

**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
Regular Meeting, 10 October 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, B. Bellott, V. Boynton, S. Czechowski, G. Delany-Barmann, R. Hironimus-Wendt, A. Hyde (via teleconference), N. Lino, B. Locke, S. Macchi, H. McIlvaine-Newsad, K. Pawelko, B. Perabo, J. Plos, R. Porter (via teleconference), S. Rahman, S. Rock, M. Sajewski, D. Sandage, C. Tarrant, F. Tasdan, T. Westerhold  
Ex-officio: Kathy Neumann, Interim Provost; Tej Kaul, Parliamentarian

**SENATORS ABSENT:** T. Roberts

**GUESTS:** Lori Baker-Sperry, Tom Cody, Katrina Daytner, Janna Deitz, Patricia Eathington, Sarah Hart, Angela Lynn, Madison Lynn, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Kyle Mayborn, Seth Miner, Russ Morgan, Amy Mossman, Jill Myers, Nancy Parsons, Theo Schultz, Matt Tanney, Dan Yoder

I.     Consideration of Minutes

A.     September 26, 2017

**MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED**

II.    Announcements

A.     Provost's Report

Interim Provost Neumann encouraged everyone to attend a reception to be held at 4:00 p.m. tomorrow (October 11) in the Lamoine Room to recognize recipients of the Provost's Awards for Excellence. This year's winners include Ian Shelly (Art) for Excellence in University/Community Service, Minsun Doh (Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration) for Excellence in Multicultural Teaching, Jennifer Plos (Kinesiology) for Excellence in Teaching, Rebekah Buchanan (English) for Excellence in Teaching with Technology, Andrea Porras-Alfaro (Biological Sciences) for Excellence in Scholarly/Creative/Performance/Professional Activities, and Ellen Poulter (English) for Outstanding Academic Advisor.

President Thomas will hold Town Hall Meetings at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow (October 11) at WIUQC and at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, October 12 in the Union Grand Ballroom. The President will hold Town Hall Meetings in the individual colleges and University Libraries beginning later in October.

The Fallen Soldiers 5K Run will be held Saturday, October 14, followed by a home WIU football game.

Interim Provost Neumann announced that the University has been able to restore some of the Provost's Travel Awards. Interim Provost Neumann said this award is something she has often said she would like to restore when possible, and it was also one of the Presidential Initiatives for 2017-18. The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR) is in the process of updating the application system for the award, but it must be manually repopulated so that process will take some time to complete. Faculty will be notified when the applications are available to access.

Interim Provost Neumann stated that the parameters for the Provost's Travel Awards this year will be almost identical to when they had to be discontinued at the end of 2015. The \$500 awards will be available only to Unit A faculty to support them presenting their work, creative performances,

or other endeavors in their disciplines. The award will not pay for registrations, which Interim Provost Neumann stated may be able to be covered by colleges.

Senator Allison asked what the total amount is that may be awarded – whether it is \$500 per person or per trip. Interim Provost Neumann responded that faculty are allowed up to \$500 for one trip. She has set aside enough money for all 420 Unit A faculty members to receive this award this year, although in the past the amount has never been used up. Senator Macchi asked if the award will at some point be extended to Unit B. Interim Provost Neumann responded that she does not know at this time; she wanted to restore the funding for Unit A faculty because they may need to present at conferences to progress in their promotion and tenure tracks. Senator Czechowski asked where the money came from for the award. Interim Provost Neumann responded that she took the money from some of the savings in Academic Affairs. Senator Delany Barmann asked for more information about colleges possibly helping with registrations. Interim Provost Neumann responded that this is no different than before the awards were suspended; faculty can ask their colleges if they have the funds to pay for the registrations that the awards do not cover.

Senator Hyde was excited when she heard about reinstatement of the travel awards and went to apply but found that the application is not yet online. She asked if the Interim Provost would consider waiving the two-week prior notice so that those faculty who are scheduled to present at conferences in the very near future can still apply when the form is available. Interim Provost Neumann replied that those instances will be considered on a case-by-case basis because it is unknown at this time how soon CITR will be able to get the system populated.

