

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Minutes of the Meeting  
March 27, 2015

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 8:04 A.M. in the Capitol Room of the University Union, WIU – Macomb Campus. Chair Cathy E. Early presided.

Good morning everybody. Glad to have you here today. It's a great day to be a Leatherneck.

Chair Early said I move that we convene to open session of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Epperly seconded the motion.

The following trustees were present to answer roll call:

Trustee Roger D. Clawson  
Trustee Lyneir R. Cole  
Trustee Cathy E. Early  
Trustee Carolyn J. Ehlert Fuller                   VIA TELECONFERENCE  
Trustee William L. Epperly  
Trustee Phil G. Hare  
Trustee Michael W. Quigley  
Trustee Yvonne S. Savala

Trustee Early moved to convene to Closed Session to consider personnel, legal collective bargaining and other such issues as covered by Section 2.c. of the Open Meetings Act with plans to reconvene at open session at approximately 9:00 a.m. Trustee Cole seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes	
Trustee Cole	Yes	
Trustee Early	Yes	
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes	VIA TELECONFERENCE
Trustee Epperly	Yes	
Trustee Hare	Yes	
Trustee Quigley	Yes	
Trustee Savala	Yes	

Motion carried. The Board convened to Closed Session at 8:05 A.M.

Chair Early said I move that we reconvene the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees meeting in open session at 9:02 A.M. Trustee Quigley seconded the motion.

The following trustees were present to answer roll call:

Trustee Roger D. Clawson  
Trustee Lyneir R. Cole  
Trustee Cathy E. Early  
Trustee Carolyn J. Ehlert Fuller                   VIA TELECONFERENCE  
Trustee William L. Epperly  
Trustee Phil G. Hare  
Trustee Michael W. Quigley  
Trustee Yvonne S. Savala

Also present for the open meeting of the Board of Trustees:

President Jack Thomas  
Legal Counsel Representative Matt Kwacala  
Board Treasurer and Vice President for Administrative Services Julie DeWees  
Administrative Assistant to the Board Kerry McBride  
Provost and Academic Vice President Ken Hawkinson  
Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter  
Vice President for Student Services Gary Biller  
Vice President for Quad Cities and Planning Joseph Rives

Advisory Group Representatives present:

Council of Administrative Personnel President – Macomb – Amanda Shoemaker  
Student Government Association President – Macomb – David Dunn  
Civil Service Employees Council President – Macomb – Wendi Mattson  
Faculty Senate Vice Chair – Macomb – Tara Westerhold

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 18 & 19, 2014 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Trustee Hare moved to approve the December 18 & 19, 2014 Board Meeting minutes. Trustee Savala seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes	
Trustee Cole	Yes	
Trustee Early	Yes	
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes	VIA TELECONFERENCE
Trustee Epperly	Yes	
Trustee Hare	Yes	
Trustee Quigley	Yes	
Trustee Savala	Yes	

**CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS**

I want to welcome everyone to our meeting today. I appreciate everybody being in attendance. Always a great day to be a Leatherneck and as usual, I'd like to start out by talking about a lot of the positive things that have been going on. Last night, Student Government Association hosted their annual Rocky Gala. It was a well-attended event by the students. Numerous student groups were represented, but the nice thing that SGA does with this is not only do they have an end of year banquet, but they also choose a charity each year. As this year, they chose Teach for America, which is an organization that works with providing teachers to low income areas in order to provide better educational opportunities for economically disadvantaged. I had the pleasure of sitting at the table with the gentleman from Teach for America, and it was a great time talking to him. He talked to us in his moments last night about some of the efforts they're doing in Chicago in low income area to provide educational opportunities, and he was able to share some statistics with us to show how the program is working to give people more opportunities to succeed. So I want to commend SGA for putting on a really nice event. The trustees were all invited and included in with that, and we appreciate that very much. The entertainment was WIU Jazz – I think it was a quartet. I'm thinking it was a quintet. I think there were five of them. And again, wonderful to see our students highlighted. We're here on campus – we've got so many talented students, and I really appreciate the fact that SGA brought that group of students to share. It was wonderful entertainment for the evening. Thank you very much.

Other highlights with some of our students, and I don't – you know I don't mean to leave anybody out. There are probably way too many for me to mention. A number of these folks you're already going to hear of because quite frankly the first one I'm going to say if you haven't heard of Ashley Luke by now. Okay. There's the response. And I'm sure that several other people are going to talk about here, so I'm not going to say a lot, but one of the biggest things I will say to you is that it impresses me very much when a Division I student athlete graduates in 3 years, graduates with honors, graduated with a double major in Political Science and Journalism, and is now pursuing her master's degree in Political Science. Next May, after she will finish because she's just a junior with us, after she finishes her senior year with Athletic eligibility, she will walk across the stage with her masters. And boy, you can't – I'll let the other people talk about how great she is, but that's a tremendous focused and motivated student athlete. She does us proud.

Other students on campus – we had over 450 students, faculty and staff that participated in a 12-hour dance marathon. They were raising money for the Children's Miracle Network, and they raised almost \$52,000 in that 12-hour period of time. Great efforts.

I know that some of the trustees probably are more excited about this than others, but there's a WIU alum who's a former student athlete baseball player. He and his brother have written a Cubs victory song, and they have made the final four cut in the Chicago Tribune for the new victory song, the Chicago Cubs. No comments from the peanut gallery about how often it will be played. Okay. But it sure is something Joey White who is a baseball alumni and his brother Jimmy grew up in Downers Grove and last year Joey graduated with his bachelors in Business and Marketing, so that's a really cool thing. He's getting some nice play for that, and we hope that they are successful.

Other students are WIU Resident Assistant Council raised money for the McDonough County Animal Shelter. If you were around the campus, you had a chance to pay a dollar and participate in the Kisses for Rocky Contest. And there were quite a number of students from LEJA, from Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Women's Studies, Health Sciences, Social Work – that all participated in this project and were able to take a good amount of food to the McDonough County Animal Shelter.

During Spring Break, a lot of people had a lot of fun over Spring Break. Some of our students chose to do an alternative Spring Break. They went down to Memphis, and they went and participated with the Alpha Omega Veterans Services Inc. and spent some time with veterans down in Memphis, Tennessee.

And in other news, we had a student, Michelle Rehbein. I'm going to say that's her name. I will say that with confidence. She's from Darien. She's a grad student at WIU in our Biological Sciences, and she was able to present at the US Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Justice Conference in Washington DC. She was selected out of many other applications from across the United States, so representing us very well there.

Then lastly, I'm going to just touch on our International Student Success Spotlight. Qi Qi, who is pursuing a master's in Business Administration here at Western, is from China. When she was in China, she had graduated from school, was working in Business, decided she wanted to look at international program – go international to be able to pursue an advanced degree. She was asked why she chose to come to Western from China. First of all, she said that Western was listed as the Best Midwestern College and Top Tier Midwestern University for many consecutive years. She also said that the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, not only accredited WIU's MBA program, but also ranked Western's College of Business and Technology among the Top 25% of Business Schools in the World. And that was what affected her decision to come to Western. And of course the nicest thing she said was right at the end, I said do you have any information – any additional things you'd like to say and she says I have to mention Macomb when talking about my feelings for WIU. It provides me with a

welcome, friendly, convenient, safe hometown and rich atmosphere to pursue my study objectives. I love Macomb, so always nice to hear that.

Some highlights recently in the news, I was very pleased to see that Western's Honors College has signed an articulation agreement with Carl Sandburg's Honor College. This will give Carl Sandburg students who are in their honors program an opportunity to transition directly with direct transfer of credit to participate in the WIU Honors College Program. I love that. I love the Honors College anyway. Who doesn't like strong academic students when you're at a University? But I love that we've got that nice partnership continuing on with the local community college, and I will note that the President of Carl Sandburg, Lori Sundberg, is a WIU alumni and has a lot of good feelings with Western, so I'm sure that helped that articulation agreement happen.

I know Alumni services is going to be spread all over the world coming April 24, when WIU Purple and Gold Day. They're holding events, Amanda; I'm going to pick on you because I know that you are with Alumni services. How many different locations are being celebrated that day? Amanda replied we are celebrating 15 plus 1, a bonus one. Chair Early continued so April 24 will be another day – every day's a great day to be a Leatherneck, but that will be a day that we celebrate it all over the place.

Other than that, on a more serious note, I think that again you'd have to be living some place other than where you have access to media to not know that Higher Ed is under quite a bit of discussion on the state level from the Governor's Office with funding. We have Provost Hawkinson recently completed an initial effort on reviewing academic programs, and those studies will continue out of the Provost office in the future we'll see more with that. We will also see campus reviews of different programs, different services, and I would be – I just have to be very honest to you and say that there's going to be a lot of scrutiny on campus. I think that we've seen it in Macomb and other areas. We saw it at the hospital recently where they had to review for duplication of services or services that were not cost effective for them to maintain. I believe that we will be going through that same discussion, and we will be having similar outcomes in the future. I need to say that as a very serious note, and it's something that is on all of our minds, and it weighs very heavily on the trustees and the administration's minds too. Just so you know that – we take that responsibility very seriously with the state dollars our responsibility is to be able to provide quality education that we can to our students, and we know all that goes into that too. I just want to tell you that is happening. We take it very seriously, and you'll hear more about that in the future. So hate to end on that serious note, but that will conclude my remarks. I'm very happy to have you folks here today and hope that you enjoy the meeting. With that, I will turn it over to President Thomas.

### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Jack Thomas said thank you Trustee Early. Good morning and welcome to our March Board meeting. We have much to cover in today's meeting, including the 2015-2016 tuition, fees and room and board rates. I'm pleased that by working with our University constituencies, including our Student Government Association, the increase the Board will be considering today continues to keep Western Illinois University as an affordable and accessible institution of higher learning. Student entering WIU in the Fall of 2015 will see a nominal increase, but their costs are locked in for the next four years and this is something that we need to continually say to our students as well as parents and our stakeholders and this is something that we pride ourselves on that they will continue for four consecutive years with room, board, tuition and fees.

I also want to thank our students, particularly our Student Trustee Michael Quigley, as well as SGA President David Dunn and their committee for working very diligently with us to solve some of the concerns that they had about the fees. They went back and Matt Bierman, our Budget Director and I met with them, and we had a wonderful conversation and we came to an agreement as we always do. I say

that we have some great student leaders here at this institution, and they work well with the University even when there are differences we sit down to talk about some of those things, so let's give our SGA as well as our student trustee a round of applause this morning. (APPLAUSE)

We will also be discussing the current budget situation and the prospect of even less state appropriation for the next fiscal year. Earlier this month, I presented the budget testimony before the House and before the Senate regarding Higher Education Appropriation. Individuals who joined me were the Provost Ken Hawkinson, Budget Director Matt Bierman, Vice President Julie DeWees and Angela Bonifas, as well as Rhonda Kline who joined me down in Springfield for that. We also had the Legislative Reception in Springfield where we had alumni, as well as friends come out to support us.

As you all know, Governor Rauner and his budget address last month has proposed a budget that has serious implications for our State and higher education. The Governor's proposed a fiscal year 2016 budget cause for a \$400M reduction for higher education, which equates to a 31% or \$16.6M reduction in our state appropriation. While this proposal is most troubling, we have to remember this reduction is not set in stone. Our legislators are working towards a state budget for the new fiscal year, and we will continue to work with those legislators to ensure that higher education is represented. And as I noted in a letter to the University community following the Governor's budget address, we will do everything possible to mitigate the devastating impact of potential state reductions and we will make every effort to protect our employees and to protect our students, as well as the University community.

We are preparing for all potential scenarios presented to us by the State. And once the decision has been rendered by the Governor and others, we will be coming before the University community whether by letter or whether we do it by an opening town hall meeting just to let you know where we are and how we plan to offset the budget reduction here.

While we're looking ahead at FY2016 and budget scenarios, we continue to face budget challenges during the current fiscal year. Most recently with the consideration of House Bill 317 which calls for a 2.25% rescission which equates to a \$1.2M for Western Illinois University. We have prepared for this possibility and at the beginning of the Spring semester at the request of the Governor, we held back over \$.5M of our appropriated dollars. And as you may recall, we released 95% of our operating budget this year. We held back 5% anticipating that there would be even more in terms of our rescission during this particular semester, so we're prepared to meet that reduction as stated.

Despite these challenges, Western continues to achieve great things. On Wednesday as Chair Early stated, we entered into a new partnership agreement with Carl Sandburg College that allows Sandburg honor students to transfer to WIU Centennial Honors College and graduate from Western with University honors. I would like to thank Honors College Director Dr. Rick Hardy and his staff for their efforts in making this partnership possible, so let's give it up for Dr. Hardy back here. (APPLAUSE)

And also as already has been stated, I'm sure we're going to hear more and more about this WIU's Women Leatherneck Basketball standout Ashley Luke has been named the Capital One Academic All-America of the Year for Division I Women's Basketball. Ashley was selected out of 5 Division 1 players who earned First Team Academic All-America honors. She becomes the first ever – the first ever Western Illinois University student athlete to receive the Academic All-American of the Year Award, and is also the first female in Summit League history to earn that distinction. Let's honor her today as well. (APPLAUSE)

At the beginning of the Spring semester, we launched an online video tour produced in-house by University Relations and University Television to give prospective students and their families that key first impression of WIU. And students and their families can visit Western by going to [wiu.edu/tour](http://wiu.edu/tour) to

get a firsthand glimpse at campus facilities, and our programs and our students and also our activities here on our campus.

For the fourth consecutive year, Western's Distance Learning program has been recognized by US News 2015 Best Online Program rankings. Western is ranked 63<sup>rd</sup> out of 214 colleges from across the US in best online programs – bachelor's category and is one of 4 Illinois public universities in the Top 100. I want to thank Dr. Carter and his staff for all that they do and also those professors who are teaching in the online programs as well.

We are very pleased with the office in the East St. Louis metropolitan area. Applications numbers have increased. I'm sure Dr. Biller will talk more about that. The office is hosting three educational seminars about attending college for prospective students. Strategic partnerships are being made with Southwestern Illinois College, East St. Louis Community College Center, Scott's Air Force Base and the Upward Bound program and others. Also, the Admissions Counselor responsible for outreach has attended numerous community events, mentoring programs and meetings throughout the entire St. Louis metropolitan area. The East Alliance Initiative has placed Western's name in a conversation as a primary choice for students seeking a four-year public education. And also there will be a bus trip here on April 21<sup>st</sup>. I know Gary has more to talk about there. We're making some inroads there in the St. Louis Metropolitan area which will bring more students to our University, as well as various partnerships. And according to our Vice President for Student Services, we're looking at doing this in other cities as well. We have to be as competitive as our competitors are all across the state as well as out of state. When we travel to the alumni events in Texas, Dr. Biller and I were there. He also talked with alumni in helping us getting students from even also in Texas, so we're trying to find ways to get more out of state students here to our University, and also more international students as we're doing.

We have so much to celebrate, and of which to be proud and we have faced budgetary challenges, but we will and as I told you from the very beginning, we will continue to move this institution forward.

Finally, I want to congratulate Rhonda Kline, who works in Institutional Research. This is her last Board meeting. She will be retiring some time I guess soon in May, and I asked her to stay on but she said this is it. Rhonda, are you back there? She's not here, but she will be retiring and she's done a superb job in the Office of the Institutional Research, so we can give her a round of applause in her absence. (APPLAUSE)

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a colleague, a dear friend, our Provost Ken Hawkinson, on being selected as the 12<sup>th</sup> President of Kutztown University. Dr. Hawkinson will assume the presidency on July 1, but he told me that after graduation that's it for him he needs a break. That I've worn him out here at Western, but I want to thank you for your hard work and your dedication and all that you have done here at Western. Ken Hawkinson has been here for umpteen years. Chair Early added 40 years. President Thomas continued he did his bachelors here and then he did his master's, and he's worked here all of those years. I often call him one of the founders of Western Illinois University when I talk about him, but we're going to miss you. We thank you for the job that you have done, and we wish you much success at your new post as President of Kutztown University. Thank you.

And for those enquiring minds, I will be appointing an interim provost and then after which we will enter into a national search for a new provost and academic vice president here at Western Illinois University.

That concludes my report. I'll be happy to answer any questions or entertain any comments that you may have. Thank you.

Chair Early said I will only add Provost Hawkinson that I hope that we have a student today that enters campus and then leaves becoming a president of a university, so it's a great transition. Congratulations.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Jeanette Malafa said good morning. President Thomas always steals my thunder so my first paragraph you might have already said. As you know the first few months of the new General Assembly has been a tumultuous ride for the Illinois public universities besides the proposed 31.5% cut to our appropriations in the Governor's introduced budget. House Bills 317 and 318 were sent to the Governor yesterday. These pieces of legislation would cut our FY15 appropriation by 2.25% and give GOMB emergency rule marking powers to address the \$1.5 billion shortfall in this year's budget.

This week also marked the deadline for the first Chamber bills to be reported out of Committee with the General Assembly taking a much needed two-week Spring Break. Numerous bills have been filed that would affect everything from our procurement to financial aid to admissions procedures, legislation was filed that would allow community colleges to offer and award baccalaureate degrees, privatize the public universities, and eliminate our employee dependent tuition waivers.

Tracking literally hundreds of bills, I will only highlight some of interest at the end of the report.

WIU visited the Capitol the first two weeks of March, taking the opportunity to meet the chairs, vice chairs and minority spokesman of all the higher education and the appropriation committees on March 4<sup>th</sup> on Macomb Day in the State Capitol. President Thomas, Matt Bierman, Vice President Brad Bainter and myself were able to tell the Western story, hear their concerns, and answer questions before our appropriations hearing the next week. That evening, our Legislative Reception organized in conjunction with our alumni office was another success. Many legislators from around the State came to hear our success stories, support Western and hopefully learn something in the process. Both our Senate and House appropriation hearings were then held the following week on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. After these hearings, our budget team then visited with Tim Nuding, the Director of the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, who explained the process for developing the introduced budget and the potential outcome for not just this year but for the next few years.

I would be lax not to mention that President Thomas, Vice President Brad Bainter and myself attended the inaugural reception of Governor Rauner, Secretary of State Jesse White, Comptroller Leslie Munger, Treasurer Mike Frerichs and Attorney General Lisa Madigan back in January. In addition, the University also hosted Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti on February 5 to tour campus, discussed higher education issues with President Thomas, talked with students and learned about the Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs and their role in assisting on the Governor's Rural Affairs Council.

Lastly organized by the Illinois Public University Presidents and Chancellors, universities have worked together to create an advocacy document highlighting the importance of public higher education in Illinois. The liaisons, including myself, have been visiting with each member of the General Assembly to discuss our contributions to the State and point out the number of public university students and alumni living in each of their districts.

Now moving on to bills of interest, bills still moving include:

Senate Bill 688 and 1334 which both deal with Illinois Supplier Diversity Programs - WIU and SIU are taking the lead for the public universities and hope to reduce some of the reporting for both the business enterprise program and the small and veteran owned business programs administered by the State.

Senate Bill 806 creates a student transfer achievement reform act that would allow public community college students who earn an associate for transfer to transfer into a baccalaureate at a state university if the student meets certain requirements. The state university would then have to guarantee admission with junior status to any community college students who meet these requirements and grant priority admission and admission to a program or a major that is similar to his or her community college major or area of emphasis.

Senate Bill 1339 would require the University to post video of each Board of Trustees meeting on our official website within 24 hours after scheduled beginning of the meeting. Each video must stay on the website for a period of 2 years or until the meeting has been reduced to minutes whichever is later. There are also some changing to posting notices.

House Bill 3476 creates a tuition and fee exemption at state universities for children of wounded military personnel.

House Bill 3973 prohibits the University from using state funds to pay an individual for a commencement address at any graduation ceremony.

And finally House Bill 403 repeals the employee dependent tuition waiver program for the universities. There were other pieces of legislation that dealt with tuition waivers such as not only deleting the current program out of the statutes but also denying the university to offer such program, or restoring the General Assembly tuition waiver but these are not moving.

Among bills that are not moving, such as a bill that would set tuition for us to another that would eliminate our ability to use eminent domain or acquire the General Assembly to review severance agreements with the university executive, or carve out 25% of all MAP funds specifically for community colleges.

There is one bill that the media outlet picked up on. Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 1565 calls for the privatization of state universities within 6 years. The amendment would say, beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the universities would begin to transition into a non-public institution. The Board of Trustees would develop an implemented transition plan, including a transition date and the appointment of a governing board. When the date occurred, the university would be a non-public institution and all powers, duties, assets and liabilities would become part of a newly found non-public. Money saved by the plan, meaning the state appropriations, the base level would be our FY15 approp here at this year, the program – the monies would then be put into a scholarship program called the Illinois Grant Program. This program would be need based and have certain stipulations for paying back, including years to complete graduation and years of residency in Illinois. I have been told this bill is not moving, and the news stories also report the same. That is it, and I'll take any questions.

