



# College Senate Report

November 2022



## 4 General Topics of Importance and Interest

1. Software Roll Out Processes
2. Restructuring / Reorganization: College Dean / Grad Dean
3. Study Abroad Cost Changes
4. Continued Discussions: Faculty Handbook & Shared Governance

# 1. Software Roll-Out Processes

College Senators noted challenges that faculty faced this semester and last academic year with the roll-out of new software versions (e.g. WIN, Banner, Degreeworks, etc.) and the desire to be better prepared with forthcoming software upgrades and adoptions (e.g. Workday Student, etc.).

The College Senators recommend the following in regards to software roll-out best practices:

- (a) effective pilot and user testing of all workflows,
- (b) effective communication and timelines about upgrades,
- (c) effective training resources and access to software support personnel (e.g. IS, ITGs, etc.),
- (d) effective use of trained and qualified professionals to oversee the process (e.g. IS)

## 2. Restructuring / Reorganization - College Dean / Grad Dean

The College Senators discussed the forthcoming structural/organizational change with the Dean of the College and the Dean of the Grad School being one person. While **this change has the potential to positively impact graduate education and departments/program with graduate programs**, there is important work that remains and an opportunity for shared governance.

The College Senators advocate for the following initial set of recommendations:

- (1) The Provost's Office (e.g. Associate Provost for Research) to ***convene a meeting with all chairs and program directors*** who support graduate education to identify areas of effectiveness and areas of improvement in order to identify implementation recommendations for the new structure.
- (2) The Provost's Office (e.g. Associate Provost for Research) to ***send a survey to all College graduate faculty*** to identify areas of effectiveness, areas of improvement, and suggestions for implementation recommendations.
- (3) The Provost's Office (e.g. Associate Provost for Research) to ***form a committee of chairs and program directors*** who support graduate education to take a deeper dive in reviewing existing norms/standards, policies, procedures, etc. so that detailed implementation recommendations can be made.

## 2. Restructuring / Reorganization - College Dean / Grad Dean

The College Senators noted that the College Dean Search listening tours were the primary venue of faculty feedback gathering informing/motivating the structural/organization change. The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate was informed of the forthcoming organizational change two days prior to the university-wide announcement. **Provost Gillespie joining the College Faculty meeting November 11th to answer questions was much appreciated.**

The College Senators hope and advocate for the following recommendations:

- (1) The Faculty Senate, an elected and representative body of faculty, or at least a relevant subset of the Faculty Senate should be consulted with these type of structural and reorganizational changes. **Being informed of a change should not be used as a proxy for the important collaborative work that can take place with shared governance.**
- (2) **Thoughtful impact analysis (e.g. staffing, budget, policies, procedures) and planning is recommended to preceed restructuring/reorganization changes.** The “trust us, it will work” mentality should be accompanied with a clear implementation plan that has been reviewed by the departments/programs/faculty most impacted by the change. In this case, the departments and programs that support graduate education.

### 3. Study Abroad Cost Changes

**The College Senators discussed the changes with study abroad costs (aka home school tuition model) and the inherent concern for students who have to pay double or triple the cost for some programs now (compared to what it cost before).**

The College Senators shared concerned about students who would be most impacted by such changes. While equity in costs may have been the driver for the change, inequities of who can access study abroad now is a major concern. Interim Dean Marsh pointed us to the study abroad policies.

**The College Senators would like to understand how such policy changes are impacting the student demographics who participate in study abroad. Is a less diverse student demographic participating in study abroad now? Etc.**

**Policies** [Message announcing home school tuition \(November 2021\) FINAL \(wfu.edu\)](#)  
[WFU HOME SCHOOL TUITION POLICY FAQ.docx - Google Docs](#)

## 4. Continued Discussions

The **Faculty Handbook** continues to be a top priority area for College Senators and is an opportunity for collaboration between faculty and administration to build trust and carry out shared governance. While the ad-hoc Faculty Senate committee is focusing on process, the College Senators would like to start thinking about content.

**Shared governance** continues to be an area where College Senators would like to stay focused on this year. Faculty Senators and Faculty Senate committees play a critical role here. Areas where shared governance can make positive impact via open and transparent communication channels include: (e.g. *Strategic Framework, structural and organizational changes, administrative position searches, Registrar's Office activities, IS and software, resource changes, policy changes or new policies forthcoming, college/school meetings*).

# Looking Forward to....



President Wente's Address to the University  
November 17th  
4:00 pm