

Faculty Senate Report
Board of Trustees Meeting
December 11, 2024

Faculty Senate has had six meetings since my last report on September 25. At our meetings this semester, we had several important discussions for the future of the university. These include the academic program prioritization process, the draft student success plan, the class scheduling policy and student common hour proposal, and the strategic enrollment plan. Here are some highlights from those discussions:

1. Interim Provost Molitor presented the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Senate with his initial plan for academic program prioritization for this academic year (AY). He was very receptive to our critiques and recommendations to improve the process. This is important because faculty find the potential loss of their academic programs to be stressful and a distraction from our job of producing new knowledge, teaching students, and serving the university, Toledo, and our professional communities. It is important that the program prioritization process not degenerate into pitting faculty (and deans) against one another in a battle for resources.

2. The discussion of the draft student success plan was productive. We are pleased to work with the provost office to help improve student retention, graduation, and satisfaction with their college experience. Concerns about the draft plan revolved around implementing meta majors to track students into specific majors, whether centralized student advising will contribute to student success, and the lack of specific measurable outcomes. The provost office has pledged to keep working with faculty to make the plan more understandable, avoid the possibility of tracking students to unwanted majors, and to implement the plan

3. The new class scheduling policy is controversial for both students and faculty. The goal of the policy is to schedule classes more effectively to reduce the university's building footprint as called for in the master plan. To achieve the goal, the policy (and procedure) requires more morning, evening, and

Friday classes, and limits one-credit hours classes and one-day a week classes to specific scheduling conditions. Student government opposes the policy because it may make it difficult for students to keep their jobs to pay for college, it may make class sizes larger, and there may be less time available to participate in student organizations and other campus events. Faculty oppose the policy because it seems unfriendly to our students who must work to afford college, past attempts to increase the number of Friday classes have failed, it was not developed in consultation with students, and it sets class size minimums that faculty find unreasonable. Interim Provost Molitor has promised to revise the procedures if outcomes prove to be harmful to student needs.

4. During the discussion around the class scheduling policy, a Student Government representative proposed implementing a university-wide common hour. The common hour designates a period each week (e.g., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00pm-1:30pm) when no classes would be scheduled. This time would be used for campus activities, such as student organization meetings, guest speakers, committee meetings, etc. The students argue that this would make it more likely that commuter students could be involved in campus community and events. While acknowledging that the common hour proposal may conflict with the new class scheduling policy, senators voted to send the proposal to our Academic Regulations and Student Affairs committees for further review.

5. Tony Bourne, our new Vice President of Enrollment Management, introduced himself to Faculty Senate, presented the Strategic Enrollment Plan, and discussed his ideas for achieving the enrollment plan's goals. The was a positive conversation and faculty look forward to working with VP Bourne to improve enrollment at UToledo.

Finally, in the day since the presidential search committee was announced, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has been contacted by many members of the UToledo community with concerns about the make-up of the search committee. Faculty, staff, and students believe the committee does

not represent the university's diversity of faculty, staff, and students, or our academic programs. This search committee has less representation from the campus community than has been past practice (for example, the committee that resulted in the hiring of Sharon Gaber). We believe it is important to communicate to campus stakeholders the rationale for the search committee's composition and how the search process will include the input of those who are not represented on the search committee. We are a large, diverse campus, and feeling included will help to insure the next permanent university president is welcomed to campus.

Submitted on behalf of Faculty Senate

Jerry Van Hoy
Faculty Senate President