Trustee Cole asked do you believe the Governor to have the votes to pass the 31%? Jeanette Malafa replied I do not believe so. When we met with the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, they told us in the beginning that the Governor said on his campaign trail he could not cut – he was not going to cut K-12 or community colleges. So the Director told us at that point, they had 38 days to come up with a budget and it became a mathematical exercise. They did not think that the 31% would be where we were in the end. President Thomas told the appropriations committee that we request flat funding. Some universities offered up a percentage cut, but we said we have been flat funded for a few years and it's still considered a cut.

President Thomas noted actually I asked for more money, but they asked me what would we consider in terms of a cut, and I said level funding. We will not be asking for cuts.

Trustee Epperly said elimination of employee tuition waivers. Do we have a position on that as a University? Jeanette Malafa replied yes we oppose that definitely. We actually work closely with the teacher unions at that one – we've been working that one together, and all of the universities. And our librarians just sent me some great research because I've been trying to find out what privates and publics do around the country.

Trustee Epperly replied okay and then you may have mentioned it, if you did I missed it. Amtrak – are we working doing anything to minimize any cuts to Amtrak because I would assume that would have a drastic effect on Western? Jeanette Malafa replied they're beginning to have Amtrak caucus dinners. There was one this week that I couldn't make, but they know that we are helpful and will be helping lobby to not take any Amtrak cuts because we are telling people what Amtrak does for the University.

President Thomas noted and also when those cuts come up, we always send a letter in support and also voice our concerns about those cuts. And also Tom Carper is coming to visit me next week to discuss some of those strategies of what we should be doing – how we can help him.

Trustee Hare added I spoke to Representative Pat Verschoore and he said that from their perspective, the House, that if the Supreme Court rules in favor of the employees on the pension end of it and the Governor is not inclined to want to extend the tax or incrementally raise it whatever, that every state agency would take a hit of about 30%-32%, which I would assume would include Department of Education and everything. Have you heard that? Jeanette Malafa responded I hadn't heard those numbers. I'm assuming House Dem Staff came up with those numbers. I cannot imagine what happens when the pension system is ruled unconstitutional, but we will be in a mess. I do think there is beginning to be some movement where the Governor is beginning to realize we're probably going to need more revenues, so those topics are still in play. And because everyone played so nice together this week, for House Bill 317 and 318 and all sides threw votes on that and are working with the Governor to fill this hole hopefully, we can all work together and create a state budget that's good for everybody. Trustee Hare noted and just finally nobody knows that the Supreme Court is going to do at this point, but is there a guesstimate as to when their decision from the legislative end of it – when this decision might come down because this has a huge effect obviously? Jeanette Malafa replied I read articles that say about – they think it will take about 6 months for the Supreme Court to come to a final decision. I knew someone would ask this question today, so I called the other liaisons on the way up here to see if they had any better scoop than me, and no one knows. Trustee Hare replied thank you.

Trustee Quigley stated can I just say as somebody who's benefitted from a public university both in undergraduate and now working on a master's degree I vehemently oppose the idea of us becoming a private institution. I just want to put that on the record. I vehemently oppose that, yes. Thank you. Jeanette Malafa replied good. Chair Early stated thank you for all your work, Jeanette. I really appreciate it.

## **GENERAL COMMENTS BY VICE PRESIDENTS**

### **Academic Services**

Chair Early said we will start out with a short timer, Dr. Ken Hawkinson. Provost Ken Hawkinson said thank you and good morning. I have several items on the agenda and so we'll provide remarks with regard to those topics a little later in the meeting, but I do want to update you on a few things.

Over the years, you've heard me speak of the consolidated annual report process that we go through at Western Illinois University each year. It's a bottom up planning and budgeting process starting in departments and units and ending in public presentations by myself and the other VPs through the President. Those public presentations will be held towards the end of April. This past Tuesday my 9

directors presented their public presentations. And on Wednesday, the 5 deans presented their reports to the University community. And all these reports and PowerPoint presentations will be posted on my website, and I hope that some of you will take the opportunity to look through those because in these difficult times, the focus is often on the challenges that universities face. It makes me think of when I performed Mark Antony in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar. During the funeral oration, Mark Antony says, "the evil men do stands before them – the good is oft interred in their bones". In other words, we only hear the bad stuff. Listening to Jeanette, we do often only hear the bad stuff only because ... Jeanette responded sorry. Provost Hawkinson continued that's okay. Well, I want to highlight some good stuff or some good things happening in Academic Affairs as a result of the last few days of public presentations.

Our Graduate enrollment is up, and we're offering the highest number of graduate assistantships 487 since 2012. Our Office of Sponsored Projects will be up in their awards this year, and of course their report comes in June.

As a Result of a proposal from the Faculty Senate, our Registrar will now put in place a process that adds the major to our student's diplomas. Academic Advising has implemented new practices as a result of their review last year. One of which is the development and implementation of an online tutoring center.

In addition to the many services provided the Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs to the State, they'll be offering a new graduate degree in community development next year. In our Distance Learning area, our numbers continue to rise. And in our outreach area, we serve 107 students through our youth programs and served over 875 seniors through our Life Long Learning program. Our international programs also continue to rise, and you know the very fine work of Rick Carter and the many visits that he and his staff are marking across the globe to bring in more international students.

Our Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research have 3600 visits to their website, and they hosted numerous workshops. Our Honors College continues to grow and diversity and you're aware of the impressive accomplishments of our honors students. University Technology has put in place significant increases in bandwidth and wireless service compared to this time last year.

In COFAC, our School of Music, for example, hosted 148 performances and had 12,155 people in attendance. In our College of Education and Human Services, our Horn Field Campus served 230 groups and more than 7,300 individuals and 5,800 hours of volunteer services were given to the Infant and Preschool Center.

University Libraries provided access to nearly ½ million library users, reserved materials requested by faculty in 599 classes and answered more than 9,500 reference inquiries.

The College of Business and Technology has brought in significant amounts of money in direct support of its programs and hosted national accreditation teams on campus this semester. Our College of Arts and Sciences continues to build an educational foundation for all of our students by providing a high quality Liberal Arts education dedicated to preparing students to be members of a learned society.

And one reason why I begin with that Shakespeare quote is because I learned about Shakespeare as a part of my general education as an undergraduate student. All of our units are actively engaged in our enrollment and retention efforts working with Dr. Biller and Dr. Borst. From our efforts in the greater St. Louis area and we know the very positive results that are coming from those efforts up to the region surrounding Chicago and beyond.

Finally on a personal note going back to my student days, I had been associated with Western Illinois University and Macomb not from its founding (LAUGHTER), but for 40 years. And I move on to the

next stage of my career with the gratefulness and appreciation to the faculty, administrators and staff who first mentored me and then became my colleagues and then my friends. Much of whom I am was shaped by Western. I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for your support of me over the years and for your dedication to this University. I was involved in the formation of the Board of Trustees back in 1996, and it has been an honor to work with the dedicated and generous board members over the years who have given their time and wisdom to making this a great University. Thank you. (APPLAUSE)

Chair Early replied thank you very much, Provost Hawkinson. Trustee Epperly interjected two questions. Number one, I wanted to question unrelated – was your Shakespearean days down in the pit where that old? Provost Hawkinson replied that's the founding of the University that far back. (LAUGHTER)

Trustee Epperly added you mentioned online tutoring. Was that something we purchased, or did we develop that program? Provost Hawkinson replied I think we're developing it. Is Michelle here? I think we're developing it ourselves. Trustee Epperly responded okay. And then this kind of crosses two lines and it came up – somebody recently asked me that if we granted credits for prior experience and I said no not that I'm aware of, but that's a good idea. And that individual actually checked before I could and found out that we did. And I guess my point is I wasn't aware of that – this individual who's a graduate wasn't aware of it, and he was asking for somebody else. And if that's the case, do we publicize that much? And, I don't know. It's my food for thought. Provost Hawkinson replied there is some limited credit for prior experience through the BGS program, our online bachelor of general studies degree program. Non-traditional students who have had significant experience in a given area can prepare a portfolio. They'd submit it to their Distance Education people that'd be Rick Carter and his staff. And then they would go to the department in question and the faculty, and they'd sit down and the department chair would ultimately decide if that prior experience meets the equivalency of taking that academic course. It's rare that this equivalency is allowed. There is a national movement to have more and more prior learning accepted. There is some concern with this. It used to be that you received an education to get a job. Now in some cases, you have a job and then they give you a college degree for experience, so things are starting to reverse. So we still want to make sure and I talked about general education earlier, for example. We still want to make sure that students are going through the full experience of a university experience, but there are some situations wherein someone has a significant experience in a given area and with regard to that program only we will accept some of that prior learning for credit. Trustee Epperly asked so is that only online credit, or is that? Provost Hawkinson responded it's only BGS. Rick, is that correct? They are shaking their heads. It's only for the online degree. Trustee Epperly replied okay, because I would think that there would be some fields that if you had a long time experience that we have some fields – Law Enforcement, Nursing, Military, etc. that those things could apply to for just a general student. Food for thought - I don't know. Provost Hawkinson responded the one element between that we always have to make the distinction between hands on experience and having the experience in a university course is the credentials of the faculty member who is a Ph.D. and a scholar in most cases and also the depth of research that's involved in understanding the writing, the reading that often doesn't come through that practical experience. There are some courses where there's a direct application, but there's many courses where it wouldn't apply. But that's why we do it on a case by case basis with at least in terms of the general degree.

Trustee Clawson noted speaking on behalf of the Board we want to thank you for all your years here, and we know you'll still have purple. Second question is, are you and I – does this mean you won't be able to have a celebratory toast at Higgins Hall when it comes down being past residents? Provost Hawkinson replied Ann Marie and I are going to keep our house, and this will be a prime vacation site for us. (LAUGHTER) I will return for celebrations and special events. And if Higgins Hall comes down, I have to be here for that, and I'll be right next to you with a glass of champagne. Trustee Clawson replied thanks.

Trustee Quigley stated I just wanted to say thank you. I've spent a lot of time speaking with Stephen Frazier with Director of Technology, and I want to say thank you for a lot of ground work is being done and all of the yelling I've been doing about Technology I wanted to say thank you because stuff is being done now and I'm incredibly happy with that. Thank you very much. Provost Hawkinson responded thank you.

Trustee Cole added I just want to say thank you for the time that I've spent with you, conversating about different things all the time. You make it happen. You're truly going to be missed. Provost Hawkinson replied thank you.

Trustee Savala said I'm going to jump in here. Being still fairly new here, but any time I picked up the phone or sent an email you've explained everything I needed to know. And I know probably on a lower level at the very beginning, but you still took it to heart and it meant a lot so I appreciate it. Provost Hawkinson responded thank you so much.

Trustee Hare noted I would just want again thank you for everything you've done, and my only piece of advice is the one general that we had that spoke for an hour or whatever at the ROTC graduation. (LAUGHTER) I have his business card, and he has agreed to go where you're going. (LAUGHTER) And give an hour of his time so that you will feel at home, so thank you very much.

Provost Hawkinson replied Trustee Hare as I mentioned I am considering inviting you for their ROTC commissioning at Kutztown University to have you speak on the speech of the general. (LAUGHTER) Trustee Hare asked how much time do I get? (LAUGHTER) Provost Hawkinson replied 3 minutes. Trustee Hare said okay. (LAUGHTER) No, seriously, thank you for everything. You've done a marvelous job. Thank you for everything. Provost Hawkinson replied thank you.

Trustee Epperly added and I also want to say thank you Ken. I'm sad to say I go back before your time even, and but you've been outstanding. In fact, I stopped yesterday to the Art Gallery, and I wanted to see some what had happened there but I tried to convince Ann Marie that she should stay and but couldn't convince her. She said she was going with you, but we wish the both of you just the very best. Provost Hawkinson noted it seems to be a running theme on this campus that it's kind okay that I leave but people seem to want Ann Marie. (LAUGHTER)

Chair Early responded we weren't going to make that part of our official remarks just so that you know that we were not planning to do it, but now that you said it. Provost Hawkinson replied sorry I'm taking her with. Trustee Cole added I think everybody knows who really runs the house. Provost Hawkinson replied that's true – the dog does. (LAUGHTER) Chair Early added but thank you very much for all your service, Ken. You and I've talked apart from this, but publicly thank you very much for everything that you've done. I really appreciate it.

### **Advancement and Public Services**

Vice President Brad Bainter said I think I was probably the first to say I wish Ann Marie would stay actually. She's done a great job with the Art Gallery, and we've had a lot of good success there so we will miss both of them. And that's enough Ken. We've talked enough about you now, okay?

Major initiatives and progress are completed within University Relations and Marketing include a walking video tour as President Thomas mentioned earlier of the Macomb campus featuring students and President Thomas. All of our commercials featuring students and alumni for television and movie theaters around the region, sexual assault awareness prevention campaign, including two public service announcements for television featuring President Thomas. Our new view book and new summer session promotions are almost complete as well.

Just to give you an idea, with Ashley Luke, we did – we sort of didn't budget for that in our budget for this year, it's something that never happens. (LAUGHTER) So we view this as maybe a once in a lifetime effort as well, so we've shifted some things around and we put about \$15,000 into marketing her incredible successes. This included billboards coming in from all sides of Macomb, including one in Springfield, recognition in the Quad Cities and Milwaukee airports, quarter to half page ads in the Chicago Tribune, the Peoria Journal Star and the McDonough Voice, the Quincy Herald Whig and the Kenosha newspaper, her hometown newspaper more than once. We're very proud of what she's accomplished and did the best we could do with the dollars we had to promote that, and we will continue to promote it.

The staff in University Relations continues to reach out to all areas of the campus to find stories about faculty, staff and students to promote. Oversight of social media takes up more and more of our staff time every day. University Television is all over campus taping campus lectures and events for Channel 3. This is in addition to their work in producing the commercials for marketing the University which saves us a considerable amount of money.

We have just come to the end of the digital marketing contract with Media Link in the Quad Cities. This put our messaging out on such media as Yahoo, Google, Pandora, YouTube and Hulu. We will start the negotiation process with them again hopefully. As I do believe it has positively impacted applications for Admissions to Western and the contract ends in March, so we hope to be able to renew a contract with them by the end of this fiscal year or the start of the next fiscal year.

Finally since she's here and one staff change, I am pleased to announce that we've hired Amanda Shoemaker as our Director of Donor Relations for the Foundation Office. So Amanda will start with us effective June 1<sup>st</sup>. And to kind of ease the pain of Amy who is here in the crowd as well for taking her as I will just congratulate Alumni programs on a tremendous event last night in Mt. Sterling, Illinois. Over 70 people in attendance including Representative Randy Frese for dinner down there. It's a great turnout, and also I will congratulate them. I know there's a little trepidation at this point, the Purple and Gold Day, is a tremendous amount of coordination across the country and all the places that we're taking place to celebrate that day, so we have a lot of people that are working to make that a successful day around the country, and actually in spots outside of the country as well. So I think it will be a great day and a fun day for everybody involved.

Chair Early asked for any questions or comments to Mr. Bainter. Trustee Hare noted I seen the commercial – it's excellent, the TV commercial. Chair Early continued anything else. Thank you very much, Brad. I appreciate it.

### **Student Services**

Vice President Gary Biller said thank you Trustee Early, members of the Board. It's a pleasure to be here this morning. Let me begin with our area of Admissions, as you know we have 12 fulltime recruiters out there. To date this year, we have conducted 1,327 recruiting visits which is up by 209 visits over this time last year, and we will continue to do those throughout this time until the first day of school in August. As of 2AM this morning, which is when we get the reports, we have accepted 6,170 new freshmen which is a 9.5% increase over this time last year. It's one of the highest increases we've seen in over 4 years in that area.

Our first year efforts down in St. Louis are beginning to pay off. We have – we are up 50 accepted students which is 111% increase in that area. In the Quad Cities, we're up 56% of the students that are admitted to Macomb and the Quad Cities' numbers for new freshmen are stable holding even. We have begun admitting freshmen students to the 14 degree programs at the Quad Cities that students can complete exclusively at the Quad Cities.

Our concern right now is looking at transfer students. We're down slightly in transfer students by 75 or 80 students. And the majority of those are from Black Hawk. Black Hawk College is down, and that's our #1 feeder so their decrease impacts us. So we are going to be reaching out to other two-year junior colleges in that area and other areas across the state.

So overall, our Fall 2015 projections continue to be positive, and I am cautiously optimistic. I will not give you a number at this point in time. But just say that I am optimistic.

Our biggest concern for Fall enrollment has to do with University of Illinois dipping down into where they would not normally admit that next level, and Illinois State is beginning a very heavy discounting campaign which are very competitive for us. And then to just let you know how this stacks up out of state, we recently had welcome receptions in the Chicagoland area. There were 4 of them. And during that time, we met with around 350 accepted freshmen and their families and talked to them about housing and financial aid, and I visited last week with colleague of mine from the University of Missouri. They held one afternoon event for their admitted students in the Chicagoland area, and they had 700 freshmen attend that. And they're planning to extend that effort into Dallas and Houston next year. So it's not just the in-state schools that we have to compete against, but it's also the out-of-state schools that we have to be aware of.

We've also – we had a very successful local student recruitment event at the President's residence. We invited students from the 10 county area to come by and visit and hear from our academic deans and other personnel. And we want to try and continue to make this an annual event, so that those students in this area, even though they think they know all about Western and Macomb, we get them here and we're able to kind of indoctrinate them a little bit more and tell them more about that.

In Financial Aid, this is really important because getting the word out to students about their awards and their scholarships and everything early is an important part of recruitment process. Financial Aid has processed over 6,000 award letters so far. That's about double from what we had this time last year. And to put that in perspective, by the time the first day of classes start, they will probably process over 16,000 financial aid applications, so there's a lot of work ahead of them but we are doing a quick turnaround that's probably less than a week by the time we receive an application to the time we get an award letter out to those students.

Foundation scholarships are being awarded currently, and one of the things that has helped us move that process forward is that thanks to uTech and Electronic Student Services, the application for those foundation scholarships is online and now active, so you can submit it from online instead of previously you had to print it off, fill it out and mail it in and take some time. You don't have to do that anymore, so we're moving forward with those scholarships.

Our retention programs, fall to spring retention for last Fall's freshmen is 87.8%. That's compared to 90.7% in the previous year, so we're down slightly. If we use our numbers to project into next fall, we're projecting somewhere between a 69% to 70% return or retention rate of that freshmen class. Last year's retention rate was around 72%-73%. So overall freshmen retention rate of 87.8% are students who participated in our Building Connections retention program came back at 88.5%. Those that did not came back at 84%, so we're still seeing that Building Connections program, along with the University 100 effort, the freshman seminar, are making a difference in those retention rates. We've seen a great increase in the number of students participating in Building Connections, and I think that's going to be beneficial.

We again hosted Experience Western programs in March and we'll have some more in April, encouraging students and one of their family members to ride the train down and stay overnight and find out what it's

like to sit in on a biology class or an accounting class or whatever those may be. We continue to bring in high school counselors. We'll bus them in or train them in from wherever because we need those people to see our campus, because they're the ones that influence the decisions for their students. And we have one more Discover Western left before we move into the Summer, and it is April 11<sup>th</sup>, not December 11<sup>th</sup>, as I reported mistakenly yesterday in a meeting. So I'm wanting to correct that – it's April 11<sup>th</sup>.

News in our Bookstore area, we are exploring a more inclusive rental program that should significantly reduce the costs of books for our students. We won't be able to implement for that at least a year, but we're working with a company who has engaged this business model where we think we can bring the cost of books into an average price for everybody, and it will be a rental program and then we'll work with the Student Government Association and others to see if we can make that a fee because it will be the same for all students and that way those rental books can be paid for from the Financial Aid program which currently we cannot do. So hopefully, that's going to be good news in bringing down the costs of books for our students. It's just a very cumbersome model and it's going to take us a year or so to get to that.

In Career Development, we recently held a Career Fair. We had 335 students attending with 76 organizations. In Disability Resource Center this Spring, we're working with over 500 students with disabilities in meeting their needs, and we're one of the leaders in the area on that. As a matter of fact, we've been asked – our Disability Resource Center Director has been asked to author a chapter in the book, Universal Design in Higher Education from Principles to Practice. So we're very proud of Tara Buchannan and her work in that area. We think that's going to reflect well on us.