Senator Czechowski announced that a reception for the Department of Art's Biennial Faculty Exhibition will be held from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Thursday, October 12 in the Art Gallery.

B. Student Government Association Report  
(Madison Lynn, SGA representative to Faculty Senate)

- Ms. Lynn reported that participation has been low for the SGA survey on dining options. The survey regarding dining in the University Union and in academic buildings was distributed via PurplePost and ends October 20. The results will be discussed with University Housing and Dining Services.
- Director of Admissions Seth Miner will speak to SGA tonight about helping with future Discover Western programs.

C. Other Announcements

1. Chairperson Rock related that a senator had asked about the expanded ACT scores that the Board of Trustees report indicated that Admissions would be purchasing. He asked Admissions Director Seth Miner to elaborate on this purchase. Mr. Miner related that last year Illinois officially became an SAT state, which has changed WIU's approach as to how student names are purchased for recruiting purposes. Mr. Miner explained that Admissions proactively purchases the names students who are admissible under WIU guidelines; the students need to be a clear admit with an ACT of 20 or above. He stated that Admissions also has some leeway by adding a GPA filter, which enables Admissions to focus their efforts on students with GPAs of B or higher and with an ACT of 17 or above or an SAT score of 910 or higher. He stated that these student names are purchased in batches based on the Western Commitment scholarship band that they would fall into; this is done in order to segment the communications that are sent to these students telling them what level of scholarship funding they might be eligible for.

Senator Allison asked whether the cut-off for purchasing ACT scores is 20 or 17. Mr. Miner replied students with a 20 on their ACT and a 3.0 GPA or higher automatically receive a Western Commitment scholarship. He added that a student who earns a score of

17 on the ACT test with a GPA average of 2.9 is a clear admit whose name would be automatically purchased by WIU.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt asked if Admissions is still working with the formula of  $10 \times \text{GPA} + \text{ACT}$  must be 46 or higher. Mr. Miner replied that this is still the formula used for clear admits. The formula for OAS admits is  $\text{ACT} + 10 \times \text{GPA}$  must be 40 to 45.99. Mr. Miner stated that WIU also now has a formula for SAT scores; the University is no longer converting ACT scores to SAT equivalents because, since Illinois is an SAT state, WIU needed to have an SAT formula. The SAT formula for clear admits is  $\text{SAT} + 400 \times \text{cumulative GPA}$  must be 2060 or higher.

2. Professional Development Day  
(Sarah Hart, Assistant Director for Residence Life, University Housing and Dining Services)

Ms. Hart told senators that Professional Development Day is a new initiative for WIU and is meant to serve as an in-house conference experience for faculty, administrative support professionals, civil service staff, and graduate assistants. The event will be held December 1 in the University Union.

Ms. Hart stated that Professional Development Day is not meant to serve as a replacement for other conferences that faculty might attend but to take advantage of the wealth of experience at WIU which may not have been highlighted in the past. Six different tracks will be available for participants, one of which will be specifically geared toward faculty. [Information provided following the meeting: the planning committee has partnered with CITR to provide certificates at each session so that faculty attendees can confirm attendance for PAA points.] Ms. Hart stated that the planning committee does not currently include faculty representation, but faculty are welcome to share ideas or to join the planning team in an effort to ensure that interesting and effective sessions are scheduled for that track. She wants Professional Development Day, which she hopes will become an annual event, to have the maximum potential for collaboration and sharing among a variety of constituent groups. Currently there are 52 individuals registered for the event; seating this year is capped at 150 attendees.

Chairperson Rock asked Ms. Hart to list some of the sessions. Ms. Hart responded that sessions will be offered under the categories of Councils and Affinity Groups, Personal Wellness, Leadership and Supervision, Student Retention and Inclusion, WIU Processes, and a Faculty-Specific Track. She stressed that the committee wants to provide a venue to share some of the incredible things going on at the University.

