

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
SENATE Regular Meeting, 1 December 2020, 4:00 p.m.
<http://www.wiu.edu/FacultySenate>
Via Zoom

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

SENATORS PRESENT: D. Banash, M. Bean, B. Bellott, M. Bernards, L.L. Brice, A. Carr, S. Cordes, R. Dimitrov, R. Filipink, D. Hunter, I. Lauer, T. Lough, S. Macchi, M. Maskarinec, D. Oursler, C. Pynes, J. Robinett, R. Sawhney, E. Shupe, M. Stinnett, E. Taylor, J. Wroblewski

Ex-officio: Billy Clow, Interim Provost; Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: K. Zbeeb, J. Choi

GUESTS: Andrea Alveshere, Steve Bennett, Gordan Chang, Craig Conrad, Tawnya Adkins Covert, Dennis DeVolder, Francis Godwyll, Robert Hironimus-Wendt, William Hoon, Sherry Lindquist, Angela Lynn, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Kristi Mindrup, Russ Morgan, Mark Mossman, Kat Myers, Lorette Oden, Elizabeth Orwig, Jim Schmidt, Bill Thompson, Craig Tollini, Lora Ebert Wallace, Karen Zellmann

I. Announcements

A. Provost's Report

Provost Clow reported how vacant campus has been. Interim Provost Clow expressed appreciation for all the work everyone did to get the campus through the Fall semester to Thanksgiving, especially the staff at Beu Health Center making sure faculty/staff and students are tested appropriately due to Covid-19. He thanked Beu Health Center employees for all their hard work.

Interim Provost Clow reminded everyone that online grade reporting is open. He also mentioned faculty, who had provided face to face courses can now provide their students with electronic evaluations. Faculty who are unsure how to get these going should work with their chairs to have evaluations completed. Interim Provost Clow mentioned the importance of having feedback from students to better instruct classes in the near future.

Interim Provost Clow updated everyone on the situation in global studies which had diminished due to the COVID lockdown of the Trump administration. There has, however, been an increase in the number of applications from international students applying at WIU which is a great sign. He also highlighted the efforts of Randy Glean, the new Director of International Affairs. He is working to expand undergraduate representation as well as graduate-level enrollment internationally. Interim Provost Clow mentioned there were a number of international students deferring acceptances to Fall 2021. He stated we should have a sufficient number of international students by August 2021.

Interim Provost Clow reported that the CoEHS has received funding assistance from several donors to create the Center for Rural Education Advocacy and Policy. It will be a center working out of CoEHS to focus on partner schools conducting research on rural teaching issues, working with the Great Rivers Teaching Corps to expand teaching opportunities for our students in education and working with individual schools to help them with their work. Interim Provost Clow stated his concern for students preparing for college from 7-10 grade and how the pandemic year is interfering with preparation and what we need to do here to help them when they arrive. He would like the University to hold a conversation of what expectations will be for these students entering the university in the next two academic years and how we will help them until we can get everyone caught up.

Interim Provost Clow reported the good news that the technology has been renovated top-to-bottom and updated in the Capitol rooms and U-Tech is promising it “will provide a more friendly experience to end-users.” It is ready for use. Interim Provost Clow thanked Utech and especially Rebecca Slater for their assistance in completing this project. He also thanked Faculty and Staff for all their hard work over the last nine months of 2020 to keep everything going. The administration is working with incoming President Huang on the transition so we will be ready to go in January.

B. Student Government Association Report

(Elizabeth Orwig SGA representative to Faculty Senate)

Ms. Orwig stated there have not been many meetings due to the holidays so there is not much to report. Ms. Orwig stated Polly Radosh, chair of the Board of Trustees, spoke with SGA about the new president and what changes and transitions that may take place and how the SGA can contribute to such transitions and changes on campus next year.

