

Faculty Senate Chair Report

April 24, 2014

As you can see on the agenda, our last meeting of the year will be a busy one, with several resolutions to consider. We will also make committee appointments during this last meeting.

Committee Appointments. I asked the general faculty for nominations for the following committees, and received 30 nominations within a few days. The number of nominees for each committee is listed below, with the number needed, the appointment process and the length of the term. Nominations will close Monday, April 21 at 5:00 p.m.

1. **Paul A. Reid Awards Committee** - 9 nominees [two faculty members elected by FS, one-year appointment]
2. **Athletics Committee** - 7 nominees [one faculty member appointed by Faculty Senate for a three-year term; try for balanced representation in re the entire committee]
3. **Information Technology Council** - 4 nominees [one member of the Faculty Senate appointed by the Chair of the Faculty and one faculty member recommended by the Senate and appointed by the Chair of the Faculty Senate (staggered terms)]
4. **Infrastructure Technology Committee** - 2 nominees [faculty member appointed by the Faculty Senate Chair, one-year appointment.]
5. **Administrative Technology Advisory Committee** - 2 nominees [faculty member appointed by the Faculty Senate, two-year appointment.]
6. **Data Security and Stewardship** - 3 nominee [representative from the faculty, appointed by the Chancellor in consultation with the Faculty Senate Chair; three-year term].
7. **Tuition & Fees Committee** - 3 nominees [one faculty member appointed annually by Faculty Senate].

Faculty participation and involvement came up as an issue at the Senate Caucus in January, and some of the Senate leadership have been talking about it. It's discouraging to see only one person run for important positions, such as Chair-elect and Secretary. (Thanks to all those who stepped up to these plates!) In my college elections, five of the available seats for College and University committees had only one nomination and were filled by acclamation. Why is there so little interest or commitment to shared faculty governance? Does it mean faculty really don't care, and would just as soon have a dictatorship? Does it mean most faculty don't get involved because they think it doesn't really mean anything? What does it mean? What are the benefits that faculty get when they do participate actively? (See the February 20, 2014 Chair Report for comments by some of our faculty leaders.)

From my point-of-view, being involved beyond the specific requirements of our jobs (teaching, scholarship & service) has huge benefits. Yes, it's often a lot of work, but it gives the faculty the opportunity to participate in the construction of their own environments and work life. Sometimes it's frustrating and doesn't have the results we would hope. I'll repeat a little of what I said in my earlier report: You get to know colleagues who are not in your immediate discipline and department. You get to know University staff and administrators, as well as the student leadership. You get a deeper sense of the whole campus. And you sometimes get to influence decisions. Senate leadership is going to tackle this issue next year. We will be looking for your feedback and suggestions for increasing the involvement and participation of faculty across campus.

Thanks to Senators, Planning Team and Leadership!

Thanks to all Senators for your work and participation this year! Click this link to see the list of Senators and their terms: <http://www.wcu.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-senate/about-the-faculty-senate/current-senators.asp> Senators who are finishing their term at the end of this semester include: Beth Huber (for Vicki Szabo), Justin Menickelli, Kathy Starr, Malcolm Powell, and Leigh Odom.

Planning Team meets once a month to plan the agenda for Senate and to discuss issues related to Faculty governance. Planning team includes Senate leadership, council chairs, and others to balance the representation among all Colleges. Wes Stone and Karyn Tomczak are the at-large members this year, and Steve Miller, Katy Ginanni and AJ Grube have served as Council Chairs (respectively, CRC, APRC, FAC). Dave Hudson (APRC) and Pattie Foley (FAC) both stepped down as Council Chairs in January. The Chancellor and Provost meet with the Planning Team monthly. Under Chancellor Belcher's leadership, faculty governance has been taken seriously.

A special thanks to the Senate leadership who are finishing their terms: Erin McNelis, after serving as Chair for two terms and past-Chair for one term (terms were each two years), deserves a huge thanks, a bouquet of flowers, a big box of chocolates and a standing ovation from the Faculty. Rebecca Lasher, our incredibly enthusiastic secretary (three year term, mind you!) as well as Faculty Assembly delegate is rotating off, and she, too, deserves the thanks, the chocolates, the flowers and the recognition for a job well-done.

And, finally, another special thanks goes to Ann Green, of the Provost's Office, for her constant, careful, consistent, competent work for Senate all year.

I'm looking forward to next year when as Past-Chair, I'll have the opportunity to continue working closely with Chair Leroy Kauffman and Chair-Elect Wes Stone. You all deserve chocolates! Thank you all.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jean Ronan Herzog