University of West Georgia
Faculty Senate Newsletter

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2015-16 in Review

It’s been a busy year for Faculty Senate, as we’ve taken on a variety of tasks and projects. Among other accomplishments, we’ve made revisions to the Faculty Handbook, developed policy related to Move on When Ready, and offered input on salary adjustments. We’ve partnered with the Staff Advisory Council to interview candidates for high-level campus positions, revised student course evaluation forms, and made adjustments to the tenure and promotion process. Along the way we approved numerous new courses and programs, and even gave input on (and approval of!) the parking code. With college elections now complete, we welcome our new senators and representatives on board for next year and look forward to their contributions.

Faculty Senate Restructuring

In addition to restructuring its own committees in order to increase the senate’s productivity and efficiency, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee would like to establish more formal connections between the senate and other committees, teams, and working groups across campus. Our goals are to increase communication between these groups and the senate and to ensure that there is an elected faculty voice in conversations that concern faculty either directly or indirectly. If you are a member of a university-wide group that you feel would benefit from the participation of an elected senate representative who could act as a conduit between your group and ours, please contact any member of the Executive Committee.

Campus Carry

As we are all well aware, in March the Georgia Legislature passed HB 859, which would permit any concealed carry permit holder at least 21 years of age to carry a weapon on campus, except in certain designated areas such as residence halls and athletic events. The University System of Georgia has expressed strong opposition to the bill, which still awaits the governor’s
signature. Should the bill become law, it will be implemented on July 1 of this year. UWG has begun preparing for this eventuality by forming a Campus Carry implementation task force. Senate Chair Julia Farmer will represent the faculty on this group. If you have suggestions for what sorts of faculty concerns the group should try to address in developing campus policy and communications on this topic, please contact Julia at jfarmer@westga.edu.

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For more on recent Faculty Senate business, minutes are available here.