

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Minutes of the Meeting  
March 29, 2013

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 8:00 A.M. in the Capitol Rooms of the University Union, WIU – Macomb campus. Chair William L. Epperly, presided.

Chair Epperly moved to convene the Board to Open Session. Trustee Cole 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 Yvonne Savala  
Trustee D’Angelo S. Taylor

Absent: Trustee Phil G. Hare

Chair Epperly moved to convene the Board to Executive Session to consider personnel, legal, collective bargaining and other such issues as covered by Section 2.c. of the Illinois Open Meetings Act with plans to reconvene in open session at approximately 9:00 A.M. Trustee Early seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes
Trustee Cole	Yes
Trustee Early	Yes
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes (VIA TELECONFERENCE)
Trustee Epperly	Yes
Trustee Savala	Yes
Trustee Taylor	Yes

Motion carried. The Board convened to Executive Session at 8:01 A.M.

Chair Epperly moved to reconvene the Board to Open Session. Trustee Cole seconded the motion. Following Executive Session the Board reconvened in open session at 9:00 A.M.

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 Yvonne Savala  
Trustee D’Angelo S. Taylor

Absent: Trustee Phil G. Hare

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

President Jack Thomas

Legal Counsel Representative Matt Kwacala

Vice President for Administrative Services Julie DeWees

Administrative Assistant to the Board Kerry McBride

Provost and Academic Vice President Ken Hawkinson

Vice President for Student Services Gary Biller

Vice President for Quad Cities and Planning Joseph Rives

Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter

Advisory Group Representatives present:

Civil Service Employees Council President – Bill Rupert

Council of Administrative Personnel President – Jennifer Grimm

Faculty Senate Chair – Steve Rock

Student Government Association President – Caleb Markey

**Resolution No. 13.3/8: Trustee Appreciation – Donald W. “Bill” Griffin**

Chair Epperly said just as a reminder, we have a couple of new members that I’ll be coming to in a second, but I just want as a reminder that we have no cell phones on. Hopefully, mine is off and no texting during the meeting. So, Yvonne and Roger, we have high expectations on that. With that, we’re going to go out of order here. We’re fortunate that Bill Griffin and his wife is here, and on page 59 and 60, it’s actually towards the end of the agenda, we had recognition for our two Trustees. Mike was unable to make today, Bill would you please come up?

Dr. Griffin joked it’s awful quiet in here. Chair Epperly said yeah, I know it. Cathy as secretary, first of all would you read the resolution?

Trustee Early read the resolution verbatim.

Dr. Griffin said thank you. Thank you so very much. Chair Epperly asked comments? Have we been that bad to work with? Dr. Griffin said it’s difficult to know where to start except to say that the past seven years has been one of the best times in my life, serving on the Board, getting to know my fellow members of the Board, my fellow Trustees, various of the VPs. I’ve went through: one Garry with two R’s to one Gary with one, of course with Jack and Ken, and let’s see who else Julie and also Jackie before her, and Brad of course, and the ever popular person from the Quad Cities and an old friend Joe Rives. So if I’ve left anyone out it was not intentional and I just remembered someone who I did leave out and that’s my wife Mary Ann and we’ll talk about that later. Again, this has been a wonderful experience and I thank you all.

Chair Epperly said we have a couple gifts for you. You have to open a couple of them. There’s a card, which you can open later, but a couple stories. Bill, as you know, wrote the book on the Hennepin Canal, which I actually read it because I grew up basically on the Hennepin Canal. Actually, I went swimming in it a few times and skating on it and this and that and so forth. If you ever want a tour of the Hennepin Canal or the Mississippi River, this is the guy to call. We also had a retreat a few years ago and we went down to Warsaw. What’s the uh...? Kerry McBride said Kibbe. Chair Epperly continued Kibbe Life Station. We went out the day before on the river, and Bill and Bob Cook, and the two of them have more knowledge about the locks and dams and the rivers than probably anyone on it. And one other story, we were, go ahead and show them what you got there. Dr. Griffin joked it’s a good thing you didn’t have to put all the whereas’s here or we’d be in trouble, there goes our budget for next year. Chair Epperly joked we assessed the new members. Dr. Griffin said it says in tribute and appreciate to Donald W. “Bill”

Griffin for exemplary service as a member of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees 2006-2013 Jack Thomas, President Western Illinois University. Thank you very much.

Chair Epperly said two more and then one other story, you have to open it, go ahead while I'm talking. I don't know when it was a year or two ago, I was involved in a complaint issue. I call them a gift, complaints are a gift. So I was involved in the issue that a person that had gone to school here 40 years ago, 19...late 60s, 1970s, 40 years after the fact she was complaining to us that she'd gotten a F in a class 40 years ago, and she didn't know about it and she wanted it changed. So, we're working on this and so forth, it was a geography class, and by chance we're digging through and I was amazed because we were actually able to find a few of the old records, and by chance the professor that gave her an F in geography was our honorable Bill Griffin. I never told her that he was on the Board at the time.

Dr. Griffin said and this is...Is this symbolic of anything? Am I supposed to fall on your small sword or what? Chair Epperly joked I'm dangerous, don't give that to me. Dr. Griffin said watch what you say, you better have to open this first? Chair Epperly said and then the final thing there. Dr. Griffin said do I have to open this first. Chair Epperly said it's up to you, and I'm out of stories there. Dr. Griffin said Bill was saying I took a great pleasure that he had read *Voices of the Hennepin Canal*, but he never once offered to set up a time when he could take the test, so I really don't know. Chair Epperly asked can I do it online? Trustee Early joked does that mean you're giving him an incomplete? Dr. Griffin said yeah. Chair Epperly said another student he flunked.

Trustee Ehlert Fuller said I'd like to add my personal congratulations to my esteemed co-Board member and to Mary Ann. It's been wonderful working with you. Dr. Griffin said thank you Carolyn, thank you. It's reciprocated. Thank you so much.

Chair Epperly said it's a money clip of course all the money you're going to leave to Brad you're not going to need a money clip. Dr. Griffin said Brad stands in line after somebody. Chair Epperly said and the final thing was, and I'm going to talk about this a little later, it's a Rocky Popcorn from me to you. I was in the Ag department yesterday and so forth, there's a story to that and I'll tell that later. Thank you much. We appreciate everything you've done. You've been great to work with. Thank you. We brought that up first, because I'm sure now that Bill's not on the Board, Mary Ann doesn't want to sit through one of these meetings and so forth so thanks again. We'll be talking to you. Dr. Griffin said thank you everyone.

Kerry McBride said Bill, would you like to vote on this? Chair Epperly said yes, I guess we should vote on this and make it official and we moved it up and I didn't even look at the resolution.

Chair Epperly moved to approve Resolution 13.3/8: Trustee Appreciation – Donald W. “Bill” Griffin and Resolution 13.3/9: Trustee Appreciation – J. Michael Houston. 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 Savala	Yes
Trustee Taylor	Yes

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** Dr. Donald W. “Bill” Griffin, professor emeritus, was appointed on February 3, 2006 by former Governor Rod Blagojevich to the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees; and,

**WHEREAS** Dr. Griffin has admirably served the students, faculty, staff and alumni of Western Illinois University and the citizens of the State of Illinois as a member of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees for the period of February 3, 2006 – February 24, 2013; and,

**WHEREAS** Dr. Griffin has provided exemplary service and brought pride to both the Board of Trustees and Western Illinois University by his contributions to higher education; and,

**WHEREAS** Dr. Griffin served the Board of Trustees for 3.5 years as Secretary, two years as Vice Chair and also served as Chair of the Academic and Student Services Committee and Chair of the Audit Committee; and,

**WHEREAS** Dr. Griffin oversaw the creation of the WIU-Macomb Master Plan: *Campus is the Classroom* and the WIU-QC Master Plan: *Vision 2020*, and the Technology Strategic Plan, as well as the creation of several new programs including liberal arts and sciences, nursing, engineering, museum studies, environmental GIS, educational leadership, environmental science and emergency management; and,

**WHEREAS** during his tenure, Dr. Griffin authored the textbook *Voices of the Hennepin Canal: Promoters, Politicians, and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers* as well as numerous other scholarly writings as well as presented his work at the Upper Mississippi River Conference; and,

**WHEREAS** Dr. Griffin will always be a valuable part of the history of Western Illinois University having served during significant events in the history of Western Illinois University including; the establishment of the first doctoral program in Educational Leadership and recently the Board passage of the Ph.D. in Environmental Science program, the opening of the Quad Cities Riverfront Campus Building I, the opening of the Macomb Campus Multicultural Center, and the selection and inauguration of the 11<sup>th</sup> President of Western Illinois University; and,

**WHEREAS** Dr. Griffin has been and will continue to be a highly regarded and loyal supporter of the University, a relationship for which Western Illinois University is very grateful:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees expresses its heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to Dr. Donald W. “Bill” Griffin for the invaluable service he has provided to Western Illinois University, the Board of Trustees and the State of Illinois.

**AND**

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** Mr. J. Michael Houston was appointed in May of 1997 by former Governor Jim Edgar to the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees; and,

**WHEREAS** Mr. Houston has admirably served the students, faculty, staff and alumni of Western Illinois University and the citizens of the State of Illinois as a member of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees for the period of May 1997 – February 24, 2013; and,

**WHEREAS** Mr. Houston has provided exemplary service and brought pride to both the Board of Trustees and Western Illinois University by his contributions to higher education; and,

**WHEREAS** Mr. Houston served the Board of Trustees for three years as Chair, four years as Vice Chair and also served as Chair of the Audit Committee and Chair of the Finance Committee; and,

**WHEREAS** during Mr. Houston’s tenure, he saw the creation of the Western Illinois University Strategic Plan: *Higher Values in Higher Education*, the WIU-Macomb Master Plan: *Campus is the Classroom* and the WIU-QC Master Plan: *Vision 2020*, the Technology Strategic Plan, as well as the creation of Western Illinois University’s first doctoral program in educational leadership, and several new programs including liberal arts and sciences, nursing, engineering, museum studies, forensic chemistry, meteorology and emergency management; and,

**WHEREAS** Mr. Houston will always be a valuable part of the history of Western Illinois University having served during significant events in the history of Western Illinois University including; the first building of the Quad Cities Riverfront Campus, the Multicultural Center, Grote Hall and the DPS building were built, there was a groundbreaking for the Performing Arts Center, and numerous renovations took place, including Memorial Hall, Corbin and Olson Halls, the student side of Hanson Field, the Donald S. Spencer Recreation Center, the Wright House, the Union Bookstore and the University Union entrance; and,

**WHEREAS** during Mr. Houston’s tenure, he oversaw the selection and installation of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Presidents of Western Illinois University while serving as Board Chair, the Centennial Celebration, the commencing of the annual Board of Trustees retreat and the annual planned maintenance of the University Residence; and,

**WHEREAS** Mr. Houston has been and will continue to be a highly regarded and loyal supporter of the University, a relationship for which Western Illinois University is very grateful:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees expresses its heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to J. Michael Houston for the invaluable service he has provided to Western Illinois University, the Board of Trustees and the State of Illinois.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 14, 2012 and JANUARY 15, 2013 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Chair Epperly moved to approve the December 14, 2012 and January 15, 2013 meeting minutes. Trustee Taylor seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes
Trustee Cole	Yes
Trustee Early	Yes

Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes (VIA TELECONFERENCE)
Trustee Epperly	Yes
Trustee Savala	Yes
Trustee Taylor	Yes

### CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Chair Epperly said with that, good morning everybody. Welcome to today's meeting. I kind of debated where we start with some introductions here, and I think we should probably go to the most important person first, and that's Kerry. Kerry, what happened last weekend? Kerry McBride said I got married. Chair Epperly said so if you notice there's a new nameplate there and Kerry was married in a small ceremony this past weekend, so congratulations and we'll come back to that a little later. Carolyn, I want to just say again congratulations for reappointment. As many of you know, there's a couple new faces here on the Board. Carolyn was reappointed to a six-year term by the Governor here just very recently. Two new members were appointed. Yvonne is from the Quad Cities. I met with her a couple weeks ago and just talked and tried to clue her in on anything, any questions she had and so forth and I told her at the time, be ready Yvonne because I'll ask you at the meeting to tell us who Yvonne is. So, Yvonne.

Yvonne Savala stated my name is Yvonne Savala. I'm very happy to be here. I was born and raised in the Quad Cities. My background is local government and non-profits, and I'm available if you have any questions, or want to know any more I'll be around. Thank you.

Chair Epperly said also, Roger is from the Quad Cities. I've known Roger actually worked with him for years and so forth, but I've known Roger a long time. I guess you could say we've actually traveled all over the world a little bit together through business and this and that, but anyway who is Roger?

Roger Clawson stated thank you Bill. Roger Clawson, Quad Cities, State Farm agent up there, alum, past president of the Alumni Council. I thought I was going to be riding off into the sunset here next month and apparently my horse made a turn, so I'll be with you all for another six years. I look forward to it in this capacity. I'm married, two kids, one in Singapore and the other one graduates with her masters next month out east. Thank you.

Chair Epperly continued just a couple things, and I'm going to, my comments will pretty much be tied, I like to say tied to things that have happened since the last meeting here. So, I want to touch on a number of different things. I'll probably take a few minutes longer, which I try to have a means to my madness so hopefully when we're done we'll see a little bit of the why the comments. One, and I just want to for Phil Hare was unable to make it. It was probably a little bit of poor planning on our part as I think when we made the, they set the meetings a year ago for all the dates, we did not realize at the time that it was Easter weekend, and Phil had commitments here on Good Friday that he couldn't get away from.

Also, I guess on a sadder note, I just wanted to mention, since the last meeting, I know many of us were familiar with Shaymus Guinn passed away. It was very rewarding to see from the standpoint of a number of parents, players, and I think some of the other coaches went to the services up in Wisconsin, but our condolences go out to Coach Guinn and his family.

Yesterday, I spent the day here in Macomb and it was very interesting and I give Joe probably a little bit of the credit. Number one at 9 o'clock, I took a tour of the new bus facility. Unbelievable. I was truthfully staggered as to how nice that facility is and what's involved in it. Joe, at the last meeting had said that you may want to consider visiting Horrabin 62 and Knoblauch 301, and so yesterday I wandered around

campus and went to see Horrabin 62, which it turned out I had seen it already and didn't realize it. It was one of the new science rooms.

I went to Knoblauch 301 and looking for it, found it, there was a professor there that automatically hit me up for popcorn, and I bought it from him in the past, so I bought a sleeve of popcorn. There's one at each one of your spots there for the Board. That's your gift from me for the new year, and that'll be it for the year so anyway. But the interesting part was that the - and I didn't really know why I was going to 301, other than just to see it. It turned out that that professor who I had known and met before and actually is a high school friend of mine - best of friends actually through grade school, high school and so forth - was a Ag professor here and retired. It turned out the day before yesterday was his last day here, but anyway the 301, I met the professor Dr. Phippen. However you pronounce his name, Phippen? Provost Hawkinson said Phippen. Chair Epperly continued yes, Winthrop. You talk about the thing that amazes me when we see the updated facilities it's really neat, but what is neater is the quality of the people that are involved in these facilities. I'm talking with this professor and I said what's the deal here? Why's this room cool? And, he said this was a grant that I worked on a couple years ago and we received, and he told me the numbers but whatever I say is going to be inaccurate, but we received a \$500,000 grant. Part of that grant was that we had to update the classroom in order to accomplish what we were doing with the grant. And I said so if I understand this right, your grant got us a new classroom remodeled, etc. which will be here long after the grants gone, yes. I said ah, neat.

Then he said do you got a few minutes? I'll take you down stairs. I'd like to show you something else. And he's working on DNA of plants, took me downstairs and he said here's another grant we got, and had these I call them incubators that they had applied for a grant, sought a grant out, received the grant, so they were able to buy all this new equipment. In one incubator, he's showing me this product. This I call it plant, he named it, and he said is what we're working on here is. We've kind of developed this and we're working on it that farmers will be able to plant this during the winter, and it's a biofuel. It's very good with biofuel, and I said ok, hay crops are out then. He said right, it's got to be corn, basically corn, so a farmer will be able to plant their corn or beans during their regular season. As soon as that's harvested, plant this whatever it's called it grows during the winter, harvest that and then it becomes a great product for biofuel. He said I'm ready to push the button today seeking, can I say, is it alright to even say what we're seeking? He's sending the button today he said, I don't know how successful it'll be, we're seeking a \$9M grant to develop this product for biofuel. I was just truthfully kind of blown away by the whole thing, so it was really very interesting.

Then, I also ran into Michael Hott and Michael pulled me aside and he said hey, I know you're interested in some of these things, here's what I'm doing over at the data center. And, he showed me some pictures. I said I got time, let's go look at it. He took me to the data center, had no idea that this was happening other than the fact that I think I've seen it in a few of the reports. We're spending I call it a million and a half dollars here, totally redoing the data center, bringing it up from a physical standpoint. Not the systems itself, but the facility itself up to standards because I'm always harping about technology. When I saw this, I thought alright this is cool, and so did that.

Then we went to the Beu Health Center and we had a great tour of that, and so forth. So, I spent my day I guess you'd say sightseeing in Macomb and then and thanks to Student Government, we went last night to dinner. Caleb, thank you for the event last night, again very well done, very nice event, and it's really again great to see what I say the quality of the students also, so thank you.

Another story, 12/24, December 24<sup>th</sup>, a friend of mine, ISU grad, I try not to hold it against him plus he's a rugby player. He has an event every December 24<sup>th</sup> with 30, 40, 50 people, invites them for eggs benedict at noon. Normally, we can't make it. I got to laugh about it because this year we could make it cause our dog had surgery, and we couldn't go out of town. But anyway, I go down there, his, one of his

best friend's from college that he played rugby together. If you knew Mac, very successful businessman, owns several businesses, sold them, done very well financially, is back in the business now doing something else. We get to talk and he said Bill you're on the board at Western, and I said yeah. And I kind of laugh, and he said I've been trying to get on the board at ISU, and he said I'm not real happy with some things that are happening there. He said I would like to get on the board and be involved in the direction of the college, and he said I'm finding out that's a heck of a lot tougher to get on a board than I ever dreamed he said. And I said you got to have a sponsor number one, and so you better talk to, be politically connected in some way or another to find a sponsor. We're joking about it. Where I'm heading with this is he said I've been, and he started telling me a few things about ISU, and he said I've seen the things you guys are doing at Western, and he said I am impressed. He said we should be doing things at ISU that you folks are doing at Western. He said you're taking care of your residence halls. He said much further advanced than we are at ISU. He said you eliminated coal, and you've gone to natural gas. He said I applaud you for that, and he named one or two other things and I'm sitting there saying you did your homework. And he said yeah, and I still can't get appointed, so anyway hats off to everybody. When you hear comments like that from the outside world, it makes you feel pretty proud of what you're doing.

A few other things I want to touch upon. In the business world, I always like to say "you've got to reek of quality." We have to look good at everything we do, and we've got to have that perception. We've got to do it. We've got to live it. We've got to walk it, so forth. A few things here that since the last meeting I wanted to touch on, and it always makes you proud when you see these things: number one, our hats off to the Honors program. I think we've had our first Truman Scholar Finalist, Elizabeth Etta is a senior here at Western. I haven't heard anything since then if anything's, if anybody's been chosen, but it's the first finalist we ever had. In addition to that, Caleb was invited to submit application, so hats off again to Caleb for being asked there on it there.

Many of you probably have heard me say that beautification, in my mind beautification creates a perception of quality. That if you drive in to anybody's business, house, campus, whatever, if it's a beautiful setting, it implies quality, and it rubs off into all their perception of everything that we do. I was greatly proud to see, and I think Julie's going to mention it that 2012 we were named a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Foundation. And then also I saw this here recently the Morton Arboretum in Chicago has these tree signs out etc. there on it, but Julie's going to talk about that a little bit later. President Thomas said here it is. Chair Epperly said oh, well that's it. So, I'm stealing Jack's thunder maybe. President Thomas said no, it's Julie. Chair Epperly said but anyway, this is an award we received and I just want to say hats off again to the ground crew and everybody for that. The Arbor Foundation also gave us 1,600 saplings for Horn Field. The other thing, the first thing I checked on yesterday when I pulled in was the Heating Plant to see the towers, and again when I talk beautification to me beautification is not only necessarily planting trees etc., it's eliminating eyesores. That's well on the way.

