

Faculty Senate Chair Report, March 24th, 2022

1. Request for Nominations for Senate Leadership: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary
2. I continue to discuss raises and ongoing compensation and compression issues with administration
 - a. Administration is committed to continuing to work on compensation in the future, dependent upon budget constraints and enrollment trends
3. I continue to raise several issues and questions and will provide updates as I receive information. Discussions regarding Sodexo and cleanliness of the building, Aramark and foodservice options on campus, student printing, updates, and training for various software programs on campus (Blackboard Ultra, CourseLeaf, Anthology, Degree Works, etc.), and various policy changes continue.
4. Last month we heard Jennifer Smith speak about legislature and the process in the state government. Her website has weekly legislative updates: <https://www.wku.edu/govrelations/>. There is also now a link on the senate website, under documents, "government relations" to this website.
5. This month HR will be giving a presentation to discuss compensation.
6. In April we will hold the caucuses to fill standing and other committees. The breakout sessions will occur at the end of the meeting, and participation from all continuing senators is requested.
7. Testing Center Update
 - a. The Testing Center asks faculty teaching online courses at the beginning of the semester if they plan to use proctored testing in their courses. From these responses, they build the schedule. There was not enough demand during mid-terms last week to warrant extended hours however, they will have extended hours during finals week (Monday through Thursday and Saturday).
 - b. The Testing Center is working on opening registration for testing to begin every hour of the workday and begin extended hours one day a week for the rest of the semester.
 - c. They have purchased a new test registration system (RegisterBlast) that we are installing now and will have up and running this summer that will allow for more flexibility in scheduling tests with different time limits.
 - d. The testing center website (<https://www.wku.edu/testing/>) has been updated to remove the statement about masks. The website also has a statement about finals week extended hours. The number of extended hours will depend on the requested capacity by faculty.
 - e. The Testing Center is reaching out to Parking to request that Topper Taxi run during Saturday testing hours and that we have more shuttle options during finals week.
 - f. Using proctored exams is one of the ways we meet our federal regulation for verifying student identity in online courses. This office continues to send exams and proctor passwords for electronic exams all over the world for our online students, allowing students to take our courses wherever they live.