3. Response from Athletics Regarding Student-Athletes Not Retained for Academic Reasons

Chairperson Rock related that a senator was approached by a faculty member who had a number of questions regarding student-athletes who are dropped from their athletic programs due to academics. Those questions were posed to the Senate's Council on Intercollegiate Athletics, on which Director of Athletics Matt Tanney serves as an ex-officio member. Dr. Tanney responded to the questions and provided links for additional information. His email points out that a very small percentage of student-athletes are placed on academic probation and/or suspended each year; in 2016-17, only three student-athletes, or less than one percent of the total student-athlete cohort, were academically suspended from the University, and only seven student-athletes, or less than two percent of the cohort, were placed on academic probation. Dr. Tanney's email adds that WIU's nearly 400 student-athletes have consistently exceeded the general student body GPA for many years, a pattern that he expects will continue.

### III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council on Admissions, Graduation and Academic Standards (CAGAS)  
(Ken Clontz, Chair)

1. Request for Change in Early Admission to the Nursing Program

Chairperson Rock stated that early admission to the Nursing major currently requires incoming freshmen to have an ACT of 27 or higher. The proposal would drop that requirement to 24 or the equivalent SAT score. Chairperson Rock stated that it was his understanding that demand for the slots for Nursing exceeded supply, so he wonders why the school would need to drop their standards. Theo Schultz, Academic Advisor for Nursing, responded that while this is true, over the last few years Nursing has not filled its seats with qualified applicants; there may have been 50 vacancies but only 30 qualified applicants were admitted. Nursing hopes the change will attract, retain, and capture high-achieving students.

Senator Perabo asked if Nursing has statistics on how the ACT score relates to success in internships offered through the program. Mr. Schultz responded there is a correlation between ACT scores and student success in Nursing. He stated that Pre-Nursing students, who originally needed a 20 ACT for admission and now need a 27, have been very successful. He added that direct admit students must still complete two years of prerequisite courses and earn and retain a B average. Admission into Pre-Nursing guarantees students a spot in the Nursing program if they meet the program's high academic standards. Senator Perabo remarked that she sees a lot of Pre-Nursing students that are struggling, so she is concerned about lowering the ACT requirement and giving them hope if they will not actually be able to get into the program. Mr. Schultz related that he rarely sees students with a 24 ACT struggling in Pre-Nursing; those who are struggling were admitted with ACTs in the low 20s or below. Senator Boynton asked how students can be admitted with an ACT of 20 when the standard is 27 and up. Mr. Schultz replied that 27 is a direct admit, but a student with an ACT of 20-26 can be admitted to Pre-Nursing. Those students with ACTs below 20 can be admitted as Pre-Nursing-Conditional. He added that Nursing would like for direct admits to be changed to 24.

Senator Lino, who is a faculty member in Nursing, stated that reducing the direct admit score to 24 would make WIU more competitive. He told senators that Illinois State University currently admits Nursing students with an ACT of 24. Mr. Schultz added that Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville has dropped their direct admit score down to 23. Senator Allison stated that it makes sense that WIU would want to stay competitive with other state schools, but it seems counterintuitive to drop the standard in order to attract more qualified applicants. She asked if what Nursing is saying is that applicants are qualified with ACT scores of 24 but they have not been considered in that way. Mr. Schultz asked senators to think of the change as a recruitment tool; under the current standard, if a high school student has a 25 ACT, SIU-Edwardsville will guarantee the student's enrollment but WIU will not. He said WIU's Nursing program is trying to capture high school students with ACT scores of 24, 25, and 26. Senator Allison asked if Mr. Schultz is confident these students can be successful; Mr. Schultz responded that he is. College of Arts and Sciences Dean Sue Martinelli-Fernandez stated that teacher education may be analogous regarding how predictive ACT scores are, and many discussions have been occurring about this. She pointed out that students still have to be able to perform.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

B. Writing Instruction in the Disciplines (WID) Committee  
(Munia Cabal-Jimenez, Chair)

A. Request for WID Designation

1. RPTA 235, Programming Principles and Applications in Leisure Services, 3 s.h.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

- C. Senate Nominating Committee  
(Ginny Boynton, Chair)

**SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:**

Writing Instruction in the Disciplines (WID) Committee

Lorri Kanauss, DFMN replacing Katherine Perone E&HS 2017-18

There were no further nominations, and the candidate was declared elected.