Another thing since last meeting, the Distance Learning, hats off to Rick Carter. Distance Learning was recognized by the *U.S. News and World Report* for the second year in a row. The neat thing about that, and I argue at times, we never get any publicity in Chicago, and it was on the Chicago news. I was watching the news one evening, and they mentioned Western Illinois University, and one or two other Illinois schools for receiving recognition from the *U.S. News and World Report* on the program that night.

Graphic Communications program is accredited since the last meeting, one in 10 in the nation.

Several school of Agriculture students last week received first place awards at a national conference in Louisville.

The Quad Cities viewbook received a bronze award, and actually if I understand it right it's going to be added to the web, which we'll talk about a little bit later.



We had a second Fulbright Scholar in the past 12 months. Professor John Carlson was not quite 12 months ago, and I think just recently Professor Joe Dobson was recognized.

President Thomas has been recognized at numerous programs as a key note speaker, which there's so many of them I'm not even going to try to list them, and it was actually the honorary chair at the Martin Luther King Dinner in Chicago in the past several months. April 26<sup>th</sup> he will receive the distinguished alumni award from IUP, correct? Congratulations. I think he deserves a hand. The audience applauded.

WBBM on Tuesday, again, Chicago radio station. Whenever I hear Western Illinois, I jump up and down, because we don't get too much news in Chicago. WBBM on Tuesday said that WIU is one of 842 libraries to receive the Muslim Journeys bookshelf, and actually then I saw it on the website and I want to say thanks to Jeff Hancks and the library, because it's my understanding that he's the one that applied for the grant. If you call it a grant, but applied for it and we're one of 842 in the nation that received it.

Baseball defeated the #1 team in the nation at the time in Arkansas and beat Michigan two out of three games here last week.

Men's Basketball had the best record in our history. Three crowds over 4,000 in fact I think one was over 5,000 at the end of the season, mentioned in *USA Today* on February 18<sup>th</sup>. There was an article about up and coming teams and Western was listed as one of the up and coming teams. Coach Molinari has received numerous awards. I think here over the last 30 days, Coach of the Year, several coach of the year awards, etc. Plus the neat thing about the coach is every time I've ever heard him speak, minimally about basketball mainly about Western and how good a school Western is, etc.

Women's Basketball-had the pleasure to chat with the coach here a couple months ago, but anyway I think that the whole athletic program we're seeing positive things that we haven't seen for years, and we're getting a lot of publicity from it.

Lyneir, Black Alumni Scholarship Dinner, I think you were one of the original founders of that program, and tell us about it. Trustee Cole said the scholarship dinner is this Saturday. We're looking at close to 200 people attending. What it is is it's a scholarship that was put together for minority African American students here at Western, and we continue to, we've given out approximately 60-70 scholarships already at \$350 a piece. That's been in the last nine years, this is our ninth one, so we continue to move forward with them. Chair Epperly said thank you. That's a great job and appreciate it. I think he said there's approximately 200 people tomorrow night at your dinner? Great, great.

You know I made all these comments, because it almost seems at times that it's en vogue today to bash education in one way or another, and I made all these comments because what we're facing, to me, with all those negative things that keep popping up out there, which I'm going to talk on in a second, there's so many great things happening and so many great things happening here at Western, and we can't lose track of that.

I had a conversation last night with one of the students, and in fact I was joking with him. I called him well you're the alderman wanna-be, and Steve I think his name's Steve. In fact it was in the *Tribune*, and a big article in the *Tribune* whenever it was, maybe two weeks ago, and almost did not read the article, but I saw Sherman Tower, the Sherman Bell I guess you'd call it in the background. He's standing here in the *Tribune*, I saw that, and I thought wait a minute that's Western, so I read the article and I started laughing as to the details, but anyway had the pleasure to meet him last night, and we were joking about that and etc. But anyway, the comments he made. He's from Aledo, and I'm from Sherrard and we've played each other in athletics and we were joking about that and this and that. Now, he's much younger, I played a few years ago, but anyway his comment was, I said why'd you choose Western? And he said I

chose Western because it was the lowest price school that I could go to to get an education, but you know what really surprised me. He said how good the quality of the education is here. He said my professors are outstanding, he said, I've been so pleasantly surprised as to how good the education is when you consider the price and all on it. Again, good to hear.

We say all these things. You know there's challenges, and I just want to touch on a couple of the challenges. And they're coming from all directions, and this is since our last meeting. At the Federal level, President Obama, we're going to hold colleges accountable for cost, value, and quality and benchmark student outcomes from financial aid. The private sector, February, just a month ago, a group of non-profit businesses in Michigan created on their own the Michigan Performance Tracker for Public Universities. When I saw that I said that's, I went to their website, it's actually very interesting but here's a non-profit sector creating a website to help students decide where they're going to go to college.

Since the last meeting eight states, which I could name them, I'm not going to go through and name them, looking to use novel teaching and assessment methods to deal with enrolling and graduating more students, so we're fighting that on one hand. On the other hand, university personnel and us are questioning on the other hand, is this going to lower the quality of education? Are people, businesses mainly going to look at it and say wait a minute this isn't the degrees that we want to have? A huge, I think a huge challenge.

Wednesday of this week, the National Association for State Budget Officers concluded after a meeting that was financed by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that the financial model for higher education is broken.

Nationwide, we're looking at I call it shrinking public support for education from a financial standpoint. I think we're witnessing it right here in Illinois and we're maybe on ground zero. The Illinois universities all had pretty much all had their bonds downgraded here in the past few weeks, because of the State's financial condition. The State lowered our budget, if I've got the numbers right, right now it's projected to be \$2.9M, is that somewhat accurate? And still owes us \$46M, is that correct? I think including the MAP money. President Thomas said right. Chair Epperly continued still owes us around \$46M.

On top of that, I think we're the only Board in the State of Illinois that is fully staffed, full room. *The Tribune* this past week had a large article again about the university boards in Illinois. Southern Illinois University has a rebellion going on down there. In fact, I think the first time in the history that I've ever seen it, the Senate rejected the Governor's appointees. They wouldn't approve the Governor's appointees to their board. Illinois State University has three openings. They all fell off this past week, because the Governor hadn't appointed them. Chicago State, I believe has four openings. Northeastern has three openings. Eastern Illinois University has seats that haven't been reappointed. So, almost the majority of the boards, university boards in Illinois have got open seats there. So, I guess I'm just pointing out with all these challenges, all these things that we're facing I like to say it's a new unhealthy normal on one hand, but great things are still happening and my hats off to everybody for making them happen. And with that, I guess I also welcome Yvonne and Roger to the Board. See what you're looking forward to with all these interesting days ahead of us there. With that, I probably said more than you want to hear and will turn it over to President Thomas for any comments, his thoughts.

### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Thomas said good morning and welcome. We are certainly delighted to have you here. I think Trustee Epperly is such a big cheerleader. He's covered just about everything that I was about to say, but we do appreciate having you here. I also want to welcome our newest trustees, Trustees Roger Clawson

and Yvonne Savala, and also I would like to welcome back to the Board-Trustee Carolyn Ehlert Fuller. We're certainly delighted to have you all on our board. I also want to thank Bill Griffin and Mike Houston for their service and commitment to Western Illinois University. We will miss having them here on the Board.

I hate to start with doom and gloom. However in terms of the budget, we continue to communicate with the campus and our constituency groups as we receive information. In fact, I sent a letter out to update the campus community on our budget situation a couple of weeks ago. The State currently owes us about \$39.5M for our appropriation and about \$5.6M for the spring MAP awards. Last year at this time, these numbers were \$31.5M and \$5.7M respectively. The comptroller's office has been reimbursing us on the schedule that they set forth in December. If this schedule continues, they will still owe us about 45% of our appropriation to be paid during the lapse period.

The Governor's Budget proposed that higher education appropriation be cut an additional 5%. This would mean around a \$2.6M reduction for Western. We are working with our local legislators and others to discuss the need for a more reasonable allocation for Western and all of higher education. Given the Governor's proposal, I have asked all the VP's to begin to consider reductions should that proposal become a reality. We, as a campus, have worked hard to ensure our financial strength and will continue to do that and will continue to do what it will take to make sure that we are not only meeting payrolls and financial obligations, but also to make improvements in critical and strategic areas. We are having to be very strategic in what we do as a leadership team. And in order to continue to move this forward during these very difficult budgetary times, we have to be risk takers and that's what we're willing to do at this institution. The VP areas will be presenting their accomplishments and FY14 budget requests to the campus on April 19<sup>th</sup>, so you all are invited. We hope to see a lot of you there during those presentations.

Earlier this month, the Budget Director Matt Bierman and I traveled to Springfield to meet with key legislators. Jeanette Malafa, our Government Liaison person facilitated a very, very aggressive schedule for us when we were down there, and we got a lot accomplished. We met with key legislators to discuss the issues we face here at Western. We talked about the WIU funding. We solicited support for the Performing Arts Center, and we talked about the Quad Cities as well as our success in the recruitment of minority students and staff, and the overall success of Western. We have lots of support among the legislators, and they're very interested in what we're doing here at the institution.

In addition to that, we will be going back to Springfield for our hearings with the House as well as with the Senate for our budget hearings, and we look forward to that and hopefully we will have a success in that as well.

This year we will host the WIU new legislative day in Springfield reception on [April 11](#). We invite all of you to join us there. During that time, we will have Senator Dillard as well as Senator Lightford. They will be bringing remarks, and as many of you know they are graduates of Western Illinois University. In addition to that we're going to have remarks from our local legislators as well. We want individuals to know about Western and the challenges we face, but also those good things and outstanding things as Chair Epperly mentioned that we're doing here on campus. I want to thank Jeanette Malafa for facilitating all of this. She is very well respected in Springfield, and she did a fantastic job so kudos to you Jeanette for the job that you've done.

Some other things I want to mention, at the October board meeting, we presented targets to increase total enrollment by 2% from the Fall 2012 to 2013. Currently, we are projecting at even or slightly below even compared with last year's Fall enrollment. We are confident that our projected freshmen enrollment will likely hit our target. Our number of students coming back to us after the stop out is currently projecting ahead of our target. New transfer and new graduate enrollment continue to be challenges for us, not only

for us, but also at most public institutions across Illinois. The largest obstacle that we face with our enrollment is with our freshmen to sophomore retention. That has been a challenge. When we look at the numbers from now to back to 10 years ago, there's been a decrease in our retention rates there. We have put all kinds of mechanisms in place to make sure that we are able to stop that down trend. And Gary Biller and his staff as well as the Provost and others have been working very hard on making sure that we turn that around, and it takes everybody. It's not just Student Affairs' job. It's not just Academic Affairs, it's everybody's job. Retention is everybody's job, so it takes all of us. Even for the custodial workers, how students are being treated. How we say that we are client-friendly and that we are a student-centered campus. We have to truly model and be exactly that when we say we are a student-centered campus, as well as a client-friendly campus. When individuals call this campus, we have to make sure that we address the needs here rather than pushing them aside and those kinds of things. So, we want to make sure that we address the needs of the individual, our clients. They are our clients, regardless of what we may think, they are our clients and we have to do a better job than what we have done in the past.

Last month, we were fortunate enough to welcome the Thailand Delegation. We hosted them at the President's Residence. In terms of a luncheon on that Saturday, and on that Sunday the Provost hosted them on campus as well as Dr. Carter with a dinner. And we welcomed 10 Royal Thai Scholars to campus, who are on a full scholarship from the King of Thailand. These are all individuals paying to come to Western, and we've done such a wonderful job. They were well-impressed with what Rick Carter and others have done, so they have promised us about 20 more students I think this fall. So, we will meet our goal in terms of the number of international students that we want to bring to Western, but we continue to work with various countries with articulation kinds of agreements.

We are increasing our partnerships with community colleges including reverse transfer agreements and dual enrollment partnerships.

Our Faculty Senate recently approved a revised First Year Experience program to include a college transitions course, and we will continue to build upon the success of the Building Connections mentoring program to help stabilize our first year experience program.

We continue to move forward on some key facilities improvements for the campus. And I'm sure Gary and Julie will mention some of that, but I will mention that we have approved final design for the new campus entrance at the corner of University Drive and Route 67. This project will place an iconic landmark at the north entrance and will help visitors identify that they have arrived at Western. And you can see all of the construction going on with the \$20M renovation with Thompson Hall, and I'm sure they will briefly talk about that.

I have also been traveling with Amy Spelman. We have gone to various cities in terms of having alumni events. The alums are very enthused about their experiences and also supporting this campus. As you all know, we're in a \$60M campaign. I'm sure Brad is going to talk about that as well. We plan to exceed our \$60M campaign. We can see our way through it right now, and I'm sure Brad is happy right now. Those alums and others are doing an excellent job in helping us reach our goal.

In addition to that, I too, want to thank Coach Molinari for being named Coach of the Year for the Summit League as well as the team for being co-champions with some school in South Dakota, but we do appreciate what's happening in Athletics. When you look at Western Hall now, when I first arrived you could find a seat. I've had to tell them to hold me some seats this time, because lots of individuals are there to support the Athletics, particularly our basketball and you're doing a good job so we certainly do appreciate that.

I also want to congratulate Kerry McBride on being married last Saturday. A former president named Al Goldfarb did the ceremony, so we are pleased and we want to congratulate Kerry with the name of Mrs. McBride. We can give her applause. Those are my comments, I'll be happy to entertain any questions or comments you may have.

Chair Epperly said questions? Comments? One thing. It's my understanding I found out when I was here the last couple days some inside scoops around campus, and one was that the President Thomas, Mayor Inman, and the Superintendent, CEO of the hospital were brought on stage last week when the, was it the juggernauts were there? And I guess the scene was not pretty. They dressed them up in space odyssey suits or astronaut suits, whatever you call them, I call it space odyssey 2013 or whatever. They were on stage and to me, I commend that because I think that's really good for morale and so forth, so you also receive a bag of popcorn.

Chair Epperly continued just a couple things from a logistics standpoint. One, if you'll notice your booklet. If you received a booklet number one, you'll notice it's very small this time. In fact, a couple people commented to me how thin it was. I said one. We don't have a lot on the agenda, but also and I think this came out of Kerry's office, but somebody said let's not reprint the minutes and why we've been doing it for years, you know nobody suggested it. And all of a sudden, we've eliminated the minutes. They're on the web. You can access them. You can see them. I'm sure everybody spends a lot of time reading them anyway, and so forth, but that probably eliminated 30, 40, 50, 60 pages out of the book. Kerry McBride said and credit for that to Trustee Ehlert Fuller. Chair Epperly said ok, so Carolyn's the one that recommended that, so thank you and again it makes for a much, much smaller booklet and saves some printing costs and trees. Good on the trees.

And just so you're aware of it. Since the new appointments, I had talked to everybody and the committees had been realigned, but just so you're aware of it. Lyneir is still chairman of the Finance Committee. Roger Clawson will be serving with him on the Finance Committee. I asked D'Angelo if he would be chair of the Student Services. That was Bill before, and D'Angelo agreed and accepted and so he is chair of the Student Services. Yvonne will be vice chair I guess you'd say of that committee. I talked to Cathy, and she agreed to be on the Audit Committee, be in charge of the Audit Committee, chair of the Audit Committee, and Phil Hare will work with her on that. The thing that we'll talk about a little bit later, but Carolyn and Phil will be on the Presidential Evaluation Committee, so those are just logistics so you're aware of it. Lyneir, just FYI, also serves on the Civil Service Board is our representative on the Civil Service Board. These appointments are basically until June. As most of you are aware, we have elections in June and at that time, they'll be a new chair and then they'll be I'm sure some reshuffling going on and so forth. So with that, would like to move on and Jeanette, would you like to update us as to what's happening?

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Jeanette Malafa said hello. I'm Jeanette Malafa. I am the President's Assistant for Governmental Relations. I'm based out of Springfield, Illinois. He has touched on the Governor's budget request, 5% cuts for universities from the Governor. The only thing, and our appropriations hearings are coming up, the only thing I'd note is that the House has set what they believe the available money is for the year. \$500M less than the Governor's introduced budget, so there's some imbalance between what the Governor believes, how much money we have and how much the General Assembly does, so we will see how that plays out in May.

Pension Reform continues to be the topic of the day for the General Assembly. The House keeps passing bills piecemeal. It will affect WIU's bottom line if we have to take any cost shift. The four bills that have

been passed deal with retirement age, a ceiling on pension payments, limiting annual increases and choosing between annual payment increases and health care coverage. The debate is long. It's worrisome for all of us State employees, and I don't think we should worry about it until the very end. It's just piecemeal right now, so I believe in May we will see more reform measures hopefully taking effect.

This session has been a busy first year for this General Assembly. I am tracking about 100 bills that affect the university and higher education. Of these pieces of legislation, I'm just going to briefly touch on ones that are moving, and I think affect the University the most:

Originally, there was a bill introduced, House Bill 1032, and that would remove the employee dependent's tuition waiver. That's not moving. The same Representative then decided to introduce House Bill 3350, which would tax the tuition waivers that dependent employees now receive. That is not moving either. However now we have to worry about floor amendments that will pop up on any vehicles. Senate Floor Amendment 1 to House Bill 509 was just introduced, and that would prohibit public universities from offering its employees tuition waivers, grants, scholarships, or any other form of free or reduced tuition for the children, spouses, or other family members of the employees. Hopefully, with strong opposition from the universities and our teacher unions, and we will be able to stop that legislation from moving.

Senate Bill 1687 addresses some of the problems that occurred during last year's SURS Annuitants Return to Work legislation. We're extending the deadline of implementation for a year to give universities more time to prepare. In addition, the legislation will create a common academic year to track SURS annuitants, removes the 18-week work limitation as it is now nearly impossible to track, and it allows SURS to provide to both employers and annuitants the highest annual earnings, so everyone will get the same information.

Senate Bill 2202 creates the Smoke-Free Campus Act and provides that beginning on July 1, 2014, smoking is prohibited on each campus of a state-supported institution. The governing boards will then promulgate rules and regulations for that. That is moving.

Senate Bill 1224, which is also moving, prohibits new participants in the Retirement Systems from using their unused sick or vacation time to calculate pensionable earnings and salary.

Moving on to MAP (Monetary Award Program). There are a lot of bills regarding MAP this year. A couple that are, I want to touch on Senate Bill 1549 is worrisome in that it creates, basically, a student completion performance-based formula for those students that receive MAP. For those institutions that do not perform well, MAP grants would be cut. The bill has not passed out of committee yet, but its deadline is looking to be extended.

And also, taking a recommendation from the MAP Task Force, SB 1592 provides that if a student is not earning the minimum grades needed to continue to attend an institution, that person may not receive a MAP grant for the following year.

Moving on to teacher education programs, one of our large programs. Senate Floor Amendment 1 to House Bill 490. This is one of the floor amendments to pop up. The sponsor wants to move the Basic Skills Test from the student's junior year to the student's completion of the program.

And the other one, Senate Bill 2682 would have required each teacher preparation curriculum to have two classes specifically addressing ELL (English Language Learners) issues. Both myself and NIU's representative have expressed our concerns with time to completion issues for our graduates, and the sponsor has agreed to pull back the bill and now we are going to have talks on this instead.

You could say this is the year of the veteran in General Assembly higher education legislation, many bills on veterans. House Bill 1163 provides that if a person is a veteran that universities shall deem that person to be an Illinois resident for tuition purposes even if they are not a resident. WIU, being a military-friendly school already helps our veteran students do this, so it doesn't affect us too much.

Similarly, House Bill 2353 and Senate Bill 2167 are identical bills and state that beginning with the next academic year, if a person is utilizing benefits under the Federal Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act, the university shall deem that person is an Illinois resident for tuition purposes.

House Bill 2910 provides that, with respect to the Illinois Veteran Grant Tuition Waiver Program, if a person is a qualified applicant for a grant the person can return to the State within one year, instead of 6 months after leaving Federal active duty to accept that grant.