Housing and Dining Services – we, every year, go through and recycle, replace and this year we recycled 350 mattresses for a total of 22,000 pounds of recycled material, so we continue to be friendly to the environment. (LAUGHTER) Also in Housing and Dining Services, let me bring you up to speed on East Village – East Village is a facility obviously on the east side of campus. It contains 36 apartments, one and two bedroom apartments, primarily used for our family and student housing. East Village currently holds a \$4M deferred maintenance, so there's a lot of work to be done. And again understand, this facility was built 48 years ago, intended to last about 30 years. We've gotten 18 more years out of it than we thought we would. A lot of problems with fan coils, units, piping – there's a lot of leaking and replacement we had some issues with that this fall and spring in terms of humidity and water build up in some of those apartments. We spent \$80,000 through Facilities Management just correcting those immediate problems where the students were living. And then we asked Facilities Management to give us an estimate of what it would take to fix just that part of the problem. They came back with an estimate of \$1.6M to correct that. Basically, that comes out to about \$46,000 per apartment to correct that. That along with our \$4M of deferred maintenance and the fact that we are deliberately keeping the rent lower over there and subsidizing that with other parts of the University Housing and Dining Services, has led us to the conclusion that if we went ahead and did the renovations that we the \$1.6M and that's just the beginning of some of the renovations, we'd have to raise their rates by 25% over there just to cover operating costs which we think is not economically feasible at this time. So the recommendation has been to approve that we close the East Village complex effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. We are in the process of meeting with the residents over there, explaining their options. We have met with the apartment complex owners throughout the Macomb, finding out what their availability is. It looks like there will be no problem with those students being absorbed into the current Macomb market of apartments. There's actually an excess of apartments within the Macomb market. We also, some of our students over there receive TANF or Section 8 grants that's subsidized funding to help with the housing. Our Financial Aid office has agreed to work with them and any outside apartment complexes that are available to take that funding to help make that transition smoother, so we will continue to meet with these residents and explain their options to them helping them to relocate and find a place within Macomb and helping them with their finances.

So we set a date of July 1<sup>st</sup>. We have some flexibility on that, but we hope to move those students forward by that time.

Also in Housing and Dining Services on the fun side, we had our Copper Chef competition in February which is always a lot of fun for the students in the residence hall there. They enjoyed that. And then Sodexo hosted a Russian Chef, part of their worldwide tour of bringing their chefs in different places. And everybody enjoyed the food and JB was glad he was not there because he doesn't eat that Russian kind of food. (JB laughed) He's strictly meat and potatoes kind of guy.

In our Veterans Resource Center, we just Wednesday held an employment fair for connecting vets to employment. We had 80 veterans participate in that. And our goal there is to help them transition from their college to a job once they graduate, so we see that as a very good success. We had 5 veterans participate in the State of Illinois Leadership Conference in Springfield – this is in February.

Other news – we got Mom's Weekend going on this weekend with 300+ moms attending. Spring athletics are in swing with baseball and softball and golf and all those things. And then on a personal note, I'd like to congratulate Michelle Janisz, our Director of Campus Activities for completing her doctorate at Illinois State, so she is now Dr. Michelle Janisz. Congratulations also go to Dr. Chris Corbett, who is our Associate Director in the University Counseling Center. He has been named president-elect of the American College Counseling Association for next year, so he will represent us very well.

Dr. Thomas mentioned the \$52,000 that was raised for the Children's Hospital of St. Louis. We're happy for that. And then you know everybody had to mention her, so I've got to do it too. Ashley Luke, and I'm going to pass around some of these because due to the thanks of Brad's office and Pat Osterman over in Sports Information in the Athletics Department, this is just a sample of some of the free publicity that we got because of Ashley Luke's outstanding job. And Dr. Thomas and I were talking to the Summit League Commissioner, and he helped us put it in perspective. He told us that there are over 5,000 female Division I athletes in the nation, and out of those 5,000 Division 1 female athletes, Ashley Luke was selected as #1. So fantastic job for her, and we're very proud of her and we hope to continue to see more students like her.

That concludes my report. I'd be happy to answer any questions or comments that you may have now.

Trustee Epperly stated two questions. One, is anything being done on standards? We talked a couple times over the last couple years about raising standards, admissions standards. You know I argue that there's a perception out there that Western's standards have gone down over the last few years, and I think that's from students. I heard that from students. I've heard it from alumni. I've heard it from faculty, etc. and...

VP Biller replied I'm curious about that perception, because just the opposite is true. You know we've raised our standards. We did that a couple years ago.

Trustee Epperly continued Gary, but even while I think it was December 13 board meeting wasn't even in the packet that, that perception was there at the...VP Biller replied yep. Trustee Epperly continued but I'd argue that it is out there, and I feel we need to be gradually increasing standards. VP Biller also stated increasing standards. Trustee Epperly added #1 diffuse that but secondly it's just a quality thing I guess you could say that...VP Biller noted I think if we reach a point where we can stabilize our enrollment then that would be an appropriate discussion, but I think the other thing that we do to counteract that perception is what we've been doing with the high school counselors, bringing them to campus, Chicagoland counselors with the Noble Network and with a variety of other areas. St. Louis counselors

are coming up here in a week or two. And part of what they have to do, we help them understand is what are the admissions standards, where we fit within that grid with other schools. We think our admissions standards are fairly strong right now. Could they always be raised? Sure, but we have to measure what impact that will have on our overall recruitment and enrollment.

Trustee Epperly said I would argue that a lot of it is marketing. VP Biller replied yeah. Trustee Epperly noted and if I understand the Admissions scale whatever it's referred to now, you could increase standards I hate to say it that way but very minimal but still have to make the statement that we're increasing standards. VP Biller responded uh-huh. Trustee Epperly added and I would argue the effect on student recruitment would almost be minimal, and uh but it's marketing is so much perceptions and I am constantly hearing the perception that it's not going the right direction from hereon and so...on it.

Trustee Cole stated Bill I would say that with other major universities like U of I lowering some of this standards for admissions, I think that would kind of hurt us to a degree, because U of I has changed some of these requirements for students coming in, and then we are competing with Missouri. We are competing with other major universities. You know I keep up with that very closely because I work with Gary. I work with Andy all the time in regards to student recruitment. And again when you have U of I that's lowering their standards to bring in a different type of student, if you look at, you don't want to price yourself out of the game and it appears, that's what that would do for us with us being one of the best valued university already. When you start looking at, it's going to do us more harm than good. Andy did share the grid with me last year where there is that small increase that you're looking at. I think you may want to sit down with him and see where we went from within the last year/year and a half, well two years. It will show you exactly what you're looking for because if we go too far up, then U of Is are going to start taking us out as opposed to just Mizzou. Because Missouri is really hurting in the State of Illinois right now, so we may want to maintain, especially with the economy the way it is. Just you know food for thought.

Provost Hawkinson stated Trustee Epperly if I may jump in. There are some markers and one very important marker to show that our academic profile has gone up is the fact that our retention rate went up 9% in only year. And there are many reasons for that and one is because of the students that we have are better prepared to come to Western and they're succeeding at a much higher rate than students in just recent years. And our OAS special program, as well, I think the numbers have gone up significantly. The fall to spring retention rate for our OAS program is nearly at the same level as our regularly admitted student which means these students, too, the ones in this program are higher quality and they're meeting the standards, and we're providing the services to help them succeed. It always saddens me when the perceptions are out there about Western, because the reality is that in the last three/four years there's been significant advancement in our admissions standards, in our retention rates, our graduation rates, ACT and so all these markers do point that we're actually getting to be a more and more highly qualified school. I mean you know with highly qualified students at our school.

Trustee Epperly replied I agree to disagree, so anyway. Other thing was the and by chance awhile back, Joseph Rallo, came to my mind. Something came up, and I've wondered what happened to him. And I was googling where he was at, but the point I am getting to – I went to their website. What school is he at? Provost Hawkinson replied San Angelo. Trustee Epperly continued San Angelo – the point that caught me and struck me is that every webpage that I went to and I shouldn't say every, but probably four out of five webpages I went to had an apply now sticker on it I call it. And they were pushing the application process on every, and I shouldn't say every, but just about every webpage I went to. And it just caught me, and so I actually went back to Western's page then and was looking at it, and we didn't have anywhere near the number of apply now things. So it's food for thought. It just caught my eyes as an outsider and thinking geez if I wanted to apply there, every page I go to it's almost like hit that button

thereon it. So it's just – maybe something we want to look at from the website standpoint. VP Biller replied appreciate it sir, thank you.

Trustee Clawson said East Village – I concur with your assessment what you're going to do with that. How many apartments or students are there now or I forget how many? VP Biller replied 36 apartments, approximately when it's full it will hold 70 residents. Trustee Clawson responded oh okay - that's good. VP Biller added and we will continue to maintain the apartments up above there, the University Village apartments. Those will remain. It's just the ones that are down below. Trustee Clawson responded oh yeah, good. Thank you.

Trustee Cole said so is the plan to refurbish those? VP Biller replied no, the demolition plan we're trying to work that in with the same plans that we got for Lamoine Village. See if we can cut costs there by doing two for one.

Chair Early asked any other questions for Dr. Biller. Thank you for your time.

### **Administrative Services**

Vice President Julie DeWees said the State of Illinois currently owes the University \$23.3M for FY2015 payroll expenses. Trustee Hare stated Julie, I'm sorry I can't hear you. VP DeWees replied is it just me?

The State of Illinois currently owes the University \$23.3M for FY2015 payroll expenses, and \$6M for spring monetary assistance programs. So far this fiscal year, we have received our fall MAP funds and \$23.4M for our payroll expenses. I hope we will receive another \$10M and probably the spring MAP payments by the end of the month. If not, it may be the end of April.

The Auditor General released our financial and compliance audit. Complete copies for WIU and other universities are available on the Illinois Auditor General's website, and I'm sure that Rita has that report today if you have any questions, I'm sure she'd be happy to answer any questions for you.

We are working the Smoke Free Campus Act. We have taskforce put together. It's chaired by Digger Oster. We have quite a few individuals from the campus and the Macomb community. They've met 3 times, and they're currently working on resources for the campus community, marketing materials, statutorily required sanctioned processes and they've put together a webpage and it shows any updates that we have, so we're trying to keep the campus updated on a continuous basis on that. And we'll have the policy for your review in June.

I'd like to give you a little update on some of the work that Director Susie Nichols is doing in the Illinois Law Enforcement and Training Standards Board Executive Institute. They are partnering with the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration and the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs in a project, and it's with the St. Clair County States Attorney's Office, and they're developing a proposal to the US Department of Justice. And it will enhance quality of life for citizens in the East St. Louis area.

And Facilities Management, on Wednesday, they held their first regional workshop. They had over 40 attendees, including local school districts, hospitals, YMCAs, and Knox and Monmouth College. We're also looking forward to the spring and summer construction season. So some of the things that we're getting ready for, we have a Q-lot entrance renovation is planned for this Summer. It will make the area safer for pedestrians and drivers, so I'm really excited about that. They've started the campus energy audit. The Cinema demolition should start in the next few weeks. We're finally getting to the Sherman cupola renovation, and it will go out for bids with construction planned this Summer. We have our first electric charging station. It has arrived, and it will be installed in Q-lot in the next few weeks. And the

Alumni House porch project is ready to go out for bids with construction planned this Summer. Any questions?

Chair Early asked with the Q-lot renovation, is that going to be reopening that one area that's been closed for a long time? That one entrance off of University Drive? VP DeWees replied Scott Coker may need to help me, but what they're doing. So where we currently park you can pull in by the building, they're going to close that entrance way off so that the pedestrians can walk along the building and get across over to Brophy. Scott Coker added the short answer is yes. (LAUGHTER) Scott Coker further added the one across directly across from the Brophy parking lot is going to be reopened. Chair Early stated that will end up being "main entrance". Scott Coker noted there'll still be two. One farther east and then that one. Chair Early said okay. VP DeWees added it will be so nice. There are accidents there with pedestrians. Chair Early noted it's an odd kind of intersection, and there's a lot of pedestrian traffic I know with student athletes going back and forth and also with all of the students in Brophy also coming back and forth. Scott Coker said there's two bus stops, so yes it will help all that. Chair Early replied okay. VP DeWees stated thank you.

Trustee Epperly said I have a question and probably more directed towards Matt. A couple questions. Are we doing scenario planning based upon 5, 10, 15, 20, 25% reductions depending what's going to come down this next year? Matt Bierman replied yes. (LAUGHTER) Trustee Epperly replied that really is all I was wanting. Matt Bierman added we're looking all the way up to the 31% and how we're going to do that. The exact trunks of that – it may be 4.5.

Trustee Epperly continued other question and this is just FYI. I saw here a couple of months ago the University of Missouri was having a buy-out of administrators and but again to me that should be a scenario maybe we look at. I give the University of Missouri credit – they're doing this on their own without being forced or whatever. And so I would hope that might be at some point one of the scenarios (laughingly). Matt Bierman replied you know the page is long at this point. So the early retirement is on the list as a discussion point. Trustee Epperly responded okay.

Chair Early asked are there any other questions for Julie at this time? Hearing none – thank you very much, Julie.

### **Quad Cities and Planning**

Vice President Joe Rives said good morning. As this is our first meeting of 2015, it always reminds me that a new year is a chance for new opportunities and new prosperity, and we know in the Quad Cities campus that 2015 is going to be an outstanding year. We came into the year having earned a \$750,000 gift from the John Deere Foundation and Moline Foundation to continue growth and expansion. The prosperity continues with the hiring of Debbie Kepple-Mamros as the new Assistance to the Vice President for Planning, Budget and Institutional Research. Debbie's in the audience, and I'm going to embarrass her and ask her to stand. She has a master's degree from the University of London, and was previously the Director of Institutional Research and completing registrar functions at Graceland University. Can we please give her a warm Leatherneck welcome? (APPLAUSE) In three months, Debbie's made a tremendous impact to the empirical planning of Western Illinois University. She's assuming my role as co-chair with Dr. Biller of the Persistence and Completion Academy. The Higher Learning Commission passed a policy that mentors, people like me that work with six institutions in the country, can't be a co-chair with Dr. Biller, so Debbie is assuming that role. She's also working very closely with Angela Lynn on a reverse degree audit system, which will enable us to identify how many students in the Quad Cities need which specific classes, so we can request a new Provost very efficiently – what we need in terms of classes as opposed to our best guesses or assumptions.

Also in the area of prosperity, WQPT, last weekend hosted 2,500 people for Imagination Station, which is PBS Hollywood. All the characters from the kid shows were there. America's Best Kitchen was there. By PBS standards, they cannot charge admission when all the characters are there, but they did net \$40,000 in revenue by people's donation. They also invited 500 Kid's Club members and 550 military families from the Quad Cities area, so it was just an outstanding event.

As we move into quarter two on the Quad Cities campus, our focus will be on planning as both being a fabric of our host communities, as well as our professional communities. What I mean there is on April 15-18, we will be hosting the National Association of Branch Campus Administrators. That's the 150 Joe Rives running around the Quad Cities. If you are in the area and would like to have a meal with the association, I've got lots of meal tickets for you.

WQPT, that same weekend, will be hosting on Riverfront Campus the Ready to Learn Conference. It has sold out – 375 early childhood educators will be on campus for 24 workshops, 7 of which are hosted by WIU faculty and staff. Our planning also continues as my direct reports just turned in their annual reports much like Dr. Hawkinson talked about earlier.

In the area of University Planning, I want to thank the people behind me. Together we have been working with the President's Leadership Team to update our benchmark groups, and what that has shown all of us is that after a decade of achievement, it's time to update our groups and we will bring them forward to you next meeting. And what you will see is we are advancing division of *Higher Values in Higher Education* to be the national leader in quality, opportunity and affordability. We will bring you benchmark groups for both campuses which have the very best institutions that we will be compared against. I would also note that Appalachian State is a very prominent regional university, and if you look on their website, they list Western Illinois University as a peer institution, so we are really making substantial progress.

Also in the area of Planning in terms of national recognitions, Dr. Mindrup is in the audience. She's received a Best Practice from her national organization on commuter campuses for her administration of student affairs programs on commuter campuses, and her work is entitled "More Than a Place to Park", so that shows you her innovation.

On a professional note from myself, I was appointed as chairperson for the Higher Learning Commission's change panel review visit process, so 1900 institutions and 19 states, I'll be a chairperson for the establishment or disestablishment for academic programs, degree levels in campuses. It's quite an honor, and I'm quite proud of it.

On a personal item, first off, Dr. Thomas, I like your tie. I think you have very good taste. (LAUGHTER) But more seriously, I would like to thank everybody in this room for words of encouragement during my mother's illness and passing. Together as Leathernecks, we are strong. Thank you, and I yield.

Chair Early replied thank you very much, Joe. I appreciate it. Any questions or comments to Dr. Rives, at this time?

Trustee Quigley asked I had a question, but it's for the Quarterly Long Term Plan Update. Do I wait for this, or do I ask that now? VP Rives replied I'm just thrilled to have a question. Trustee Quigley said hey, cool, wonderful. Well I guess I'll ask it now then. Chair Early added go ahead and throw it. Go ahead and toss it to him. Trustee Quigley stated the first sentence of the Quarterly Long Term Plan Update reads "the two key objectives for the long term sustainability at Western Illinois University are the quality of the Quad Cities campus and the commitment to external benchmarking the study and establishing national best practices", why is the quality of the Macomb campus not listed as one of the

benchmarks? VP Rives ask what page are we on? Trustee Quigley replied 63. VP Rives added just one second. Trustee Quigley continued it worried me when I read that the quality of Macomb campus was not listed as a benchmark for our success. VP Rives responded oh the reason that's there. You're right. It relates to the first item which is the campus evaluation visit by the Higher Learning Commission. They, when we opened Riverfront Campus, a national team had to come and make sure that on the Quad Cities campus, we had the quality and the capacity to sustain quality. I should have just said Western Illinois University, so you're right. Trustee Quigley asked so it should say Western Illinois University at Quad Cities. VP Rives replied yeah. Trustee Quigley responded okay, good, because I was like whoa, laughingly. VP Rives added I didn't fall off the Leatherneck Express. Trustee Quigley said good, good.

Chair Early asked any other questions or comments to Dr. Rives? Hearing none, I'm going to go on ahead and convene us for a 10-minute break. And then we will come back and start with our advisory reports and comments. I've got 10:30 right on the dot.

The Board of Trustees took a break at 10:30 a.m.

The Board of Trustees reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

### **ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS**

#### **Consent Agenda: Civil Service Employees Council, Council of Administrative Personnel, Faculty Senate, and Student Government Association:**

Amanda Shoemaker submitted the Consent Agenda as follows:

The constituency groups commend the University Cabinet and the Board of Trustees for their leadership during these challenging budgetary times. We appreciate the campus budget updates that have been shared with the campus community.

We were especially excited to have WIU student Ashley Luke named the Capital One Academic All-America of the Year for Division I women's basketball. Luke is the first Western Illinois student-athlete (and first female in Summit League history) to receive this award. We commend Luke as well as the coaching staff and other players on this great honor.

We are happy that Western Illinois University has, for the third consecutive year, been designated a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. Congratulations to the landscape maintenance department, within facilities management, which maintains almost 2,700 trees on the Macomb campus.

We are pleased to be one of the universities included in the STANLEY Security "Together for Safer Schools" \$150,000 grant competition. Voting concluded on Feb. 13. While we did not receive the grant, many students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and Macomb community members came together to help make WIU an even safer campus.

#### **Student Government Association Macomb President – David Dunn**

David Dunn said thank you. I would like to first thank the Board and the administration for attending the Rocky Gala last night. I think the administration for working with us to create student fees that reflect student priorities. SGA has been busy as of late, but one action of note that we've done is the bill calling for Wi-Fi improvements in the academic buildings. Of course, you always hear Michael go on and on about it, but it is a top priority of the students, specifically in the Malpass Library. And the rest of my report has been submitted in writing, but I will accept any questions about that right now. Chair Early asked are there any questions for David? Trustee Quigley stated David can you maybe highlight the Student Bill of Rights and some of the work that's been done with that. SGA President Dunn responded

oh definitely. We were happy to work again with the administration on creating a student bill of rights, which is a list of guarantees that the University offers students, everything from walking and tuition to being a veteran friendly campus. It's a big list of things. I encourage you all to take a look at it. I'm hoping that the University will utilize that to attract future students. Trustee Epperly asked if it was on the website? SGA President Dunn replied it has been submitted. I believe the idea is to eventually have it on the website and used as a recruitment tool. Trustee Epperly asked how are we supposed to look at it? Trustee Quigley replied well the idea is that it basically to an incoming student you can look and it's a big factor how you will be treated at Western Illinois University, and here are the guarantees that...I know it was passed. I don't know at what point. Trustee Epperly asked can you send us a copy of it? I'm just curious. Kerry McBride added if you can send me something, I can just forward to the Board. SGA President Dunn replied alright – thank you. Provost Hawkinson added I received an update on it last night. They're doing some changes. They had taken it to the Faculty Senate and several other faculty governance entities and other entities. They're doing some editorial changes, and then I believe it's going to be presented to the President's cabinet. At that time, there will be a proof and I know the intent to Student Government and through our Admissions offices to highly market this document. Trustee Epperly replied okay, good. Trustee Quigley said I do apologize if I didn't make that clear. We're still doing – you know we want to meet with other governance groups and make sure that all of the language was agreed upon by everyone, because if we are going to guarantee that this is how you'll be treated, we want to ensure that everyone fully agrees, right? This is not just us saying this.

