

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Regular Meeting, 24 January 2017, 4:00 p.m.
Capitol Rooms - University Union

A C T I O N M I N U T E S

SENATORS PRESENT: M. Allison, V. Boynton, J. Brown, G. Delany-Barmann, D. Halverson (via teleconference), R. Hironimus-Wendt, K. Kapale, C. Keist, B. Locke, S. Macchi, H. McIlvaine-Newsad, J. McNabb, K. Pawelko, J. Plos, C. Pynes, T. Roberts, T. Sadler, M. Sajewski, D. Sandage, S. Szyjka, C. Tarrant
Ex-officio: Nancy Parsons, Associate Provost; Janna Deitz, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: D. DeVolder, N. Lino

GUESTS: David Banash, Keith Boeckelman, Katrina Daytner, Anita Hardeman, Angela Lynn, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Kyle Mayborn, Seth Miner, Darcy Plymire, Dovile Svirupskaite, Ron Williams

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. 29 November 2016

MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Approvals from the Provost

1. Requests for New Courses
 - a) NUTR 410, Medical Nutrition Therapy II, 3 s.h.
 - b) RPTA 476, Special Topics, 3 s.h., repeatable for different topics to 9 s.h.
2. Request for New Minor
 - a) Cyber Security
3. Request for Change of Minor
 - a) Industrial Technology
4. Requests for Changes of Majors
 - a) Dietetics
 - b) Hospitality Management
 - c) Nutrition and Foodservice Management

B. Provost's Report

Associate Provost Parsons told senators that Interim Provost Neumann could not be present due to attending contract negotiations.

Associate Provost Parsons announced the following upcoming events:

- Restricted schedule changes and registration by permission continues through Monday, January 30.
- The Student Activities Fair will be held tomorrow (January 25) from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the Union Grand Ballroom.

- The “Pay It Forward” blood drive will be held tomorrow from 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Union Heritage Room.
- Women’s basketball versus IUPUI will be held tomorrow night at 7:00, and men’s basketball versus IUPUI will be held at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, January 28, both in Western Hall.

Chairperson Pynes asked about spring 2017 preliminary enrollment figures. Registrar Angela Lynn told senators that currently spring enrollment is about 91 percent of fall enrollment. She explained that spring enrollment figures are always less than fall because many students graduate in December and others are suspended or dismissed at the end of fall; those number combine to exceed the number of reentry students for spring. She added that WIU spring figures are pretty consistently 90 to 91 percent of the previous fall enrollments. Dr. Lynn told senators there was concern that WIU would not meet that usual threshold, but she takes it as a good sign that it has already been reached. Dr. Lynn added that if enrollment is down in the fall, it tends to be down a percentage or two lower in the spring, but WIU’s enrollment decrease is the same for spring as it was for fall, which is good. She said there have been many efforts to get students to register and to meet their obligations, and it looks like that has helped the University not to lose any more ground.

Chairperson Pynes asked the Registrar if enrollment was down about 6.5 percent in fall 2016 and is down 9 percent this spring, which is the normal fall to spring decline (according to the Registrar), whether that means it can be assumed the spring 2016 to spring 2017 change will be about 6.5 percent; Dr. Lynn confirmed this is correct. She said this spring’s figures are much better than what is typical for spring semesters, so she is cautiously optimistic. Senator Pawelko asked what the actual numbers are currently. Dr. Lynn replied that currently spring enrolment is 9,431; last year, enrollment was 10,098 as of the tenth day. Official tenth-day figures will be released on Wednesday, February 1.

Senator McNabb noted that in the week leading up to spring classes there was still a lot of registration activity. She asked if that has now slowed down. Dr. Lynn replied there is still going to be movement through Monday, January 30 as students get special permissions to register for classes, especially if they are trying to get their University Housing and Dining Services bills paid off. She added that students will be removed from housing if they do not get registered soon. Yesterday was the last day of regular spring registration, and today is the first day of restricted registrations, but Dr. Lynn predicts that registrations will continue to climb until the tenth day.

Senator Roberts asked if the Registrar has any sense of how Eastern Illinois University and Chicago State are doing with spring enrollments since they seem lately to be “clumped together” with WIU. Dr. Lynn replied that their figures will not be released until after the tenth day of classes. She added that only two institutions (University of Illinois and Illinois State) saw enrollment increases last fall, and overall enrollments were two percent less than the previous year in all state institutions combined. Chairperson Pynes remarked that the University of Illinois has announced it wants to increase its enrollment by 15 percent over the next five years – 7,000 students on the main campus and 15,000 overall. He pointed out that this means WIU is not just competing with its own past enrollments and with peer institutions but also with the University of Illinois because they want to grow. He added that Faculty Senate at some point needs to ask the Director of Admissions to address how WIU plans to respond.

C. Student Government Association (SGA) Report
(Dovile Svirupskaite, SGA President)

SGA holds its first meeting of the semester tonight. The first half of the semester will be spent on an internal review. SGA is looking at its constitution and may add more seats.

