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News from Faculty Senate

1 message

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To: All Faculty <all-faculty-list@westga.edu>, All Staff <all-staff-list@westga.edu>



University of West Georgia Faculty Senate Newsletter

April 2, 2018

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Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Julia Farmer, Chair

Angela Insenga,
Executive Secretary

Judy Butler, Chair-Elect

Kyle Marrero, President

Micheal Crafton, Provost

Nick Sterling,
Undergraduate Programs

Susan Hall Webb,
Graduate Programs

Emily McKendry-Smith,
Academic Policies

Happy Spring!

Believe it or not, there are only five weeks—and one last Faculty Senate meeting—standing between now and the onset of summer. Colleges will soon be reporting election results to Faculty Senate officers. New senators will be contacted shortly thereafter regarding committee preferences and to be invited to the final Senate meeting of the semester for introductions. We look forward to welcoming our new members!

Diversifying the Faculty

The Faculty Senate has approved a resolution on diversifying the faculty put forth by the Diversity and Internationalization Committee. The resolution calls for various diversity-related measures to be taken in search and hiring processes, as well as for the “implementation of and accountability for onboarding and mentoring programs to support junior faculty in timely progression toward promotion and tenure.” The full text of the resolution is available in the March 30, 2018 Senate [agenda](#).

Low-Cost/No-Cost Textbooks

In response to faculty concerns regarding the USG’s new low-cost/no-cost textbook course designation requirement, the Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Committee has drafted a statement that it shared with the Senate at our last meeting. The statement reads, “UWG faculty are sensitive to student financial situations. Therefore, we support faculty decisions that provide students with the best educational resources at reasonable prices. This means that faculty retain their rights under academic freedom

Megumi Fujita, Faculty Development

Katy Green, Institutional Planning

Markesha Henderson, Student Affairs

Craig Schroer, Facilities and Information Technology

Ashley Smallwood, Intercollegiate Athletics and University Advancement

Leanne DeFoor, Budget

Susan Welch, Rules

Lara Willox, Diversity and Internationalization

Jennifer Edelman, Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

to select materials that best meet the course learning objectives. For example, faculty should feel free to use open educational resources (OERs), traditional textbooks, and other educational materials based on their expert judgment and pedagogical concerns. However, faculty are not required to meet the low-cost/no-cost designation for courses.” The chair of the Senate will take faculty concerns on this topic to the next meeting of the USG Faculty Council, when it meets with the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the end of this month.

University Email List Policy

Faculty Senate has voted to endorse the proposed Email list policy outlined in the previous Senate newsletter. As a reminder, under this policy, official university messages will be sent through an “All-Employees” list. The All-Faculty list will remain in place but will move under the purview of the Provost’s Office. The UWG Community and Events list will be renamed the UWG Items of Interest list, and it will continue to be opt-in.

Upcoming Faculty Senate Meeting Dates

April 27, 2018

All meetings take place at 3:00 p.m. in TLC 1203. Faculty Senate meetings are open to all.

For more on recent Faculty Senate business, minutes are available [here](#).