Trustee Cole asked David in your reports, you speak about SGA decline endorsement and increase student fees based off of the areas that are being considered for ways and do you have that as you stated you would have? SGA President Dunn responded so prior to our meeting last Tuesday; we had been discussing our stances on student fees. Initially, there were some areas that we weren't on full agreement on. However, the administration worked with us, and I believe the current proposal that will be here today is the result of SGA working with the administration on something that we can all agree with. And, we've endorsed the current proposal. Trustee Cole asked so you all are okay now with particulars? SGA President Dunn replied yes. Chair Early added that's great. Any other questions for David? Thank you very much. Will we get to see you again in June? Will we see you one more time? SGA President Dunn replied it either will be me or my successor, but one of us will definitely be there. Chair Early noted I wasn't sure when your term of office ended and when? SGA President Dunn responded it's been you know never clearly defined, but sometime in the summer is when I hand over so. Chair Early replied okay. Thank you very much.

#### SGA Report:

The Student Government Association is nearing the completion of its 46th Legislative Session. SGA is happy to report on the strides we have made for students and the campus community.

In February, the Student Government Association endorsed and signed onto a letter written by the Student Government of Ohio State University urging the U.S. Government's Office for Civil Rights to reverse their suggestion to remove student adjudicators from student conduct hearings regarding sexual assault. The WIU SGA was among student governments from various other public universities in Illinois and around the country who also signed the letter.

Also in February, SGA overwhelmingly passed a bill that urges the administration to make improvements to Wi-Fi in the academic buildings. Improvements to the Malpass Library are emphasized. Wi-Fi improvements are something that students have continually expressed concern about and are viewed by SGA as a top priority.

In March, SGA declined to endorse the proposed increase in student fees. Concern was not expressed over the 2% overall increase, but was instead focused on the breakdown of the fee increases by category.

While an official stance stating which fees students feel should be prioritized was not available at the time this report was submitted, one will be available by the date of the Board of Trustees meeting on March 27.

SGA has updated and amended the Council on Student Elections and Representation's guidelines in preparation for the upcoming SGA elections. The campus-wide elections for SGA President, Vice President, Student Member to the Board of Trustees and the five Senator-at-Large spots will be held from April 1-3.

SGA would like to thank the Board of Trustees and the administration for the work they do on behalf of the student body and the campus community. We look forward to continuing our work with both the board and the administration to make Western Illinois University an even greater institution.

### **Civil Service Employees Council Macomb President – Wendi Mattson**

Wendi Mattson said thank you and good morning. The Civil Service Employee Council is currently holding their elections. We are encouraging all civil service employees on campus to join us on the Council either as a member of just to come to our meetings and help. We are also working on our Spring luncheon. It will be May 7<sup>th</sup>. Our theme this year is “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.” We have men’s baseball team invited to come and unfortunately the ladies will not be available on that date. This luncheon is to raise money for our scholarship fund. And we would like to invite everyone here to also join us. Chair Early replied thank you very much. Are there any questions for Wendi? Hearing none, we’ll go on ahead and move on.

### **CSEC Report:**

The Civil Service Employee of the Month for January 2015 was Tammy Thomas, staff secretary and office manager in OPS. February’s EOM was Merrie Jean Parry, administrative clerk in the Western Illinois University College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) Dean's office. March’s EOM was Matthew Housewright, an applications programmer II in Administrative Information Management Systems (AIMS). We would like to thank all the employees of the month for their service to the University and to their nominators for helping to recognize them for their outstanding service.

The Council is busy planning their spring luncheon. The date will be May 7 at the Spencer Rec Center. This year’s theme is “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.” There will be food, prizes, and games in a casual atmosphere that promises to be a great event. We would like to invite all Board of Trustees to the luncheon.

We will also be holding our elections for new members next month. We appreciate the support we receive from the Board of Trustees, the President, Julie DeWees and Pam Bowman in order for the Council to continue the important work of assisting the WIU civil service employees.

### **Council of Administrative Personnel Macomb President – Amanda Shoemaker**

Amanda Shoemaker said good morning. You have my report in front of you. Just one thing to highlight is the first note on there. We were happy to offer a \$100 professional development scholarship. We plan to do that every semester, thanks in part to a COAP member who inquired about where their money goes whenever they have a payroll deduction and donate to COAP, so we awarded that to Terri Hare and look forward to doing that every fall and spring semester. If you have any questions about my report, I’d be happy to answer them. Chair Early asked where did we end up in the Stanley security contest? Do you know what place we ended up in that? President Shoemaker replied I don’t personally know. VP DeWees added I have information about that, so we ended up actually in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. And they had a 2<sup>nd</sup> place slot for us, but we could not accept the money because of procurement laws in the State of Illinois. But at least, we received a lot of good publicity and we got Western out there and encouraged students,

faculty, staff, so we did a great job with the voting. Chair Early replied okay – that’s great. VP DeWees noted free PR I guess, so. Chair early replied yeah. So that means we beat out Eastern? We came in 2<sup>nd</sup> to Eastern. Eastern was #1 – we were #2. Chair Early noted I was going to say whoever was #1 then must have gotten knocked down. Yeah, Eastern couldn’t take the money either. VP DeWees added they couldn’t either because of the Illinois Procurement Law. Chair Early said golly. VP DeWees said it’s Illinois Procurement Laws. Chair Early added yes it’s wrong to accept free stuff that can improve your university. It must be properly. President Thomas said welcome to our world. Chair Early stated glad I asked. (LAUGHTER) moving on...

#### COAP Report:

The Council of Administrative Personnel offered a \$100 professional development scholarship during the spring 2015 semester. Six WIU COAP members applied for the scholarship. All applicants were very deserving which made the selection process difficult. After review of all the applications, Terri Hare, the director of University Scholarships was selected to receive the \$100 professional development scholarship to help offset the cost of her membership to the National Scholarship Providers Association. COAP will continue to offer a \$100 professional development scholarship during each fall and spring semester.

The COAP Professional Development Committee organized two presentations in 2015. In February, Carrie Belsito, assistant professor in Management and Marketing at WIU presented on Organizational Culture and Effectiveness in a presentation titled “How the culture of your organization affects productivity and performance.” In March, Mekenzie Riley presented on Fueling for Work and Play.

The Outreach/Marketing subcommittee continues to work on spreading awareness about COAP on campus. In February, they posted the first installment of COAP’s Employee Spotlight, featuring Tim Hallinan, Director of Annual Fund. At <https://wiurelations.wordpress.com/2015/02/10/coap-spotlight-hallinan/>, you can read the spotlight. Monthly blogs featuring COAP members will be posted online. The subcommittee has also created a Relay for Life team to participate in WIU’s Relay for Life Event in April.

We are also collecting nominations for the COAP employee of the year who will be announced at the May membership meeting. In addition, a slate of new officers will be presented and elections will be held following the meeting.

#### Faculty Senate Vice Chair – Tara Westerhold

Tara Westerhold stated thank you. Good morning. You’ll have to forgive me. Mandeep Singh’s accent is much lovelier than mine. I have my report in front of you. One thing I would really like to highlight in light of VP Biller’s comment earlier about us being down on transfer students. Bullet point #5 alludes to this recommendation that came forth from our ad hoc Foreign Language and Global Issues Committee that will allow increase transferability of GI credit from transfer institutions. And I think this is very beneficial for the University to increase our profile as a transfer friendly school. If you have other questions or comments, I’d be happy to entertain them.

Trustee Epperly asked I had one question on last meeting’s report you had mentioned and Mandeep had mentioned on that report about Adobe enterprise licensing. Has anything happened on that? Tara Westerhold replied no that originally came from the Council of Instructional Technology as a recommendation to purchase that here on campus. Faculty Senate approved it in the Fall, and then it’s gone back into the IT governance process, but I do not have an update. I can get one for you. Trustee Epperly said I’m just curious, okay. Chair Early said alright – any other questions for Dr. Westerhold? Thank you very much. I appreciate you being here today.

Mandeep Singh submitted the following which is a summary of some of the major initiatives that the Faculty Senate considered since the last Board meeting:

- Faculty Senate approved guidelines debated over a three-year period by its Council on Campus Planning and Usage regarding the definition of intentional spaces, “a private, secure room where a WIU constituent can go to express milk, meditate or pray free from intrusion.” The guidelines do not replace existing policy but will be included on the website for the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access, which already provides information on the University’s Lactation Accommodation Policy and nine existing lactation rooms.
- Upper administration confirmed that the Senate’s first Faculty Initiative Proposal was approved and is in the process of being implemented. Information regarding students’ majors will now be included on diplomas along with the degree earned.
- Faculty Senate approved a recommendation from CAGAS to streamline and eliminate the distinction between pre-LEJA and LEJA.
- Faculty Senate approved a recommendation from CAGAS, which had been requested by the Office of Admissions. The procedural change would allow transfer students who are not in good standing at a previous institution to have their admission appealed to CAGAS automatically without having to first be formally denied by the Admissions Office.
- Faculty Senate approved a recommendation from its Ad Hoc Foreign Language/Global Issues Committee to change the transferability of Global Issues courses. The ad hoc committee, CAGAS, and the Council for International Education approved the proposal unanimously.

Faculty Senate approved changes to the Course Syllabus Policy, which would update language related to students with disabilities, as requested by the Disability Resource Center.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Report on Contributions**

Vice President Brad Bainter said we are right on \$7M in contributions for this fiscal year. Our annual fund numbers are good, and we’ve had a great year in contributions to the President’s scholarship fund. We will be making substantial changes to how we operate our annual fund beginning in August. These changes should save dollars and labor hours and hopefully increase the average pledge to the University.

I just want to highlight some of the gifts because these names are very recognizable to many people here, just outstanding supporters of the University, and many are former faculty members. William and Doris Burton \$50,000; the Chicago Mercantile Exchange \$20,000 through Charlie Carey’s support; Growmark Foundation \$55,000; the Lowell Johnson Charitable Foundation \$100,000; Paul and Sheila Nollen continue to support us in a great way \$30,000 just in the last couple of weeks so; Frank Rodeffer also a familiar name \$22,000; former faculty members Bill and Joann Sanders \$27,000; President’s National Advisory Board member Jim and Veronica Shipp \$100,000 pledge and payment of \$25,000; Norm and Carmelita Teeter \$20,000; Curt and Sue Westen \$25,000. And last one I want to mention is Lavern McEntire. Laverne is one of those great stories here. He’s not a Western grad. He met his wife on a blind date on the porch of Grote Hall. Had to let her go in when they started turning the lights on and off at 10 o’clock at night. And she passed away last year and a gift of \$32,000 recently from them and they’ve given over \$100,000 and even supports a scholarship in the Quad Cities campus, so just great support.

I also want to thank Ken as he leaves. He's been a great supporter of the Foundation through his generosity through many gifts to us, and I appreciate that. And as soon as I find out what the heck you are marking at Kutztown, I'll be there for a visit as well to see you again. (LAUGHTER) I might even bring President Thomas along with me for that one.

Finally, Dr. Thomas and I had the distinct pleasure of visiting General Vincent Stewart, the first Marine to be in charge of the Defense Intelligence Analysis Center in his office overlooking the Potomac River a couple weeks ago. It's impressive when you sit there. He's an '81 grad history major, and you see him sitting in his khakis and 3 stars on each collar and realize there are very few people who achieve that rank. He's in a facility a third the size of the Pentagon. There are 5 such facilities across the country, and it's great to hear him say that he tells people there are many Leathernecks around the country who don't wear the uniform in reference to Western Illinois University. He very much wants to establish connections between Western and the Marine Corps, and we also established another connection through Dean Alexander and National Defense Security that he wants to take advantage of as well which should lead to much good things for Western Illinois University. President Thomas added and one of his right hand men have written a book along with Dean Alexander, one of our faculty here and spoke very highly of one of our faculty on security and said that we have one of the best programs here, so we're very pleased with that.

#### **Purchases of \$100,000 - \$499,999.99**

Trustee Epperly said questions for Brad. With that, we'll move to Report No. 15.3/2 doing my job as chairman, we have no purchases of \$100,000 to \$250,000 or \$250,000 to \$500,000, as we are trying to keep the expenses down and on etc. so no purchases to report there.

#### **Resolution No. 15.3/1: Purchases of \$500,000 or More**

Trustee Epperly continued with that, we move into three resolutions, I'll make the motion for each, seek a second and then we'll discuss it and vote upon them, so I move that we approve 15.3/1 Purchases of \$500,000 or More which is for athletic apparel. Is there a second? Discussion?

Trustee Quigley noted it says there was one bid – I was just wondering if there was more than one bid sought – actively sought, because \$2.3M is a lot of money.

Director Tommy Bell responded yes we had the bid – there was – we contacted by a representative of Under Armour, but it was a secondary carrier and also Nike decided with BSN not to submit, because we had put some parameters together. These companies when they come in, they ask you to convert immediately and financially that is not an option for us. And we asked them for more incentives up front, give us more incentives and they chose not to submit their bids at that time. And so, Adidas is actually our promotional dollars are tripling from what we have been receiving. Once we sign and go through our budget office, things will be – it's going to look pretty good. We are going to go from \$36,000 to \$90,000 in promotional dollars which will help us offset dollars long term – it can help. Does that answer your questions? Trustee Quigley replied yes. I just had one follow up. And this is just kind of a general question. Is this money coming from a student fee or is this like where is the money for this coming from? I was confused on that. Budget Director Bierman replied yes this is student fee dollars – this would be Athletic Department. This money comes from the Athletic Department for uniforms and those kinds of things so many times – most of their operating is from student fees. Trustee Cole asked so Matt come on back - so do we have the funds in that budget for this – for the Athletic Department? Director Bierman replied this is something they budget for every year and again this is not a \$2.3M expense in one year. This is a 10-year contract, so it's about \$230,000 a year. Trustee Cole replied I got that, but is it in the current budget with the way the economy and Governor is going – do we currently in have the budget to approve? Director Bierman replied so these are mostly local funds – in fact all of this is local funds so

this is not appropriated dollars. The only thing from Athletics that is paid from our appropriated budget is some salaries, so this comes from student fee money and from games, concessions and ticket sales and those kinds and NCAA right money and some other fund sources that Athletics has, so what is happening in Springfield doesn't really have any bearing on the Athletic Department per se as it relates to this contract. Trustee Cole added and again I understand that too, but with the way the Governor's budget may look we need to be very conservative in the amount of funds and what we are spending it on. What my question is what is currently in the budget? Director Bierman responded we budget every year \$230,000 or so for Athletic apparel expenses. Now, if you're asking me if we have enough revenue to offset this expense, it is something that we continue to struggle with in the Athletic Department because of the structure of Athletics across the country. And they continue to hone in their expenses as best as they can. Trustee Cole replied I'm for Athletics – don't get me wrong. Director Bierman replied sure. Trustee Cole continued but I'm also for you know we have to look out for the financial status of this University, and in doing that you know we don't want to stray too far off of budget to get something specifically. And I understand, we need this so please you all do not get me wrong, but again we have to for budgetary purposes we have to be conscious of what we're spending, and if it's available to do it and that's why I'm asking questions. Director Bierman added the other thing I would add – this does not lock us into spending \$2.3M. This contract is up to \$2.3M so if we can hold back in the Athletic Department on purchases, they still have the ability to do that within this contract. They don't have to spend a certain dollar amount per year.

Trustee Quigley asked is the \$230,000 a year on uniforms normal at Western, or is that more or less than we traditionally spend? Director Tommy Bell replied this approval is actually a buying program which is the standard in the business, okay. So our projections right now at \$230,000 for this coming year is a little up because we had a number of programs that have gone multiple years without wearables, uniforms, plus pricing has gone up on a number of things. We have already started reducing down, and we've made contacts to our Adidas representative to say, "hey, can we downsize and rectify some of those orders." What will happen is from year to year, once this is approved, we may only spend \$150,000, so we don't get \$90,000. There's a chart that we plug in to that sliding scale is the program that we work with. So we probably will not be at that this number – we've already made some calls over to Indianapolis to say what can we downsize – where can we make some changes? Then so, and we anticipate the following year, we might be at \$150,000. We may be down. We usually are going to fall somewhere on the average \$150,000-\$175,000. We're looking at things to create standards, so that we can even move that number down. But our bottom line will be \$150,000 – that's the bottom line on the sliding scale.

Trustee Epperly asked after the five years – you mentioned that we have a five year one – five optional one year renewals. Is there any penalty if we don't renew at that point or whatever? Director Bell replied no, they're negotiating very hard to make sure that they can stay in place. If you've been watching the trends of all the universities that are changing from Under Armour to Nike, or leaving Adidas, Adidas wants to have their opportunity to keep as many mid-majors as they can. And so like one of the proponents that is in this document is that they are actually making what they call hard good wearables for baseball. When our contract with Wilson ends next year, they are giving us \$10,000 to make that comp to put on all the Adidas helmets and all that gear, and they put that in the program, so when they put their new wearables or they mean something in, they're giving us more incentives, and they want to hold us long term. They want to hold on as many as institutions as they can, because the buzz word after yesterday is Michigan maybe leaving for Nike, but those are getting cash, but I did ask Adidas for cash. I did, so. I didn't get any.

Trustee Epperly said any other questions, Michael? Trustee Quigley asked if you spent \$130,000 to \$150,000 each year, you're saying you don't get the rest of that just sitting in a bank account that you can spend at the end of that five years, is that correct? Director Bell replied correct. It's not cash. What they

do is they give it to us in promotional trade dollars. Then we use it to offset other expenses of promotional dollars gear. Like we'll outfit everybody in Sports Broadcasting – all the camera people – that's the kind of dollars we use that for. We try to take the product we get free and re-dispense it in areas that we could maybe save some other dollars in other areas. Trustee Epperly asked other questions? Trustee Quigley replied thank you.

Trustee Epperly moved to approve Resolution 15.3/1. Trustee Hare seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes
Trustee Cole	Yes
Trustee Early	Yes
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes
Trustee Epperly	Yes
Trustee Hare	Yes
Trustee Quigley	Yes
Trustee Savala	Yes

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University has a need for athletic apparel and gear for Athletics; and,

**WHEREAS** the above mentioned project has been administered in accordance with the Illinois Procurement Code and all other pertinent statutes and rules:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the contracting for

**Athletic Apparel & Sponsorship**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION:** Athletic apparel and gear to be ordered as needed by Athletics for a five year contract with five optional one-year renewals. Amount is estimated and includes renewal amounts. This includes Adidas and subcontractors which include Sports Licensing Division, Agron, and other manufacturers of Adidas items.

**COST:** Estimated cost for 10 years: \$2,300,000

**RECOMMENDED VENDOR:**

Adidas

**FUND SOURCE:** Local & Foundation

**SUMMARY OF BIDS:** Adidas America, Inc. was the only bidder

**Resolution No. 15.3/2: Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Auxiliary Facilities System Revenue Bonds**

Director Bierman stated so to give you just a bit of background and introduce James McNulty from Blue Rose, formerly the John Vincent Company is our financial adviser, and we work very close on issues like this. You're actually going to see us up here a couple times over the next year doing some refunding where we have the opportunity to as it relates to our bond structures and some of our debt issues. This particular one is a very small issue about \$4.5M. It's an auxiliary facilities system issue, so it's mostly Housing and Dining, Campus Rec and Union. It has an estimated savings of about \$170,000 plus or minus \$20,000-\$25,000 is where we are at right now depending where the markets kind of land. Our intention is not to change the term. There's about 4 years left on these bonds. We would go out and ask for the same term for this particular issue. And the last thing to note is we're doing something different if you read close in the Resolution, typically we sell these in the municipal bond market, but we're going to try something different and actually go directly for a bank loan to refund these. We think that has some advantages right now in the marketplace to go directly and ask for a bank to take this note over essentially. Carbondale just did that and James can talk a little about their success on another issue that they just did a direct bank loan.

James McNulty said so I'd like to reintroduce myself. James McNulty of Blue Rose, previously we were John Vincent and Company. We just merged at the beginning of the year. John Vincent has been the financial adviser to Western since the mid-90s. I've been working with John for about 9 years now. The reason we went with this bank loan approach is given the size of this issue being very small, very short, very front loaded. Going to the public market didn't make a whole lot of sense, so we're going to avoid going to the credit rating agencies saving money there can avoid doing a lot of legal work, going to avoid I'm glad disclosure requirements and just kind of save on costs and go directly to banks. SIU and ISU have done this in the last year most recently SIU. We work with them on their medical facilities system. What they did there they went out for about \$13.5M. It was an 8-year term. They got a 1.65 rate which was very good for what they were expecting. For ours, we're about an average life of about 2.4 years so we are hoping to get closer to 1.25. Given that, we would increase the savings that Matt is talking about. I'm free to answer any questions about the structure or our approach. We are currently soliciting local banks mainly, given the size we think they're capable of handling this.

Trustee Epperly asked what the current rate is on these roughly? James McNulty replied the current rate? The coupons, there are 5 coupons on this transaction currently. There are 4 of them at 4% and the last one is 4.25, so the idea is we would be exchanging that for a rate of hopefully around 1.25. Trustee Epperly said and \$170,000 is after expenses. James McNulty replied yeah, all of this is after expenses. Just to give you a range, if we got a 1% raise, we would save about \$225,000. If we got a 2%, it would be more like \$125,000. And at some point if we got a rate we didn't like, we may not do this now. Trustee Epperly added so the option is there if we don't get a favorable rate, we just do nothing. James McNulty replied we would just table it, and then we have future auxiliary transactions/refundings coming up next year. We would probably roll the last 4 for maturities into the next one. Trustee Epperly asked if we do nothing, do we have expenses? James McNulty responded no, they retain legal counsel as a retainer, laughingly. Trustee Epperly said other questions? Trustee Cole asked so is that terminology in the Resolution that if we decide to do nothing it won't move forward? Director Bierman replied yes, this does not obligate us to do this specifically. There's a couple documents that the Resolution references that are on file with the Secretary that speaks to a lot of that specifically. Trustee Epperly asked questions? Vote.

Trustee Epperly moved to approve Resolution 15.3/2. Chair Early seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes	
Trustee Cole	Yes	(I heard her. I'm just looking at something)
Trustee Early	Yes	
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes	
Trustee Epperly	Yes	
Trustee Hare	Yes	
Trustee Quigley	Yes	
Trustee Savala	Yes	

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University (the “*Board*”) has determined it to be necessary and desirable to approve the refunding (the “*Refunding*”) of all or a portion of the Board’s outstanding Auxiliary Facilities System Revenue Bonds, Series 2005 (the “*Series 2005 Bonds*”); and

**WHEREAS** the Board has authority pursuant to the Western Illinois University Revenue Bond Law, 110 ILCS 691/36-1 *et seq.* (the “*Act*”) to issue and sell auxiliary facilities revenue bonds in connection with the Refunding; and

**WHEREAS** the Board hereby determines that it is desirable to grant approval for the Refunding and to finance the Refunding and related costs through the issuance of auxiliary facilities revenue bonds under the Act;

**THEREFORE** Be It Resolved by the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University in regular meeting assembled, that:

1. The Board hereby grants approval for the Refunding and delegates authority to the Treasurer of the Board to determine such time, if any, that market conditions are such that the Refunding is in the best interests of the Board. The Refunding will occur only if the present value savings attributable to the Refunding is at least 2.5% of the principal amount of the Series 2005 Bonds being refunded.

2. The Board hereby authorizes the issuance of its Auxiliary Facilities System Revenue Bonds, Series 2015 (the “*Bonds*”) to provide funds for the Refunding and to pay the costs of issuing the Bonds. The Bonds shall be in an aggregate original principal amount (net of original issue discount) not to exceed \$4,500,000 with a final maturity no later than April 1, 2020. The true interest cost (TIC) of borrowing for the Bonds will not exceed 3.50%. The Bonds shall be issued on a parity with the Auxiliary Facilities System Revenue Bonds of the Board issued and to be issued pursuant to the resolution adopted on December 5, 1985 by the predecessor to the Board, as amended, establishing the Auxiliary Facilities System, all as provided in the Tenth Supplemental System Revenue Bond Resolution, a form of which has been presented to this meeting (the “*Tenth Supplemental Resolution*”).

3. U.S. Bank National Association, Chicago, Illinois, is hereby authorized to continue to serve as Bond Registrar and Paying Agent for the Bonds.

4. Pursuant to the Board's existing contract, the firm of Chapman and Cutler LLP is hereby retained as Bond Counsel to the Board.

5. Pursuant to the Board's existing contract, the firm of Blue Rose Capital Advisors, Inc. (successor to John S. Vincent & Company LLC) is hereby retained as Municipal Advisor for the preparation or organization of necessary or desirable informational materials, including a notice of direct sale and official bid form, and other matters related to the sale.

6. The Treasurer of the Board or her designee is hereby authorized to solicit competitive bids from institutional investors for the direct purchase of the Bonds. The price at which the Bonds will be sold will not be less than 99% of the par amount of the Bonds.

7. The Board approves the preparation and distribution of informational materials relating to the Bonds, a Notice of Direct Sale and Official Bid Form and the execution and delivery of the Official Bid Form and the Bond Purchase Agreement. The Board approves the form of the Notice of Direct Sale and Official Bid Form, a copy of which is on file with the Secretary of the Board for recording. The Treasurer of the Board or her designee is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Official Bid Form and the Bond Purchase Agreement in the name of and on behalf of the Board in substantially the forms presented to this meeting, but with the final terms of the Bonds set forth therein, and with such other changes as may be approved by the officer of the Board executing the same, his/her execution thereof to constitute conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of all changes from the forms thereof presented to this meeting.

8. The Board approves the execution and delivery of the Tenth Supplemental Resolution, a copy of which is on file with the Secretary of the Board for recording. The Chairman and the Secretary of the Board or their designees are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Tenth Supplemental Resolution in the name of and on behalf of the Board in substantially the form presented to this meeting, or with such changes as may be approved by the officers of the Board executing the same, their execution thereof to constitute conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of all changes from the form thereof presented to this meeting.

9. The final terms of the Bonds shall be approved by the Treasurer within the parameters set forth in this Resolution.

10. The members, officers, agents and employees of the Board are hereby authorized and directed to do all such acts and to execute all such documents as may be necessary to carry out and comply with the provisions of this Resolution and with the actions of the members, officers, agents, and employees of the Board which are in conformity with the intent and purposes of this Resolution, whether heretofore or hereafter taken or done, which actions shall be and are ratified, confirmed and approved.

**Resolution No. 15.3/3: Property Easement**

Trustee Epperly stated at this point I'm not going to make a motion as we are for discussion first. This is an easement for two bus stops that locations are if I'm correct. Scott, you'd probably be better off explaining exactly where those area.

Director Scott Coker said the easement for a bus stop between Stipes and Horrabin on the – it'd be on Western Avenue on the west side of the road where there's a current bus stop, so they're adding a pad. They're proposing to add a pad of concrete and then a bus shelter is the first one. And the second one is at the Credit Union near the USB building. There's a current bus stop there with just a concrete pad and a C, so we would add an ADA accessible bus pad and shelter at the second one. Trustee Epperly asked was there any date discussed as to when they hoped to do this. Director Coker replied I think their plan is this Summer. Trustee Epperly asked okay so here's my concern and we discussed this in Executive Session. And sorry to say that I never thought of it until yesterday, but I have a concern of granting an easement forever to anybody. The reason I say that is we granted Ameren at that time it was CIPS or whoever an easement for the power poles on University Drive back in the 60s. A number of years ago, we tried to work with Ameren to discuss alternatives for those poles and quite simply Ameren told us to go jump in a lake. And they got a lifetime easement forever – they weren't willing to discuss anything. They said if it costs us one penny, we're not paying it. If you want to do it go ahead and spend your \$4M or \$5M, but we're not paying nothing. So my feeling is – I just have a very – I'm very reluctant to give a lifetime easement to somebody because who knows what's going to be happening 20-30 years from now. My feeling and my thought is should we consider a 20 year/30 year easement. I don't know what's right. And we're at least at some point, we don't have to get permission to take our own property back to use it and on it. So that's the – I guess a discussion item. And like I say I'm sorry I didn't think of that earlier. I was very involved in that Ameren thing, and they were the most pompous individuals I've ever tried to work with. And in fact, we sent letters to the Attorney General's Office and Madigan's office and so forth registering complaints to no avail on it, so that's my qualms with the lifetime easement thereon it. Thoughts?

VP DeWees added Scott reminded me to that we already have a cutout there anyway. Director Coker continued there's already a cutout there in front of Horrabin. VP DeWees said the reason why we didn't require an easement there was because at the time of cutout, we probably built that because it was. Director Coker continued so let me back up a little bit. In the past, the way I understand it GoWest was more an entity within the University, so when Al Harris was here, we constructed several shelters and bus stops around campus. And that fund paid for them, but the University did that. Now that GoWest is not an entity as related to University, it is now a county entity, that's why they're coming asking for an easement for these. I guess I'll defer to you guys on how we decide if we grant a long term easement or what we want to do. I don't know if there's any legal they change the usage there/something we were talking about if there's a legal reason to stop the easement. I don't know that so.

Trustee Epperly noted my feeling is that we table this. I guess I should make a motion that we table this – have a discussion with the City – see what's agreeable with the City. Come back at our June meeting for approval either as is or whatever can be worked out with the City, but have their discussion I guess you'd say and see if that's agreeable or workable, if it's legal. I don't know what's legal.

Director Coker added my only, and I'm not very familiar with how this is coming from GoWest. As I understand, I think this is coming from grant dollars that GoWest has received, so I'd be concerned that we would mess that process up for them. It's not a huge project. I think they're doing I think it's an order of 15-20 bus stops around the City as part of this grant work. I would just want to make sure that we don't prevent them from getting that. You know that's my only concern, and I don't know the answer to that so by delaying it. It's not a huge part to do two bus stops I mean in the grand scheme of things, but I think it's grant dollars for them so.

Trustee Epperly said comments, thoughts? Trustee Cole added I just believe that we need to put a timeframe on it. We never know whatever that space may be – we may want to utilize it for something different in 10 years. And if we're going to look at a timeframe, I mean 10, 20 years. Director Coker said well maybe we need to, and I need to talk with legal to see if there's some verbiage that says if we agree or that we want to change the purpose then we you know the easement goes away and changes something like that.

Trustee Cole stated Scott I would think that the word permanent needs to be removed. If we can remove the word permanent, then we should be fine. But if we need to give a specific timeframe then we can do that, but the word permanent definitely has to be removed. Because that's what the argument was in Executive Session is that we didn't want to put the University in a position for life because...Director Coker interjected I understand that. Trustee Cole continued so are we just going to remove permanent. Director Coker noted we can work on that, and I will say that this comes through our Master Planning process. We review where the bus stops are so if it's within our campus so that's all happened, but I understand the concern about it being permanent. Trustee Epperly added I have no problem with the bus stops. The problem is the forever, and 20 years from now things can be a lot different thereon it. Director Coker replied sure.

Trustee Epperly continued I made a motion to TABLE it and for that investigative work to be done and bring it back in June. Second? Trustee Clawson seconded the motion to table Resolution 15.3/3. Trustee Epperly asked any other questions in regards to that discussion?

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes
Trustee Cole	Yes
Trustee Early	Yes
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes
Trustee Epperly	Yes
Trustee Hare	Yes
Trustee Quigley	Yes
Trustee Savala	Yes

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** the City of Macomb is requesting a Permanent Easement on W. University Drive; and,

**WHEREAS** the City of Macomb is requesting a Permanent Easement on N. Western Avenue; and,

**WHEREAS** the City of Macomb is requesting the easements for the purpose of constructing McDonough County Public Transportation/Go West bus shelters:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Board of Trustees agrees to grant and convey a Permanent Easement to the City of Macomb, Illinois the tracts described and attached hereto.

**ACADEMIC & STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Annual Report on Financial Aid Programs**

VP Biller stated thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Bob Andersen, Director of Financial Aid to come forward and take us through this report.

Director Andersen said good morning everyone. You have the IBHE report in front of you. One of the things I'd like to comment on is in February we discovered or they told us that they were no longer to be requiring this report. Now we've been doing this since probably as long as Financial Aid has been around in this State, and we're not quite sure why. We intend, institutionally, to keep this report up because it's a very helpful report. It does give us summary statistics on every program that we do award at the University, and so we are probably going to keep it up. We may change the look a little bit maybe, and maybe make some more charts and graphs to make it a little bit easier to understand and those types of things. But as far as the report goes, we believe we will keep this up.

One of the things just to point out is that for the last few years, things have pretty much stayed pretty stable at the federal and state governments as far as funding. We did increase in state funding a little bit this year over last year by about \$800,000. But federally, we reduced total funding about \$800,000. Now part of this increase in the state is more in the veteran's programs, because the State Monetary Award Program is stable, although we've had several more students eligible. We've had a campaign every year now to try to get students to apply as early as possible. We really pulled out the stops this year with advertisements in newspapers in our Courier, yard signs. I've been on several television reports and things like that just to promote this. And we've done a really good job also in our different faculty and staff have promoted in their classrooms and everything else, so I think it's really been helpful. And it did make a big difference. We do a gift book award or actually \$200 book awards every year now, so it's our second year doing that for students that apply. So if they apply on January 1<sup>st</sup>, now we've even had to do a lottery because we had almost 2,000 students apply on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Just anecdotally, we talked to a family at one of our welcome receptions in Chicago, and they actually stayed up. They had done their FAFSA before midnight, and they all got together and at midnight they all pushed the button to submit their FAFSA online. And so that would be – probably the very first one. But so it's really paid off. We have over like Dr. Biller indicated, we have quite a few applications already. We have already over 10,000 applications in already. And part of that's due to we have a lot of admitted students that don't show up but they apply, and so we don't know if they are coming or not so we do their processing and by the end of the year we do about 15,000 applications for students. And at this point, we have actually reviewed over 6,000 about 7,000 students so we've got now as of last night, we had 6,215 or something like that award letters out to new students and continuing students.

This year, we've done a little bit differently too. Because we wanted to help Admissions even more, we set aside two of our advisors that only process freshmen right now. And so they are within 4-5 days off of an application coming in and reviewing it and getting it back out. So we're very good at that. And actually continuing students are not much farther behind on that. We always have the problem with verification. This is one of the things we have to do. It's a federal requirement. And so we have to ask for tax information and all those types of things. And of course, that takes some time for getting people to submit those things so we can review it and get those back.

One of the things that I wanted to note is that our gap – I call it unmet need – that's the financial aid term is unmet need, but our gap between what students receive in financial aid and what they cost is. Every year we look at budgets. We subtract their family contribution – that's the FAFSA information which determines that. We subtract the two and we come up with a need figure. And then we come up with much aid they can have and then there's after that some students get enough aid to come – that's fine, but in that calculation are average unmet need or gap is approaching \$7,000, and that is very alarming to me personally, it's gone over the last 3 years from about \$5,000 to \$7,000. And as our costs go up and things stay stagnant as far as financial aid programs go, we have less and less money to offer students. Loans also have been going up so there's no other avenue to get them to attend, so we have quite a few students who show up on our door. They haven't paid their bill, and they have no idea how to do it. So we've done a lot of things as far as our new award letter was developed this year. It has a section on out of

pocket costs, and so students actually on their award letter see their financial aid, their actual costs, and we give them what their out of pocket cost is, and even give them a monthly payment plan as an estimate so they can actually see if they took on our 12-month payment plan how much it would cost per month. So we're hoping that these types of new initiatives help our students that to understand it much better. So that also our debt has gone up a little bit but not as high as national debt. This is debt for our graduating seniors. We are at \$25,187 as an average. National average is \$29,400, so we're significantly less than that. But just to give you an idea in FY06 through FY11, it jumped from well one started at \$14,700 way back then and then over a five year period it jumped to \$22,800 and that's a 35% increase in just that short period of time. And so, but now we're getting to the point where since 2011, there has been no increases in federal debt limits, so students can't borrow any more than they did in FY11 than they can now. So that's where this unmet need has started to create a problem.

Just to give you a little bit of highlight on our institutional work program we started this past year for new freshman. It has not worked as best as good as we liked it to, but we did offer 160 jobs to students – new freshman. 100 students did take us up on it and so we have some good success stories – others were a little different, but I think it's primarily because most of these students have never worked a day in their life. And they had to learn how to do that and so I think we're going to try this again this next year and see how it works. But it really helps those students get that extra money to pay for their education because those grants are typically about \$3,000. And of course they earn that on an every two-week basis so it's just a regular wage that they can put toward their bill or to other expenses.

I guess the last thing is we have been really heavy into default prevention in our office. We have specifically a couple people that work on that pretty constantly. We have now over since we started this program, we were at 10.7 default rate which is not very good to this – I just got notice about three weeks ago that our default rate went down to 5.6, and so it's excellent news. I'm really pleased with that. So that's my report – any questions?

VP Biller stated I had a comment just for to put some numbers to what Bob has said. If you look on page 30 of the report, the very first line – Monetary Award Program – this is why we watch this very closely as it goes through the state legislature because 3,177 of our students received over \$11M in monetary awards. Changes to that program could have significant impact on our students.

Trustee Quigley added I just want to say great job on the advertising stuff for getting your stuff in on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Both my wife and I did ours on the 1<sup>st</sup> again anecdotal evidence. Both my wife and I did ours on the 1<sup>st</sup>, neither of us got the gift certificate but the program and the advertisement on that was wonderful, and I was very impressed by that. Thank you. (LAUGHTER)

Trustee Cole said so the only question that I have is when you sent out the award letters, and you discuss the payment plan, do you also send out other resources to obtain funds something? Director Andersen replied yeah, there's the information on other loan programs, current loan program, private loan programs, things like that. And we really stress our payment plan because it cost them a whole \$2 every month to get involved in that plan, so it's basically free. And they can have a 6-month plan per semester or 5 or 4 month.

Trustee Savala asked any other questions? Thank you.

### **FY2016 Student Cost Guarantee**

VP Biller said Bierman. Director Bierman stated really I'll answer any questions. The report is in your packet, and you're going to be voting on several different proposals for tuition, fees, room and board increases. So I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Trustee Savala said I don't have a question, but I just want to share something I learned that I wasn't aware of. I was curious as to the cost for students who work straight through their bachelors to their master's degree, if there was a commitment time for a cost guarantee, whether it was their freshman year or the last day of the senior year. Oh I think I want to continue and move on. I guess I learned that if they as a student acknowledge that around their junior year, there's a cost fix for tuition that would lead up through their master's degree? Director Bierman replied I don't believe that's true. I think as soon as they graduate they start on a new plan.

President Thomas noted there are some programs that are like that where they can go right into their master's program.

Trustee Savala said you know I just – I was happy to learn that. I didn't know that and will be happy to share that when the situation arises, so that sort of plays into this and into my committee reports here. I just wanted to mention that. Other than that, any other questions?

### **Student Health Insurance**

VP Biller said thank you. I'd like to ask Interim Director of the Beu Health Center, Mr. John Smith to come forward and take us through that report. Director Smith stated good morning. I just got a couple points I want to talk about. We took in \$1.9M in premiums. We paid out \$1.5M in claims. We're in the second year of the program. It's running well. The students seem to like it. That's pretty much all I got. If you got any questions?

Trustee Quigley asked can you repeat those numbers? You took in \$1.9M. Director Smith stated \$1.9M in premiums, and we paid out \$1.5M in claims during the first five months.

Trustee Savala said questions or comments? Chair Early stated I would just say that I noted that there's been a decline in the student participation in the insurance program, because I assume because of the Affordable Care Act, many parents' programs have been able to meet the criteria and of course we're bound by that same Affordable Care Act, so now we're finding the situation where more students have credible coverage from their parents' programs than before. Director Smith replied absolutely. Chair Early added I'm just going to walk them through a basic insurance 101 here for everybody. So part of what's happening is our pool of premium paying students is declining and yet the claims that we are paying are increasing. Director Smith replied correct. Chair Early continued and it's because we have less numbers to spread the costs around. Director Smith added absolutely correct. Chair Early noted when I saw the report, I noted that we're having a substantial increase in this line item, but I came and I asked the question is this too what is happening and the numbers just kind of lead you in that way. Director Smith continued absolutely correct. Chair Early stated I want to make sure that we said that out loud.