Board of Governors Student Representative Wil Gradle is working with Ms. Svirupskaite on revamping the Student Organization Center in the basement of the Union. Ms. Svirupskaite told senators this used to be very full of students and was a place where everyone hung out. She is hoping the changes will make it a more inviting area again.

SGA elections will be held in April. Students will elect a new President, Vice President, Board of Trustees Student Representative, and five Senators At-large. Ms. Svirupskaite asked senators to encourage their students to start thinking about running for seats.

The State of the Student Address will be held on March 29 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sherman Hall Auditorium. Ms. Svirupskaite would like to see as many faculty and administrators as possible in attendance.

D. Other Announcements

Chairperson Pynes thanked Senator Halverson for his service. Senator Halverson has resigned his seat as Quad Cities representative, and today will be his last meeting.

Election notices for vacant seats on Faculty Senate for fall 2017, as well as the immediate vacancy for a Quad Cities representative, were emailed to eligible faculty yesterday. Completed petition forms should be returned to the Senate office by Friday, February 3. Two senators each from the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Education and Human Services, one senator each from the Colleges of Business and Technology and Fine Arts and Communication, and two Senators At-large will be elected to begin serving in fall 2017.

Steve Rock, who represents WIU on the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Faculty Advisory Council, asked Chairperson Pynes to distribute a request from IBHE for interested faculty to attend training sessions next month on assessing military prior learning portfolios. The free training sessions will take place at Illinois State University on February 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A limited number of mileage reimbursements will be available for those traveling more than 50 miles roundtrip. For more information, contact Steve Rock (sm-rock@wiu.edu) or veterans@cael.org.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI)
(Anita Hardeman, Chair)

1. Curricular Requests from the Department of Political Science

a) Requests for New Courses

- (1) POLS 201, Current Events and Politics, 3 s.h.
- (2) POLS 484, Advanced Political Research and Analysis, 3 s.h.

NEW COURSES APPROVED

2. Curricular Requests from the Department of English

a) Request for Change of Major

- (1) English – Teacher Education (Option B)

CHANGE OF MAJOR APPROVED

B. Senate Nominating Committee
(Ginny Boynton, Chair)

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

General Education Review Committee

Senator McNabb asked if the position is just for this semester; Senator Boynton confirmed this is correct. Senator Boynton explained that Dr. Bailey this past fall served on the Council on General Education (CGE) as a replacement for a member on sabbatical so has been attending GERC meetings since it was constituted; it seemed appropriate that she should continue when another members of her college had to step down from GERC due to a class conflict. As there were no further nominations, the nominee was declared elected.

IV. Old Business – None

V. New Business

A. Request for Moratorium on New Requests for Inclusion in General Education

Chairperson Pynes explained that when the Provost requested that a General Education Review Committee (GERC) be established, she told the Executive Committee that it was fine for the Council on General Education to continue to accept new requests for inclusion in Gen Ed. He related that GERC decided they wanted there to be a moratorium on these requests, and this has historically occurred during previous reviews, but there has to this point not been a formal request. GERC has now asked Faculty Senate to approve a moratorium for the current academic year (2016-2017). Senator Boynton asked if GERC would be making its recommendations to the Senate in March; CGE Chair Darcy Plymire responded that they plan to make a report as scheduled.

Dr. Plymire explained that GERC is larger than CGE, being comprised of all CGE members plus additional representatives, so doing CGE business when GERC members are in the room would be inappropriate. She believes the bigger issue, however, is that if GERC is going to review and possibly revise Gen Ed categories, it would not be good to accept course requests until it is known what those changes will be in order to prevent having to turn requests down or change their categories. She said the Committee hopes to move quickly on recommendations.

Associate Provost Parsons told senators departments need to review and revise their assessment plans for General Education and asked if that type of business can take place during the Gen Ed review. She explained assessment must be collected in each section of an approved Gen Ed course, both online and face-to-face, and if departments make changes to their assessment plans or to the process, these alternations must come back to CGE. Senator Hironimus-Wendt asked if there is a reason why the moratorium should not also be extended to assessment plans. Associate Provost Parsons responded that it would not be necessary to extend the moratorium to assessment plans because those plans would still have to be collected. She pointed out that if a department is told that their assessment plan is not working well but they have to stick with it until the Gen Ed review is completed, that would not make sense. Associate Provost Parsons stated that, while she could foresee GERC recommending changes to the assessment component, it will take much longer than March to work on departmental assessment reviews and revisions, and she wonders how that type of business should be conducted at CGE meetings this spring.

Senator Allison, who serves on GERC as a past chair of CGE, told senators that, on a practical level, the changes to assessment proposals would not take much of CGE's time, so the Council could process those pretty quickly with members of GERC present and sitting quietly. She stated that the larger moratorium on new Gen Ed requests makes more sense if GERC is to get anything accomplished by March. Dr. Plymire agreed that the assessment piece is a much briefer discussion item. She stressed that assessment is a different question and believes that the moratorium should be separated out from further discussion about assessment. She would like to see the Senate focus on the moratorium.

Senator Boynton observed that if General Education is being overhauled, there may end up being different goals, and assessment plans may have to be rewritten, so she would think that writing

new plans would have to wait until the curriculum is revised. Associate Provost Parsons stated that assessment is taking place currently, and if a department needs to make a change, then that data needs to be collected now. Senator Boynton reiterated that if Gen Ed goals are changed, everyone must change their assessment plans; Associate Provost Parsons responded that this is correct. Dr. Plymire asked senators to keep in mind that assessment plans are not the purpose of the moratorium.

Senator McNabb asked, if GERC's recommendations are submitted in March, as scheduled, whether a second petition would be necessarily to lift the moratorium so that it would not be artificially extended until the end of the academic year. Chairperson Pynes responded that the Senate could make a motion to lift the moratorium at that time if necessary.

Motion: That Faculty Senate accept CGE's recommendation for a moratorium for requests for inclusion in General Education for the rest of the academic year (Allison/Boynton)

MOTION APPROVED 21 YES – 0 NO – 0 AB

Chairperson Pynes asked if any senators have comments to make “for the good of the order” or regarding the Executive Committee minutes. Senator Allison asked about item #7 in the Executive Committee minutes which references a previous Faculty Senate Constitution review which relied on a subcommittee. She asked if a review committee is necessary before making a change to the Constitution. Chairperson Pynes responded that a review committee is not required; a senator could make a proposal for a Constitutional change, and if it was approved by two-thirds of the total membership of the Senate, then it would go to the entire faculty for consideration.

Chairperson Pynes told senators that he believes the last time the Constitution was changed was 1994. [**Note:** the last time the Constitution was changed was 2004.] He related that when discussing reapportionment during fall 2015, it was noted that college representation is shrinking but the number of at-large senators stays the same, which seems strange. He stated that at that time the Executive Committee discussed looking into how other institutions determine faculty senate membership and has found that Illinois institutions have diverse methods by which they convene their senates. Chairperson Pynes stated that if colleges continue to shrink, Faculty Senate may want to determine how big the Senate should be and determine an approach based upon that figure. He believes that at one time Faculty Senate had 26 senators and now there are 23. He noted that colleges are sometimes combined, so an idea of how large the Senate should be is important. He added that some state universities have senates of 200 people and include emeritus faculty, staff, and chairs. He remarked that Faculty Senate has also recently had issues regarding who is eligible to serve, with some positions being deemed ineligible to serve on the Senate but still retaining voting rights.

Senator McNabb remarked that the most profitable way to conduct a consideration of the Constitution might be to use a committee rather than senators scrutinizing the entire document themselves. She suggested it might be more orderly to select a subcommittee or a special ad hoc committee whose sole purpose is to examine these sorts of issues.

Senator Allison remarked that several people in the Department of English have found it odd that the Director of the Writing Center, because he serves ex-officio on the Writing Instruction in the Disciplines (WID) Committee, is ineligible to serve on Faculty Senate while chairs of departments are eligible to serve. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that the WID Committee is a subcommittee of the Senate, and those who serve on Senate councils or committees cannot serve on the Senate. Senator Allison pointed out that service on the WID Committee is part of the job duties of the Director of the Writing Center. Chairperson Pynes recalled that a recent amendment to the Bylaws allows for service by the Director of the Writing Center on Senate councils and committees if no other acceptable nominee can be found, and he believes that disallowing individuals who serve on subcommittees of the Senate to also serve on Faculty Senate is reasonable. Senator Allison countered that this is no more of a conflict of interest than allowing chairs to serve on the Senate. Chairperson Pynes explained that he does not think that individuals should be engaged in more service or have more access to certain individuals than is necessary. He stated that rather than saying that because chairs can serve on Senate, the Director of the Writing Center should also be able to do so, this argument cuts in the other direction. Senator Allison observed that the prohibition would make sense to her if it extended beyond the WID Committee.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt recalled that there was a discussion this year regarding whether the President of the Union should be able to serve on the Senate and centered on what percentage of his primary duties involved teaching. Chairperson Pynes recalled that ExCo made the determination last spring that the Union President's primary duties were for the Union, which should prevent him from serving on the Senate or its councils but not from voting. He pointed out that this is another example where membership eligibility and voting eligibility were cleaved, where a faculty member can vote but cannot serve for a particular reason. He added that ExCo came to that conclusion because access and power should not be concentrated in a very few individuals and instead think that many faculty should serve and have access. Chairperson Pynes added that the issues surrounding access and service are very democratic ones and are not about preventing a particular person from serving or doing something on the Senate.

Senator Allison remarked that item #4 in the Executive Committee minutes discusses the problem of students needing to leave early during finals week in order to catch trains and move out of the residence halls. She asked how big a problem this is; Chairperson Pynes remarked it is a bigger problem than one might think. He explained the problem starts before Thanksgiving break when students must move out of their residence halls by 5:00 p.m. on Friday; if an exam is scheduled for Friday, students may not be able to move out of the residence halls or catch an evening train so must take the exam in the morning or earlier in the week. He noted that the final exam policy says students may petition to take exams earlier if they have three finals in one day, which comes up frequently because so many students rely on Amtrack, and Amtrack does not add cars when they reach capacity.

Motion: To adjourn (McNabb)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary