

Report to the Senate of the January, 2014 Academic Committee Meeting of the Board of Trustees

(Supplement to oral report presented by Seta in Feb. Senate meeting)

Submitted by Catherine Seta, Faculty Representative

The BOT met on Charlotte campus, January 20, 2014. The committee discussed the following agenda items:

1. **Academic Committee Charter.** Each committee of the BOT was charged with developing a Charter specifying the committee's goals and procedures. Prior to the meeting, a draft of the AC charter was circulated and this draft was reviewed and discussed. A revised draft will be circulated for a final vote in the April meeting.
2. **Research and creative work at WFU.** Provost Kersh presented an overview of the research and creative work accomplishments of faculty and students on the WFU campus. Highlights included a record \$6.7 million in sponsored grants during the first half of this academic year and receipt of the prestigious Beckman Foundation award to five outstanding students (\$130,000) which will fund their further training and research. WFU was one of twelve universities receiving this award among a highly competitive field.
3. **Master of Legal Studies.** WFU Law Professor Christopher Mezell described the planned expansion of the MLS program to the Charlotte campus. This program is designed to provide education in legal studies to persons seeking to pursue a law-related career, but does not lead to a JD degree. It is a 1-year program. The AC asked several questions and expressed support of the expanded program.
4. **Tenure and Promotion processes at WFU.** Deans Fetrow provided an overview of the tenure process for faculty on the Reynolda Campus. This overview provided a context for the April meeting review of several tenure candidates. She described the major timeline, process of evaluation, and criteria for tenure awards, along with a description of the success rate of recent candidates. The roles of the AC and BOT were reviewed. The committee voted on the tenure of a candidate who was proposed to be hired with tenure. This vote was positive.