Trustee Cole asked what are generally are claims for? Director Smith replied I do not have that information right now, but I can get that for you. Trustee Savala said any other questions? Okay, thank you. Director Smith replied thank you.

### **Report on Review and Elimination of Current Programs and Reinvestment in New Programs**

Provost Hawkinson said my report is before you that explains the rationale as to why we move forward on this initiative. The process that we followed which included the consultation throughout the year starting with my Faculty Assembly speech, moving forward to college meetings with the President meeting with Faculty Senate and various other constituencies through the course of the year. The criteria that was used to examine these programs and the programs that were identified for elimination review, wherein they will be looked at again next year, and some of the programs that we will be reinvesting in. Now, I held a public meeting roughly a month ago, wherein I went through the entire process and

basically the report you have here but in PowerPoint form. Over 200 people attended that meeting. There was an overflow crowd. And a couple of the questions that I received asked about cost savings. And let me explain how the cost savings work, because it's not necessarily a dollar to dollar ratio.

Faculty at our campus teach between 6 and 8 courses a year, depending on their employment status. Instructors teach around 8 courses, professors teach around 6 courses sometimes 7 courses. There's a formula in some cases where it varies, but that's the basic load. And so for every 6-8 courses, we need a faculty member – new courses or courses that we teach. For every 6-8 courses that we don't teach, want to talk about face-to-face classes or online class, then that's one less faculty member that we need.

When we look at these programs, programs themselves don't cost money – what costs money is to staff the courses that are taught within that program. And so when I looked at the programs, the low enrolled programs, we were at a point in our fiscal state of our affairs that we can no longer afford to offer courses with very, very low enrollments. And what points to those low enrollments are numbers of students that are in the program, majors, minors, certificate programs, a number of students that are in the courses. And so if we can eliminate programs that have very low enrollment, it means we offer fewer courses with faculty that were teaching those courses that can be redirected to teach courses that have high enrollments. We begin to make the savings through attrition as faculty retire or leave, we no longer have the need to replace if there's no longer 8 courses to have to be offered because the program has been eliminated that has very few students in it. We don't have to replace that position, and we either have the savings of that faculty salary or we move that position to an area of growth, or a new area that we're going to build and of course that's in this report.

Now we've been doing this over the last four years – trying to build more efficiency into our course offerings. Let me give you some quick statistics. Four years ago, we offered 7,109 courses at Western. That's total courses. This year, we're offering 6,734 courses, so we're offering 375 fewer sections. By lowering the number of those courses, it is saving us resources. We don't have to fill all the positions that open and then we can reinvest so we are both saving money and reinvesting in high enrolled programs and new programs. One of the reasons why we've been able to survive many of these budget cuts, especially from my area, which is the largest area in terms of the budget, is that we've been able to recover tuition dollars or variance dollars by saving money by not having to hire faculty in all the positions that open up. But now we have to go further in doing it on a course by course basis. We have to actually look at these programs, and so we've begun the process this year. These are very low enrolled programs for the most part. Next year, we begin to look harder and the next year harder and so on and so forth. It's my anticipation many of those programs on review will use this as an opportunity to put more initiative into those programs, so that they can start drawing students and filling their classes. And many of these programs that are slotted to be eliminated, I strongly encourage departments to go back, determine why these programs didn't work and if they still want programs in those disciplines, to rework those programs and then resubmit them and start again. And hopefully, it will come back in a configuration that will actually draw students and be able to fill our classes. So I'm available for any questions you might have.

Trustee Hare asked what do you consider when you're looking at all these different courses – what do you consider low enrollment when you say enrollment is not high in a given? Provost Hawkinson replied typically I looked at whether or not courses are in the single digits. And when many of the programs that are on the elimination list had classes where there were 2, 4 or 6 students in those courses, and it's very inefficient to run programs with so few students in those classes. Trustee Hare stated I agree. I was just kind of wondering what you used as a. Thank you. Provost Hawkinson replied yes.

Trustee Epperly said three questions. One, areas of growth, we're looking for areas of growth in high enrollment potential. One – what's happening with our doctorate in LEJA? We've been talking, talking,

talking and to me that has a potential to be a huge program and um...Provost Hawkinson replied as we continue to look at that program the difficulty we are having is it would seem with the number of undergraduate majors that we have, that it would translate into a very, very strong master's program which could then translate into a doctorate program. But the reality is our master's program has suffered major enrollment losses over the years. Now they're starting to build up again. But before we move on to a doctorate degree, we need a very healthy master's program. The other issue is doctoral programs are very, very expensive. Most of doctoral students come in on assistantship. They're not funded by their agency. Now we would want that, but they tend not to be. And so essentially doctoral students go to school for free – we'll need additional doctoral faculty and they will have lower teaching loads because they have to advise dissertations. And so we may draw lots of numbers, but we're not going to draw money or resources from beginning the program. Now there are other benefits, and we always look at the value added aspects of all these programs. There's great prestige in having a doctoral program, but at this point the return is not strong enough for us to be able to invest the money that would be needed to establish the program.

Trustee Epperly replied okay. Second question – cyber security – I was watching a public PBS broadcasting service I guess January 22<sup>nd</sup> by chance happened to be flipping channels and saw it. They were talking about cyber security and the future of cyber security. They said on this TV on this show that there were 209,000 openings nationwide in unfilled jobs in that area in related areas. They also were talking about how many students are in demand for internships at numerous programs. You can't pick the paper up almost any day without seeing some breach here or there or whatever. And to me, it would make sense that we had some type of an interdisciplinary degree in cyber security. I would have to think that the future there is phenomenal, and from a job point especially thereon it. Are we looking into anything like that? Provost Hawkinson replied I think you're absolutely right on that. I don't know – is Dennis still here? Won't you come forward Dennis? I know other universities had very successful programs in this area, and I know I've talked with my Associate Provost Kathy Neumann who used to be Chair, and I believe they're having some discussions about this, but maybe Dennis can explain little more detail about what the possibilities are for a program specifically in that area. Let me point out – Computer Science is one of our enrollment stars at this campus, and they're actually getting a new position this year because we have to keep up with the number of students that are going into their graduate program. Trustee Epperly added and part of this to jump in there just the way I picture it – it's interdisciplinary – it's just not technology – it's law enforcement. And the thing that surprised me was even a political science philosophy portion to it because of ethics and compliance and all that stuff, so it's a huge potential I would think thereon it.

Dennis DeVolder stated well um I'm not aware of any discussions having taken place yet, but I have looked at some of the top cyber security programs currently offered in the country. They're very much technology based, and as you said, some of them are interdisciplinary. We have in the School of Computer Science, we would be well positioned to create a program like that, or perhaps an option within one of our existing degree programs. And so, I would be you know quite happy to put the question before our curriculum committee to see if you know perhaps it becomes a discussion about whether it should be part of our network technologies degree, and then discussions with other departments to bring other things to the table certainly. I'd be happy to put that in front of our committee, and I agree there's a tremendous potential for it. I mean it's a multimillion dollar federal spending now, something in excess of \$13 billion I think this year, so good thing to talk about but I have heard no discussion to this point.

Provost Hawkinson allowed Dean Erskine Smith to come forward. Dr. Erskine Smith stated I'm Erskine Smith the Dean of College of Education and Human Services. We have begun some discussions of that topic in our College particularly with the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration, so we're beginning preliminary discussions about that. We've looked at some of the certificate programs that are available nationwide for cyber security, so I would say that we will probably be putting together

some type of feasibility study in the near future, but at least the discussions within the College of Education and Human Services have already begun. Thank you. Trustee Epperly said stay tuned is what you're saying. Okay.

Trustee Epperly continued and the final thing I had is it dawned on me we were looking at things to cut and da, da, da. We have a numerous offsite locations – Lake County, Peoria, this, wherever they're all at – I'm not even sure. Do we periodically evaluate them to make sure that they're paying for themselves if you want to say that, or it's not just a drain? Provost Hawkinson replied yes and Joe can probably help on this as well, but many of the off campus sites are where we bring our educational leadership programs, education programs to school districts so we teach in their facilities often in cohorts, usually for graduate education. And those don't tend to cost us very much, but I will say the Lake County Center we believe it was a great idea initially, but it is costing us a lot of our resources and we're evaluating alternative ways of providing those programs to the upper Chicago region. And yes, Joe, I know you work with the off campus sites a great deal as well. VP Rives added yes the off campus sites speak for themselves, because they're targeted to a market that can't reach one of our campuses and targeted to a market that doesn't want distance education unless it's in the form of a hybrid, so they have to sustain a minimal enrollment to be self-sustaining. That's also part of the evaluation that the Higher Learning Commission does. Trustee Epperly replied okay.

Trustee Clawson said again on page 46 and 47 – all these numbers you assigned after here – are those – are we students, classes, courses? What was that? Provost Hawkinson replied yes. Those are current numbers in the program. You'll notice that – yes – students. Trustee Clawson replied thank you. Provost Hawkinson continued so you'll notice very low numbers in many of these programs. Trustee Clawson said alright – that's – yeah. Trustee Savala added I just have a comment. I understand that these classes that are being eliminated are largely held in the day hours, and so this was a perfect opportunity for me as a proponent of the evening and night courses that I see you moving in the – I feel like we're moving in that sort of direction with the reinvestment in the new programs and the reorganizations listed below. So I was really happy to see that and thank you Ken again for answering all of my questions. So I just hope to see that momentum continue and in one day be able to offer just one or two cohorts for the completeable full degree on evening or weekend schedule, so with that. Provost Hawkinson responded we'll continue to move in that direction. Trustee Savala replied thank you. Anything else? Thank you.

#### **Resolution No. 15.3/4: FY2016 Tuition Recommendation**

VP Biller said thank you. I'd like to ask Matt Bierman to come forward please. Director Bierman stated so before you have the tuition recommendation for FY16. I would remind you this is for incoming students only. It locks them in for 4 years, and we are recommending a 2% increase in undergraduate and 1.99% increase and that's just a rounding difference in graduate students. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Trustee Hare asked how did you come up with the 2%? Director Bierman replied well we looked at a couple different options as it relates to tuition, so I looked at zero, 1, 2, 3 – all the way up to 5 or 6. Each percent generates about a quarter million dollars in new revenue for the upcoming year, and that will grow throughout the time that fee is rolled into place through the four years the student's here. And next year, with a zero percent tuition increase because of the trickle through of the students, we would generate about \$750,000. So I settled on, or we talked about it at the Leadership Team that about a million and a quarter in new generation of revenue – we would like to have a lot more but the other piece that plays into this is the financial aid report you just heard from the students are having a hard time affording it. And tuition has become elastic, so if we raise tuition, we sometimes see a drop in enrollment if we raise it too high outside of that range. And we think the 2% is in that range.

Trustee Epperly said U of I got a letter...I guess you would say probably before the elections that no. Director Bierman continued they did the zero tuition for Illinois graduates. Trustee Epperly said okay. Director Bierman stated you have to read between the lines – they're just a little bit. They didn't – they're raising tuition not on Illinois residents who are undergrads. Trustee Epperly replied oh, I didn't catch that. Director Bierman noted they're raising it on out-of-state residents this time and some graduate programs, as well as – I don't know about their differential tuitions in like engineering and those kinds of programs. I don't think those are necessarily held to the zero mark.

Trustee Epperly stated I guess my concern is that gap between us and everybody else just seems to keep narrowing. Director Bierman replied it's tight. Trustee Hare said Bill – I don't know what you mean. Trustee Epperly continued well the – I would argue 10 years ago one of Western's greatest selling points was the fact that we were substantially less than most other schools. Director Bierman added and now we're in the middle of the pack. Trustee Epperly said yeah and now we're in the middle of the pack and that middle of the pack keeps moving upward a little bit. And I don't know what the other schools are talking this year. Director Bierman said and I've put that out there to the other Illinois budget directors. Everybody's been a little tight lipped this year, and I think it has to do with what's going on in Springfield. Nobody really – they're cautious about what they're doing. And U of I obviously announced that back in December, I believe. And I think that Eastern is going to be a very modest increase if memory serves. I do remember that Governors State is going to be several percentage points beyond ours. I think they were more like the 5% increase this year for tuition – now that was Governors State. Not that they're a huge competitor of ours, but they are another state school. But everybody else is sort of wrestling with this whole thing as well, but there were several I think that are going to be in that same range us.

Trustee Hare said not looking to jump this up, obviously, because I don't want to get stoned here. But maybe I do, no. I assume everybody's confidence that this 2% will get you where you want to be, or is this and maybe a bit beyond? In other words, what I'm saying is when you said you were looking at anything from 0, 1, 2 and 3, why was 3 considered to be too out of bounds or? What led to the decision of the 2, I guess? Director Bierman replied yeah – I think that 3 starts to get into a public relations issue as our admission folks are out there recruiting. It puts us even further in the middle of the pack, so the difference between 2 and 3 has to do with two things, and they're both really related. Putting it on the backs of students and the ability for our students not afford to pay that gap in between what Financial Aid and what our costs are, so that's really where that is. You know no matter what happens in Springfield, we have to ask ourselves – what's the right decision for us? Is the right decision for us to come back and say – you know what we need a 10% tuition increase – is that the right thing for us to do? Or can our students afford that? Is it time for us to look at different options for our campus, and that's the process we're going through right now?

President Thomas noted but at this point we tried to make sure that we are as affordable as possible, and particularly one thing that I continually say particularly in my testimony before the legislators is that we don't want to increase this where it will be a burden. It's already a burden but even more of a burden on our students, and putting the increases on the backs of our students. And even if we do hear from the Governor with that final verdict of what it's going the increase is going to be, we will go back and look at that but as we always say in my Leadership Team is that we want to make sure that we do the least amount in terms of increasing that number. And we normally, I think recently, we've always been somewhere around the 2%, and I know we've gone higher sometimes. But and then looking at our competitors and what they do, we try to anticipate what they're going to do as well in increasing those numbers. But as all of you had said, it's becoming more difficult to do in terms of being – I think we were the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest in tuition. Director Bierman responded in just tuition – I think we're 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>. President Thomas said right, and we keep inching up, but how long can we stay where we are and also provide access and for many of our students I think about 50% of our students come from low

socioeconomic backgrounds. How can we continue to offer a quality education and make sure the education is affordable? These are the kinds of things we talk about in addition to what Matt has mentioned.

Trustee Hare noted I think the team did a great job putting this together and I do support the Resolution for a vote on it, but I think you're absolutely right. The thing is if you can raise it, but if you start losing that competitiveness that edge, and then you have students saying I just can't do this. It's tough enough as it is if it really puts you in a bind so I was just trying to figure out how you came about.

Director Bierman added you know the other piece – somebody had mentioned I think Dr. Biller had mentioned this Missouri influence or whatever. And that still plays into this whole thing too is not just our state competitors, but what's happening across the borders when our Admissions recruiters are out there recruiting and they say don't worry our out-of-state tuition is cheaper than your in-state tuition. So that's another thing that we have to pay attention to. Trustee Cole said so schools like Mizzou – it's been brought up several times – they're giving in-state tuition to Illinois students. So what? Director Bierman replied no actually there – not necessarily. They're giving out-of-state and then putting some scholarships on top of that. But their out-of-state tuition is less expensive than our in-state tuition. Trustee Hare and Trustee Cole both replied wow.

VP Biller added and they're adding scholarships on top of that to the students they're recruiting are at the top of the graduating class. Trustee Quigley asked how did they make that work that we can't? I know that might sound like incredibly...Director Bierman replied well it's a question we got at the state legislature. President Thomas added yeah we got that question there right. Director Bierman added and we're doing some – my office is doing some little bit of research on that right now, and I don't have a good answer. You know the canned answer we'd like to say is that their state is supporting them to a greater degree than ours. I'm not sure that that's going to vet out to be that much of a difference. I think they have some other things that happen on their campuses or their campus structures are different than ours that puts some more restraints on ours. Most telling, things like unfunded mandates and procurement laws and those kinds of things that add to our costs as well, but there are several other pieces that we'll investigate.

Trustee Cole said so one last question. So will this increase offset a possible cut by the government? Director Bierman replied no. This won't – no. We have cost increases that we're going to be greater next year than this the \$1.25M regardless – that's with level funding from the state. This will not have any – I mean if the state cuts us – then we're going to have to find that another place. Yeah.

Trustee Savala asked anything else? Thank you.

Trustee Cole moved to approve Resolution 15.3/4. Trustee Epperly seconded the motion.

#### Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes	
Trustee Cole	Yes	
Trustee Early	Yes	
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes	VIA TELECONFERENCE
Trustee Epperly	Yes	
Trustee Hare	Yes	
Trustee Quigley	ABSTAINED	
Trustee Savala	Yes	

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** tuition is to be established annually by the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees; and,

**WHEREAS** the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees carefully considered the Fiscal Year 2016 Tuition, Fees, Room and Board Cost Guarantee (Report No. 15.3/4); and,

**WHEREAS** general guidelines established by the Illinois Board of Higher Education were followed; and,

**WHEREAS** appropriate groups on campus were involved in the establishment of tuition for FY2016; and,

**WHEREAS** the rate would be an increase of \$5.76 per credit hour or 2.00% for new undergraduate students only, which would result in an increase of 0.50% per year for those students; and,

**WHEREAS** the rate would be an increase of \$6.33 per credit hour or 1.99% for new graduate students only, which would result in an increase of 0.49% per year for those students; and,

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University maintains a commitment to access and affordability:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves tuition rates for FY2016 (effective Fall Semester 2015) as enumerated in the FY2016 Tuition Recommendation document which follows.

FY2016 Tuition Recommendation

	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	Proposed FY2016		
				Amount	\$ Change	% Change
<b>I. <u>Undergraduate Students</u></b>						
Academic Year (Based on 30 SCH)	\$8,012.10	\$8,405.40	\$8,632.20	\$8,805.00	\$ 172.80	2.00%
Per Credit Hour	\$267.07	\$280.18	\$287.74	\$293.50	\$ 5.76	2.00%
<b>II. <u>Graduate Students</u></b>						
Academic Year (Based on 24 SCH)	\$7,068.48	\$7,415.04	\$7,615.44	\$7,767.36	\$ 151.92	1.99%
Per Credit Hour	\$294.52	\$308.96	\$317.31	\$323.64	\$ 6.33	1.99%

**III. Out-of-State Students**

Tuition is assessed at one and one-half times the in-state rate for out-of-state undergraduate students and one and one-half times the in-state rate for out-of-state graduate students on the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses.

Students at Western Illinois University who are residents of Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Indiana will be assessed in-state tuition.

**Resolution No. 15.3/5: FY2016 Room and Board/Housing Rates Recommendation**

VP Biller said thank you. I'd like to ask Mr. John Biernbaum and Ketra Russell to come forward. JB said this was passed by our Inter-Hall Council. Some highlights I would share is we continue to be the only school in the state that guarantees a freeze on room and board rates. The other thing I would say to you for comparative analysis is that our sophomores, juniors and seniors pay the lowest room and board rates in the state period – our juniors and seniors by a noticeable amount and our freshmen are in the lower third of the state in terms of what they pay for room and board. Trustee Savala asked questions, comments? Can I get a motion?

Chair Early moved to approve Resolution 15.3/5. Trustee Cole seconded the motion.

**Roll Call**

Trustee Clawson	Yes	
Trustee Cole	Yes	
Trustee Early	Yes	
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes	VIA TELECONFERENCE
Trustee Epperly	Yes	
Trustee Hare	Yes	

Trustee Quigley            Yes  
Trustee Savala            Yes  
Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** room and board rates are to be established annually by the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees; and,

**WHEREAS** the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees carefully considered the Fiscal Year 2016 Tuition, Fees, Room and Board Cost Guarantee (Report No. 15.3/4); and,

**WHEREAS** general guidelines established by the Illinois Board of Higher Education were followed; and,

**WHEREAS** appropriate groups on campus were involved in the establishment of room and board rates for FY2016; and,

**WHEREAS** the double occupancy rate would be an increase of \$130.00 or 1.38% for new students only, which would result in an increase of 0.35% per year for those students who live in the Residence halls for 4 years; and,

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University maintains a commitment to access and affordability:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves room and board charges for FY2016 (effective Fall Semester 2015) as enumerated in the FY2016 Room and Board/Housing Rates Recommendation document which follows.