Concerning the Illinois National Guard and Naval Militia grant program, Senate Bill 2229 provides that beginning with next year, any person who has served over 10 years in the National Guard shall be awarded an additional grant to the State-controlled university or community college of his or her choice, consisting of an exemption from tuition and fees for not more than an additional 2 years.

And finally, Senate Bill 2245 says that each public university if they have priority enrollment, also needs to offer that to veterans.

With regards to guns, this is another hot topic in the General Assembly. House Bill 997 is the concealed carry legislation. There have been eight amendments filed on this. In addition, there's a separate bill. House Bill 1155, that creates the Family and Personal Protection Act. It's got over 26 amendments on it. Amendments address the authority of universities to prohibit, restrict, or otherwise regulate firearms on or in close proximity to their campuses, grounds, and other property. The university presidents have a spokesman that's dealing with the issue and again, just like pensions I assume this won't be finalized until the end of May.

The last bill is for even-numbered years that a general election is held on. House Bill 105 requires each university to send an electronic message to each student enrolled in the institution devoted exclusively on how to register.

The President has already mentioned our Legislative Reception on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Please if you are in town or you'd like to come down to Springfield, please come it will be fun. That's it. I know it's long.

Chair Epperly said any questions? I just have one. The reception we're having in April, etc. which is great, do we visit the legislators I mean I call them our core legislators in their own offices? Do you get out to you know the Quad Cities and visit the reps and the senators, Galesburg, Quincy, etc? Do we go to their offices? Jeanette Malafa said their district offices. You could. I have not visited their district offices. I have visited our local ones, but I have not visited the local ones in Quad Cities. Chair Epperly said well, food for thought. And I was a campaign chairman for years for an individual, and talked to several other, Gary Baise, who's an alumnus is very well politically connected in D.C., lives in D.C., and him and I have chatted on it. But I guess I'm a little bit of the belief that if you really want to be effective, we've got to go to their office. When they're in Springfield, they're busy. They're buried with things. Everybody under the sun is hitting them up. You know they don't have, I call it, a free second and so forth. I think the combination of the two would be a lot more effective if we get out to their individual offices, set appointments and just say hey, here's what's happening at Western, whatever. You know here's what we'd like to see happen...whatever, but it's food for thought. Of those I call it our core area from you could almost say from Quincy to the Quad Cities there on it, so...Jeanette Malafa said yes, I believe all

politics is local, so good point. Chair Epperly said right, so food for thought. Any other questions, comments? D'Angelo.

Trustee Taylor said I have a question on concealed carry. How is that going to affect the University, because I've been hearing a few things. I know you said there were six amendments on one, and about 20 something on another. How is that going? Where are those amendments if you know, and how is that going to affect the University? Jeanette Malafa said the amendments that we're worried about would allow the University administration actually to create its own policies and procedures. Certain campuses, all the campuses have different needs. The campuses in Chicago obviously are different than Western. We have an indoor shooting range where obviously we have military guns on campus. So, universities and the presidents have gotten together and they have language that all of our attorneys have looked at, and it would basically give us the authority to set our own policies and procedures with regards to concealed carry or protecting the students from guns, gun crime in their rooms. Trustee Taylor said how likely is that to pass? Jeanette Malafa said something has to pass or the Federal Government will tell us that we have concealed carry. Trustee Taylor said would that allow for, because I've been working with a student up at University of Illinois in Champaign, and we've been corresponding through email. He was telling me that one of the provisions is to allow weapons. You can have them in university buildings, but it doesn't cover university property so that's one of the things that I'm worried about in that regard. Jeanette Malafa said amendment 10, which when we're talking about 1155 did not pass and that's the one that dealt with universities, so it's all kind of up in the air with regards to universities at the moment. Again, they're piecemealing all these pieces to see what people will vote for and what they won't, and then they'll take all the things that pass and hopefully put them in a final bill in the end. And that's the same thing they are doing with pensions. They're taking each little issue and trying to put it out there to come to agreement somehow. It's a silly way to do legislation, but I can't tell you anything else yet, sorry. Trustee Taylor said that's alright. That works for me.

Trustee Cole said so, as our liaison what would you recommend that the University support in regards to concealed weapons, concealed carry, because individuals on this Board had to have some form of political contact to which we could possibly reach out to our constituents to try and go in the direction that we may want the University to support. Jeanette Malafa said we have actually drafted an amendment that I can actually email you that has what our lawyers believe is good language for all the universities, which would protect the universities underneath. Being able to give us some flexibility as a campus, but then also protect our students as well. I will email you the amendment that we have. Chair Epperly asked can you send it to everybody. Any other questions, comments? Thank you, Jeanette.

## **GENERAL COMMENTS BY VICE PRESIDENTS**

### **Academic Services**

Provost Hawkinson said thank you Trustee Epperly. We're approaching the end of our budgeting planning process for the next fiscal year. Deans and Directors have all turned in and made public presentations of their 2013 consolidated annual budget report and planning documents. Based on these documents, I will be making my presentation and turning in my report to the President on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Governor Pat Quinn is wanting to help Illinois companies sell more goods and services in international markets. As part of this strategy, the DCEO (Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity) approached the University of Illinois and Western Illinois University to explore how university researchers can help identify businesses that could be targeted for technical assistance. We met with the director of the DCEO in December when we delivered our proposal on how to promote foreign exports. We have top researchers in our Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs, and we're proud of the fact that our experts are being used to help the State of Illinois attract more international trade.



Along with the Thai Scholars and hosting the Minister of Education that the President referred to, I also want to mention that last week Dr. Rick Carter, our Director of International Programs, represented Western and participated in an educational trade mission to China. This was sponsored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. During his 15-day trip, he visited 11 schools, talked with over 1,100 students, visited four universities, and many Chinese government offices. We expect several new partnerships, educational opportunities and more students coming to WIU from China.

The 2013 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer, Dr. James Stegall, professor in the School of Music, presented his lecture "From Page to Performance: A Lecture Recital on Artistic Choral Singing" Tuesday, March 26. Dr. Stegall addressed the steps a choral conductor and choir must take to render a printed musical score into a meaningful, artistic performance. The Western Illinois University Singers, an award winning choir of 40 students, assisted him in performing music examples and demonstrated the main points of his lecture. It was an inspiring and just absolutely wonderful experience, and I hope you all will be able to see the lecture on University Television. And if you should be free, the lecture will be repeated on Wednesday, April 3, at 3:00 p.m. in the Quad Cities.

Just a couple other noteworthy accomplishments, Dr. Thomas talked about the Fulbright earned by Dr. Joe Dobson. He'll be going to Romania next year, and of course we're so proud of Elizabeth Etta our finalist for the Harry Truman Scholar Award. I also want to mention that we just found out several days ago that Josh Wood, one of our students has been named a Fulbright Scholar as well, and he'll be going to South Korea as well.

And then, I had a question about webpage use, website use. Our web services working with their advisory committee is planning a revision of the WIU website with an expected deployment in Summer of 2013. They'll be examining all aspects of the website and looking at both the look and the feel of the site. They'll be looking at websites at peer institutions and trying to come up with suggestions, recommendations in terms of changes. Overall, the use of the university website by users external to the University is down 25% over the last two years. Now that doesn't mean that there's fewer people going on our website, what that probably means is that more people are going directly to the links or directly to the subcategories that are broken down beyond our website. So instead of just going to the main page, they're going directly to the Department of Communication or wherever they're trying to go. Just some areas that are showing significant increase in people going on their websites. It would be online learning up 17%, veterans over 600%, the commitment scholarship site is up over well over 2,000% from last year, Discover Western visits up over 50%, Quad Cities is up over 45%, billing information is up 300%, tuition and fees up 90%. So those are just a few examples, if you'd like me to provide more information in the summer I can do that.

And then finally commencement will be held May 10-11th in Macomb and May 12th in the Quad Cities. We look forward to conferring over 1,500 undergraduate degrees and over 350 graduate degrees, so this concludes my report and I'm...Kerry McBride said your book is on your microphone. Provost Hawkinson said oh, sorry.

Chair Epperly said the website, you said it was down 25%, but all these other areas are up. Do we have a total number? Just curious, I don't know if we can get that. Provost Hawkinson said Kathy, can you give any more detail on this. I think we're down 25% because if you google Western, there are a lot of subcategories underneath Western, and so many people go directly to those subcategories instead of to the webpage. Chair Epperly said and still don't we get a count of all, aren't we able to, I call it, add them all up? Kathy Neumann said we can add them all up by site. The main page gets about 1.5M hits, so we've got it broken down by all the individual pages on the website. Chair Epperly said question, a few questions, you brought up a couple interesting things there and kind of mentioned it this last time, to me

it's becoming a YouTube world. Everything's on YouTube, and I commend, I just saw it this morning, it's on the Quad Cities website, we've got a YouTube on, I call it, Why Western? And I would hope as we're looking at this redesign, I don't think I go to a hotel anymore where I don't do an online tour of the facility, and I don't if it's on our website I have a hard time finding it, etc. So to me, I don't know what's all involved in this committee. When's this going to be done? Kathy Neumann said they are taking input now, and they hope to start launching the new site over the summer. Chair Epperly said what's, I always ask, what's the primary goal? Do we know what our primary goal is for our website for our front page? Kathy Neumann said yeah, they are doing a much more data-driven approach than they have been able to do in the past. When we went to this new content management system, we were able to have a lot of analytics now behind it. They have asked the President's leadership team to provide some input on the top 20 pages that they want to attract students to so that we can, so we've asked the leadership team to provide the top 20 pages that they want us to focus on in this redesign. We can track it then how people get to those pages. We want to make sure then that we are reducing the amount of time that it takes them to get there either through clicks or however the trail is that they get there. The analytics we've loaded behind the sites now with our new content management system is really allowing us to dive a lot deeper into being a data-driven website. Chair Epperly said I'm going to say this, because I was involved with my previous employer, my only employer I guess you'd say, and some committees on website design years ago, and my experience is somebody's got to have, besides the President I assume, have some fortitude because egos and perceptions get one heck of in the way of any redesign of a website. Everybody wants on the front page. Everybody wants this. Everybody wants that, and to me we've got to totally understand what is the primary purpose of page one on the website. Is it to market the university? Is it to attract students? Is it to get people to the Foundation? Is it this, that, whatever, alumni, whatever. I'm not saying which ones right, I mean I have one in my mind, but to me that becomes one heck of a political battle as to everybody wants on the front page, so I would hope that we know what we want to start with with that front page there on it. Kathy Neumann said and that's why we are utilizing the President's leadership team much more as an active component in defining those parameters and setting those goals. Chair Epperly said good. Ok, well that's good to hear, because I've been wondering a lot of those things in the last week or last period of time, and I know we added some things to our own website with, I call it, the certificates, and I notice on the Quad Cities page there's now the, I forget which one it was the military-friendly stickers on there and this and that and some, I call it bragging. You got to be able to brag, and we're hopefully getting better at that, good.

President Thomas said the last time we did this Joe Rives was in charge of it, and we're going to do the same thing that we did last year when it's brought to the president's cabinet in terms of best practices. And we've done a lot of benchmarking at other institutions to see basically what's the most important reason why we have those specific links that you're talking about, and it does become very political when you look at who wants to have a link and that kind of thing, but it's what's most important for Western is what we're looking at and our main goal here at Western. Kathy Neumann added if you haven't had a chance we did a soft launch with the mobile site, so if you have a handheld device or an ipad or whatever you might want to take a look at the mobile site too.

Chair Epperly said any other questions on the technology? Any questions for Ken? First Year Experience and those things you talked about the last meeting, and those'll be reported on down the road more so? Provost Hawkinson said yes, the President mentioned in his remarks the new course, it's actually an old course that we've revised. That has been approved through the Faculty Senate. We've had roughly 75 people volunteer to teach the course. We offer about 100 sections in the Fall. Everything's moving full steam ahead. We're very proud of the changes that we've made, and we think that this new program is going to have a significant impact on the retention of our freshman students. Chair Epperly said is that a promise? Provost Hawkinson said it's a promise.

Chair Epperly said and food for thought, can we find a different just a suggestion a different name than First Year Experience? I mean, Leatherneck Beginnings or something, I don't know. Get the Leatherneck name in there on it. Provost Hawkinson said I will pass that on to the committee and have them look at that. Chair Epperly said I'm just throwing that out there, food for thought on that. Any other questions for the Provost, comments? Thank you.

### **Advancement and Public Services**

VP Brad Bainter said thank you. Starting with University Relations, obviously very busy promoting numerous events and activities throughout the course of the year: timely warnings, meeting requests, and updates, weather related announcements, and continue to support the Think Purple branding campaign through advertising designs, etc., coordinated with Admissions the 2013-2014 student recruitment publications, and coordinated numerous media interviews with WIU faculty and administration.

Visual Production Center (VPC) continues to chronicle the daily life and times of Western Illinois University through their photography efforts and continue to design and produce large projects for campus and community organizations including many of the marketing pieces you see around campus and throughout the community.

Marketing, our Think Purple 30-second commercials currently are airing on KHQA out of Quincy, and also aired on Fox College Sports during the Summit League tournament. Our 15-second spots will be airing during the NCAA Final Four telecast coming up in a couple weekends. We're currently reviewing the FY14 marketing opportunities. The more we market, the more opportunities are presented to us. We work with University Relations and Document Publication Services to finalize the updated visual identity guide. Working with University Relations to continue to approve logos, vendors, and other projects using WIU logos. We also contracted with a company in Chicago a media buying firm, Kelly Scott Madison, this year and we just received that report back from them, so we're going through that, but it's going to give us a better idea how to get into digital marketing and how to compete with other schools that are currently advertising in Chicago right now.

University Television launched a new program called the Purple Chair earlier this month, that's going to be aired each month from this point forward, continue to record numerous campus programs, presentations, lectures and events to diversify programs on Channel 3 and showcase WIU to the region. Most recently, Charlie Carey, Vice Chair for the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and a member of the President's Advisory Board was in town. We did a 30-minute spot with him and went out to a local farm, one of our alum's farms to do 30-minutes as well out there with Charlie and talking about the state of farming in Illinois.

Foundation and Development Office is pleased to have offered funding for improvements to the Memorial Grove where each year a tree is planted in memory of current employees that have passed away during the year. Those improvements should be completed in time for this year's ceremony. We're also happy to purchase the first Rocky for Rocky on Parade in Macomb, and our Rocky will have a permanent home in front of the Alumni House. University's WPA Art Collection will be on display at the Figge Museum beginning in September, and the Foundation and Development Office was happy to offer assistance in securing a curator for the exhibit and hiring a conservation center from Chicago to travel to Macomb to give estimates on conserving the WPA artwork to be ready for the exhibition, and to conserve one of the pieces of artwork ourselves. The Chicago Conservation Center also gave us estimates to conserve the four large murals on the walls of the Sherman Hall Auditorium in anticipation of one day starting on the renovation of the auditorium. This particular project has received quite a bit of support from alums and friends around the area and getting ready for the Figge Museum exhibit which I think will be a great opportunity for Western to showcase it's artwork, and make a big splash in the Quad Cities. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Chair Epperly said I missed it, Rocky on Parade, they were doing how many of those? VP Bainter said 12 I believe. Chair Epperly continued are they all sold? VP Bainter said yes. Chair Epperly said super. Any other questions, comments for Brad? Thank you Brad.

### **Student Services**

VP Biller said thank you Mr. Chairman, members of the Board. We've already mentioned the outstanding performance of Men's and Women's Basketball Teams and the accolades that have come their way. I just want to add one thing, and that is with this level of performance and the televised games that we have had over the season, it's estimated that Western Illinois University Basketball has reached out to over 530M households across the United States with those televised games, so I think that's good for our image.

In Admissions, we continue our recruitment efforts across the state and across the Midwest. We recently completed four recruitment programs in the Chicagoland area. We spoke with over 800 prospective students. We conducted a Discover Western last month, and we've got one coming up here on April 6<sup>th</sup>. And a couple weeks ago, we hosted 16 St. Louis area high school counselors on our campus for a day to introduce them to Western. This is a new market that we're trying to break into, and so bringing those counselors on campus I think will help us in that.

You'll get a report later on the Union renovation. In Housing and Dining Services, I want to say that progress continues on Thompson Hall. You can drive by and see it. It's getting to the exciting stage where you actually see some things happening. You know we've recently completed our work in Corbin/Olson, and that is quickly becoming probably the year-round housing/dining facility that we will use. You heard about our Thai Scholars. They are now housed there in our international student floor, and they not only live there but that's where they have their food service, their convenient store, and they have a classroom, a high technology electronic classroom in that floor. And so, we're getting more international students in that complex. With the closing of the Lamoine Village, we've seen a continued need for nontraditional housing, and so that's what we are right now using what was the old International House. We're using that for nontraditional student housing.

You will get a report from Mr. Andersen on Financial Aid, but I want to report one thing that has happened across the campus. Everybody got involved in this, and it's going to have some benefits for us. In December and January, the campus community came forward and did a very extensive campaign to get our current students to complete their financial aid application, and complete it early so that by March 1<sup>st</sup> we had doubled, almost doubled the number of applications received compared to this time last year. What that means for us is it bodes well in terms of the number of recipients for MAP grants should we continue that program, so I think that's going to help us with financial assistance for students in the future.

We've already mentioned the retention efforts in our Building Connections mentoring program, saw some very favorable results in this first year, working with this year's freshman class, and we're going to combine that and continue to build on that as Dr. Hawkinson has mentioned with the inclusion of University 100 as part of the retention plan. I just want to thank the Provost's office and Faculty Senate for helping us work through that to get to where we're going to have a very good overall community-wide retention effort.

And then I just finally will conclude with something you've already mentioned our new GoWest Transit Facility. We have our grand opening on Monday, and all of you are invited to see that. It's a fantastic facility, and I think it will serve both the community and Western students very well. That concludes my report, I'll be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Chair Epperly said one, I've got a few for you. What's the numbers? Jack mentioned the retention and what's our numbers? VP Biller said we look at fall to spring and then fall to fall for our freshman class. For the students who participated in the mentoring program, the freshman students returning in the Spring, they returned at an 85% rate, and that was about 2/3 of the class. The students that did not participate in the mentoring program returned at 75% rate to the spring, which gives us an overall fall to spring retention rate of 82%. Now when we project that in to next fall, it looks challenging to be very honest with you, and that is something we're working with these current students to see if we continue, help them continue to next fall. Otherwise we're liable to see our fall to fall retention rate decrease even more. So, we're really working aggressively to get more students involved in this mentoring program, and that's going to happen through the University 100 course that's going to be offered next year. It will be a requirement of that course that these students participate in this mentoring process.

Chair Epperly said Steve Nelson, who many of you know is a former board member, sent President Thomas and I an email recently, and as you're aware he has one daughter that's a freshman here. But he brought up something and I told him I would bring it up, and I wasn't aware of it, he pointed out and he has a daughter here and has a daughter at another school out east. He pointed out that his daughter can come back to Western, and that he doesn't have to make a payment for 6 weeks, I think he said, whatever that time period is. Theoretically, she could come back to Western, live in the residence hall, eat for 6 weeks, leave and not pay a penny. VP Biller said right. Chair Epperly continued to me, that's not good business. And I'm not asking for an answer now, but I think that should be reviewed and analyzed and data-driven as wait a minute how often does this happen? What's our bad debt ratio? I call it bad debt ratio, you may have some fancy term for it, but how much money are we losing? This and that and so forth, because to me that's...if Cathy Early gave free insurance for 6 weeks State Farm would be hurting, and etc. there on it, so I don't know if that's an issue or not, but to me it's something that should be looked at, and you know I just can't believe we don't ask for a deposit up front each semester there on it. VP Biller said I'm not aware of the extent to what they may impact in terms of the debt. I will take a look at that and be ready to report back to the Board on that.

Chair Epperly said the other thing. At the last meeting I want to say that Andy or it was mentioned at the last meeting, I don't think Andy gave a report, but about the Admissions Contact Plan and that I think it was in the minutes somehow or another mentioned it and when I re-read it, I said wait a minute that's cool, and what is that. But what is that plan? Because to me, that's definitely a good marketing setup if it's done right. My point is Andy sent that to me, I dropped a note to you and Andy sent that to me and I was very impressed with the plan, so one Andy I assume Andy is out there somewhere, if Andy could send that to the rest of the Board members or if you could forward that.