IV. Old Business

- A. Election of One Senator to Higher Learning Commission Persistence and Completion Academy Steering Team

Senator Hironimus-Wendt volunteered to serve on this steering team and step down from the Higher Values in Higher Education Strategic Plan Social Responsibility Task Force, which he volunteered to serve on at the last Senate meeting. Chairperson Rock said this would be acceptable since six senators volunteered for the Task Force and only five were needed. Associate Provost Parsons stated that this is the fourth year of the HLC Academy, so the Steering Team will only meet until May 2018. There were no further nominations, and Senator Hironimus-Wendt was declared elected.

V. New Business

- A. Discussion of Need for Institutional Grant Writer

Chairperson Rock related that this discussion was originally raised at an Executive Committee meeting in relation to students not having money for books and supplies when they come to campus. He told senators there was previously an initiative to hire an institutional grant writer on which Senator McIlvaine-Newsad, Janna Deitz, Amy Mossman, and others worked, but it was broader than what was discussed by ExCo. He stated that Senator McIlvaine-Newsad is aware of institutions that have gotten grants for students that fit WIU's profile, and it seems to be a good time to resurrect this initiative and see what can be done going forward.

Dr. Deitz told senators the proposal for an institutional grant writer was a broad initiative that came out of the President's Roundtable when talking about ways to grow WIU's revenue stream and increase retention, although ExCo may have a narrower focus in mind. She explained that broad, institutional grants are not the kinds of grants faculty would go after in their disciplines. The institutional grant writer discussed during the President's Roundtable would be a point person for the University who would seek out grants offered through the federal government, foundations, and other sources that could help develop programs and further initiatives to assist WIU students. For instance, in 2015 Dr. Dietz found a First in the World grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education to increase retention for first-generation students and help under-represented students get admitted, be successful, and graduate from universities. She told senators that Kennesaw State was awarded a \$3.2 million grant to put this program in place, but WIU has these same types of students as well as being an institution with strong support for veterans. She added that a significant portion of the \$3.2 million stayed at Kennesaw State.

Dr. Deitz related these types of discussions occurred over a long period at the President's Roundtable, and Drs. Deitz and Mossman were able to provide many similar concrete examples

during those meetings. She and Dr. Mossman, who is trained in and teaches technical writing, were asked by the President to form a task group to examine peer institutions and look at structural designs of offices tasked to go after grants and sponsored projects. She added that the job description provided in Senate packets came out of this process.

Dr. Mossman told senators that, in addition to student success-related grants, there are many grants for veterans which would be a great fit for WIU given its mission. She explained that the position is really more than a grant writer; while the individual would participate in grant writing, he or she would really be a more of a prospector or quarterback who would identify strengths, weaknesses, and needs and use their networking affiliations with different funding agencies to identify potential grants, inform different academic units about these opportunities, and help units to put together a team and manage deadlines and different aspects of the grants. She added that the individual may write a lot of the grant himself/herself but may just coordinate the operation. Dr. Mossman stated there is a lot of interest in being involved with grants, but doing the research, gaining access to the data, and knowing how to get started is sometimes the place where people get stalled. The institutional grant writer would be a team builder as well as a grant prospector.

Chairperson Rock asked why the initiative did not move forward. Dr. Mossman replied that it is a slow process, and there were concerns about the budget situation for creating a new administrative position. Dr. Deitz understood that there were also concerns because the new position would represent an institutional and structural change. She stated, however, that WIU has fallen behind compared to peer institutions in how the University is structured and its commitment to grants and foundations. She stated that the institutional grant writer would have the title of Director, would likely have a Ph.D., and might be housed under the School of Graduate Studies, Foundations and Development, or Academic Affairs. Dr. Deitz related that when she and Dr. Mossman were asked to create a job description, they looked at what other institutions had put in place and pulled information from their best practices.

