio House Bill 597. Prof. Starkman said that the Bill repeals the common core science standards and replaces them with education that would allow intelligent design and creationism to be taught alongside evolution in science classes. A senator said that the Faculty Senate had endorsed a similar resolution in the past. President Snyder requested that the resolution exclude any references to individuals such as the sponsor of the Bill and the Governor. It should simply be a statement in opposition to the principle. President Snyder said that including language asking the legislature to defeat the bill would be acceptable. A motion was made and seconded to submit a revised resolution to

the Senate Executive Committee at its next meeting. The Executive Committee will be responsible for determining whether the revised resolution is sufficient.

15. The Faculty Senate approved the appointment of Wilbur Leatherberry, Emeritus Professor of Law, as the university's new faculty conciliation counselor, effective July 1, 2014. Prof. Leatherberry succeeds Emeritus Professor Wallace Gingerich who served as the university's first conciliation counselor. Prof. Leatherberry reported that last year Prof. Gingerich met with eleven faculty members. He also said that only two grievances have been filed since 2010.

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

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