

Highlights from the September 2017 Faculty Senate Meeting:

President Martin reported that the search for a new Athletic Director is under way; he hopes to announce a new AD by the middle of November. President Martin also reported on the several lawsuits facing the institution and announced progress on the Continuous Improvement Plan, as well as several development projects on campus.

Provost Mattison and President Martin both addressed incidents of hate speech on campus, and the several actions being undertaken to both remediate and prevent them. The Provost also highlighted the two on-going Dean searches: Cowles Library (search chair: Carrie Dunham-Lagree) and Arts and Sciences (search chair: Renee Cramer), and she updated Senate on the movement regarding on-line graduate education.

David Courard-Hauri, the President of Senate, stressed the importance of turning in mid-term grades and announced the creation of a survey by Faculty Senate Executive Committee, to ascertain faculty opinion about the proposed revisions to the Drake general education curriculum. In addition to the survey that all faculty received via email earlier this week, senators are facilitating focus groups with key staff partners as well as two town-hall meetings (the remaining meeting is Wednesday, October 4th, both at 3:30, in Olmsted).

Senate discussed and voted down a motion to change the representation of at-large and unit senators; the conversation indicated a sense of frustration and anxiety with the way representatives are chosen, and that at-large senators may disproportionately represent particular units on campus. Potential alternative solutions to the proposed increase in Unit-designated senators and reduction in at-large senators were mentioned. Senate Exec was charged to further look into the matter.

As at-large senators, we welcome input from all members of the Drake faculty. Please feel free to email any of us. Additionally, Dan Alexander has office hours in Collier-Scripps 305 on Mondays 3:30 – 5:00 and Tuesdays 2:30 – 4:00; you can call him on extension 3764. Terri Koch doesn't have set office hours, but welcomes your call at extension 2941 – or your drop-in visit to the library. David Wright also offers open office hours for drop-in conversations related to Senate. You can find him in Meredith 011 (basement level) on Mondays and Wednesdays, 8 - 11am and Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 - 11am.