

Faculty Senate Chair's Report
February 20, 2014

Upcoming Elections!

Dear Faculty,

We NEED You! Share the joy and burdens of faculty involvement!

In keeping with the sixties theme, I thought of the old Uncle Sam poster enticing recruits. (No, the sixties weren't all about peace and love.)

We NEED you to get involved in faculty leadership. You may ask, why should I get involved in the Faculty Senate or faculty committees? Here are thoughts about participation from some a few of our current Faculty Senate leaders:

Erin McNelis, Past-chair: Being involved with the Faculty Senate and other faculty committees, you grow to understand more of the nuances and details of our governance and curriculum process, and have the opportunity to bring about positive changes. You truly understand the workings of the university more fully, learn points of views from the different disciplines and administration levels, and are involved in discussions that shape the principles and values of the university.

Leroy Kauffman, Chair-elect: When I have considered opportunities to serve in faculty governance positions, several things come to mind. First, faculty governance, which we hold quite dear, is supposed to be that, faculty. If faculty don't participate, it is not faculty governance no matter how hard others might try to get it to happen. We as faculty need to step up to the plate. Secondly, I enjoy getting to know colleagues, faculty, staff and administrators, in a different setting. It helps me be a much better informed university citizen. Finally, faculty, particularly senior faculty, should model good faculty governance involved behavior. I am also extremely happy to see younger faculty get involved in shaping the future of our university. Bottom line, I wouldn't trade my faculty leadership roles for anything. I like being involved and informed!!

Mary Jean Ronan Herzog, Chair: Being involved in the University beyond the narrow scope of department and college activities carries a lot of benefits. Not only do you get to know colleagues – faculty, staff and administrators and students – from across the campus, it increases a sense of purpose and community, making work more than a just a job.

Katy Ginanni, APRC Chair: As a still recent-ish arrival (I'm in my 4th academic year at WCU), serving on committees and then on Faculty Senate has been a great way to meet colleagues from other colleges.

Please consider running for one of the open positions on Faculty Senate or other committees. Our spring Senate elections include open positions for Chair-elect and Secretary as well as several Senator seats. The Chair-elect is essentially a three-year term, rotating to Chair and then Past-chair in the two years following the election. The position of Secretary is for a three-year term. The following Senate seats expire at the end of the this academic year: Three in Arts & Sciences, one in Education & Allied Professions, three in Health and Human Sciences. There will also be an opening for a Faculty Assembly delegate alternate.

Council & Committee Reports

Academic Policy and Review Council (APRC) - Katy Ginanni, Chair, reports several items being considered including program deletions and inactivation; the LSC and UCC recommendations on the General Education Task Force report that was put on hold last year; and update on the GA policy known as “Fostering Student Success.” The Student Government Association (SGA) has asked the APRC to consider two resolutions. One is the creation of a “Chancellor’s List” for students who achieve a GPA of 3.8 and above. The other resolution is for the purpose of increasing the numerical point value of the A+ grade to 4.333, with the stipulation that the overall GPA not exceed 4.0.

Collegial Review Council (CRC) – Steve Miller, Chair, reports no action items but updates on recent work.

Faculty Affairs Council (FAC) A.J. Grube, Chair, reports no action items but updates on a GA Faculty Workload Policy and course evaluations for contract courses.

Rules Committee – Leroy Kauffman, Chair, will present an update on by-law changes and upcoming forum (Feb 28, time/location tba) and will discuss the possibility of using the “Polleverywhere” electronic voting technology.

Caucus

Spring Caucus was held in Illusions in the University Center on Friday, January 24, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The following topics were discussed during the Caucus:

- Need for follow up on program prioritization
- How to increase faculty participation and interest in service (eg., serving on Senate and other leadership opportunities)
- Questions about WCU's identity were discussed, particularly in light of the expansion of the campus with Biltmore Park and distance learning
- Questions about the status of the Boyer Model: Is this still a serious commitment?
- Implementation of Digital Measures – questions about a policy for access and privacy as well as its limitations.
- Advising – There’s a sense that the “Fostering Student Success” mandate from GA will create a huge change in how advisors advise. The CEAP TRACS model is one others have expressed interest in.

Submitted by,

Mary Jean Ronan Herzog