Dr. Deitz was struck by the broad support from WIU administrators, chairs, UPI, and others across campus reflected in the previous discussions compiled by the Recording Secretary about an institutional grant writer position at Faculty Senate and the Executive Committee. She stated that if WIU were to start down this path, the University might not have to jump into the hire immediately but could perhaps just use some of the University's expertise to move in that direction. She stated that the grant environment and philosophy are trends that change from year to year, and she believes what WIU needs is a single point of contact who can monitor this very dynamic field. She explained that, for instance, some years law enforcement grants might be the trending topic while other years the trend might be grants for the arts, humanities, or STEM fields, so one person is needed to keep a tab on this moving area.

Dr. Mossman related that Sam Houston State created this position 14 years ago, and now over \$25 million is coming into them from ongoing and new grants, with \$8 to \$9 million in new dollars per year. Faculty initiatives at the institution have jumped from about three per year to 150 per year, and their originally one-person operation has expanded to an entire team. They have received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and some student success grants as well. Dr. Mossman believes the person hired for an institutional grant writer position must be very well networked because in order to be competitive this person would need to be working on the grants before they are even announced. She believes the individual would have to be connected with individuals at various agencies so that work could begin on a grant three to six months before it is made public.

Interim Provost Neumann agrees one of the reasons why the initiative stopped was because of the budget crisis. She stated, however, that the administration has dusted off an idea that was kind of an outcome from the previous discussions. She believes it would be difficult to craft out a position that could do all of the things being discussed, but the administration has an idea that may get the ball rolling. The administration is considering working with a consortium group of grant writers with expertise in many areas; if individuals at WIU wanted to research a particular area, they could

collaborate with this consortium. She said this would be done as a contract for services instead of having someone on WIU's staff. She added that Shannon Sutton, Director of Sponsored Projects, could help with the process of working with the consortium. Interim Provost Neumann added that there is also more talk about philanthropic and foundation grants now that Becky Paulson, Director of Development for the College of Business and Technology, is Co-Chair of the President's Executive Institute. She said there may be opportunities with corporate partnerships and other partnership avenues to explore.

Chairperson Rock said he assumes the instructional grant writer would have to bring in sufficient grants to cover his or her own salary. Dr. Mossman replied that this is not attractive to people looking for this type of position and is also not sustainable because: 1) it will limit the grants the individual will look for because only certain grants will have a percentage that can be used for the position so the institutional grant writer will be forced to target those grants over others, and 2) it could shift the institutional grant writer's priorities. She warned that grants can take several years and may not get accepted right away, so the University may not see an immediate return. She added that everyone she has spoken to has said this expectation is not ideal and would not find it attractive. Senator Boynton asked why the individual, although not paid directly as a result of the grants, could not be bringing in \$3 million in grants which would more than cover the individual's salary. Dr. Mossman said those kinds of clear expectations should be set up early but it may take years before seeing that kind of return on the investment in this position. Senator Boynton stated that if the position would not bring in enough grants to cover his or her salary, she does not see what the point is of hiring this individual. Interim Provost Neumann stated that in all likelihood the position would not be paid from discretionary funds.

Senator Allison said she can see why it would not have been a good idea to hire someone like this in 2015. She thinks, however, that rather than using a consortium it would be a great advantage to work with someone on campus, whose primary focus and loyalty is to WIU, and not with a group that is spreading themselves over several universities. She said having an institutional grant writer would feel like someone was taking care of and wanting to do something specifically for WIU, and it would be good for morale, so it makes sense that faculty would want to go down this path. Interim Provost Neumann related that Ms. Sutton says it will be hard to find someone with the expertise to write grants to the specific needs of History, Nursing, and all other disciplines. She stated that the institutional grant writer would not be a content expert in all these fields, even though he or she would be working with content experts and with the areas funding these types of research. She said the consortium includes individuals who have worked in these grant awarding agencies, so they can write to and speak the language used by these areas. Dr. Mossman stated that the institutional grant writer at Sam Houston State has a Master's of Public Health but was the lead writer of an agriculture grant for over a million dollars. She stated that individuals trained in technical writing can be very versatile and capable of writing an agriculture grant, a biology grant, or a community grant, but the position needs an individual who is an expert in building networks and who has a network already.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt asked if Dr. Mossman has a ballpark estimate of what a typical grant director at peer institutions earns. He also wonders if they are typically tenured into a faculty line. Dr. Mossman replied that she does not know what they earn, and none of the individuals she spoke with are tenured. Senator Czechowski observed that Dr. Mossman was able to find individuals at peer institutions who are bringing in grants across broad disciplines and wonders if she could supply a sample job description that other universities have used to attract someone with this type of broad range. Dr. Mossman responded that the task force came up with a sample job description in 2015. Senator Czechowski is concerned that a consortium would help faculty for the benefit of their own research rather than for WIU, its students, and their individual needs. Dr. Mossman stated that the main argument for having an institutional grant writer is that the individual can be pro-active about helping the institution and its faculty get grants that they did not know they could try for rather than passively offering to help faculty if they ask for it. Senator Czechowski agreed that she would have to know what grants are available and what she wants to apply for in order to work with the consortium. The Interim Provost suggested that the faculty member could work with

Jill Marshall, Administrative Assistant in Sponsored Projects, to identify grants that are applicable to their particular areas. She said Ms. Marshall routinely emails chairs when she sees things listed that may be applicable to their areas.

Senator Rahman said the institutional grant writer proposal looks outstanding, and she does not think WIU has anyone like this currently. She stated that Ms. Sutton or Ms. Marshall may think this individual would be doing their jobs, but the position might actually be helpful to them. Dr. Deitz stated that she was really impressed with what Sam Houston State has done. They have been so successful that they have now hired a Communications Director so that everyone knows that the university is receiving these grants, and they have been very successful in promoting their efforts. She related that the President's Roundtable engaged in lengthy and detailed discussions about the need to go after these sources of funds, and President Thomas asked if any of WIU's existing staff did these types of activities. Dr. Deitz asked and was told that this was not in their job descriptions, so the President asked her and Dr. Mossman to create a job description.

Parliamentarian Kaul suggested that talking about "grant writing" may be slightly confusing the issue; this individual must have the ability to understand grant writing basics but must also be a highly connected public relations person. He observed that there are all kinds of grants, and the role of Sponsored Projects may not be adequate to what is being described in this position. He believes this position needs an individual with the ability to scan the environment and find where the opportunities may exist for fundraising for the institution.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt stated that he would advocate for the position of a grant specialist for WIU. He observed that WIU's four colleges and approximately 60 departments are always petitioning for a faculty line, which is in the ballpark of \$50,000 for an assistant professor, \$60,000 for an associate professor, and \$85,000 for a professor. He stated that if this position would come out of the Provost's budget, it in some ways represents and is similar to a faculty line, so Faculty Senate is asking Academic Affairs to hire a new person at what presumably would be a faculty salary with wage premium at a cost of about \$65,000 or more. He pointed out that WIU hired ten nurses at \$75,000 each ten years ago, so this kind of expenditure is not unheard of. Although Senator Hironimus-Wendt has not spoken with President Thomas recently about this initiative, he was on the President's Roundtable when this discussion occurred. He recalls that two years ago the President was strongly in favor of seeing this happen, but the issue was where the institution stood financially at that time. Senator Hironimus-Wendt would like to see WIU move forward and create this position now. He noted that the consortium of grant writers would work with multiple entities, and he would prefer to see the University have this position on its campus with the individual hired for at least a three-year contract.

Senator McIlvaine-Newsad thinks that if the University does not act on this initiative now, the institution will again be behind in terms of being able to recruit students, which is something that is the responsibility of everyone at WIU. She stated that there are funds available, both private and federally-based, that are really geared toward the student body that WIU is currently serving and who will be, in large part, the University's future. She agrees that this individual must be part PR person and noted that social networking is incredibly important. She observed that individuals do not know about these opportunities unless they are in the loop, and that may require travel support for meetings in Washington, D.C. Senator McIlvaine-Newsad believes that WIU needs to take a leap of faith. She likes the idea of a three-year time period for the individual's contract. She thinks that faculty need to remember that this individual will not be hired to help them with individual research; it is the faculty's responsibility to search out their own research. Senator McIlvaine-Newsad stated that consortiums work against each other and make money based on how many grants they do. She believes the University needs to strongly consider hiring its own position because it would be a worthwhile investment. She thinks the University should start small, but there are lots of opportunities given WIU's student body and needs, and this position could address a lot of the issues related to the University not having the resources students need in order to be successful.

Senator Boynton asked what Faculty Senate can do to promote this initiative. She noted that the Senate is not empowered to decide this question and asked if senators should write a resolution. Chairperson Rock suggested that Drs. Deitz or Mossman may have an idea. Senator Hironimus-Wendt said he would advocate for the creation of this position, but he thinks the Senate needs a resolution.

Senator Czechowski expressed her full support for this position. She pointed out that some of the opportunities for grants that Drs. Deitz and Mossman have mentioned – for first-generation students, veterans, Hispanic students, minorities – would advance the University’s goals. She understands that the position would not help with her personal research but would help WIU’s students, such as getting them computers. She noted that with MAP funding cut every year, WIU needs a different kinds of funding to support its students. Senator Macchi agreed that there are many grants for first-year college students and underrepresented populations that those working in the First Year Experience Program just do not have the time and resources to get.

**Motion:** That Chairperson Rock contact President Thomas and express Faculty Senate’s desire to see this position created (Hironimus-Wendt/Pawelko)

Senator Rahman observed that Drs. Deitz and Mossman have created a document with responsibilities for the individual and asked if this can be put forward as well. Senator Allison asked if this motion represents the strongest thing that Faculty Senate can do to promote this position. She observed that this is a moment where faculty are promoting hiring someone who is not a faculty member, which is unusual. She would like to see the energy in the room expressed in the strongest terms possible. Chairperson Rock asked what senators think would be the most effective way to move this initiative forward.

Interim Provost Neumann stated that she has captured the sentiment of the Senate and will continue discussions with the President. She noted that some of the things being discussed are institutional and will go beyond Academic Affairs into other areas, such as Student Services. Senator Boynton wonders if this position should report to the President because it seems to be more institutional and broader than Academic Affairs. Dr. Mossman stated that these types of positions can be housed in different areas, and it might be helpful to look into this further. She included organizational charts of peer institutions in the larger report that she and Dr. Deitz prepared, and the location of these positions varies. She believes someone would need to look into this carefully and decide what is the best fit. She added that positions she researched report to the Vice President for Research and Community Development, the Office of Sponsored Projects, Academic Affairs, and other areas.

Interim Provost Neumann asked if the conversation is moving away from the research aspect of this position and more toward institutional grants that would not necessarily have a research outcome. Senator Bellott related that he attended a conference last weekend where this type of position was discussed in terms of minority recruitment -- an individual who writes grants for tuition dollars to get minority students to an institution and pay their tuition for four years. He observed that grant funding has undergone changes recently; institutions need to be able to assess what is needed to get refunded, and that piece needs to be added to this position. Senator Rahman observed that the way the position is currently written, it is in Academic Affairs and Student Services; she envisions the position as one person thinking what is best to do for the institution in a number of ways.

Senator Czechowski observed that Senator Allison asked a great question regarding what is the most effective way to promote this initiative. Senator Czechowski sees a passion and energy from the senators and does not know how that would be adequately expressed unless all of the senators added a few sentences to some document asking that this position be created. She offered to compile such a document if senators were interested in sending her a short paragraph expressing their support. She would like to see any document before it is moved forward to see how her words are being described; she wants the words that senators are expressing to be as close as

possible to what is being said and not to be watered down. Senator Sandage remarked that the Recording Secretary does a good job of reflecting accurately what is said during the Senate meetings. Senator Hironimus-Wendt remarked that Thursday, October 14 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. President Thomas will hold a Town Hall Meeting where senators could advocate strongly for this position.