**FY2016 Fees and Room and Board/Housing Rates**

	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	Proposed FY 2016		
				Amount	\$ Change	% Change
<b>ROOM AND BOARD AND HOUSING RATES</b>						
<u>Academic Year (Fall and Spring)</u>						
Room and Board - Double Occupancy	\$ 8,820.00	\$ 9,190.00	\$ 9,450.00	\$ 9,580.00	\$ 130.00	1.38%
Room and Board - Single Occupancy	11,237.00	11,722.00	12,060.00	12,226.00	\$ 166.00	1.38%
Room and Board - Super Single	11,505.00	12,004.00	12,350.00	12,520.00	\$ 170.00	1.38%
Room and Board - Super Double	9,420.00	9,790.00	10,050.00	10,180.00	\$ 130.00	1.29%
Room and Board - Suite Double	9,420.00	9,790.00	10,050.00	10,180.00	\$ 130.00	1.29%
Room and Board - Suite Single	13,599.00	14,150.00	14,530.00	14,716.00	\$ 186.00	1.28%
Room and Board - Grote Hall Double Occupancy	9,620.00	10,140.00	10,400.00	10,530.00	\$ 130.00	1.25%
Room and Board - Grote Hall Single Occupancy	11,163.00	11,784.00	12,086.00	12,238.00	\$ 152.00	1.26%
Room - Double Occupancy Westbrook House	5,460.00	5,610.00	5,750.00	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 50.00	0.87%
Room - Single Occupancy Westbrook House	6,820.00	7,010.00	7,190.00	7,250.00	\$ 60.00	0.83%
Apartment - One Bedroom Unfurnished	5,460.00	5,660.00	5,800.00	5,900.00	\$ 100.00	1.72%
Apartment - One Bedroom Furnished	5,860.00	6,060.00	6,200.00	6,300.00	\$ 100.00	1.61%
Apartment - Two Bedroom Unfurnished	5,760.00	5,960.00	6,100.00	6,200.00	\$ 100.00	1.64%
Apartment - Two Bedroom Furnished	6,160.00	6,360.00	6,500.00	6,600.00	\$ 100.00	1.54%
Apartment - Two Bedroom East Village	7,460.00	7,660.00	7,800.00	7,900.00	\$ 100.00	1.28%
<u>Break Housing</u>						
<sup>1</sup> Acad. Year Break Housing (Thanksgiving, Winter, Spring)	\$ 380.00	\$ 390.00	\$ 420.00	\$ 430.00	\$ 10.00	2.38%
Summer Break Housing (May & August)	280.00	290.00	310.00	320.00	\$ 10.00	3.23%
<u>Summer Semester</u>						
Room - Double Occupancy	\$ 686.00	\$ 710.00	\$ 740.00	\$ 760.00	\$ 20.00	2.70%
Room - Single Occupancy	1,081.00	1,120.00	1,160.00	1,170.00	\$ 10.00	0.86%
Room - Double Occupancy Westbrook House	1,092.00	1,122.00	1,150.00	1,160.00	\$ 10.00	0.87%
Room - Single Occupancy Westbrook House	1,364.00	1,402.00	1,438.00	1,450.00	\$ 12.00	0.83%
Apartment - One Bedroom Unfurnished	1,092.00	1,122.00	1,160.00	1,180.00	\$ 20.00	1.72%
Apartment - One Bedroom Furnished	1,172.00	1,212.00	1,240.00	1,260.00	\$ 20.00	1.61%
Apartment - Two Bedroom Unfurnished	1,152.00	1,192.00	1,220.00	1,240.00	\$ 20.00	1.64%
Apartment - Two Bedroom Furnished	1,232.00	1,272.00	1,300.00	1,320.00	\$ 20.00	1.54%
Apartment - Two Bedroom East Village	1,492.00	1,532.00	1,560.00	1,580.00	\$ 20.00	1.28%
<u>Additional Fees</u>						
Res Net	\$ 160.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 20.00	12.50%
<sup>2</sup> Readership Fee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%

<sup>1</sup>Housing charge is divided by break session

<sup>2</sup>This proposal is that the previous readership fee of \$5.50 be eliminated due to diminished student interest in the program

FY2016 Fees and Room and Board/Housing Rates

**Resolution No. 15.3/6: FY2016 Fees Recommendation**

Director Bierman said so yeah this was talked about several times in the meeting already that the original proposal SGA wanted to make some adjustments to, and we worked with them to do that. So what you have in front of you is, or what they're passing out is the new rate. It did not change the overall increase recommendation of a 2% for the Macomb campus. The Quad Cities' numbers have not changed at all. They're fine. They're just as they were originally, but the Macomb number it changed the allocation within the different areas was adjusted somewhat – not all of them, but some of them. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Trustee Epperly said so the technology that you're talking the largest increase – is that going to help to accomplish what Mike's been hitting on? Director Bierman replied over time it will. This doesn't generate a tremendous in year one, but again over time it will have an impact on that operation, so yes they'll have the ability to start looking at those kinds of things. It increases it more than what they were expecting. President Thomas noted it helps us a lot more. Trustee Quigley added and if I can comment – administration both Matt and President Thomas have been overly helpful absolutely – you know as soon as the Student Government assessed that there was – that we were not comfortable with it at the time – they said well stop let's work together and I mean this is by far the most I believe that students have ever been just directly involved in you know formulating opinions and so if I can stress the Student Government emphatically supports this proposal and with amazing help by the administration, so thank you.

Trustee Savala asked anything else? A motion?

Trustee Hare moved to approve Resolution 15.3/6. Trustee Epperly seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes	
Trustee Cole	Yes	
Trustee Early	Yes	
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes	VIA TELECONFERENCE
Trustee Epperly	Yes	
Trustee Hare	Yes	
Trustee Quigley	Yes	
Trustee Savala	Yes	

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** fees are to be established annually by the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees; and,

**WHEREAS** the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees carefully considered the Fiscal Year 2016 Tuition, Fees, Room and Board Cost Guarantee (Report No. 15.3/4); and,

**WHEREAS** general guidelines established by the Illinois Board of Higher Education were followed; and,

**WHEREAS** appropriate groups on campus were involved in the establishment of fees for FY2016; and,

**WHEREAS** the rate would be an increase of \$1.77 per credit hour or 2.00% for new Macomb campus students only, which would result in an increase of 0.50% per year for those students who attend for four years; and,

**WHEREAS** the rate would be an increase of \$0.43 per credit hour or 1.77% for new Quad Cities campus students only, which would result in an increase of 0.44% per year for those students who attend for four years; and,

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University maintains a commitment to access and affordability:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves fees rates for FY2016 (effective Fall Semester 2015) as enumerated in the FY2016 Fee Recommendation document which follows.

	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	Proposed FY2016		
				Amount	\$ Change	% Change
<b>I. MACOMB CAMPUS STUDENT FEE ALLOCATIONS</b>						
<u>Academic Year (Based on 30 SCH)</u>						
Activity	\$ 103.50	\$ 103.50	\$ 103.50	\$ 103.50	\$ -	0.00%
Fine Arts Activity	76.50	76.50	76.50	76.80	0.30	0.39%
Athletic	471.90	500.10	522.90	537.00	14.10	2.70%
Bond Revenue	766.20	809.40	833.40	851.40	18.00	2.16%
Technology	135.90	137.70	138.00	144.60	6.60	4.78%
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	447.90	474.90	536.40	546.30	9.90	1.85%
Health Center	276.00	278.10	281.10	282.30	1.20	0.43%
Publication	26.70	26.70	29.10	29.10	-	0.00%
Talent Grant	49.20	49.20	49.20	51.30	2.10	4.27%
Transit	77.70	78.60	80.40	81.30	0.90	1.12%
Total Per Academic Year	\$ 2,431.50	\$ 2,534.70	\$ 2,650.50	\$ 2,703.60	\$ 53.10	2.00%
<u>Fall or Spring Semester Per Credit Hour</u>						
Activity	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.45	\$ 3.45	\$ -	0.00%
Fine Arts Activity	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.56	0.01	0.39%
Athletic	15.73	16.67	17.43	17.90	0.47	2.70%
Bond Revenue	25.54	26.98	27.78	28.38	0.60	2.16%
Technology	4.53	4.59	4.60	4.82	0.22	4.78%
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	14.93	15.83	17.88	18.21	0.33	1.85%
Health Center	9.20	9.27	9.37	9.41	0.04	0.43%
Publication	0.89	0.89	0.97	0.97	-	0.00%
Talent Grant	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.71	0.07	4.27%
Transit	2.59	2.62	2.68	2.71	0.03	1.12%
Total Per Credit Hour	\$ 81.05	\$ 84.49	\$ 88.35	\$ 90.12	\$ 1.77	2.00%
<u>Summer Semester Per Credit Hour</u>						
Activity	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.21	\$ 2.21	-	0.00%
Fine Arts Activity	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.64	0.01	0.61%
Athletic	10.07	10.67	11.16	11.46	0.30	2.69%
Bond Revenue	16.35	17.27	17.78	18.16	0.38	2.14%
Technology	2.90	2.94	2.95	3.09	0.14	4.75%
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	9.56	10.13	11.44	11.65	0.21	1.84%
Health Center	5.89	5.93	6.00	6.03	0.03	0.50%
Publication	0.57	0.57	0.63	0.63	-	0.00%
Talent Grant	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.09	0.04	3.81%
Transit	1.66	1.68	1.72	1.74	0.02	1.16%
Total Per Credit Hour	\$ 51.89	\$ 54.08	\$ 56.57	\$ 57.70	\$ 1.13	2.00%

FY2016 Fees Recommendation

	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	Proposed FY2016		
				Amount	\$ Change	% Change
<b>II. QUAD CITIES CAMPUS STUDENT FEE ALLOCATIONS</b>						
<u>Academic Year (Based on 30 SCH)</u>						
Activity	\$ 126.00	\$ 127.20	\$ 127.20	\$ 128.70	\$ 1.50	1.18%
Athletic	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bond Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-
Technology	129.90	130.50	135.30	140.40	5.10	3.77%
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	210.00	211.80	211.80	211.80	-	0.00%
Health Center	-	-	-	-	-	-
Publication	23.40	25.80	26.70	27.30	0.60	2.25%
Talent Grant	81.30	82.20	83.10	83.10	-	0.00%
Transit	126.00	129.00	143.40	149.10	5.70	3.97%
Total Per Academic Year	\$ 696.60	\$ 706.50	\$ 727.50	\$ 740.40	\$ 12.90	1.77%
<u>Fall or Spring Semester Per Credit Hour</u>						
Activity	\$ 4.20	\$ 4.24	\$ 4.24	\$ 4.29	\$ 0.05	1.18%
Athletic	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bond Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-
Technology	4.33	4.35	4.51	4.68	0.17	3.77%
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	7.00	7.06	7.06	7.06	-	0.00%
Health Center	-	-	-	-	-	-
Publication	0.78	0.86	0.89	0.91	0.02	2.25%
Talent Grant	2.71	2.74	2.77	2.77	-	0.00%
Transit	4.20	4.30	4.78	4.97	0.19	3.97%
Total Per Credit Hour	\$ 23.22	\$ 23.55	\$ 24.25	\$ 24.68	\$ 0.43	1.77%
<u>Summer Semester Per Credit Hour</u>						
Activity	\$ 2.69	\$ 2.72	\$ 2.72	2.75	0.03	1.10%
Athletic	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bond Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-
Technology	2.77	2.78	2.88	2.99	\$ 0.11	3.82%
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	4.48	4.52	4.52	4.52	-	0.00%
Health Center	-	-	-	-	-	-
Publication	-	-	-	-	-	-
Talent Grant	1.73	1.75	1.77	1.77	-	0.00%
Transit	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Per Credit Hour	\$ 11.67	\$ 11.77	\$ 11.89	\$ 12.03	\$ 0.14	1.18%

**Resolution No. 15.3/7: FY2016 Student Health Insurance Fee Recommendation**

VP Biller said Digger Oster, please. Digger Oster stated good morning. You have the resolution before you. I understand that this does represent a 47% increase. I'd like to highlight a few of the contributing factors that led to that. Chair Early did mention a few of those in her prior comments. There's a basic medical cost increase component. There was a decrease plan participation – an increase in overall claims. And there's still this uncertainty surrounding PPAS or the Affordable Care Act, and what that's going to look like long term in the student health environment. I would like to add we did make an extensive marketing effort on the plan. We worked directly with our broker to look at ways to enhance or make plan modifications through our existing carrier. We also reached out for quotes from a few other carriers. A group of us internally reviewed those options and believe that the plan we are presenting to you today offers the greatest value from both a cost and coverage perspective. I'll leave you with – our broker did

indicate though in the student health marketplace that the increase we are seeing today is not one that is uncommon, so that being said, I'd be happy to answer any questions if you have any.

Trustee Quigley said so just as we just discussed in tuition the 2%, we were very worried about how that could affect recruitment. Um, are we worried about that same thing because she's saying they're declining numbers – well if we increase this by \$223 – will we see an even worse decline in enrollment in these programs? Because like I say if my parent had substandard insurance, so like if the school's insurance is a little better, but now the price is now \$227 more. I'm going to take my parent's substandard insurance over this. I mean are we pricing ourselves out of? Digger Oster replied sure. No, that is a fair question. The long and short answer is that yes if additional students continue to waive out of this plan, and we see plan participation continue to decline and the claim trends do not improve, I would be remiss if I didn't say I believe we will continue to see an increase in premiums.

VP DeWees added it's the premium that we have negotiated with the company to go out. So it isn't necessarily – I mean we've gone out and given them the factors that we have. This is the cost that they've given us to cover our students, and we've tried to negotiate this down or change the rates. So it isn't. Digger Oster continued lots of time has gone into negotiations with our broker. I will just as far as benchmarking goes – we do sit a little bit higher than Southern Illinois and the University of Illinois. They actually have substantially larger pools than we have, so they gain value from that, we do sit lower than Northern Illinois.

Trustee Cole stated I guess my concern is several. One, we just increased tuition, room and board. We just increased the cost of per credit hour and now you want us to increase insurance by \$223, so what we've pretty much done is added on \$2,000-\$3,000 somewhere around there? Let's just say a \$1,000. Digger Oster asked in total or just for health insurance? Trustee Cole said I'm talking about for everything that we're talking about here today. But yet, we talk about decreasing financial aid, we talk about costs to the family out of pocket increasing – where are we benefitting the student?

Trustee Savala responded I think we are benefitting by having the opportunity to offer it. Trustee Cole asked I'm sorry. Trustee Savala repeated I said I think it's a benefit if you look at it this way that they have an option if they need it. And it's not always a pretty option, but to be able to offer insurance to a student.

Trustee Quigley added but it's something the student has to get. Trustee Cole said and I understand that. I'm not going against that. Because the insurance that requires everybody to be insured, we're going to lose substantial amount of numbers of these individuals because it's required by law that they be insured, so why would we increase the costs when they can go a whole different route on their own? So what? Chair Early replied well not all of them can. But it's affordability, and as much as expensive we are seeing this to go out independently to buy insurance is substantially more than this. What we do find is some kids are able to stay on their parents' programs and they're able to do that more cost effectively. But to go out as individuals and purchase insurance, it's substantially more than this cost.

Digger Oster stated and if I could add – we did go out to the marketplace. It not only would be a greater cost, but you would also have far less benefits than we offer with our current plan. Trustee Cole asked so what are the benefits for our current plan, because I haven't seen them? Digger Oster replied I don't have those in front of me. I mean is there a specific question about the plan. Trustee Cole continued I just want to know what the plan offers.

Trustee Hare said maybe if I could on here we went through this I think when this was initiated, and if memory serves me correct, this policy in my opinion is probably one of the best health care policies you're going to find. And as the Chair pointed out to do this in the open market would cost you two

maybe three times this amount, because unfortunately health care costs continue to rise as was evident by the claims you were talking about. And the good news is young people can get on their parents' policies and stay on them for a while. The bad news is that means you know we have a drop in people getting in, but I agree with Trustee Savala. This is something you are offering people, and it is I think a Cadillac plan for basically with all due respect to our Volkswagen owners for Volkswagen rate. (LAUGHTER) But I understand that we've raised a lot today and will, but I also think we have to be realistic, because I don't want to be the bearer of doom and gloom either. But until there's a resolution federally on a budget that they are arguing out, state, there's a lot of question marks, and I think we have to be in front of us currently instead of behind it and try to catch up. So you know I wouldn't – it is a significant increase but these are times when healthcare costs are not dropping. They're going up. So, you know I support it, and I do remember I think most of the basics of the plan and as I said, I think it's an incredible good plan. I share your concerns. I do, but then again if you don't offer it, that could be a disincentive for some people too, because they as Cathy said, some people just can't get on their parent's policies and that.

Trustee Epperly asked didn't we stay with the same carrier? Digger Oster replied we did. Blue Cross Blue Shield is the insurance carrier. Trustee Epperly asked and they're good basically – Macomb hospital has no problem with them, etc. Digger Oster responded they have good working relationships with all of our local providers, as well as the local health center.

Trustee Epperly asked has there been any effort from a consortium standpoint of all the state universities to try to work together on this. Digger Oster replied yes and funny you should ask – the group of insurance folks asked at our last meeting IPHEC – I actually brought this up to see if there was an appetite to consolidate this coverage from all the state institutions. Unfortunately, since a few of the large players, University of Illinois and Southern Illinois have health systems or medical centers that are available. They offset a lot of their costs with those facilities, and so there wasn't really an appetite at this time to proceed with that, but it's something that I am going to continue pushing for and maybe next year we could get some more buy-in on that. Trustee Quigley asked so does the Beu Health Center help bring the cost of this insurance down? Digger Oster responded, absolutely, so costs are covered at 100% at the Health Center for medical coverage and prescription coverage. So, that is a plan enhancement that we felt very important to include simply because the costs for providing healthcare at the Health Center is substantially less than it would be out in the community or at a local hospital or medical provider. Also it's a convenience factor for our students, so that does help keep costs down and then attracts students to utilize the Health Center. Trustee Quigley replied okay.

Trustee Cole asked, what is the co-pay for this; do you know—to be able to use? Digger Oster answered, there are a variety of co-pays whether it be an office visit or prescription co-pay; is there one in particular that you like or maybe or maybe if we just send you the plan document that would be helpful? Trustee Cole replied that would be good. Digger Oster replied okay. I will be happy to send that for you. Trustee Cole continued and the other thing is there a cost associated to the University? Digger Oster stated, for this program? Trustee Cole said yes. Digger Oster said this is a pass-through, so we purchase this project through AHP which is our broker and then we pay the premium and then it's passed through to students. Trustee Quigley asked, I thought they said they got \$1.9M in premiums and only paid \$1.5M paid out. Digger Oster replied for the last 5 months. Trustee Quigley continued but if we're bringing in \$1.9M in premiums (interjection by Chair Early, that's for 12 months). Trustee Quigley continued, oh, you're saying in 12 months we got 1.9 we paid 1.5 this makes sense then. Okay, gotcha. That's the problem. Trustee Cole asked, do you know what the claims were...when you said you did major claims? I'm just trying to figure out this 1.5 I mean. VP Julie DeWees responded, there's a lot of it in prescription drugs. If you look, I mean if you have prescription drug coverage and you look at what you're getting and then how much you pay. You think you're paying 20 bucks and then you look at the cost, and sometimes it's \$600 for 30 days. Trustee Cole responded, right. Trustee Julie DeWees said, so a lot of the students that are participating in the insurance, so we have a smaller pool in the pool of the students using the insurance

– use the insurance more. So they are using, they’re getting, now they’re getting prescription drugs or seeing a doctor more which is good for the students because they have better healthcare. But, it’s bad for us because the costs have increased. Trustee Cole asked, so, is that payout done by the University? VP Julie DeWees answered, no. Trustee Cole state, so, it’s done by the insurance company? VP Julie DeWees answered, right, by the insurance company. We used to be self-insured. I believe this is the second year of purchasing the insurance, so that now we don’t have the risk. Trustee Cole replied yeah I remember when we did that. Chair Early asked, is there anything else? Trustee Quigley said, real quick, why did they quote us so low last year when we voted to approve this plan? Then the next year they want \$223 more. Trustee Cole said they wanted our business. (LAUGHTER) Trustee Quigley continued with, that is how, of the company that we’re working with, how—trying to choose my words carefully, that is not good practice to quote us something and then one year later say oh we didn’t know. Now you need to pay \$223 more. Sure. How do you justify that? Like I’m supposed to like vote for the students and defend the students, and I’m having a very had time voting in the affirmative for \$223 raise with a company that quoted us \$467 last year. When this group last year voted in the affirmative for this plan on the idea that it was going to cost \$467, and maybe have marginal increases not up 50% the next year. Digger answered, sure and I completely agree. Please know that none of us take this light hearted. We certainly did not—I wish I could come here today and say we had a 10% decrease, but that’s not the reality of the situation. I do believe that initially favorable rates were offered as an enticement. I mean it all goes through a matrix, I mean, so that’s what the initial premium was. Then, when you combine that with declining enrollment, increase in our claims trends, and then with the onset of PPACA, you have several plan enhancements or requirements by federal law. So, preventative care, prescription drugs at no cost for certain types of conditions, mental health benefits, no more plan maximums for visit maximums. So when—from an insurance company or underwriting perspective when you have that risk, and you’re not really sure what that’s going to look like because this is all new for everyone, unfortunately that comes with a higher cost. We did diligently try to negotiate and get this rate down, and this was the very best that we could achieve. Trustee Quigley mentioned, yeah I recognize it’s not your fault. I do apologize. Digger Oster replied no, no, no. I just... Trustee Clawson said, part of the frustration, you know, insurance is an estimate of what they anticipate things to be. Everybody forgets that, but until you’ve got costs and the other thing I think it’s the Affordable Care Act. Nobody knows where that’s going to end up or settle or become, so right now it’s just an estimate. We hope it doesn’t go up again, but yeah, good luck there. Trustee Quigley asked, if next year we see something like this again, would we look for a new company? Digger Oster responded, so every year we do an extensive marketing effort to see what other options are available. Trustee Quigley said, okay, thank you. Digger Oster said, absolutely. Trustee Cole asked, and how many companies did you say you reviewed? Digger Oster answered, we, our broker went out to yes, five different companies. Chair Early said oh. Trustee Cole asked so nobody could come in under \$690? Digger Oster replied that’s correct. Actually it was four companies and then we looked to an outside provider independently that we’re allowed to because it’s provided by law. And actually, all of the companies came in higher. Trustee Savala asked can I get a motion? Trustee Hare replied so moved. Trustee Savala stated I’ll second it.

Trustee Hare moved to approve Resolution 15.3/7. Trustee Savala seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes	
Trustee Cole	NO	
Trustee Early	Yes	
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes	VIA TELECONFERENCE
Trustee Epperly	Yes	
Trustee Hare	Yes	
Trustee Quigley	ABSTAINED	
Trustee Savala	Yes	

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University has reviewed the Student Health Insurance options for Western Illinois University students; and,

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University proposes that the Student Health Insurance rates increase from \$467.00 to \$690.00 per half year or \$1,380.00 per full year which represents a 47.75% increase; and,

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University will implement the Student Health Insurance rate beginning August 1, 2015; and,

**WHEREAS** special provisions have been made for students attending outside the designated terms of August 1 to January 31 and February 1 to July 31:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the Western Illinois University Student Health Insurance Program rate for Fiscal Year 2016 as proposed.

**Resolution No. 15.3/8: Honorary Doctorate – Kirk Dillard**

Provost Hawkinson stated Senator Kirk Dillard has been one of the most distinguished legislators in our state in recent decades and also a great friend to Western Illinois University. This Resolution is before you for your consideration.

Trustee Clawson moved to approve Resolution 15.3/8. Trustee Quigley seconded the motion.

**Roll Call**

Trustee Clawson	Yes	
Trustee Cole	Yes	
Trustee Early	Yes	
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes	VIA TELECONFERENCE
Trustee Epperly	Yes	
Trustee Hare	Yes	
Trustee Quigley	Yes	
Trustee Savala	Yes	

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** Senator Kirk Dillard received his bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University, and his law degree from DePaul University; and,

**WHEREAS** Senator Kirk Dillard has served as the Director of Legislative Affairs for former Governor James Thompson, was a judge on the Court of Claims, and was Chief of Staff to former Governor Jim Edgar. He was appointed to the Illinois State Senate in 1993, won election to that body in 1994, and represented the 24<sup>th</sup> District until 2014; and,

**WHEREAS** Senator Kirk Dillard currently is a partner in the Chicago office of one of the world's largest law firms, Locke Lord LLP. He is also the Chairman of the Regional Transit Authority board, which serves the public transportation needs of the Chicago metropolitan region. He has a clear and compelling vision to make transportation a key element in Chicago's efforts to sustain itself as a global city and region; and,

**WHEREAS** Senator Kirk Dillard helped spearhead WIU's successful effort to build its Performing Arts Center and helped launch Western's incredible campus in the Quad Cities. He continues to be a great ambassador for Western Illinois University as he has a prolific record of accomplishments, commitment to public service, and sustained dedication and support of Western Illinois University; and,

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University approves the conferral of a Doctor of Humane Letters upon Senator Kirk Dillard at Western Illinois University's Commencement Ceremonies.

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

### **External Audit Report**

Trustee Hare said thank you Madam Chair. Rita Moore, Director of Internal Auditing, is here, and I believe everyone has received the handout on the external audit, so Rita.

Rita Moore stated first of all I would like to thank everyone at the University for their cooperation with the external auditors. They are almost like they're employees here – they're here so many months of the year. Things were a bit different this year. Matt Bierman was in the audit process for the first time really in depth, so I'm sure he has a different perspective. We also lost our GAAP coordinator, who does most of the financial package, and she left mid-year, so we had some people that stepped up to the plate, and I'd really would like to thank them for doing that. We got everything out on time and everything, and I'd also like to thank Mike Sartorius in our office because he helped step up to the plate because I helped along with the compliance audit.

The complete details of the report can be found at the link that is listed in your report. And the results indicate that we had 2 financial findings and 7 compliance for 9 material findings for the year. 4 of these were repeats from the previous years, and there were 2 items that were implemented that were not repeated.

On the federal compliance audit, we actually have 3 different audits. We have a federal compliance audit, state compliance audit and a financial audit. From the compliance audit for the federal, we did have 1 finding from Financial Aid, but it is very tough if they have just one exception that becomes a finding. They do a very good job, and it's a very complex environment to work in.

We basically – I have also sent out late last night a comparison from where we are with the others across the state, and we're kind of in the middle of the pack. We have 4 that were better than us, 3 that were worse than us and 1 that we tied with, so that's kind of where we stand with the state. That concludes my report. There are also additional external audit regulatory requirement audits listed on the report, but basically they pretty much come back with clean opinions for the most part. Any questions? Trustee Hare asked questions?

Trustee Clawson said Rita, for the good of the Board, could you help just define again the difference between material and immaterial findings? Rita Moore replied basically the externals come in and they evaluate all across the University. The immaterial findings are more minor in nature. They may be a few exceptions, but they're very limited in nature where the material have a higher impact or may have a major impact to financials or that type of issue. Trustee Clawson said the immaterial for instance – is this like a class that they didn't take or something? Rita Moore replied ethics reporting is a good example. It seems like every year if everybody doesn't take the ethics test, we'll have a finding for that. If an employee might not, we'd have to do performance appraisals every year – they look at that every year. If not every performance appraisal is on time, and they find one in their sample that could be a finding you

know – the more you have then it could become a material. Or if you don't fix the problem or address the problem, it can become material.

Trustee Clawson asked how are we trending? I got a sheet that tells me we're five years ago we were probably 5 findings and now we're up to 9. That's not good. Rita Moore replied from the last previous year we are trending up a bit. We're up from 21 findings the last three years we had 18 in total – that's material and immaterial together. I would also indicate that the audits have become more – they have raised the bar. The auditors are more thorough and we've been approximately 8 years with the current firm we have, so they're learning our organization, and they know where to look. They know the people to deal with and that type of thing, and that kind of leads to that to. VP DeWees added I believe more and more compliance issues are regulated by the federal and state that they're checking all the time. So it's just like if you have a new compliance, for example, the ethics testing. They're going to test that. If you're, I mean every year there's more and more compliance issues. Rita Moore interjected I'm sorry. At the beginning of every audit on the compliance issues, the first thing they ask us for and I get from Jeanette is a list of all the laws that have changed that year. And you may get them that year, or it may be a year or two down the road that you get them, but eventually you're going to get tested on some of those issues. Sometimes, it's the first year that they're implemented. If they were implemented, the taskforce was a good example. Now, we didn't have an audit finding and Michael did a very good job of organizing that and getting it in place, but there was a library taskforce that had to be put in place, and we were on top of things. We had it and put it in motion.

Trustee Cole asked so I guess my question is for an organization as big as the University with a total of 9 findings, where would you rate us? Rita Moore responded like I said – we're kind of middle of the pack. The other organizations ranged from 2 at Eastern to 39 at the U of I. Basically, if you're in single digits, you're looking pretty good to some of the others. Trustee Cole continued and that was my question. And if you don't mind, can you tell us the 4 that our repeat. Rita Moore replied they're noted on the report. There's a repeat at the end. Trustee Cole replied okay – you're right. I got it right here. Rita Moore continued #1, 4, 5 and 6.

VP DeWees added and also if you look at the other universities it kind of depends on the accounting firm that does the audit, too, because if it's... our firm is EC Ortiz, so if you look at the other schools that have EC Ortiz, they focus on almost the same things, so we know too that if we look at the other schools, we're going to look now to try to figure out what we need to be extremely careful with for next year. Rita Moore continued one of the next steps that our office does is we put a report out of all the findings that the other universities, and we send those to the related individuals and then cover all leadership team on what those findings are so that they can prepare or look to see what we're doing to see if we...so we can be proactive.

Trustee Clawson asked on the repeated findings – how long do we go before somebody slaps our hand and says no? Rita Moore replied they just keep appearing until we do something about it. Trustee Clawson said pretty embarrassing. Rita Moore replied yeah. Thank you.

Trustee Hare stated I just wanted to say for the record, Rita, thank you as you've done an excellent job on this, and I appreciate it.

## **PRESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Trustee Cole stated the only thing that Kerry has sent out information in regards to the assessment being done, or preparing to be done. We will have a report for you by the June meeting. We hope to have some responses so that we can have a report by that time. Kerry? Kerry McBride responded I provided that to just Trustee Cole the timeline basically, but one of the first things that we'll be doing – I'll be doing shortly if not today on Monday will be emailing all of our governance leaders here and on the Quad Cities campus to look for their feedback for the President's performance. And then the process will continue per

the timeline the Board agreed to a few years ago. Trustee Cole added that's all I had. Chair Early said thank you very much, Lyneir.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

### Quarterly Long Term Plan Update

VP Rives stated you've had really important conversations about affordability, and where this item plays into affordability is quality, because as you know people like to see quality and affordability to make a value proposition to come to Western Illinois University. What this report on the campus evaluation of the Quad Cities campus is part of a larger picture that we've been working on together over the last few years. The Higher Learning Commission evaluates institutions and four areas. We have the highest level of quality with no findings, no follow up for Western Illinois University as a whole, and we achieved that back in 2010. This fall, we again achieved the highest level of quality for our off-campus programs that Trustee Epperly was asking about earlier that are in Springfield, Peoria, the Chicagoland area. We have the highest level of quality in distance learning programs, and that came last year. What this report says, in brief, is that we have the highest level of quality on the Quad Cities campus in our new facilities. You will get the full report of the off-campus accreditation and this report in your June meeting. Commission protocol doesn't allow it to be released until their Board approves it. That approval comes tomorrow at the Higher Learning Commission, and we are going to get that approval so Provost Hawkinson and his friends Larry Sherman and other people who started in his cohort have really positioned this institution. Somebody got my joke. (LAUGHTER) Thank you whoever you are. The other thing that this – the campus evaluation visit did was to look at the move process for Riverfront Campus because a move must in the Commission's eyes occur without disruption to the academic mission, and we are slated due to the work of Dr. Mindrup and Bill Brewer as a national best practice. And I was hoping the Board would give Dr. Mindrup and Bill wherever he is, a round of applause, for their outstanding efforts. And then we'll have peer institutions for you next time as I said earlier this morning. Thank you. Chair Early said thank you. Are there any questions for Dr. Rives? Hearing none, we'll go on ahead and move to our next item.

### Resolution No. 15.3/9: Release of October 3, 2014, and December 19, 2014 Closed Session Meeting Minutes

Trustee Early moved to approve Resolution 15.3/9. Trustee Quigley seconded the motion.

#### Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes
Trustee Cole	Yes
Trustee Early	Yes
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	DID NOT ANSWER VIA TELECONFERENCE
Trustee Epperly	Yes
Trustee Hare	Yes
Trustee Quigley	Yes
Trustee Savala	Yes

#### Motion Carried.

### Resolution:

**WHEREAS** pursuant to Section 5 ILCS 120/c of the Open Meetings Act, the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University will eliminate the recordings of the minutes of October 11, 2013; and,

**WHEREAS** pursuant to Section 2.06(c) of the Open Meetings Act, the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University has reviewed the minutes of the closed session minutes of October 3, 2014 and December 19, 2014, to determine whether the need for confidentiality still exists with respect to all or part of the minutes:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University has determined that the need for confidentiality still exists and it will review the October 3, 2014, and December 19, 2014, minutes again at the June 12, 2015, Board Meeting to make a final determination with regard to its release.

**Resolution No. 15.3/10: Calendar Year 2016 Board Meeting Schedule**

Trustee Early moved to approve Resolution 15.3/10. Trustee Savala seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes	
Trustee Cole	Yes	
Trustee Early	Yes	
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes	VIA TELECONFERENCE
Trustee Epperly	Yes	
Trustee Hare	Yes	
Trustee Quigley	Yes	
Trustee Savala	Yes	

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University is subject to the requirements of 110 ILCS 690/ which states: “Meetings of the Board shall be held at least once each quarter on the campus of Western Illinois University...;” and,

**WHEREAS** the Vice Presidents, Budget Director, Board Treasurer, Institutional Research and Planning Director, Equal Opportunity and Access Director, Internal Auditor, Alumni Director and the Assistant to the President for Governmental Relations have been consulted regarding the State of Illinois, IBHE and Board of Trustees deadlines and regulations; and,

**WHEREAS** the members of the Board of Trustees have been consulted beginning on January 13, 2015 about the 2016 proposed meeting schedule:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the following meeting dates for calendar year 2016:

March 11, 2016 (Friday) – WIU, Macomb

June 10, 2016 (Friday) – WIU, Quad Cities

October 7, 2016 (Friday), WIU, Macomb

December 16, 2016 (Friday), WIU, Macomb

July 2016 Board Retreat date and location will be determined by the Board after the 2015 Retreat

**Resolution No. 15.3/11: Revision to Board Regulations, V.M., Debt Compliance and Management – First Reading**

Kerry McBride stated for procedural purposes not really this will come back to you in June for final approval, review and approval if you do. What you’re approving today is to allow the campus community to have feedback on this as presented, we will post it online and what not. And then in June, you would be approving this for a permanent change. Chair Early replied thanks for that clarification. I appreciate that. Chair Early asked do we have any further discussion with regards to this Resolution?

Director Bierman stated can I just make a couple background comments. Chair Early responded yes. Director Bierman said so this is recommended by our bond counsel, Chapman and Cutler, has recommended that we adopt or we develop this type of a policy for our campus. It codifies current practices, and many of the institutions across the state have begun to do this. And it helps us when investors have questions about our policies and what we do on this campus as it relates to our due diligence process, as well as all the documents that we present to them during a bond issue, or when we're selling debt. So this comes at the recommendation of our legal counsel as it relates to our taxes on policies. So this will – in June after it's passed, we'll put together a group that will actually establish the formal University policy. Chair Early replied thank you very much. Do we have any further questions or discussion? Hearing none, I would ask for the roll.

Trustee Early moved to approve Resolution 15.3/11. Trustee Hare seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes	
Trustee Cole	Yes	
Trustee Early	Yes	
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes	VIA TELECONFERENCE
Trustee Epperly	Yes	
Trustee Hare	Yes	
Trustee Quigley	Yes	
Trustee Savala	Yes	

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University must approve changes to regulations prior to implementation; and,

**WHEREAS** the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University issues bonds, certificates of participation and other financial instruments to finance and refinance capital projects and equipment; and

**WHEREAS** the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees finds it necessary to outline the guidelines and procedures for issuance and post-issuance compliance in connection with such financial transactions:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University approves First Reading of the revision to the *Regulations* Section V.M – Debt Compliance and Management.

**Section V. Administrative Affairs**

**Subsection: M. Debt Compliance and Management**

**1. Authority**

Under the authority that has been issued by the statutes of the State of Illinois, the board may issue debt (bonds, certificates of participation and other financial instruments) to finance and refinance capital projects and equipment for Western Illinois University.

**2. Debt Compliance Policy**

The President, after consultation with appropriate officers of the university, shall establish a policy and necessary procedures for the issuance and post issuance compliance in connection with debt transactions.

The procedures must ensure compliance with the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code, US Treasury Regulations and the Federal securities laws relating to debt transactions, as well as to ensure the adequacy of the Board's primary and secondary disclosure filings.

### 3. Debt Compliance Management

The Board designates the Treasurer as the Debt Compliance Officer. The Debt Compliance Officer has the responsibility to keep all records required to be kept by the board under the policy, to make all necessary reports to the board required by the policy, and to otherwise assure that all actions required of the Board hereunder be taken in a timely manner.

Chair Early stated next we'll move into our last Resolution. VP DeWees, do you have any comments? VP DeWees replied yes, I do. There are two sections in the Board *Regulations* that deal with Employee Benefits. And one is faculty and administrative employees, and the other one is civil service. This was approved for faculty and administrative employees at the December Board meeting, and I failed to also include the section for Civil Service, so this is just cleaning up that and it's already been approved basically for administrative employees. Kerry McBride added and the reason this is not listed as a second or a first reading – it listed as kind of with that – as well as we're complying with the law. VP DeWees said right.

Chair Early asked does anyone have any questions for VP DeWees? Kerry McBride said if you vote on this today, it's going in. Trustee Epperly asked can you alter it if you change the first reading – can you alter it and approve it? Trustee Cole said you can make an amendment. Trustee Epperly continued yeah but doesn't it – the amendment have to have two readings? I'm asking. I don't know. VP DeWees responded we approved the last one at the...

Trustee Early stated we approved the base part, but now we're altering what we approved, right? VP DeWees replied no. The first – so there's two sections in the book. So the first section, it's like II.B. for faculty and administrative employees – this is II.C. and applies to civil service, so it was the same rule or the same regulation, but and one applies to faculty and administrators and the other one applies to civil service. And we've already approved the one for faculty and administrative. I should have brought both of them to the Board meeting in December.

Trustee Cole said so who can approve this? Kerry McBride replied you're using the same language.

### **Resolution No. 15.3/12: Revision to Board *Regulations*, II.C.7.e.(2), Employee Benefits Parental Leave**

Trustee Hare moved to approve Resolution 15.3/11. Trustee Quigley seconded the motion.

#### Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes	
Trustee Cole	Yes	
Trustee Early	Yes	
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes	VIA TELECONFERENCE
Trustee Epperly	Yes	
Trustee Hare	Yes	
Trustee Quigley	Yes	
Trustee Savala	Yes	

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** The Board of Trustees must approve changes to Regulations prior to implementation; and,

**WHEREAS** the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued an interpretation of parental leave that is inconsistent with Board regulations; and,

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approve revisions to Section II.C.7.e.(2).

**II. Employees (continued)**

**C. Civil Service Employees (continued)**

**7. Employee Benefits (continued)**

**e. Parental Leave (Revised 3/7/08)**

- (1) An employee may take up to four (4) consecutive weeks of parental leave at full pay commencing upon the birth or adoption of a child by the employee, the employee's spouse, or domestic partner.
- (2) ~~If both parents are employees of the University, one parent should be designated as the "primary" and may take up to four (4) consecutive weeks of parental leave at full pay commencing with the birth or adoption of a child by the employee, employee's spouse, or domestic partner. The "secondary" parent may take up to two (2) consecutive weeks at full pay commencing with the birth or adoption of a child of the employee, employee's spouse, or domestic partner, or following immediately the leave of the primary parent.~~
- (3) Following the parental leave granted above, the appropriate vice president may approve the employee's use of additional sick leave for the recovery of the employee, employee's spouse, domestic partner, or child.
- (4) Upon a positive recommendation from the employee's immediate supervisor, and/or department chair, dean, and/or director, the employee may request to the appropriate vice present or President a change of status and salary at less than 100% employment (e.g., 50% employment will be compensated at 50% salary), for up to eight (8) months after the birth or adoption of a child. The request for less than 100% employment should be made as early as possible and must be taken in eight (8) or less consecutive months. If an employee is granted less than 100% employment after the birth of a child, only the first four (4) weeks of that employment shall be compensated at full salary.
- (5) An employee also has the right to additional time off as provided for in the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Chair Early asked at this point in time, is there any old business to be brought before the Board? Hearing none, I'll move to new business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Early asked is there any new business to be brought before the Board? Hearing none.

**NEXT MEETING**

Chair Early stated the next meeting of the Board of Trustees is June 12, 2015, at the Quad Cities Campus.

There being no further business to come before the Board a motion was made and duly processed to adjourn the meeting of the Board at 12:40 P.M.

Cathy E. Early, Chair  
Kerry McBride, Administrative Assistant to the Board

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