Chair Epperly continued and then I was also interested and did some more checking on it, do we use Twitter? VP Biller said oh, yes. Chair Epperly said yes, big time? VP Biller said Facebook, Twitter, all the social networking sites. Chair Epperly said ok, good and that was a couple of the questions because I would have to think in today's day and age perspective students aren't going to answer the phone. VP Biller said our students use Twitter. We use Twitter, yeah. Chair Epperly said but they may respond to a tweet, they may respond to a Facebook whatever, and the beauty of it is with those things if we're doing a good job they let other people know it. If we're not doing a good job, you can complain to a heck of a lot more people a lot quicker today than you ever could and so forth. So, good, it's good to hear that we're using Facebook and Twitter and those things. Any other questions for Dr. Biller? Thank you.

### **Administrative Services**

Vice President Julie DeWees said thank you. Chair Epperly said the tree lady. VP DeWees said yes, the tree lady. Cash flow continues to be a problem on campus. In December, the comptroller's office established a reimbursement plan for universities, and so far they have been keeping up with that plan that they developed for us. We received word this morning that we received \$1.8M. Unfortunately, I am

expecting \$2.6M. They promised us 5%, so hopefully in addition to the \$1.8M that we received this month that we'll receive more. Our big month is going to be April, and they have promised us that we will receive 15% of our appropriation and all of our Spring MAP funds, and this is close to \$13M. So that will help tremendously. We will continue to keep a very close watch on spending, and we will keep you informed of the cash flow situation.

I would like to point out too that the offices of Business Services, Registrars, Financial Aid and Admissions have all come together to try to come up with a payment plan for students. We're looking at deposits for students, billing cycles, all those types of things to assist the student in what kind of money we have to give up front, so we are looking at that, reviewing that, taking a lot of time to look at that. They are working on communication. Students now have the option to begin paying for tuition, fees, and room and board before they get here in the fall, and we currently have a six-month schedule that students can pay based on a six-month plan. We're hoping to be able to set up a 12-month payment plan. So, we are trying to help the students any way that we can. They continue to struggle to pay for their education. We'd really like to be able to help them with that.

I would like to congratulate Tara Beal, if Tara would please stand. She is the Superintendent of Landscape Maintenance in charge of campus beautification, and she has a flag also in addition to the plaque that we have because Western was selected as a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. Isn't that great? Thank you, we really appreciate that. That's great.

I would also like to point out Facilities Management has received almost a million dollars in grants for sustainable and energy saving initiatives in the last three years. That number was \$450,000 and then this morning Scott told me that they just found out over the past couple days that that number is almost a million dollars now.

The coal stack and bag house demo is currently on schedule. We are looking at evaluating the cost to remove the ash and coal silos and what they call the tipper building, so hopefully we can have that done too. That's kind of an eyesore on campus that we'd kind of like to get rid of.

We talked about Thompson Hall, progression is great. Let's see. I would like to close with reminding everyone that we were not chosen to host the Police Training Institute. The board voted to remain with the University of Illinois on that, so unfortunately not great news, but Bill wanted me to mention that. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Chair Epperly said any questions for Julie? Believe it or not, I have none for you. Something's wrong here. Any questions, comments?

### **Quad Cities and Planning**

VP Rives said good morning and welcome to all. It's been a really exciting spring semester in the Quad Cities campus. We started Spring semester with our total headcount enrollment being up 3%. We now have 111 freshman and sophomores who take classes at Western in the Quad Cities, and a local community college at the same time. Their fall to spring retention rate is 90%. We're very excited by that. We also started last fall with seven honors cohort students, full-time students who meet the obligations of the Western Commitment Scholarship. All seven cohort eligible students returned for the spring semester, so our first class has a perfect retention rate. They've set a high bar for themselves.

You've heard several times today about the Quad Cities Admissions Viewbook. That's a partnership between people who report to Brad and people who report to me. There were 700 viewbooks submitted from different colleges and universities, and to receive a Bronze Award places us in the top 16% in terms of production content and quality. It is available on the Quad Cities website if you go to "explore Quad

Cities” which is off our home page, you will get a video and then you get the interactive viewbook. So not only do students get it in paper, but they get it electronically. We’re very excited by that.

Phase II is now reality. They’ve been moving dirt in site preparation, because our enrollment’s growing really fast one of the first projects to be completed is more parking. So, we’re really excited by that. Boring for geothermal wells has begun. It’s hard to believe, but in just 15 months we will receive the keys to our five new buildings, so progression will happen and it will happen fast.

In attendance this morning, we have the featured speaker for over 200 participants at Rock Island Arsenal’s Women’s History Month Celebration. Invited to the Arsenal, I know she’s going to hate me for this, but she probably already does, so Dr. Kristi Mindrup if you could stand up and be recognized. Congratulations, that was a huge honor.

In the areas of University Planning, later today you will get the requested update on the long-term planning committee. The data they’ve seen, and the process that we’re using. You did hear that the annual planning and accomplishment reports are scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>. They’re via two-way videos, so wherever Macomb or Quad Cities, if you can come we’re open and ready for you that day.

Finally, to Trustee Epperly I say pass the popcorn, since you’re giving it out for good news, because I was invited to serve on a national think tank on retention and graduation rates, and I was just named as an elite reviewer to the Higher Learning Commission, which is the top 1% of reviewers nationally. Chair Epperly said I was going to comment that when I came to you then I forgot, so I was going to close with those comments, Joe. VP Rives said well you can say it again. It sounds pretty good to me. Chair Epperly said congratulations and great representation there on it. Thank you. VP Rives said so with that I yield to any questions.

Chair Epperly said two questions, and I asked Joe this awhile back as I was confused myself and I think just for clarification for everybody. It’s my understanding that finally the old railroad terminal has been approved for the Quad Cities campus, and the State came up with some funding. Is that accurate or it’s going to happen? VP Rives said that is correct. We had a meeting actually yesterday afternoon with Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and some of the Governor’s staff and the Historic Preservation Agency, and they discussed funding. So I need to come back to Macomb and work with the President’s leadership team and Dana on contracts and location, but the project is now officially going to move ahead. Chair Epperly said ok and then that’s being paid for by indirectly private donors, the state, the city, whatever. VP Rives said correct. Our Student Government Association, it’s going to be a student-centered building. The students requested that it be a Student Organization Center. They’re very fond of the the Student Organization Center here in this campus, and we really don’t have that space. They have approved using some of their facilities enhancement dollars to help upgrade the facility. Chair Epperly said that was my question to Joe, because I’d seen so many different articles on it and I said wait a minute. Would they be giving us the building, they’re moving the building, whose paying for the renovation? And so it’s just clarification in my own mind that the Quad Cities has a fee similar to ours here, and that fee has been building back up. I don’t think it’s ever been tapped, which will pay for that renovation of that facility as it moves forward, correct? VP Rives said they will pay probably \$300,000 out of \$1.5M project, but we will be most conservative with the student fees. We will also try to seek private donations so student fee dollars would be the last resort.

Chair Epperly said ok, and then there was one other thing for the Quad Cities which caught my eye awhile back as I was reading something and there was a donation had been given to begin Phase 3 design funds and automatically I sent Joe an email and said I just read this who donated the money, and it was the Rock Island County. Is that correct? VP Rives said Rock Island County Board, yes. Chair Epperly said donated what? VP Rives said they donated \$75,000 to start the pre-programming study for Phase 3,

and what, for newer Trustees, what that will do is that will identify what goes into the building, and generically where could Phase 3 go. We've been working with the Macomb campus to get a team that will get together and starting later this spring we'll have input sessions with the campus to get perspective on what they think should go into the building, and then this fall when faculty return on to contract then we'll do the actual QBS (Quality Based Selection) to get the process started. By doing the input sessions this spring, we're able to say to the selected firm this is what we want so we're not spending donated money trying to figure out what we want. We're doing our homework upfront, so the process will be as most efficient as possible. Chair Epperly said any other questions for Joe? Comments? Did you get the popcorn? Ok, good.

## **ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS**

Chair Epperly said we'll do Advisory Reports, and with that I'm putting the pressure on them I guess for as soon as those are over we'll go to have a break, so we'll start off with Jennifer, President of Council of Administrative Personnel here in Macomb.

### **Council of Administrative Personnel President – Jennifer Grimm**

Jennifer Grimm said our report has been submitted and I would entertain any questions. Chair Epperly said any questions? I think we now get these in advance which is great cause you can actually we can read them before hand and so forth. So, any questions for Jennifer?

The submitted COAP report is as follows:

COAP is currently requesting nominations for the COAP Employee of the Year. In May at the general membership meeting with the President we will announce our Employee of the Year. We will also present the new slate for the COAP Executive Board at this meeting. We have 6 executive board positions open for next year.

Our Professional Development Committee just brought in a speaker this week to talk about Marketing Yourself. The committee is currently starting to plan for next year's programs.

Best wishes to Michael Huston and Bill Griffin.

### **Student Government Association President – Caleb Markey**

Chair Epperly said Caleb had told me earlier that he had to leave at 10 o'clock for a class, and so sitting in for Caleb I'm not sure I'm sorry. David Giltzow said David Giltzow, the Director of Finance for the Student Government Association. Thank you. Caleb has submitted the SGA report and I will also yield for any questions.

The submitted SGA report is as follows:

I am again pleased to report that the Student Government Association has made significant progress toward our goals for the year. As we near the end of the year, SGA is pleased with the progress we have made throughout the 44<sup>th</sup> legislative session. I would like to highlight a couple of our activities.

SGA sponsored a student fan bus to send supporters to the Summit League Tournament in an effort to aid our Men's and Women's basketball teams in their efforts. Although we came a little short of victory in Sioux Falls, the students that participated gained a wonderful college experience that they will be able to remember for years.



The annual IHC/SGA formal is pleased to welcome the University Union Board as a sponsor of the event this year. We are so thankful for the students, faculty, staff, administrators and Trustees that participated. All proceeds will benefit the children of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The Executive Branch of SGA will oversee a campaign to bring awareness to students on how to update their information in the "SMS Phone" section of the emergency alert system. This section, if filled in, allows students to receive text messages in the event of an emergency. It is the goal of SGA that every student who is able to receive text messages update their account with this information.

Finally, SGA elections have been taking place this week. An announcement of the winners will be made tonight, Friday, March 29 at 5:30 p.m., which will determine not only who will take the Presidential seat for next year, but who will also fill Trustee Taylor's shoes as Student Member to the Board.

**Consent Agenda: Civil Service Employees Council (CSEC), Council of Administrative Personnel (COAP), Faculty Senate, and Student Government Association (SGA):**

**Faculty Senate Chair – Steve Rock**

The submitted consent agenda is as follows:

We are concerned about the various bills in Springfield dealing with higher education. Further reductions in state appropriations would have a dramatically negative effect on the University, Faculty, Staff, and Students. MAP grants need to be funded. Tuition increases need to be stabilized, but this can only be done if the appropriations are adequate. The backlog in state payments is problematic to all state vendors. Pension changes need to be thought out and fair. While all constituency groups will be lobbying legislators, both in their district offices and in Springfield, we call on the Board of Trustees members to raise their collective and individual voices as well.

So far, the university administration has done a good job in protecting the core mission—educating students. It is admirable that planning for a variety of possible scenarios is ongoing. Efforts to increase student enrollment and retention will hopefully bear fruit.

We also would like to express our appreciation for Trustees Griffin and Houston who are leaving the Board after serving for substantial time. We wish them the best

**Faculty Senate Chair – Steve Rock**

Chair Epperly said it's my understanding Steve that if I read this correctly after substantial re-working the Senate endorsed a recommendation for including a one-hour UNIV 100 course in the Health and Well-Being category.... That was the issue that was brought up the last time in regards to the experience, is that correct? Steve Rock said that's correct and that's what Provost Hawkinson referred to the new kind of FYE, a proposal is rolling forward toward fall implementation.

Steve Rock continued I do have one update to my report. The Faculty Senate met on Tuesday and Faculty Senate voted to endorse Senate Bill 2202, the Smoke-Free Campus Act. I might mention that kind of the origins of the campus interest go back about a year. The SGA was interested in the idea of a smoke-free campus, and came to the various constituency groups to gauge their interest. At the time we indicated that the Faculty Senate that we were interested and encouraged the students to move forward with their investigation, but with this, one of the concerns at that time was that if Western were to go smoke-free on its own that there could be some loss of enrollment so we're very excited that there is a statewide bill so there'd be less concern and a more uniform proposal across all, this would cover public university campuses, and all community college campuses, several of which have already gone smoke-free. The U of I both at Urbana-Champaign and in Chicago are going to be going smoke-free this summer, a number

of community colleges have already gone smoke-free, so the Faculty Senate did vote to endorse and we hope the legislation will move forward.

Chair Epperly said I didn't totally understand on the first paragraph on the one page in regards to the *Journal of Disciplinary Writing*. Would you explain that a little bit? Steve Rock said sure thing. One of the graduation requirements students have is to complete a writing in the discipline course, and each department each major has its own course designated so called WID designation. That does involve a lot of writing, and what we'd like to do is to recognize the students in those courses that write great papers. So we're encouraging the faculty of those WID courses to submit the best papers in their courses to this journal for publication. It's going to be an online journal publication. There's going to be an editorial committee. Our vice chair of the Faculty Senate, Professor Jim Rabchuk from the Physics department is the editor, so at the moment we're in the process of soliciting manuscripts, again from the student papers that will go in to the inaugural edition of this journal. So, we're very interested and excited about that. Chair Epperly said any questions for Steve? Thank you. One thing, and just one comment, another bag of popcorn, and I'm just more curious. I heard yesterday that the President of the UPI, John Miller I believe is his name, had a pie thrown in his face the other day, and I'm wondering how come the UPI President had a pie put in his face and not the President of the Faculty Senate? Does that mean - was this a - is there an explanation for this? Steve Rock joked I think inherently there's more interest in throwing a pie at the UPI President. John Miller joked there is still a recount going on and a full investigation. Chair Epperly said I heard that, but again I just wanted to, I thought that was outstanding to see those things happening because to me that again with the students and so forth. It's my understanding, if I understood it right, that a student had the honor of doing this and so on but I think that's great when we see things like that happening from a camaraderie standpoint and students, etc. there on it. So, maybe in the future we can witness it or maybe in the future, Steve, it'll be your turn. I'm not sure which way. But because of that John Miller does get a bag of popcorn also, so I'll give that to you at break.

The submitted Faculty Senate report is as follows:

The Faculty Senate is pleased to announce the formation of the *Journal of Disciplinary Writing*. The idea for this initiative began in our Writing Instruction in the Disciplines Committee and is intended to raise the profile of this graduation requirement. Students need to take a 300 or 400 level course in their major that involves writing. Faculty will submit the best papers from these courses for publication consideration. Professor Jim Rabchuk will be the editor and the initial solicitation of papers has begun.

The Senate received the annual report summary of assessment of student learning, by major, for the 2011-12 academic year. Most majors are fulfilling this requirement fully and completely. After substantial reworking, the Senate endorsed a recommendation for including a one hour UNIV 100 course in the Health and Well Being Category of General Education and also including this course as a graduation requirement for students who enter as freshmen. This course will be part of the new sequence in the FYE program.

Senators have raised concerns about the inability to lock some classroom doors from the inside should "sheltering in place" be necessary. Scott Coker and Dana Biernbaum came to the Senate to address these concerns. The Senate passed a resolution asking Facilities Management and the Office of Risk Management and Emergency Preparedness to develop and place as a high priority a plan to mitigate risk caused by the inability to shelter-in-place in some classrooms. Mr. Coker will be taking an inventory of door locks in all classrooms, consider the costs of refitting, and provide that information to the Senate and the administration. Senate's Council on Campus Planning and Usage will follow up. Because of a general lack of knowledge of proper procedure, it was recommended (and carried out) that a Telestars message be sent out with links to the active shooter video and the emergency reference guide.

**Civil Service Employees Council President – Bill Rupert**

Chair Epperly said finally, Bill. Bill Rupert said just a couple of points to add to the information. The luncheon that's going to be on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we're going to have raffle prizes that may allow one of the purchasers to become independently wealthy. In terms of the scholarship campaign, that endowment fund money funds the scholarships. Since 1981, we've been able to give over \$150,000 in scholarships to civil service employee dependents, and over \$24,000 in book awards to civil service employees that have returned to school to improve their education. Finally, we have elections coming up in May, and new officers will be seated. That's all. I'll take questions.

Chair Epperly said good news on the scholarships there. That's great. Questions, comments?

The submitted CSEC report is as follows:

The Civil Service Employees of the Month for January 2013 was Lynn Bainter of Building Services, for February was Anita Sells, Human Resources and for March was Peter McMeekan of Public Safety. We would like to thank these employees of the month for their service to the University.

The CSEC will be mailing an appeal for the Civil Service Scholarship Endowment Fund contributions which provide on-going financial support to the CSEC Scholarship and Book Award programs.

The Spring Luncheon's theme is Disco Fever. The luncheon is scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be held in the Student Recreation Center's Mac Gym. All employees are welcome to attend. The event will be catered by HyVee. Raffle tickets will be on sale from CSEC Council members for numerous prizes. Donations beyond costs go towards the CSEC Scholarship fund.

Chair Epperly said with that, we will take a 15-minute break, by my phone it says 10:44. We will resume at 11 o'clock. Thank you.

The Board took a break at 10:45 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:00 a.m.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair Epperly said ok, we'll go ahead and resume our meeting here. I'd like to turn it over to Finance Committee, Lyneir Cole chair. Lyneir Cole said good morning everyone. We're going to go through the Finance Committee Report. We're going to start with Report No. 13.3/1: Report on Contributions by Vice President Brad Bainter.

**Report on Contributions**

VP Bainter said thank you. As was mentioned earlier the campaign is moving along quite nicely. We are approximately 93, moving toward 94% of our goal of \$60M by December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. Contributions this year are between \$5-6M so far. I'm very confident we'll get to that goal. We have some very nice things I think still in the works that can come this year so far, so just a big thanks to our alumni and friends who support us. Total Foundation assets now are over \$50M at this point, so it's been kind of a remarkable effort by all those involved with the process, all of our development officers and again all of our alumni and friends who support the university. Thank you. Trustee Cole said thank you. Are there any questions?

**Purchases of \$100,000-\$499,999.99 Receiving Presidential Approval**

Trustee Cole said we're now going to go into Report No. 13.3/2, Vice President Julie DeWees and Dana. Dana Biernbaum said this one's pretty self-explanatory, just with the purchases that were under \$500,000 for presidential approval. Were there any questions from what we've presented on this one?

Trustee Cole said well Dana, one thing that we would like the board, you know we would like to request that even though you're making the purchases that it's not necessarily required that you inform the board of those purchases under \$250,000, if you would just let us know so we can be aware that its there. We would appreciate that. Dana Biernbaum said of purchases under \$250,000? Trustee Cole said yes. Dana Biernbaum said oh, once the new resolution passes you mean? Trustee Cole said ok. Dana Biernbaum said ok, sure. We can include whatever you want on the report, that's fine.

Trustee Cole said are there any questions regarding this from the Board? Thank you.

**Resolution No. 13.3/1: Purchases of \$500,000 or More**

Trustee Cole said we'll go on to the next one which is Resolution No. 13.3/1: Purchases of \$500,000 or More. Dana Biernbaum said for this particular item, we originally included in your packet just a shell because of the timing of bid collections, so I appreciate your flexibility and patience with us as we worked through the procurement process on this, so there was only one purchase of over \$500,000 this quarter and that is for the renovation phase one for the University Union. This will be multi-phase project and this is the first phase of it. The budget for the project was about \$8M and we came in under budget by almost a million so that was excellent news, so you can see there the contractors that were approved. We had several contractors. This is our first construction project that we included a business enterprise program goal, so we would have given preference to minority, female-owned businesses on this particular project. And we had several of the bids that we collected did not submit a completed form, so we were not able to consider those, but that really only affected the ventilation contract. Pipco of Peoria was missing their BEP form so we weren't able to read their bid and it would have otherwise been low, so we weren't able to read theirs, but ended up contracting with Johnson or we will upon your approval.

Trustee Cole said are there any questions? Can we move for a vote? Kerry McBride said we need a motion. Trustee Cole said yes, I'm sorry a motion first.

Trustee Cole moved to approve Resolution 13.3/1: Purchases of \$500,000 or More. Trustee Early seconded the motion.

**Roll Call**

Trustee Clawson	Yes
Trustee Cole	Yes
Trustee Early	Yes
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes (VIA TELECONFERENCE)
Trustee Epperly	Yes
Trustee Savala	Yes
Trustee Taylor	Yes

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University has a need to renovate the University Union; and,

**WHEREAS** a complete renovation will be accomplished in up to five phases, as indicated in the programming study conducted by FGM Architects, Mackey Mitchell Architects, and KJWW Engineering Consultants; and,

**WHEREAS** the project proposed herein constitutes Phase One and includes significant improvements in heating and ventilation, technology infrastructure, fire protection infrastructure, and modification to ceiling, floor, and wall finishes in selected areas; 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 Phase One of the University Union Renovation.

**University Union Renovation**

**ITEM DESCRIPTION:** The labor, material, and equipment needed to complete Phase One of the University Union Renovation on the Macomb, IL campus.

**COST:**

\$ 2,113,900.00	General -- Leander Construction
\$ 1,581,540.00	Electrical – Foster Jacob
\$ 2,342,000.00	Heating – Ryan & Associates
\$ 476,780.00	Ventilation – Johnson Contracting
\$ 239,900.00	Plumbing – Warner Plumbing
<u>\$ 254,957.20</u>	Contingency
\$ 7,009,077.20	Total with contingency

**BID SUMMARY:**

**General Contractor**

\$ 2,113,900.00	– Leander Construction, Canton, IL
\$ 2,297,700.00	_ Laverdiere Construction, Macomb, IL
\$ 2,478,000.00	– Core Construction, Morton, IL
\$ 2,681,000.00	_ Morrissey Construction, Godfrey, IL

\$ 2,352,885.00 – Trotter Construction, Macomb, IL  
(Non-responsive – Missing Illinois Office Affidavit)

**Electrical Contractor:** \$ 1,581,540.00 – Foster Jacob, Peoria, IL  
\$ 1,743,990.00 – Quick Electric, Fairview, IL

\$ 1,599,000.00 \_ Oberlander, East Peoria, IL  
(Non-responsive – BEP Form not completed)

**Heating Contractor:**

\$ 2,342,000.00	– Ryan & Associates, Davenport, IA
\$ 2,346,000.00	– Commercial Mechanical, Dunlap, IL
\$ 2,805,000.00	– Illinois Piping, Peoria, IL
\$ 3,042,000.00	– Frank Millard, Burlington, IA

\$ 2,430,000.00 \_ Pipco, Peoria, IL  
(Non-responsive – Missing BEP Form)

**Ventilation Contractor:**       \$ 476,780.00 – Johnson Contracting, East Moline, IL  
\$ 479,000.00 – Frank Millard, Burlington, IA  
\$ 667,450.00 – Mechanical Services Inc., Galesburg, IL  
  
\$ 445,000.00 \_ Pipco, Peoria, IL  
(Non-responsive – Missing BEP form)

**Plumbing Contractor:**       \$ 239,900.00 – Warner Plumbing, East Peoria, IL  
\$ 322,475.00 – Mechanical Service Inc., Galesburg, IL  
  
\$ 257,000.00 \_ Pipco, Peoria, IL  
(Non-responsive – Missing BEP form)

**FUND SOURCE:**               Local funds

Trustee Cole said again, Dana, if you don't mind any purchases that you do if you'll just let us know. We know that you only do a certain approval. It isn't so much for our approval, we just want to know what's going on. Dana Biernbaum said yes. Trustee Cole said thank you. We'll turn it back to the chair.

#### **ACADEMIC & STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Chair Epperly said with that, I'd like to turn it over to our new chair of the Academic and Student Services Committee. What's his name? Oh, it's D'Angelo Taylor from Richmond, Virginia. D'Angelo?

#### **Annual Report on Financial Aid Programs**

D'Angelo Taylor said it's a great place. Right now we're going to go into the annual report on financial aid programs, Report No. 13.3/3, and that'll be given by Dr. Gary Biller and Director of Financial Aid Robert Andersen, so I'll let you guys take it away. VP Biller said thank you. I'll give the floor to Bob.

Bob Andersen said well good morning everyone. You have the IBHE report in front of you, and hopefully you've looked at a little bit of it. I did want to summarize just a slightly some of what's happened over the last basically three years. Our totals have gone up about \$10M each year in total financial aid received by our students, so we started back in FY10 at \$130M total and then \$140M and now we're just right under \$150M total. Now that all sounds great until you start looking at what's behind the scenes. Most of that increase is in loans to students, we did this past year that \$10M increase, \$8M of it was loan funds and \$2M was grant assistance or scholarship assistance. So I want to make sure that everybody understood that even though we had a nice increase it does involve loans in most of it. We're no different than any other school across the country. Loans have become one of the primary sources of assistance.

Also, the percentages have not changed much either, 68% of the aid is coming from the federal government, \$1.5M approximately 11.5M, I'm sorry \$1.5M from the state and these are increases \$0.8M from the institution and \$1.2M from other sources. Now the other sources you think ok, maybe these are outside scholarships and they are. There's outside scholarships available but they have not increased greatly. They have come up some, but most of this is what we call alternative loans. These are bank loans that parents and students borrow when they can't receive other types of aid or need aid to replace what we call their parent contribution, so they have not either saved enough or that type of thing, and that aid has gone up considerably. One of the things that we also see over the last three years that the number on financial aid has increased by 1,000 students over that three-year period. Now primarily it's economics I

think, and because we're starting to see now this is through this last year. We're starting to see that slightly reduce again, but the other thing that happened which really made a difference to students was that family contributions reduced in that same period of time, so they had been going up for years and years and years. Up and through '09-'10, they'd been going up \$100 to \$200 every year, but over this last couple years they've gone down again. Again, I'm sure it's the economic situation in our country, so we have an increase in cost, reduced family contributions, which is caused the differences because now aid has not increased that much. It's basically staying quite stable other than the loan increase. Our unmet need has increased \$650 just over last year, and we're expecting the same type of increase based on what we're doing with tuition and fees for this next year. So, our average unmet need is now going up over \$5,000. When you look at that, basically unmet need how we calculate that is the cost of education, which include tuition, fees, room and board, personal expenses, travel, things like that, we subtract the family contribution then we subtract all the aid that student can receive and what we have left is this unmet need, and that's going up and that's where a lot of our families are really having difficulty. And again we are not the only ones in this situation, but it does mean that since state and federal government have not increased their funding we have no other place to go other than institutionally. So we've been working on all sorts of projects to see if we can get more grant assistance available to students in the future and more work or employment assistance as well, so we're working towards those goals.

The other thing that Dr. Biller talked about was a MAP grant. We pulled all the stops out we could this year to try to get people to apply on time. The deadline has been 19-20 days earlier every year. We were just a few years ago it was almost right before school started was the deadline, and now it's already March 1<sup>st</sup> and it was March 19<sup>th</sup> the year before. It was almost late in March-April 1<sup>st</sup> the year before and end of May the year before that. So, it has gone down and down, earlier and earlier deadlines and I assume that next year will even be worse. All the schools, we're all competing with each other to get students to apply as early as possible, and I really complement all of our, especially all of our Housing staff and my own staff and everything too, and all of the people in the Student Services that got the word out to students to really help get that application date accomplished so we could get those FAFSAs in. So, that concludes my report. Any questions?

#### **Quad Cities Graduate Study Center Update**

Trustee Taylor said seeing none, we'll move on to the next item on the agenda, Report No. 13.3/4: Quad Cities Graduate Study Center Update, and that will be presented to you by Vice President Joe Rives.

VP Rives said two years ago, you as a Board approved co-locating the Quad Cities Graduate Study Center courses at both Western Illinois University Quad Cities and St. Ambrose University, and you have this report in your packet but since you as a Board had approved it we thought it might be helpful to have a PowerPoint for future directions of the GradCenter.

So just to bring everybody up to speed on the history of the Quad Cities GradCenter, you can see the facts before you. It was the first grant in the State of Illinois that awarded a grant to multiple institutions and the point of the first, it's called HECA, Higher Education Cooperation Act Grant, was to bring graduate education to the Quad Cities. You can see that in 1969 there was no graduate education in the Quad Cities. So what happened was Augustana was selected as the host site to deliver courses. Augustana was selected because they didn't offer graduate courses, but these member institutions brought graduate education to the Quad Cities and over time there's been new members come and go into the graduate center, and you can see they range geographically from Drake to over to Bradley. In the traditional model of the graduate center, we kid in the Quad Cities that they're educational Switzerland in that the staff provides assistance for all of the academic and student support you see above, but what's missing in the model is the institutions don't collaborate together. So it's not a shared program or a shared working together on community initiatives or economic development, you have almost a mediator saying ok, Western, Drake, Iowa State, etc., play well together.

The GradCenter currently is rich in that it has 10 institutions taking classes. You, as a Board, said that again you may host courses at Western Illinois University – Quad Cities as long as those courses don't compete with the programs we offer. Where there is competition, those courses are located at St. Ambrose University, and vice versa for St. Ambrose where there's competition. The background of the center where you approved us having classes is much like and probably Bill Epperly is the only one who remembers when we used to have subcommittees meet and then you would repeat subcommittees as a committee of the whole, and then there's a staff support component as well.

The Quad Cities Graduate Center has really blossomed in enrollment and you can see the history all the way from 1969 to last year the growth as you see in 1997 continuing on through the 2000s is the emergence of graduate programs from Western Illinois University and St. Ambrose University. You see kind of a "V" in the 2000s years. St. Ambrose does a lot of cohort as opposed to letting students start every year so that's why there's a "V." The growth and stability in this chart is from Western Illinois University Graduate Programs.

On this slide, you can see the percent of graduate education in red delivered by what's called local institutions: St. Ambrose and Western Illinois University. We're now providing 90% of the credit hours or courses delivered at the Quad Cities Graduate Center. Out of town institutions, whether Northern Iowa, Illinois State, etc., are generating 10% of the enrollments and credit hours.

A task force was convened at the request of the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, and at the request of the Quad Cities Graduate Studies Center Board. I'll go through the reasons why the task force was formed momentarily. Myself and Paul Koch, who's the Vice President for Academic and Student Services at St. Ambrose University were the co-chairs for the task force. We've had a series of meetings with folks, and the reasons why we were convened and you'll see data for each of these, but the major reason was significantly decreased funding is leading to questions of the sustainability of the center into the future and then increased institutional collaborations brings new opportunities to advance the institutions. So again, as budgets were being reduced for the graduate center, you approved the relocation. The rent at Augustana College was \$30,000 a year and the GradCenter just didn't have it in its budget to sustain it.

The committee that I just referenced to make our recommendations that you'll hear in a little bit, looked at urban consortia. Remember the Quad Cities regions is a population of about 400,000, so it's most appropriate to look at what urban areas are doing. And what we found was that all those urban consortiums that I was talking about before had more partnership activity and not the model where a GradCenter staff mediates the different institutions. So, there's opportunities to work together.

As we looked at membership of the GradCenter, what we found was urban areas aside from the Quad Cities include all community college partners under the assumption the road to graduate education starts the freshman year, continues you know sophomore, senior, on to grad school. That was one of the lessons we learned that will be important in a minute, community colleges currently are not members of the Quad Cities GradCenter nor are programs that do not have graduate programs, so in the Quad Cities for example Trinity College of Nursing and Health Sciences is not a member nor is Augustana College. So, this is the model that our peer institutions or peer consortium has, but you can see it's an incomplete model in the Quad Cities.

The GradCenter itself as it was challenged by funding came up with a strategic plan. For tenants to the strategic plan, working together is the key initiative that is being stressed in the plan, and with this presentation today. I had mentioned the GradCenter had received declines in state funding. There you can see the decline and dramatic decline to the budget. Staff has been reduced for example from 4 FTE to 1.5 full-time equivalent employees. The GradCenter itself gets money from both Illinois in red and ironically



Illinois funding went up a little bit and Iowa. The GradCenter has not historically gone into grants and contracts or other sources of private revenue. We've already talked about we're growing the GradCenter locally.

There's a need for the institutions to work together. That's all that really says. The last challenge before we get into making challenges opportunities or the more positive note is high school graduates are down both in Illinois and while they appear to be up in Iowa it's on the very western side of the state, so high school enrollments now translate to declines in graduate enrollment later on.

So, what does this all mean, and how would we like to go forward? One, the GradCenter will still be a site where programs can come into the facilities at Western or come into the facilities at Ambrose, but we're going to ask Black Hawk College and Eastern Iowa Community Colleges as well as the local four-year institutions to work together. We've talked in previous board meetings that there's a president's and chancellor's council in the Quad Cities and that the institutions are committed to working together. All of these groups that join us are going to be working on some grant funding opportunities to benefit graduate students in the Quad Cities. We're going to strengthen the pipeline from community colleges to four-year universities to graduate education. What's really miraculous and not thought about in the Quad Cities is there are 20,000 students in local higher education, and so it's a vibrant university town it's just got a lot of membership. So, I pretty much did that slide.

This is the slide that the GradCenter is going to be working together, it's going to streamline its meeting structure and then as it moves forward with these changes it will enhance its bylaws. So, why this is all important to you as a board is again you gave permission to house and now we wanted to show you that we at the Quad Cities Graduate Center are working together to advance the educational objectives of the community. As you can see from this map, green is good and blue is not good, if you look at the educational attainment levels western Illinois is lower than central Illinois and northeastern Illinois so we have to work together to get students through the educational pipeline.

One of the things that you, Quad Cities trustees, have seen before is the MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) rankings. That's a measure of income and employment in the metropolitan area. You can see that as graduate education in the Quad Cities has grown, so has the prosperity. You might remember the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce has a goal to make us in the upper 75% of the rankings. You want to be number one, so bars going up is a good thing. As we've worked together and this was just announced at the regional opportunities counsel that within the last year we advanced almost 50 places so you can see the effects of working together are good. Because the GradCenter was formed on a grant, anytime there's change I have to go to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. That's done. Tuesday's going to be spent in Des Moines with the Iowa Board of Regents. It would give me great confidence to say to the Iowa Board of Regents that our Board of Trustees here is comfortable with the partnerships advancing in the institutions. You gave your approval to locate the center. I'm trying to update you on how the center is advancing. So, that concludes the report and happy to answer any questions. Hopefully it makes sense. It's a lot of stuff.

Trustee Taylor said any questions? Chair Epperly said I'm just making sure I understand this correctly. What is the cost to Western Illinois University? VP Rives said there is no cost to Western Illinois University. Chair Epperly said that's what I thought. Ok, the only cost is that we're technically giving them classroom space, and they pay no rent. VP Rives said correct. Chair Epperly said but we generate a lot of classes for our system. VP Rives said we generate a lot of classes. We've generated classroom enrollment. We've generated the institutions working together. You might recall how the relationship between Western and St. Ambrose was previously. Chair Epperly said right, ok.

### **Student Health Insurance Program**

Trustee Taylor said we'll go into the next Report No. 13.3/5: The Student Health Insurance Program. Vice President Julie DeWees, Vice President Dr. Gary Biller, Assistant Vice President for Administrative Services Dana Biernbaum, and the Director of the Beu Health Center Mary Margaret Harris. That is being passed around now, and I'll give the mike to you guys. Dana Biernbaum said alright, I will try to keep this brief. You have received an advance copy of the report. This is another situation where I appreciate your flexibility and patience with the procurement process. Wherever possible, we try to drive our procurement processes along the Board timeline so that things can be done in time for your approval at these pre-established meetings. This was one situation where we did not want to push too quickly and make a rushed decision because this is something that not only is it a significant cost to both the University and our students, but we want to make sure that we're making the right decision in terms of making sure we've got robust coverage and appropriate limits and things like that for our students. So, I appreciate your willingness to receive this update today and then we'll talk about the resolution in a few moments.

Pursuant to your request in the December meeting we established a sort of task force of folks who sat down and had some conversation about how we want to move forward with our evaluation of options in the marketplace for moving from a self-insured plan as you may know we are in our ninth year of being self-insured so the University is the insurance provider to our students currently, but given the uncertainty in the health care reform world right now we wanted to look at other options. So, we've evaluated the possibility of moving into a fully insured program and buying insurance through a commercial carrier, and the task force I first for the record want to express my appreciation to the people who have worked very diligently on this effort. Trustees Griffin and Early were tremendous guidance and support to us early in this process, so I appreciate both of them for their support and input and Vice President DeWees participated in the initial meeting and Mary Margaret Harris and Digger Oster have done a tremendous job of researching and establishing the criteria that we included in our solicitation that we put out to the marketplace. It was a very well thought out and comprehensive request for proposals that we put out, and we see in the results that we have gotten that they had thought through it very well because we've gotten a couple of really good proposals.

We did put it out on the street and asked for proposals from the marketplace, and we received three proposals. One from Academic Health Plans which would be a fully insured student health insurance program underwritten by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois. Another we received from the Midwest Higher Education Compact, and the program there would be again fully insured student health insurance and it would be underwritten by United Health Care, another major player in the market. And then, we received a third from Consolidated Health Plans, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway. Unfortunately we were not able to read their proposal because they were not at the time of proposal opening registered with the State Board of Elections, and that is a requirement of our Procurement Code, so the fact that they submitted a proposal that would take them over the \$50,000 of business with the State of Illinois mark. That's our threshold, and they had not submitted their Board of Elections registration at the time that the bid was open which was on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. So, unfortunately they are now registered with the Board of Elections just too late. So, we're not able to consider their proposal, but the first two are currently under review with regard to their technical merits, and the way the procurement process works from this point forward is we review them on technical merits only, so we're looking at all aspects of their proposal in terms of: are they providing the coverage we've requested? What additional types of things are they willing to cover with regard to prescription drug benefits or other alternatives that we've requested? What are their claims administration processes? How well will they service our students when a claim arises? We're evaluating all of those types of things from a technical perspective now, and the state law precludes us from being able to evaluate their pricing until we have fully evaluated technical.

So, the next step in our process is the week of April 8<sup>th</sup>, we will be meeting with them in person to get clarification on some of the aspects of their proposals, their technical proposals and in those in-person meetings that gives us an opportunity to get clarification, but again we're not talking pricing there will be no negotiating going on. It's just a matter of them providing an in-person presentation, and then Q & A regarding their technical qualifications. And then, subsequent to that the evaluation committee will be scoring their technical merits, and then we will move into the pricing phase. So, we hope to wrap this up very, very quickly but again we want to make sure that we are giving it due diligence and doing a good thorough review. We will be involving student input into that in-person meeting process so that we are considering all of the student needs as well, so I invite Trustee Taylor and I've already extended an invitation to Caleb Markey to represent SGA on that process as well. So it is a thorough process, but hopefully we will end up with the best possible result, and we are also once we get to pricing, that will be a key factor in our consideration is how can we make sure that we are containing cost for our students as well. We do not want student health insurance to be a barrier for our students in terms of their ability to pay for school, but we certainly want them to have appropriate coverage in place if, God forbid, something should happen to them while they're here or studying abroad. We want them to have the full range of opportunities and have proper coverage in place.

So with those goals in mind, we continue through the process. One change to the report from what you see in writing is if you pass the resolution, and this isn't trying to twist your arms or anything, but if you pass the resolution that will be up for consideration in the very next agenda item, then there will be no need for a special meeting in mid to late April as the report indicated, because the resolution will delegate that decision to the President as we've done with a number of other procurements similar to this. That's the report, are there any questions?

Chair Epperly said is the local hospital work with both of those providers? Dana Biernbaum said yes. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois is certainly. Both of those, whether it be Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois or United Health Care, our local hospital and many local service providers are included in their primary care network.

Trustee Taylor said so the students when they pay, they'd be paying to the University who would in turn pay the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois? Dana Biernbaum said correct. Trustee Taylor said so it'd still be the same type of format that they have now, it would just be the University won't be responsible for it. Ok. Dana Biernbaum said the University will technically be the contract holder, but we would collect premium from the students and remit it to the third party provider.

Trustee Cole said do the students have a co-payment to go with that or is it all covered? Dana Biernbaum said there would be a small deductible similar to what we have today. In fact, the base plans that we requested in our solicitation is modeled very much after what we currently provide, but it's enhanced to cover the benefits that are required by the new health care reform law. So, a small deductible, but we've asked for varying pricing and again we haven't looked at it yet because we can't until we get through the technical aspect of this process, but we've asked for a varying deductible. So, what would the premium be if the deductible was zero, if the deductible was \$200 like it is now, \$250, \$500, so we've asked for what the different premium rates would be at the different levels, but again keeping out of pocket expense to our students down is one of our primary considerations.

Trustee Cole said I guess my question would be then if we were to approve this resolution which is next, as you find out the particulars, can those particulars be forwarded to the Board even though we may delegate the power to make that decision to the President? Dana Biernbaum said absolutely. We'll be creating a matrix putting side by side each proposal and the merits of each proposal both technical and pricing, and I'd be happy to share that with members of the Board. Trustee Cole said yeah, because I would like to know what the particulars are with the policy itself and what is the benefit for the student

especially when it comes to out of pocket costs. You know we have to be conscious to that and to know what percentage that they are willing to cover under this student, because we know the younger they are the higher the insurance premium normally is. Dana Biernbaum said sure, absolutely. We will be happy to share that information with you.

Trustee Taylor said and this will be added to the account balance right? Just so I'm correct, so they'll pay and it'll be added to their balance. Dana Biernbaum said yes. Trustee Taylor said one more question as it refers to, as it pertains to the McDonough County Hospital, is this going to be 100% coverage or is this going to be 80% how it currently is? I believe it's 80% if you're what's the word, recognized, I forget the word when you're...Dana Biernbaum said a preferred provider. Trustee Taylor said yes, a preferred provider, if you're sent there it covers 80% am I right on that? Dana Biernbaum said how the proposal was written is that the charges for things that are covered at Beu Health Center would be covered 100% with no deductible just like it is now as a cost containment strategy and to steer students towards the local health care available on campus. For any off-campus provider, it would be based on, similar to what we have now, which would be like an 80% coverage for those in network. Trustee Taylor said any more questions?

Trustee Cole said so McDonough County Hospital would be in network for both plans? Dana Biernbaum said correct. Trustee Cole said I wanted to ask that because we know if they're out of network the prices can balloon and then we're sending out students away from here with a huge debt that we don't want them to encounter. Dana Biernbaum said McDonough County and many of the individual doctor's offices have been confirmed to be in their network, but we look at not only where we are physically but all over the state, so that when they go home to their home towns they also have coverage there, and clearly with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois there's a robust network there and since United Health Care has one of the largest networks in the nation, they also have very robust coverage in Illinois. So we're actually grateful that both of these proposals are major players in the market and offer thousands of health care providers across the state in their network that would be primary care physicians in their network.

Trustee Taylor said any other questions?

**Resolution No. 13.3/2: Student Health Insurance Program**

Trustee Taylor said we'll move into Resolution No. 13.3/2: Student Health Insurance Program. If you have any questions, you can forward them now. Seeing no questions, I'll entertain a motion

Trustee Epperly moved to approve Resolution 13.3/2: Student Health Insurance Program. Trustee Early seconded the motion.

Trustee Taylor asked for a roll call. Kerry McBride stated again, this is for what was just passed out this morning delegating authority to the President.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes
Trustee Cole	Yes
Trustee Early	Yes
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes (VIA TELECONFERENCE)
Trustee Epperly	Yes
Trustee Savala	Yes
Trustee Taylor	Yes

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University has maintained a self-insured Student Health Insurance Program since July 1, 2004; and,

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University has reviewed the self-insured Student Health Insurance Program; and,

**WHEREAS** self-insured Student Insurance Programs are exempt from the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Healthcare Act (PPACA); and,

**WHEREAS** students will be required by the PPACA to have minimum essential healthcare coverage by January 1, 2014, or face a federal monetary penalty; and,

**WHEREAS** self-insured student health plans cannot be included in this regulation, and recognized as minimum essential coverage under PPACA without a change in law; and,

**WHEREAS** a change in the law that would allow self-insured student health plans to be recognized as minimum essential coverage under PPACA would result in a significant increase in the student benefit fee and increased financial risk to the University; and,

**WHEREAS** a self-insured Student Health Insurance Program would no longer provide a financially beneficial option program for students of Western Illinois University;

**WHEREAS** a Plan of Transition from the Self-Insured Student Insurance Program has been included as an addendum to this resolution and includes a claims run-out period of August 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014;

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University has solicited proposals for a Student Health Insurance Plan and has received proposals from two prospective contractors determined to be “responsible” pursuant to State of Illinois law; and

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University will identify the proposer who best meets the technical and financial specifications of the University and will meet the needs of the student body:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the discontinuation of the Western Illinois University self-insured Student Health Insurance Program as proposed effective 11:59 p.m., July 31, 2013; and

**THEREFORE** be it further resolved that the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University delegates to President Thomas the authority to select and execute a contract with the proposer who offers a Student Health Insurance program that best meets the needs of the University and its students.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

ADDENDUM to Resolution No. 12.12/1

PLAN OF TRANSITION FROM THE SELF-INSURED STUDENT INSURANCE PROGRAM

Transition from the current self-insured plan would require several steps to ensure an orderly phase out of the program. These steps include the following:

I. Board of Trustees Resolution to discontinue self-insured student health insurance program. To achieve an orderly phase-out of student insurance, this step should be done at a minimum of 6-7 months prior to the end of the current policy year, which terminates on July 31, 2013.

II. Notification of Stakeholders

A. Current Enrolled Students. Current enrolled students and parents should be notified as soon as possible to provide lead time for enrollment in alternative individual or group coverage. Current enrolled students should be encouraged to submit claims within the timely filing period. Students graduating in May, 2013 will no longer be able to purchase 90 days extended coverage under this plan.

B. Student Body. The Student Body should be notified of changes to the Student Insurance Benefits program through the Student Government Association as part of WIU shared governance.

C. Internal campus stakeholders.

Athletics: The student insurance program has absorbed the cost of intercollegiate athletic insurance for WIU athletes since before the student insurance program was self-funded. All student athletes participate in the student insurance program to ensure the funding mechanism for Intercollegiate Athletic Insurance remains stable, plus students receive the added benefit of having a low cost health insurance in addition to Athletic Insurance coverage. The health insurance is primary coverage for many WIU athletes, and provides secondary coverage for those that have primary coverage with a parent. The 2012-2013 premium for Athletic Insurance is \$323,500. There is one additional renewal year possible on the current bid that could be used for FY14. There is adequate insurance reserve funding to pay for the premium for FY14 as part of the run-out budget. The Athletics Department should plan to submit a new Request for Proposal for Athletic Insurance for FY2015.

In addition to Athletic Insurance, it is recommended that a Blanket Policy for Uninsured Athletes be considered, as WIU Athletic Insurance and Student Insurance provides coverage for uninsured athletes. This policy would act as a cost-containment strategy for Athletic Insurance premium increases.

Beu Health Center: An average of \$200,000 or 30% of the billable services rendered at Beu Health Center is reimbursed on behalf of enrolled students by the Student Insurance Program. Health Insurance staff would be reallocated to the Health Center Budget for FY15, after the run-out period is completed, with an annual cost of \$128,235 plus benefits.

Center for International Studies: All non-immigrant international students (J-1 and F-1 visa holders) attending WIU are required to have health insurance. In many cases, limited duration medical insurance coverage is provided through a program, i.e. Muskie Program, ISEP Exchange Consortium, or government sponsored students. The WIU self-insurance student insurance program provides coverage worldwide for students traveling abroad and for international students attending WIU, and meets/exceeds the minimum standards for J-1 Visa holders. With few exceptions, international students have been mandated to participate in the WIU program as a supplement to the limited duration coverage.

Under PPACA, limited duration plans will be approved only for students that study for less than 1 year. The Center for International Studies or Risk Management may consider purchase of a blanket policy to ensure that international students have insurance, or at the least, have a program to verify and monitor coverage.

In addition, Frontier MEDEX provides travel assistance coverage that includes medical evacuation and repatriation benefits that covers our international students as well as students traveling abroad, regardless of whether or not they are covered under student insurance. Faculty/staff traveling on behalf of the university also are covered. The cost of the travel assistance plan is \$20,700 per year.

University Counseling Center: A 0.5 FTE counselor is funded through the Student insurance program, to increase access to free mental health services since the insurance program has \$20,000 limit on mental health services. The Counseling Center would require alternate funding of \$29,254 plus benefits to maintain this position.

Financial Aid: 1 FTE position Financial Aid advisor is funded through the Student Insurance Program. The Financial Aid would require \$40,824 plus benefits to maintain this position.

University Administrative Fee: The fees collected students are subject to the 5% university administrative fee, which is approximately \$200,000. The loss of this revenue to support direct and indirect services would require a plan for how this transition would affect respective operations.

4. Plan Providers. The current plan provides an average turnaround time on claims payment to providers of less than 20 days. As a business courtesy, the Plan Providers serving our students would need to be notified of a change in the WIU plan in a timely manner. McDonough District Hospital is the top provider with a three year average of \$892,000 in annual compensated care.
5. Notify Plan Contractors. In cooperation with our Third Party Administrator, CTIA, we would provide a termination notification in accordance with contract requirements to our Preferred Provider Organization, Healthlink. Non-renewal notification would be provided to our Stop-Loss carrier and our Travel Insurance carrier.

### III. Processing of run-out claims

Phasing out of self-insured program would require one additional year after the official termination date of the program to process run-out claims under the timely filing requirement. Any operating funds remaining after the end of the fiscal year should be utilized for this purpose, with reserve funds used to supplement the claims payment. Based on actuarial estimate of incurred but not paid claims, we could expect approximately \$400,000 in claims to be processed during the run-out period. We would maintain staff to process the claims, and provide transition for the program. We would renew the Third Party Administrator contract for the run-out period to assist with the orderly phase-out of the program. The PPO contract would be in place for the first three months of the run-out period; thereafter, the PPO agrees to process run-out claims without an administrative fee for the remainder of the run-out period. We would not require stop-loss coverage past the last date of the current program year, since any claims incurred after the termination date would not be covered charges. The total budget for the insurance run-out period is estimated to be \$914,005.

<b>Estimated Budget for Self-Insurance Claims Run-Out Period</b> (August 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014)	
	FY 2014
Staff	\$123,300
Fringe	\$1000
Commodities	\$500
Rental Office Equipment	\$600
Contractual (TPA and PPO)	\$50,000
Claims	\$400,000
Athletic Insurance 2013-14 Estimate 3.5% increase	\$333,205
Collection fees	\$2500
Postal charges	\$500
Office Equip	\$300
Telephone	\$900
Travel	\$200
Contingency	\$1000
<b>Total Estimated Expenses</b>	<b>(\$914,005)</b>
<b>Reserve Funds Available</b>	<b>\$1,335,703</b>
<b>Estimated Excess Funds</b>	<b>\$421,698</b>

#### IV. Identify Alternate Funding Source for Expenses Funded by Student Insurance

In addition to the run-out costs outlined in Section III, alternate funding sources should be identified for the following expenses in order to maintain services at current levels. This budget does not include the recommendation of the blanket insurance policy for international students, or the recommendation for a blanket insurance policy for uninsured athletes as both options would require a bid process.

<b>Estimated Funding Required to Maintain University Programs Currently Funded by Student Insurance</b>		
	FY 2014	FY2015
Athletic Insurance (assume 3% annual increase)		\$343,200
Beu Health Center (Insurance Staff)		\$128,235
University Counseling Center	\$29,254	\$30,424
Financial Aid	\$40,824	\$42,456
Administrative Fee (5% revenue surcharge)	\$200,000	\$200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$270,078</b>	<b>\$744,315</b>

#### V. Asset Management after Run-Out Period

The University has a responsibility to conserve the operating and reserve funds for the entire run-out period. Effective August 1, 2014, the assets of the student insurance program including remaining operating funds, reserve funds and inventoried equipment assets should be transferred to health related operations that benefit the student body under the university's fiduciary responsibilities. After the run-out period has concluded, health insurance staff would be reallocated to the Beu Health Center budget for FY2015, unless they opted to transfer to another area on campus.

Chair Epperly said thank you D'Angelo, and just a couple things. One, I was kind of concerned about Vice President Rives comment when he said Chairman Epperly will remember, one of the few that will remember when we...then you talked about the Board structure, so I didn't know how far you were going



back. But sad to say, well it's good to say I guess I do remember Beu Health Center opening, and that was my freshman year here so I go back to 1963. Anyway, I do want to thank Mary Margaret for we had a tour yesterday of the Center, and it was very informative and I thought very, well just very informative. It's good to see and nice to see what's happening there so thank you Mary Margaret. Also, I want to thank Dana and Cathy and D'Angelo and Bill Griffin for all the work they've done here over the past I call it couple months behind the scenes because at the last meeting I'd asked Cathy and Bill since they were in Macomb to stay on top of this, to look at it, to work with Dana and so forth, which they've been doing. And then also I'd asked D'Angelo at that time as the student representative to stay on top of it, and give us any if he has any input, questions, whatever. So I appreciate the three of you for doing that over the past several months.

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Chair Epperly said with that, we'll move to the Audit Committee with Cathy Early, Chair, Cathy. Cathy Early said yes, I think we're getting a report right now, 13.3/6 with regards to the external audit report. Rita Moore is here and she can answer any questions with regards to the audit and information as presented.

### **External Audit Report**

Rita Moore said hello. I'm Rita Moore, the Director of Internal Auditing, and we were beginning to wonder if we were going to get this report out because it was just approved for public release yesterday, so I have prepared the report. There's a summary of the findings. We have had nine findings this year. Two of which are financial in nature, and seven that are compliance in nature, and four we're repeat findings. The full report can be found at the link, and you should have received this electronically so you can check out the full audit. To save the trees, we are not printing forms. If you do want a printed copy we can get you one. I have, to give you a base line topic for each of the different findings on the actual report itself. The other external audit, these are either outsourced audits or audits conducted by the Auditor General's office that we do our mandatory requirement. They're usually either Office of the Auditor General, office assistance, or like I said compliance in nature or from grants.

Rita Moore continued as far as how the others did, there were actually five different universities released yesterday. Only two had been previously released. Where we stand among those: Governor's State and SIU still have not been released. This is the latest release we've ever had, and it is not any reflection on us getting them information. I think it was either a choice by the Auditor General's office, and I don't know that is true because of staffing reasons or if they've selected to hold all reports so that they looked for consistency across what's being done at each of the universities. Are there any questions?

Trustee Cole said why do we receive these repeats? Rita Moore said basically it's up to the individual universities or areas across the university for resolution. Some of the reasons too, are that sometimes we don't get the actual finding or know about the finding until six months into that year, so you might not have had that fixed and so we don't have an opportunity to get it fixed in the time frame that's needed to get it completely resolved. Trustee Cole said so if these reflect that they are repeat, does that mean that we'll start working on these issues immediately because we know that it's been....Rita Moore said yes, they should be looked at and hopefully they will not be repeat findings in next year. President Thomas said our goal is to make sure we have no repeats. When we do have those findings, but as Rita stated sometimes it takes time to address those findings that are there, and we have been working through those. Rita Moore said and I will also say in some areas especially like in Financial Aid and some of those, they're very strict on the regulations and because of the single audit and the federal regulations even if it's a very simple finding that may not be material in nature it still has to be reported so it's still going to be a finding. So sometimes those may be hard to get rid of every time or if it's a repeat finding. Now if you

minimize them sometimes it may be immaterial, but sometimes are reported no matter what the materiality of the finding is.

Trustee Cole said I guess I'm not as concerned about the grants and loans as I am about the property and equipment, the student data, and crime tracking procedures, because it clearly states on two of them noncompliance and on one inadequate, and for us to receive it a second time...what is the measures that we are taking to correct that? VP DeWees said can I explain, under that finding. Trustee Cole said which one? VP DeWees said on the controls over university property and equipment. We've had so many changes with state law and with procurement, what this addressed was 17 pieces of furniture which are classroom podiums amounting to more than \$500. It totaled \$69,943 were purchased, but were not supported by an affidavit filed with the Department of Central Management Services. Things like that unfortunately, but the full report is out on the web if you're interested please go through it and call if you have any questions, but things like that are some of the examples. Rita Moore said if you need clarification like I said our office or Julie's office either one can help answer your questions. Thank you.

VP DeWees said it's interesting to also look at the other schools just to see what they're looking at, and we look at the other schools, too, to try to give us a heads up as to what they may, the auditors may be looking at the following year so we're sure that we're on top of it this year. Trustee Cole said and that is actually what I do when it comes to the Merit Board. When they perform the audit here, I review some of the other audits at the other universities to determine how consistent they are and whether it's actually inadequate or not, so I mean it would definitely be the same thing I just was curious about the repeats.

Rita Moore said and as far as the numbers go for the universities that have been released, only two have actually reduced the overall numbers and that was Chicago State and the U of I, but they also had extremely high numbers to begin with in their findings, so everybody's numbers did go up this year with exception of those two which again were extremely higher than everybody else's to begin with.

Trustee Early said that concludes the Audit Committee report.

## **PRESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

Chair Epperly said with that, thank you. Presidential Assessment and Evaluation Committee, Carolyn are you on the phone? Carolyn Ehlert Fuller said yes, I am but I think Bill was going to just have some brief comments about that for me. Chair Epperly said ok, I talked with Carolyn. In the past we've had the past procedure will basically be followed again. Pretty much, in March-April, Carolyn will be sending out for written input from campus interest groups followed by some committee interviews in May with the President, with his cabinet, and with community representatives. So again from the campus standpoint the different groups when Carolyn sends this out, she'll be updating you, but please send in your comments. Inputs will be reviewed by her and Phil Hare are the two of them on there. They'll put together their summary report will be prepared, and be discussed at our June Board meeting. Did I miss anything there Carolyn? Trustee Ehlert Fuller said I think that was pretty complete. Chair Epperly said ok, so again the checks in the mail. Things will be coming and so forth. So let us know and please add your input there. Thank you Carolyn. Trustee Ehlert Fuller said thank you.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

### **Long Term Planning Update**

Chair Epperly said we'll start off with Report No. 13.3/7: Long Term Planning Update from Vice President Joe Rives.

VP Rives said this PowerPoint is at the request of Trustee Ehlert Fuller. I promise it's the last PowerPoint of the day, Cathy Early. Trustee Early joked I think it's appropriate that we pass out popcorn for these. VP Rives said be nice to your fellow Vice President.

VP Rives said at the last summer Board, Western Illinois University Board of Trustees meeting, I was charged to get a long term planning committee together to look at the near, 5-year, and 20-year future of Western Illinois University. You might recall that the reason for this long-term planning committee was Trustee Ehlert Fuller discovered the article *The Power of Strategic Thinking* adopted by the Association of Governing Boards. You can see the website there or for the newer Trustees, if you'd like me to send you copy or link just please let me know. In brief, what the article talks about is institutions of higher education need to find an idyllic balance between both strategic planning and strategic thinking, so the question becomes what is strategic planning and you as a Board have guided us through the years on our strategic planning. And again it's kind of a one, five, ten year look at the institution. Where it is and where it wants to go. Strategic thinking, according to the article is positioning the university for an even longer term future. And the article argues that institutions of higher education when they strategic plan don't always consider areas of innovation or actions to eliminate. So what happens according to the article is institutions can be too heavy on strategic planning and too light on strategic thinking. You as a Board are charged by the Governor to make sure we have a good balance between the two. If you're just heavy on strategic planning, to go back to the old idiom that you can see the trees but not the forest, you're too wrapped up in details, too micro. On the other hand, if you're completely according to the article, strategic thinking you're too macro and you're not looking at the detail. So if you were just, as I said, just being macro you might miss some of the details. You might notice in the upper left hand corner the monogram SCUP, that's the Society for College and University Planning. That's my professional organization. They have never professionally endorsed a planning methodology until this article, so we are following state of the art strategic thinking.

The committee, and you'll get introduced to the committee in a minute, did some background work to ask ourselves before we went in to replicating the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) model. Are we positioned at Western to do this kind of work? And we have found, we concluded that we do have a strong strategic planning process. Within the last three years, these are institutions that have requested me to work with them to replicate our planning process and we've also had numerous invitations to present at our professional associations. We also know that we have a sustainable strategic planning process and that it's very open and accountable, and the evidence you can see there. There are such things as monthly updates, etc. We also know we have the capacity at this institution, and we do demonstrate strategic thinking. You just at your last meeting approved a campus master plan for the Macomb campus for example. We work together with you on our Higher Learning Commission accreditation self-study. That committed us to looking at the relationship between the two campuses as both grow and thrive for example over the next 20 years and you as a Board approved the long range plan for University Housing and Dining Services.

So again, from the summer retreat the charge was to form a very inclusive committee. I don't have names of membership, but as you look to the back of the room a lot of the people in this room today are on the committee as well as a lot of the faculty and community members. The charge was to look again at the five, near, five, and 20-year time frames for Western Illinois University, making recommendations ultimately to President Thomas and to you as a Board of Trustees. The process that we've worked through, Trustee Ehlert Fuller asked for two things: what is the process you did and what is the data you've been looking at? So, the process we started meeting in October, looking at trends that affect higher education in general, external environmental scanning, and then we transitioned those conversations from what's challenging higher education to what do we see as challenges and opportunities for Western? Then, how is our strategic plan being used? And then how can we innovate? Or how can we strategically

think into the future and position this great university for even higher levels of greatness in the years ahead? We've just barely begun to scratch the surface on recommendations.

So to begin our meeting on trends with higher education, we had two representatives from the Illinois Board of Higher Education come and make presentation on what they saw as statewide coordinating board members of what are data, challenges, opportunities for Western Illinois University, and in 90 minutes we received 87 slides and 46 trends in higher education. That, and the point is not that you read all that, but there's a lot of factors influencing higher education. I will say I've never seen a presentation so normally distributed in reception. Some people thought the speakers were right on the money. Some people felt the speakers were too pessimistic. Some people thought were ok. To me as a strategic planner, it's important that we have the conversation and recognize that this was but one source of data, so what the committee has done since that, and let me back up before I go there. The conclusion at the end of the day from our IBHE speakers was the current model of higher education is no longer sustainable. We need to reinvent ourselves otherwise we won't have a future, and that's where I got into the conclusions and the data were normally distributed. Folks either really liked what was said or really didn't care for what was said, and I've never, ever seen it so bimodal. So a good challenge for the committee was to take the IBHE data which I'm going to summarize today at the request of Trustee Ehlert Fuller, but also have us look at other sources of data, so it's not the definitive source, but it is one of many sources of data. So we can start to triangulate all of the information you're going to see. The data that we're reading is the data that we're discussing is available on the web, and so that's the URL for it.

As we looked in our next two meetings in November at what are the general challenges for higher education. The first one focuses on academic identity, again a lot of words but as we try to group the data, group our readings, the first challenge or opportunity depending upon how you look upon it is on academic identity. Higher education's going to be faced with the need we believe for more collaborative partnerships. Some examples there are finance and infrastructure issues to higher education, we believe, and there's issues of cost as we've heard several times this morning. So by January, starting in October and going to January we've come up with here are four challenges for Illinois Higher Education.

Our conversation then in January shifted to what does this all mean for Western Illinois University? And what the committee came up with is three primary issues that we as an institution long term to ensure our sustainability and viability need to address: quality, opportunity and affordability is what they came up with. And to me that really says what a strong strategic plan we have. Your strategic plan that you approved for this institution says we will be national leaders in these three areas. So as a committee, I'm going to tell you our conclusions and I'm going to go through the data that got us to our conclusion. We believe that we will continue doing exactly what we do. It might be different in how we do it, but we're an academic institution, our job is to get people graduated so they can get jobs or go on to graduate school. However, we can't be complacent. So out of the myriad of data that we've been presented with, we've collapsed it into we feel that there are really four areas that are either challenges or opportunities. The committee feels they're challenges if you take President Thomas' three kinds of people. The people who watch things happen. These challenges are going to eat them up. If you're on the top of President Thomas' list and you're somebody who makes things happen, you look at the data and transform any challenge into an opportunity for advancement. So we're going to present you the data, and then in the coming months we'll present you opportunity recommendations to advance this great institution. As I said in the graduate center report earlier today, the number of Illinois high school graduates has gone down. That's a challenge, the opportunity we've seen and you discussed two board meetings ago was when Dr. Biller and Dr. Borst repositioned our admissions counselors to where the population is and where the density in the number of hits for Western Illinois. So instead of saying we're just going to be upset by the number of high school graduates going down, we're aggressively recruiting to where we yield the most. As you heard earlier this morning, there is growth in Iowa high school graduates and actually the Quad Cities campus has grown Iowa enrollment as we now recruit beyond Des Moines and up north.

There is issues of cost, and we'll talk a lot about costs and you can see the dark green or the darker color is what the state gives the institution annually. The white is what students and their families pay to come to Western Illinois University. For all public universities, the story is the same. The State is giving less, the students are paying more. In the case of Western Illinois University back in FY06 when I picked this just because I started it in FY06 so I wanted to see what the change had been, you can see three-fifths of our institutional budget was given to us by the state, today two-fifths. So with annual changes in funding is another thing we talked about, and the top bar is how Macomb tuition and fees have gone up, the darker yellow. The brighter yellow is Quad Cities tuition and fees. The campuses aren't quite identically because Quad Cities has a lower fee base because we don't have as many services. We don't have an athletic program for example, so there's some changes there. But the key thing to note is Western Illinois University has not received a state-appropriation increase since FY10, and the last three probably four years from what we heard today that trend will continue. So, it's really easy this is probably editorial, but it's one of the common conversations we've been having in the committee. It seems to be really easy for the state to reduce higher education funding as legislators transition in and out and as you look over the last 15 years, 2% reduction this year, level this year, decrease of 4% a few years ago. When you add that all up over the last 15 years, our state appropriations have declined for Illinois public universities by 25%. Conversely, let's look at the percent increase in the investment in SURS, State University Retirement System.

We've been looking at issues of price sensitivity and elasticity and asking how will that affect enrollment of Western Illinois University in the future, and the conclusion we came to is much like the conclusion you saw earlier. We have to entice students. There has to be value for students to make the investment in a Western Illinois University education. There is increasing competition for students. This is the Macomb applications, and this is great news. So all the times you hear Brad talking about the marketing effort or Gary talking about marketing and admissions efforts, you can see over the last five years for the Macomb campus we now get over 15,000 applications from new freshman, new transfers, new graduate students. But students are shopping more and the competition for students is becoming increasingly challenging. You can see just 40 years ago, 44% of students who were accepted to the Macomb campus enrolled in the Macomb campus. It's decreased a little bit to almost 38%, so doing new items of innovation the committee's talked about like the Western Commitment Scholarship. We should see that line increase. The same trend exists for the Quad Cities, applications are up which means we're getting the word out there. We're doing a little bit better. We had a one-year decline. It was really an anomaly. A one-year anomaly of a really high acceptance to enrollment rate at 77%, but for the last three years it's held constant at two-thirds.

Again, this is one of the discussion items that's been either people really agree or really don't agree, but the data presented to us shows that the for-profit institutions have grown historically. Right now there's litigation against several for profit institutions. There's accreditation issues faced with the for-profits so it might be a blip in time that we had this severe competition. Time will tell the story. All we know is history said there was a period of growth. Interesting, I heard this on WBBM, I guess Bill Epperly and I listen to the same radio station, but Walgreens formed a university because they were unhappy with the training that their corporate employees had formed. Again, there'll probably be accreditation issues, but it is an observation that is out there. In a ten-year study, the New York Times showed that nationally public enrollment, public university enrollment has grown by 25% whereas for-profit enrollment has really increased over the last ten years. So the question the committee asks itself is how does this relate to Illinois higher education, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education publishes enrollment by public and private so that's what we could look at. Over the last decade public university enrollment has held constant whereas private enrollment has really increased. We've had many conversations in committee and in these board meetings about the University needs to be more agile and act like a private institution. So one area might be in looking at how they grow.

Community college partnerships is something the committee has been talking about as a great opportunity for Western. We're very community college friendly. Your President Thomas this morning talked about reverse transfer agreements, dual enrollment agreements. You can see nationally the percent of community college enrollments compared to four-year institution enrollments. In the State of Illinois, the percent of students starting at a community college is actually much greater, so the partnerships the committee believes that we have with community colleges only needs to get stronger.

So we keep coming back in different meetings to the same conclusion: we've got to instill the value of a Western Illinois University education.

So then after we left the data and we just looked at data, we started asking ourselves how can we strategically think for WIU? And this is where we spent February and March. We do have some recommendations. I'm going to gloss over them right now because as I said we're very early in the process, and we need to get lots of input. But we've set a framework that I think is really important and shows how we're taking this data and positively positioning the institution. Any recommendation will have to stand the test of four principles.

First, we believe very strongly that this is a strong institution that has signature components of its educational experience. What we mean there is our strengths, our signature components, according to the committee, is we are committed to internationalizing the curriculum. You can see the others: active and engaged learning, using technology, and engaging in capstone experiences. This institution, more than any, has a long history of innovation. You can see the examples we cite as a committee. Whether it being establishing the first and largest extension program in the State of Illinois and one of the first and largest in the nation or our truth in tuition legislation or dual enrollment, we know how to innovate at Western when we get the call to action. The call to action is now. We know we have to distinguish ourselves, and we know that our strengths, our signature programs, our outstanding educational offerings and support mechanisms can make us distinguished. We will distinguish ourselves. That will lead people to wanting to increase enrollment and participation in Western Illinois University. It is our social responsibility to engage our committee feels in these discussions. They're hard sometimes. They're difficult sometimes, but that shows the committee is doing its due diligence to ask ourselves the really tough questions to a very difficult charge. So hopefully Trustee Ehlert Fuller this distilled the data you wanted us to do because you might recall you all, Board members you got a very big packet of data from the IBHE presentation and hopefully in summary what you can see is the committee committed to taking these where there are challenges and translating them into opportunity. We can grow enrollment. We can grow revenue at this institution. We are strong. We are innovators. We will make it happen. In the coming weeks and months you'll see recommendations to that end, and again they are just that recommendations cause our charge was to give them to President Thomas who then would bring them to you. So with that I'll yield for any questions.

Trustee Ehlert Fuller said Joe, this is Carolyn. I very much appreciate that report. You have done a splendid job of studying and providing commentary on some of the over-information that we heard from the Illinois Department of Education, and as always bringing thinkers to the table from a broad section of people who are affected by and involved with Western is such an effective tool. So again, I appreciate all the work you and they have done and look forward to your continuing information from the group. Thanks much. VP Rives said thank you. Thank you very much.

Trustee Clawson said Joe, I had a question. That 2% and 46%, was that Illinois or was that national? VP Rives said Illinois. Trustee Clawson said hold on, that's scarier.

Chair Epperly said two questions, and these are I guess detailed things. Your one update that was sent to us and that the committee worked on on February 28<sup>th</sup> mentioned in it you have to evaluate the

appropriateness of differential tuition either by campus or different majors which I think should strongly be looked at. I've asked that question for several years. Why is the Quad Cities, and I'm not saying it should or shouldn't be, but to me is it justifiable? Is it data driven and etc.? And I don't know of anything, at June we set the tuition, fees, and so forth. I don't know if there's any recommendation that your committee can come back to me in that short of time or not but to me it's food for thought. And I always laugh, we use the word entrepreneurial. That's a buzz word. I call it a buzz word, but to me the biggest advantage of an entrepreneur is speed. And so if you want to be entrepreneurial, we got to be fast and so forth. So food for thought if that can be done by June, etc. with valid reasoning I don't know, but I think its something that should be strongly looked at and brought back to the Board as soon as possible. And plus part of it to me always in the situation we're in from a state standpoint, we've got to do anything that we can to maximize revenue streams from that standpoint while being fair about it. VP Rives said we're really being strategic thinkers when we think about differential tuition by campus. I'm not even sure to be quite honest if its allowed by the Higher Learning Commission, because you might have a Codec, a two-way audio/video course where a student in Macomb is paying X dollars and a student in the Quad Cities is paying Y dollars, and the question of inequity. But with that said, we need to do our diligence and find out what is permissible and what is not permissible and respond back to you. I just think I don't know.

Chair Epperly said and second thing, question from that standpoint. Its mentioned in there, I think it's been mentioned several different times and there's page 11 in the Strategic Plan that mentioned implement goes in priorities from the institutional strategic plan for technology and it might not hurt if we can all get a copy of that again, the strategic plan for technology. Just send to us and number one, I don't think either Roger or Yvonne have seen it and it probably wouldn't hurt for us to see it again too. Provost Hawkinson said the update I believe was in last June's board report, and our new Director of University Technology, Stephen Frazier is working on an update of the strategic plan for technology. So, we'll get that to you. Chair Epperly asked when will that be done? Provost Hawkinson said Stephen? Oh, he's left. That should be done by summer, right Kathy? Kathy Neumann said yes. Chair Epperly said any other questions? Outstanding, thank you Joe.

**Resolution No. 13.3/3: Release of December 14, 2012 and January 15, 2013 Executive Session**

**Meeting Minutes**

Chair Epperly Moved to approve Resolution No. 13.3/3: Release of December 14, 2012 and January 15, 2013 Executive Session Meeting Minutes. Trustee Early seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes
Trustee Cole	Yes
Trustee Early	Yes
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes (VIA TELECONFERENCE)
Trustee Epperly	Yes
Trustee Savala	Yes
Trustee Taylor	Yes

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**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 executive session minutes of December 14, 2012, and January 15, 2013, to determine whether the need for confidentiality still exists with respect to all or part of the minutes:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University approves for public disclosure at this time the following executive session minutes: December 14, 2012 and January 15, 2013.

**Resolution No. 13.3/4: Calendar Year 2014 Board Meeting Schedule**

Chair Epperly moved to approve Resolution 13.3/4: Calendar Year 2014 Board Meeting Schedule. Trustee Clawson seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes
Trustee Cole	Yes
Trustee Early	Yes
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes (VIA TELECONFERENCE)
Trustee Epperly	Yes
Trustee Savala	Yes
Trustee Taylor	Yes

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University is subject to the requirements of Section 35-25 of Senate Bill 241 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 16, 2013 about the 2014 proposed meeting schedule:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the following meeting dates for calendar year 2014:

March 28, 2014 (Friday) – WIU, Macomb

June 6, 2014 (Friday) – WIU, Quad Cities Riverfront

October 3, 2014 (Friday), WIU, Macomb

December 19, 2014 (Friday), WIU, Macomb

The 2014 Board Retreat date and location will be determined by the Board at their 2013 Retreat

**Resolution No. 13.3/5: Revision to Board Regulations, V.B., Purchases: Approval and Reports – First Reading**

Chair Epperly said Resolution No. 13.3/5: Revision to Board *Regulations* in regards to purchases. This is a, I call it, a Board regulation change just if I understand it properly just for Roger and Yvonne that this is intentionally a two-step process. So basically this is brought to us today, if we approve this that doesn't put it in effect we have to vote on it again at the next meeting to put it in effect. So it's a two meeting, I call it a two meeting process here. Kerry McBride said if I could add too. In the interim, between the meetings our office will solicit online and on the bulletin boards information, comments from the



community, and those will be shared with you in anticipation of the second reading if you choose to go to a second reading.

Chair Epperly said Julie, do you want just to give a synopsis of that, what that resolution is? VP DeWees said yes. Currently, we require presidential approval of any purchases over \$100,000. They require president's approval. We are just going to change that so anything over \$250,000. This is consistent with the Illinois State Finance Act. Sometimes a lot of laws change and we don't get our Board Regs updated in a timely fashion so we're trying to keep abreast of all that. That's it. It's just housekeeping. We will still provide you information of any purchases between \$100,000-\$500,000 just to keep you informed. I would kind of like to be able to send those out to you on a quarterly basis, so that you have them instead of a couple months later but we can work on that. Chair Epperly said any other questions, comments?

Chair Epperly moved to approve Resolution 13.3/5: Revision to Board *Regulations*, V.B., Purchases: Approval and Reports – First Reading. 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 Savala	Yes
Trustee Taylor	Yes

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

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

**WHEREAS** the Illinois State Finance Act (30 ILCS 105/9.02) requires approval by the President for purchases of \$250,000 or more:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approve revisions to Section V.B. Purchases.

**V. Administrative Affairs (continued)**

**B. Purchases**

Purchases consist of contracts, purchase orders, or other agreements (collectively referred to in this Subsection B. as "contracts") for the receipt of services or the acquisition of real or personal property which obligate financial resources of the Board. The financial resources of the Board include all funds received by or belonging to the Board or the University, including income received and retained in accordance with 30 Illinois Compiled Statutes 105/6a-2. All purchasing transactions shall be conducted in accordance with applicable state and federal statutes and regulations and applicable regulations adopted by the Board.

**1. Approval**

Approval of purchases shall be obtained, prior to the obligation of financial resources of the Board, as follows:

- a. All transactions and purchases (excluding real property) of \$500,000 or more (except as specified in paragraph d. below) shall require approval by the Board. All transactions involving real property of \$250,000 or more shall require approval by the Board. When real property is acquired, the President or his designee shall make a report to the Board which shall include a needs assessment, appraisal by a professional certified appraiser, intended use of the property, physical and structural review of the property, and legal review of the proposed transaction.
- b. Except as specified in paragraph d. below, purchases by the University of at least ~~\$100,000~~ **\$250,000** but less than \$500,000 shall require approval by the President.
- c. Authority for approval of purchases other than those referred to in paragraph a. above is delegated to the President for the Board.
- d. Approval by the Board under paragraph a. above is not required for the following purchases: natural gas, utility services, fire protection, library books and periodicals, textbooks, food products (including livestock feed), entertainment services paid for with student fees and/or ticket sales receipts, resale items, postal charges, athletic team travel, memberships and dues, student activity group travel, contracts bid through Central Management Services or other government agencies, and approved items bid through the Illinois Public Higher Education Cooperative.

## **2. Reports**

At each regular meeting of the Board, the President for the Board shall present a report on purchases of at least ~~\$100,000~~ **\$250,000** but less than \$500,000 (other than purchases listed in paragraph 1.d. above) made since the preceding regular Board meeting. Such reports shall be prepared in accordance with guidelines issued by the Board.

## **V. Administrative Affairs (continued)**

### **B. Purchases (continued)**

#### **3. Contract Preparation and Signature**

- a. The Board of Trustees, constituted as body corporate and politic, is the contracting entity for all contracts involving the Board and the University. All such contracts shall bear the name of the Board and, as appropriate, shall also include the name of the University as follows: "Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University."
- b. All contracts which an authorized employee believes may raise legal issues shall be submitted to the President or his designee for approval as to legal form before they are signed.
- c. Contracts in the name of the Board alone shall be signed by the Chairperson and Secretary of the Board or, where appropriate, by university officials authorized to sign such instruments in the names of the Chairperson and Secretary.
- d. The President or his/her designee is authorized to sign all contracts for the University.

#### **4. Letters of Intent**

A letter of intent (or similar document) may be signed by the President or his/her designee for the University when in their judgment a letter of intent is necessary to ensure receipt of an advantageous price or delivery date for goods or services and approval of the purchase by the Board as required by paragraph 1 cannot be timely obtained. Such letters of intent shall provide that the purchase may be terminated without any cost, liability, or obligation if approval of the Board as required by paragraph 1 above is not obtained by a specified date and shall contain such other conditions as may be considered appropriate by the person signing the letter of intent.

#### **5. Internal Management Guidelines**

The President, in consultation with the Vice Presidents, shall develop internal management guidelines concerning purchases, which shall include the following provisions and such other provisions as are necessary and appropriate.

- a. Provisions intended to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of all persons who provide goods or services to the Board.
- b. Provisions intended to foster competitive bidding and economical procurement to the greatest extent possible.
- c. Provisions intended to encourage the economical utilization and replacement of vehicles.

The guidelines and any changes shall become effective when approved by the Board.

### **V. Administrative Affairs (continued)**

#### **B. Purchases (continued)**

##### **6. Change Orders**

- a. The President or his/her designee is authorized to approve and sign change orders for the University.
- b. A change order or series of change orders which authorizes or necessitates an increase or decrease in either the cost of a contract by a total of \$10,000 or more or the time of completion by a total of 30 days or more shall not be approved unless it is first determined in writing by the President or his/her designee that the circumstances necessitating the change were not reasonably foreseeable at the time the contract was signed, the change is germane to the original contract as signed, or the change order or series of change orders is in the best interest of the University, and is authorized by law. Such written determination and the written change order resulting from that determination shall be preserved in the contract's permanent file which shall be open to the public for inspection.
- c. In accordance with Section I. C. 1. of these Regulations, the President or his/her designee shall further delegate the authority granted to them in the preceding paragraphs so that the same individual does not both approve a change order under paragraph a. and make a determination in writing that the change order is justified under paragraph b.

- d. In addition to the above, all change orders must be issued in accordance with the provision of the Illinois Procurement Code (30 Illinois Compiled Statutes 500/et seq.).
- e. Prior approval by the President or his/her designee shall be required for each change order which results in a contract amount of less than \$500,000, if the change order (1) increases a contract to ~~\$100,000~~ **\$250,000** or more, (2) exceeds a contingency previously approved by the President (or designee), (3) or increases a contract previously approved by the President (or designee) without a contingency.
- f. Prior Board approval shall be required for each change order which (1) increases a contract to \$500,000 or more, (2) exceeds a contingency previously approved by the Board, or (3) increases a contract previously approved by the Board without a contingency

Kerry McBride stated and this will come back then at your meeting in June. Chair Epperly said June, right.

**Resolution No. 13.3/6: Revision to Board Regulations II.B.12.j., Benefits for Coaches – First Reading**

Chair Epperly said the second revision to Board *Regulations*, Resolution No. 13.3/7, and that’s corrected from what actually was in the booklet because Julie you want to explain it? Kerry McBride stated it’s actually 13.3/6. Chair Epperly said oh, 13.3/6. Cathy Early said that would be Gary Biller. Kerry McBride said its Benefits for Coaches. Chair Epperly said oh, I’m sorry. Yes, I’m sorry. Excuse me, I’m one ahead of time here.

VP Biller said this is a change in the Board of Trustee Regulations regarding temporary employees, coaches as temporary employees. It basically brings coaches back in line with other one-year temporary employment employees in that they will accrue 24 vacation days a year rather than 48. The intent of the resolution also is to allow the administration of those vacation days so that they will, we will encourage them to use those during the year while they are accrued. However, the reason you received the revision was that in the original draft we had that they would not receive a lump sum payment for unused vacation. We clearly can’t do that. If they do have unused vacation days as a benefit they are earned they are entitled to carry that over and use that, so we’ve made that correction in the revision that is being passed out.

Chair Epperly moved to approve Resolution 13.3/6: Revision to Board Regulations II.B.12.j., Benefits for Coaches – First Reading. Trustee Early seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes
Trustee Cole	Yes
Trustee Early	Yes
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes (VIA TELECONFERENCE)
Trustee Epperly	Yes
Trustee Savala	Yes
Trustee Taylor	Yes

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

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

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University coaches are appointed as temporary employees; and,

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University wishes to require temporary coaches to utilize accumulated vacation leave within the year it is accrued:

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees approves First Reading of the revision to the *Regulations* Section II.B.12.j. – Benefits for Coaches.

## **II. Employees (continued)**

### **B. Faculty and Administrative Employees (continued)**

#### **12. Employee Benefits (continued)**

##### **j. Benefits for Coaches (Approved March 26, 2010)**

The following provisions shall apply only to coaches, who for the purposes of this subsection are defined as temporary administrative employees appointed for terms pursuant to written contract, or in the event of no written contract to terms of not longer than twelve months, and more than half of whose assignment is coaching intercollegiate athletics.

(1) Notwithstanding any of the other benefits provisions of these Regulations, coaches may be given an appointment which entitles them to the employee benefits described in Section II.A.9. and Section II.B.12. above, (subject to the requirements thereof concerning application and eligibility), but with the following benefits:

(a) Coaches appointed hereunder shall be entitled to cumulative vacation leave which shall be earned at the rate of two days per month for each month in the term of appointment. Vacation leave may be accrued up to a maximum of ~~48-24~~ days. [An employee who accrues the maximum will earn no further vacation leave until the employee's use of vacation leave reduces the accrual below the maximum.] Upon termination of employment, ~~and provided that the employee is not re-employed at the same place of employment within 30 calendar days,~~ he/she shall **not** receive a ~~lump sum~~ payment for unused vacation leave at the end of his/her term.

(b) Coaches appointed hereunder shall be entitled to cumulative sick leave of 1.5 days per month of appointment. The employee may accrue cumulative sick leave up to a maximum of 360 work days and may use accumulated sick leave only when the employee is prevented from performing assigned duties because of illness, injury, or temporary disabilities. The employee may use up to twelve (12) days of earned sick leave per calendar year for absences resulting from the illness or injury of a parent, spouse, domestic partner, or child. Upon approval of the President, or the President's designee, an employee may use additional accrued sick leave for such absences. [Employees covered by a collective bargaining

agreement with different sick leave benefits will receive those benefits according to their agreement.] Deductions of sick leave shall not be made during any Board approved holiday. No lump sum payment shall be made for cumulative sick leave earned after January 1, 1998. No more than five days of sick leave shall be deducted in any one calendar week.

**Resolution No. 13.3/7: Revision to Board Regulations, II.B.12.c.5. and II.C.7.d.4., Employee Benefits Sick Leave – First Reading**

Chair Epperly said Julie, now would you update us please. VP DeWees said the external auditors revealed something through our audit and that will be also in the audit that we were not taking away employees sick time based on what was stated in the Board of Trustees Regs, and there are basically three I'll call them three pots of sick leave. There's pre-1984 sick leave which is unpaid. There is post-1998 which is unpaid, and in the middle the second pot of sick leave is paid. So, according to a memo from the executive director of the Board of Governors he instructed us that employees would have their sick leave taken away based on if it was paid or unpaid, so they take away our unpaid first and what it said in the Board Reg is that it will be used in the order, or it will be taken away in the order in which it's accrued. Well the reason why it says that is because we haven't updated our BOT Regs since the Board of Governors days. So we had a memo in the faculty contracts they're all updated, so we're just getting, we're being consistent. Chair Epperly joked clear as mud? VP DeWees said clear as mud.

Chair Epperly said I guess just to make sure I understand this. We're clarifying wording, we're not taking away any benefits? VP DeWees said we're not changing anything what we've done based on the memo or past practice. Nothing's changing, we're just updating the Board of Trustees Regs to show what we actually do, because when the auditors came in and examined how we, this BOT Reg, they found that we weren't doing that.

Trustee Cole said so we still going to have the two different sections? VP DeWees said yes. Kerry McBride said that's a state thing. VP DeWees said it is a state thing, that's a state. Trustee Cole said so I guess it's based on people's hire date? VP DeWees said yes. Trustee Cole said I got to understand. VP DeWees said yes.

Chair Epperly moved to approve Resolution 13.3/7: Revision to Board Regulations, II.B.12.c.5. and II.C.7.d.4., Employee Benefits Sick Leave – First Reading. 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 Savala	Yes
Trustee Taylor	Yes

**Motion Carried.**

**Resolution:**

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

**WHEREAS** an external audit identified current university policy that is inconsistent with Board regulations; and,

**THEREFORE** be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approve revisions to Section II.B.12.c.5 and II.C.7.d.4.

**II. Employees (continued)**

**B. Faculty and Administrative Employees (continued)**

**12. Employee Benefits (continued)**

**c. Sick Leave (continued)**

receive those benefits according to their agreement

- (4) Deductions of sick leave shall not be made during any Board approved holiday. One day of sick leave shall be deducted for each day an employee is absent because of injury or illness.

No more than five days of sick leave shall be deducted in any one calendar week.

- (5) (a) Upon termination of employment, and provided the employee is not reemployed at the same place of employment within 30 calendar days, an employee, or such employee's estate, shall be entitled to a lump sum payment for accrued sick leave earned after December 31, 1983 *and prior to January 1, 1998*. The lump sum payment for accrued sick leave shall be computed as the product of the employee's daily rate of compensation and one-half of the lesser of the following: (i) the number of days, or fractions thereof, of cumulative sick leave earned by the employee, in accordance with paragraph (2) above, minus any days, or fractions thereof, of cumulative sick leave used by the employee; or (ii) the number of days, or fractions thereof, of cumulative sick leave earned by the employee in accordance with paragraph (2) above after December 31, 1983 and prior to January 1, 1998. Non-cumulative sick leave days shall be used first, and cumulative sick leave days shall be used in the ~~order in which they have been accrued~~ *following order: pre-January 1, 1984; post-December 31, 1997; January 1, 1984 through December 31, 1997*. No lump sum payment shall be made for noncumulative sick leave.

- (b) An employee may waive payment for all or part of his/her eligible accrued sick leave (one-half of the employee's accumulated and unused sick leave earned after December 31, 1983 and prior to January 1, 1998) by executing an appropriate waiver form prior to termination of employment.

- (c) An employee who has received a lump sum payment for accrued sick leave and who, within two years, is reemployed by the Board may, if separated in good standing, have his or her accrued sick leave restored if, within 30 days after commencement of such reemployment, the employee repays said lump sum payment to the Board for the benefit of the location at which accrued sick leave is restored. For each day of sick leave to be restored, the employee shall repay the gross amount he or she was paid for one day of accrued sick leave. An employee may have part or all of his or her accrued sick leave restored in this manner; however, if the employee does not make any such repayment to the

Board, he or she shall not be entitled to have any such sick leave so restored.

- (6) The Board, through its authorized representatives, reserves the right to require acceptable evidence of illness or disability with respect to the use of sick leave.

**Employees (continued)**

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

**7. Employee Benefits (continued)**

**d. Sick Leave (continued)**

- (4) (a) Upon termination of employment at the University and provided the employee is not reemployed at the same place of employment within 30 calendar days, an employee, or such employee's estate, shall be entitled to a lump sum payment for accrued sick leave earned on or after January 1, 1984 and prior to January 1, 1998.
- (b) The lump sum payment for accrued sick leave shall be computed as the product of the employee's daily rate of compensation and one-half of the lesser of the following: (i) the number of days, or fractions thereof, of sick leave earned by the employee, in accordance with paragraph (1) above, minus any days, or fractions thereof, of sick leave used by the employee; or (ii) the number of days, or fractions thereof, of sick leave earned by the employee in accordance with paragraph (1) above after December 31, 1983 and prior to January 1, 1998. ~~Sick leave days shall be used in the order in which they have been accrued.~~ ***Accrued sick leave days shall be used in the following order: pre-January 1, 1984; post-December 31, 1997; January 1, 1984 through December 31, 1997.***
- (c) An employee may waive payment for all or part of his/her eligible accrued sick leave (one-half of the employee's accumulated and unused sick leave earned after December 31, 1983 and prior to January 1, 1998) by executing an appropriate waiver form prior to termination of employment.
- (d) An employee who has received a lump sum payment for accrued sick leave from an employer covered by the State Universities Civil Service System and who, within two years, is employed or reemployed by the Board may, if separated in good standing, have his or her accrued sick leave restored if, within 30 days after commencement of such employment or reemployment, the employee pays said lump sum payment to the Board for the benefit of the location at which accrued sick leave is restored. For each day of sick leave to be restored, the employee shall repay the gross amount he or she was paid for one day of accrued leave. An employee may have part or all of his or her accrued sick leave restored in this manner; however, if the employee does not make any such payment to the Board, he or she shall not be entitled to have any such sick leave so restored.
- (5) An employee may use accumulated sick leave only when the employee is prevented from performing assigned duties because of illness, injury, or temporary disabilities caused or contributed to by pregnancy, or is obtaining medical or dental consultation or treatment, or for special circumstances stipulated under the Bereavement Leave



provision of these Regulations. An employee may use up to twelve (12) days of earned sick leave per calendar year for absences resulting from the illness or injury of a parent, spouse, domestic partner, or child. The use of sick leave for familial purposes in excess of the twelve-day limit may be granted by the employer representative upon evidence of need and recommendation of the supervisor.

Kerry McBride said those will all come back in June. Chair Epperly said I was just going to say both those things will come back in June or three of them I guess will come back in June. Input will be solicited, so hopefully anybody if there's any comments about any of the three we'll have before the next meeting, etc. And there has been history where we've approved it on one meeting and at the next meeting did not approve something, so there is it's still, the final vote is in June. Kerry McBride said you're only voting to take the process to the next step. It will be at the next meeting that you decide if you're going to move forward with this.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Chair Epperly said I do have one thing. I actually received a I guess you'd call it a complaint. I call it a complaint, it's a gift. But anyway, I received a comment that, and I didn't even look at the website that one or more Board members do not have contact information on their website. This was mentioned at the last meeting or I shouldn't say last meeting. I mentioned that several meetings ago that that was one of the recommendations of the Penn State board from that standpoint.

Chair Epperly said did I miss something? President Thomas said we need to do the Michael Houston thing, regardless of him not being here, we need to read. Kerry McBride said we voted on it, but we didn't read it. Chair Epperly said oh, we have to read it? Kerry McBride said well, we should. Chair Epperly said oh, ok.

Chair Epperly continued but anyway, I'll come back to that then, so very simply and I mentioned this in a meeting a number of months ago, one of the recommendations that came back to the Penn State Board of Trustees after everything there was that they did not have contact information listed on their website for all Trustees, and they felt that they should.... So, we're going to proceed in putting contact information on the website for all Board of Trustee members that doesn't have it, period. So, if you don't have your information and you have a real hang up with that, let me know, but otherwise we'll be moving in that direction. Kerry McBride said specifically an email. Some of you have email and maybe an address, but at least having an email for contact would be very much appreciated if you agree to do so.

Chair Epperly said then the Trustee appreciation. Do we have to read that? Kerry McBride said well, we voted on it earlier but given Mike Houston's long tenure of service, even though he is not here today, I think it would be fabulous to recognize the work that he did. Chair Epperly said Cathy, would you like to read that one? Trustee Early said you bet.

Trustee Early read Resolution No. 13.3/9: Trustee Appreciation – J. Michael Houston verbatim. Chair Epperly said thank you Cathy, and we'd voted on that earlier. Kerry McBride said we voted on both at the same time. Chair Epperly said yes, we voted on both.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Epperly said new business, there's two items under new business. One, there's a Resolution 13.3/10. This was actually brought to us here in the last yesterday was the first time I saw it I guess you'd

say. I'll try to explain it a little bit, and then Julie, jump in wherever I am off base here. We were contacted by the McDonough County Power Company, if I got the wording right there, co-op, and as many of you probably know the Wigwam Road bridge is going to be replaced. I think they're going to work on it, replace it this summer. If you're familiar there on the north side of Lamoine River on the east side of Wigwam Road, there's a substation there. They have to move that substation in order for the new road and bridge that is being put in through there. They contacted the University about purchasing it, buying it, whatever. And so in the process, we went out and had obtained some appraisals. In the process, I think they were talking, I call it, discussing all the pluses and minuses. We no longer have the Lamoine Village properties back in there, residence halls. So very simply, in my mind, very simply, they take the substation, move it over to the east and buy a piece of property from us. The appraised value is \$40,000. We're looking at that and talking with them from that standpoint. The resolution basically says that whereas it is in the best interest of Western Illinois University to sell said property or trade said property for a partial of equal or greater value, which will serve the needs of Western Illinois University, and whereas Western Illinois University has received an offer to purchase said property at the appraised price from the McDonough Power Cooperative, and whereas Western Illinois University has received an offer to purchase said property at the appraised price from the McDonough Power Cooperative, and whereas it is in the best interest of Western Illinois University to sell said property or to trade said property with the McDonough Power Cooperative. Therefore, it is hereby resolved for the Board of Trustees to proceed that the Chairman of the Board of Trustees is authorized to take the necessary steps to sell said property or trade property of equivalent value to the McDonough Power Cooperative. And be it further resolved the Chairman of the Board of Trustees is authorized to execute whatever documents are necessary for said transaction on it. We're looking at that. I guess Q & A, what have I missed Julie? My understanding is that we looked at it from a standpoint of value of that property. There's not a lot of use for it for us, I hate to almost say it, but it's almost swamp land. So there's not a lot of use there, and the other thing is from an administrative services standpoint - and I assume Scott Coker standpoint - we don't have to mow that property anymore, so probably actually some reduced cost. The question is do we work out something from a trade if there is such a thing or do we just take the cash on it, so those are the things that we have to look at here in what I call the very near future. Any questions? President Thomas said if we take the cash, it goes into the State. Chair Epperly said and one clarification, and this is just so I guess you understand why we even talking trade. If we take the cash, we have to send it to the State, then it would take a state act to give us the money back. Whereas legally we can trade the property without, etc, if that's even feasible. We don't know if that's even feasible or not. That's what we're going to be looking at in the short term there on it. So, questions, comments?

Trustee Cole said prior to approval, can we amend this resolution that to state the Chairman of the Board of Trustees is authorized to take the necessary steps to trade. Say just trade and take the sale out, or does it require that we maintain that in there. Chair Epperly said number one, I would assume we can do whatever we want to from the standpoint of the resolution. Did I understand you right, take the sale out and just say trade? Trustee Cole said just concentrate on sale, because the State owes us how much, \$42M? Why would we want to give them \$40,000 of that? Let's just trade the property. Chair Epperly said my only comment there would be, and that would be the hope yes. My thought would be that that's the hope that we're going to work something out there, but if we cannot find something that's tradable, that we want, then what do we do? At least we've got that option and then we'll have to worry about trying to get the \$40,000 there on it. If that makes sense. I think the desire is to trade it if at all possible there on it. I think I'm safe in saying that. President Thomas said our goal is to trade it. However, I think we need the flexibility to sell and then try to seek the funding back from the State if we can, but I think we need the flexibility. Trustee Cole said ok, I'll rescind my recommendation to amend it. Chair Epperly said any other questions, comments?

Chair Epperly moved to approve Resolution 13.3/10: Resolution Authorizing the Sale and/or Transfer of Real Estate. Trustee Clawson seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes
Trustee Cole	Yes
Trustee Early	Yes
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes (VIA TELECONFERENCE)
Trustee Epperly	Yes
Trustee Savala	Yes
Trustee Taylor	Yes

Motion Carried.

**Resolution:**

**WHEREAS** the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University has determined that the property here and after described is no longer necessary for the purposes of the university; and,

**WHEREAS** said property has been appraised, and a copy of said appraisal and the review appraisal certification are attached hereto as exhibit A; and,

**WHEREAS** it is in the best interest of Western Illinois to sell said property or trade said property for a parcel of equal or greater value which will serve the needs of Western Illinois University; and,

**WHEREAS** Western Illinois University has received an offer to purchase said property at the appraised price from the McDonough Power Cooperative; and,

**WHEREAS** it is in the best interest of Western Illinois University to sell said property to or trade said property with the McDonough Power Cooperative; and,

**THEREFORE** it is hereby resolved by the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University that the Chairman of the Board of Trustees is authorized to take the necessary steps to sell said property or trade property of equivalent value to the McDonough Power Cooperative, and be it further resolved the Chairman of the Board of Trustees is authorized to execute whatever documents are necessary to effectuate said transaction.

Chair Epperly said one final thing, new business. Again, we open with the most important thing so I guess we close with the most important thing. I want to thank, congratulate Kerry again, and a little token from the Board of Trustees, and from our also from Matt, but congratulations again. Yes, and you get a bag of popcorn too. Give her a thank you. Thank you President Thomas. There you go, each of you get a bag of popcorn. That's something from us there on it. Kerry McBride said thank you. Thank you very much.

Chair Epperly said any other new business?

## **NEXT MEETING**

Our next meeting will be June 7, 2013, at the Quad Cities Riverfront Campus in Moline.

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 12:33 P.M.

William L. Epperly, Chair

Kerry L. McBride, Administrative Assistant to the Board

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