Chairperson Rock asked if senators in the Quad Cities had anything they wanted to add. Senator Hyde responded that they are excited about voting for this initiative.

**MOTION APPROVED 22 YES – 0 NO – 0 AB**

Senator Rahman asked about the discussion at the Executive Committee meeting regarding the Rose-Brady Bill. Chairperson Rock responded that the legislation is at the very initial stages and will probably not be debated until January during the regular session. He said that during this period of time the University can figure out if the legislation has any “legs” to it, but that is still unknown at this point. Chairperson Rock says Senator Rose is willing to take “constructive input” in terms of things that individuals think should be changed in the bill. He added that both Senator Rose and Representative Brady are Republicans, and he does not know how the proposal will be met in the Democratic-controlled House and Senate. He hopes that Jeanette Malafa, Assistant to the President for Government Relations, can speak to Faculty Senate sometime when she is in Macomb on a Tuesday. Chairperson Rock will be meeting with Democratic Senator Lou Lang on Friday, October 13 and will ask what he thinks about this legislation. Chairperson Rock agrees that the legislation is something to be concerned about because it is already public information and does raise questions and issues about future budgets not getting back to what universities received before. Senator Sandage said this is what concerns her; it does not seem to occur to legislators to begin to start prioritizing funding of higher education like the state once did. She recalled that Illinois used to be one of the best states in the nation for education.

Senator Rahman asked if the legislators want to reduce the number of state universities from 12 to eight. Chairperson Rock responded that Brady and Rose want to direct funding to the top eight universities in each major/discipline, and it is not clear what would happen to the bottom four. He said the proposal raises all kinds of concerns about losing majors because of not being able to offer courses and expecting students to wander around the state to get courses that they need. Senator Boynton theorized that WIU would become the law enforcement mecca, for example, while some other institution would be where students would go for nursing, and somewhere else would be the place to attend for history if only eight schools were authorized to offer each field as a major.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt related that when he read the article about the proposed legislation, one of the first things he did was google in-state tuition for the University of Iowa, University of Missouri, Purdue University, and the University of Wisconsin. All of these state universities were cheaper by thousands of dollars than the in-state tuition for WIU, Illinois State University, and the University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana. He believes that if the state legislature is serious about retaining students in Illinois, then they ought to put a competitive price on in-state tuition and fund higher education at a higher rate than currently because destroying state universities will not make them more attractive for students. He stated that it is cheaper to move to Burlington, Iowa or Bloomington, Indiana and attend their state institutions than to attend the University of Illinois, and the state legislature is fooling itself if it somehow thinks that ripping apart state institutions will make these universities more affordable or attractive. He noted that nowhere in the bill does it address the value of a liberal arts education, the importance of a core curriculum, or preparing students to be strong leaders in their communities. He thinks the bill is more dangerous than the authors realize.

Mr. Miner stated that Admissions has been looking at these out-of-state comparisons to WIU’s in-state tuition. Iowa has particularly been on their radar because that state is going through something similar to Illinois in regards to higher education funding, and voting will take place in December. Additionally, the University of Iowa is proposing a seven percent tuition increase each year for the next five years, and Iowa State would likely follow suit. Mr. Miner said that WIU is preparing to market heavily to that state should the proposals be passed. Senator McIlvaine-Newsad congratulated Admissions for getting flyers on her kitchen table, as promised. She related that both her sophomore and junior children received nice looking materials from WIU that discussed such things as Discover Western and FAFSA filing. Mr. Miner stated that this was part of the new initiative, but it is taking more time because Admissions is not in complete control of all aspects it. He said that Admissions has a really good

partnership with Macomb High School and plans to branch out to West Prairie and Quincy High Schools, as well, to raise awareness.

**Motion:** To adjourn (Tarrant)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Susan Czechowski, Faculty Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary