

Academic Transparency

Paul Beavers presented this proposed resolution to the Academic Senate on February 5, 2020. The Senate will act on the proposal at its March 4 meeting.

The Academic Senate urges the WSU Administration to implement the four recommendations from its Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Transparency. These recommendations are

1. That a faculty oversight committee be appointed (by the Academic Senate) and granted access to the Academic Analytics and Academic Performance Solutions platforms, on par with that granted to deans, chairs, and administrators, to monitor the databases/algorithms for errors and completeness. This committee (with staggered terms of two years) would report to the Academic Senate at least once per year regarding issues that may relate to the databases/algorithms.
2. That a policy be established requiring that administrators share benchmarking reports with faculty members whenever those reports are used in tenure, promotion, and selective salary decision-making. Affected faculty members and departments must be made aware of the use of benchmarking algorithms if they are used in the tenure/promotion/salary processes.
3. That when the benchmarking tools are used to implement budget reduction or enhancement decisions, reports from the benchmarking suite be shared with the contractually mandated Budget Committees, at the Department, College, or University levels.
4. That appropriate training/information materials be provided to faculty members (either by the University Administration, or by the Faculty Oversight Committee) so that those faculty members will be able to understand the nature of the information systems, and/or be able to monitor their own records.