



CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY EST. 1826

# January 2019 Faculty Senate Newsletter

**This newsletter covers business conducted during the January 29, 2019 Faculty Senate meeting.**

## Of Particular Importance to All University Faculty

### **Presentation on University Accounting Practices that Impact Management Units**

Jonathan Carlson, Vice President for Financial Planning, and Victoria Wright, Senior Associate Vice President for Planning and Administration, presented information on the university's revenue and expense allocation practices. Some revenue is directly attributable to a particular management center, but other revenue, such as from undergraduate tuition, requires allocation among the centers. Indirect costs for library, student services, plant, information services, and university services are also allocated to management centers based on allocation formulas.

A few changes to current revenue allocation practices have been instituted during the 2019 fiscal year. They pertain to allocation of undergraduate tuition revenue (15% of tuition revenue will be based on graduates' majors instead of degrees) and allocation of graduate and professional tuition (tuition revenue-sharing). In addition, the number of cost pools for indirect expense allocations has been reduced from 34 to 7. This change is being phased in over two years (2019-2020).

A senator thanked the presenters for providing transparency in the budgeting process. He also commented that while management centers have some control over their own revenue and expenses, policy decisions are being made at the administrative level with respect to allocation formulas, etc... Another senator said he believes that allocation practices disadvantage the College of Arts and Sciences. There was insufficient time for further questions, so the presenters were asked, and agreed to come, to the February Senate meeting to answer additional questions. Faculty were encouraged to review Appendix C to the operating statements which contains revenue and expense allocation practices. See <https://goo.gl/Xob5rN>

### **Pharmacy Benefit Manager Transition Update**

Carolyn Gregory, Vice President for Human Resources, reported on options her office is considering with respect to the pharmacy benefit manager transition. Ms. Gregory reminded the Senate that the transition was made to reduce the rate of health care cost increases. Options at this time include:

1. Maintaining the existing model
2. Keeping the existing model but providing employees the option to pick up maintenance medications at a CVS Pharmacy
3. Replacing Direct Scripts with another mail-order option and giving employees the option to pick up maintenance medications at a CVS Pharmacy

Ms. Gregory said that Direct Scripts' customer service has improved considerably since October of 2018. The ability to pay for medications on the website is still difficult but the company is working on this issue. With option #2, it will cost more for employees who choose to pick up maintenance medications locally. With option #3, all employees would have to re-enroll with a new pharmacy benefit manager and the transition would take 90-120 days. Direct Scripts has been responsive to requests for improvement and are adding medications utilized by CWRU employees to their \$9.95 list.

Ms. Gregory said that they have reached out to Professor J.B. Silvers at the Weatherhead School of Management (an expert in health care financing) and he has agreed to help evaluate the different options.

### **Strategic Planning Timeline**

Lisa Camp, Chief of Staff to the Provost, provided a timeline for the strategic planning process. By June 1, she expect to have a 2-3 page framework for the plan. This will not be a detailed document, but one that will guide the university going forward. 150 applications for Thinkers were received and 14 Thinkers were chosen.

A committee of 12 reviewers (including two faculty from the Senate Executive Committee) reviewed 131 applications for seed sprints. Those who receive funding will work on their projects over the semester and report to the campus community in May.

After February 1, focus will turn to the reading, discussion, and advising groups that will involve university community members. Ms. Camp said that she would like to see the Faculty Senate hold debates or other discussion groups. Ms. Camp said that there will be advisory groups for alumni, industry leaders, Distinguished University Professors, Emeriti Faculty and others. A member of the Committee suggested that there also be a county or Greater Cleveland group. Ms. Camp said that they will be working with Julie Rehm, Vice President, Government and Foundation Relations, and her advisory group, but that a survey will be created and sent to Cleveland leaders not already involved to see how they might want to engage.

### **Presentation on Accommodated Testing**

Judith Hammer, Assistant Dean with the Office of Accommodated Testing and Services, reported on the growing need for university resources and space for the broad range of testing accommodations that institutions are required to make available to students. While the total number of students requesting accommodations has not increased dramatically, the needs of the students have changed. For instance, in 2017, 19 students requested isolation rooms for test taking. This year the number increased to 40 and the university has just 5 isolation rooms. Staff are required to meet students very early in the morning or late at night because of the lack of appropriate space. Ms. Hammer provided information on revised testing procedures and reminded faculty how important is to complete the Faculty Authorization Form prior to an exam.

## **Proposed Revisions to the Faculty Handbook**

### **Replacement of Outdated Sexual Harassment Policy in Faculty Handbook**

The Faculty Senate voted to remove the outdated Sexual Harassment Policy from the Faculty Handbook and to replace it with a link to the new Sexual Misconduct Policy.

*More detailed information on all items included in this newsletter are available on the Google site at <https://goo.gl/tyQ75v>. Once the minutes have been approved (at the following Faculty Senate meeting), they will be posted on the Senate website along with all related documents.*