

The Senator

The Newsletter of the Wake Forest University Senate

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Carole Browne, President

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UPCOMING SENATE MEETINGS

April 12, 3:30 p.m., DeTamble Auditorium

May 3, 4:00, Room B, Winston Hall

Faculty Participation on Board of Trustees

The Senate discussed a proposal that the Senate Executive Committee developed in consultation with the AAUP providing for faculty participation on the Board of Trustees. The proposal calls for the Trustees to select from among the elected Senators some faculty members to participate in all committee meetings, except for those dealing with confidential questions such as some budget matters. It also calls for the Senate President to attend all full Board meetings as a non-voting representative.

The Senate also discussed an alternative approach: to make no initial proposal about the method of selection or the type of work to be done by faculty participants on the Board. Instead, the Senate would authorize representatives to discuss with the Board different methods of accomplishing this goal. Leon Corbett said that the Board is now looking for ways to improve the quality of the information it receives and the quality of its deliberations. Rhoda Channing suggested that the Senate create (and the faculties vote upon) an annual list of four issues to treat as priorities for the academic year. This approach might give the faculty more input into the substance of Board discussions, without depending on the insight or energy of a few individual faculty representatives.

The Senate decided to send three people into discussions with the Board of Trustees to explore different mechanisms for faculty participation such as the idea of an annual issues list. The Senate chose two officers (Carole Brown and Ron Wright) and authorized them to designate the third person for this task. When President-elect David Levy returns from Vienna, it would be desirable to involve him in these conversations.

Graduate School Report from Dean Melson

Dean Gordon Melson presented a report on the Graduate School to the Senate. The report was based on a written report submitted to President Hearn in the Fall of 1999. The report calls for Wake Forest to select areas of specialization for graduate programs (mostly doctoral programs, with a few masters programs), and to foster cross-campus efforts in its graduate programs. Dean Melson also reported on the implementation of this report so far. Graduate programs must now construct a "program profile" to report results and to measure improvement.

One of the overall goals for program improvement is to move from the 70th percentile to the 80th percentile as the typical test score for an entering student. Programs should also be improving their marketing plans and web sites, and should support their students' overall professional development and not just their academic progress. Improved financial support will also be a goal for the programs. Faculty should include graduate students more routinely in requests for grant support, and students themselves should be applying for funding.

Senate By-Laws Changes

The Senate voted to change the by-laws relating to its standing committees. These changes were in line with those proposed by the committees themselves. They will increase the number of committees by one, and will give each committee more clearly defined responsibilities. The revised language reads as follows:

Section 4. Committees

- (c) The standing committees of the Senate shall be the University Oversight Committee, Intra-University Operations Committee, Fringe Benefits Committee, and Senior University Appointments Committee. The Senate President shall appoint standing committee members and chairs. Appointments shall be balanced among elected and ex-officio Senate members if feasible. Standing committees shall be composed of voting members of the Senate.
- (1) The University Oversight Committee shall monitor, evaluate, and participate in the University's program planning, capital planning, and other long-range planning processes. The Senate President shall appoint one Committee member from the Reynolda Campus to serve a three-year term on the University Capital Planning Committee. The Senate President shall ensure Committee representation on committees which effect long-range planning for the University, such as the Program Planning Committee and the Faculty Executive Committee of the Medical Center. The Committee will also make recommendations for the Senate's consideration involving initiatives with long-term implications for the University or the faculty.
 - (2) The Intra-University Operations Committee will initiate and implement projects and programs that foster cooperation and interaction between various components of the University. ...
 - (4) The Senior University Appointments Committee shall ... advise on appointments of all senior administrators (i.e., members of the Executive Council), including the President of the University, in all colleges and schools of the University.

Staff Representation on Senate

The Senate recognized the interest that some staff members have expressed in having representation on the Senate. The Executive Committee will develop a proposal on this issue and will present it to the Senate.