C. Other Announcements

1. Senator Carr: Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) update on IBHE strategic plan

Senator Carr reported that the Faculty Advisory Council has been working on a dual-credit position paper for over one year, which has now been passed by the Council. Senator Carr stated she was provided with a copy of the paper today and anyone interested may contact her for a copy. Senator Carr also reported that the IBHE strategic plan is in Phase II. The planning committee integrated various comments and feedback resulting from Phase I into the restated priorities which emphasized Liberal Arts and research. In connections with Community Colleges there were also statements to increase the transferability of CC courses to four-year institutions. Senator Carr also reported that the FAC is interested in getting anecdotes and insights from faculty regarding issues of teaching, learning, and mental health connected with COVID. Faculty Senate will be sending out a request via email to all faculty. Anyone wishing to respond must do so by December 15. Senator Carr closed by reporting on a presentation to FAC about internships and several other reports on research in Wisconsin.

Senator Dimitrov asked Senator Carr if IBHE has a formally defined standards for what qualifies someone to teach at the Community College level which can then be compared with the qualifications High School teachers presenting dual-credit courses meet. Senator Carr responded that the legislation which mandated dual credit offerings also set aside the requirements that high school teachers already have a master’s degree in the field, instead merely requiring teachers be working toward a post-graduate in the field. She also stated this law will sunset eventually, but the FAC has recommended new legislation end this easing of requirements immediately. Senator Dimitrov clarified his question and Senator Carr responded there is a process for establishing standards for courses, but it has to be under the auspices of the college or university in which the dual-credit course resides. Chairperson Pynes added that the rules for establishing standards for instructors are currently set by the high school teaching the course and the institution officially offering the course. Senator Carr added that the FAC is asking the IBHE to end these current practices.

II. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI)

(Steve Bennett, Chair)

1. Curricular requests from the Dept. of Health Sciences & Social Work

- a. Request a New Course
 - i. SW 341, Social Work in Child Welfare I, 3 s.h.
 - ii. SW 342, Social Work in Child Welfare II, 3 s.h.

2. Curricular requests from the Dept. of Art and Design

- a. Request a New Course
 - i. ARTH 393, Gender & Art, 3 s.h.

Dr. S Lindquist spoke about why the course is being proposed.

3. Curricular requests from the Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology

- a. Request a New Course
 - i. SOC 490, Readings in Sociology, 1-3 s.h.

Department Chairperson Adkins Covert spoke about the reason for creating a new readings course. Senator Bellott asked who is teaching the class. Chairperson Adkins Covert responded that it is an independent study assigned to faculty based on their working with a specific student, one student per faculty member. Senator Dimitrov asked about whether a student can take more than one section of the course with a different faculty member. Chairperson Adkins Covert responded yes.

- b. Request a Change in Major
 - 1. B.A. in Sociology

Department Chairperson Adkins Covert spoke about the reason for changing the major. The changes are in response to changes in the field as outlined by the national professional organization. This request for change is the last step in a larger departmental effort to revise the major. Senator Bernards asked why the Sociology Minor was capped at 16 s.h. and the status of the SOC 430 approval paperwork. Chairperson Adkins Covert replied that the 16s.h. is a typing error and that it should read 16-20s.h. Senator Carr pointed out that the typing error appears on the document in two places. On the second question, Chairperson Adkins Covert deferred to CCPI Chair Bennett who explained that the course description change for SOC 430 did not need Senate approval. There was a related follow-up question regarding the course exit requirements for the revised minor. Chairperson Pynes clarified that the credit for the courses will satisfy the 16-20 s.h.

Senator Banash asked why Anthropology was eliminated from the major core given that it is being offered within a shared major. He clarified that it appears the department is decoupling its majors, and this may result in missed opportunities. Chairperson Adkins Covert responded that the removal of the core requirement does not mean students cannot count any Anthropology courses toward the major as they are allowed to count up to 6 s.h. toward fulfilling the major; therefore, there is no actual decoupling. Senator Banash asked if it is possible for a student to get a major in Sociology without any Anthropology courses. Chairperson Adkins Covert responded in the affirmative. Senator Carr then followed up by asking if the changes are limiting students' options since ANTH 110 is a prereq for some of the courses in the options. Senator Carr also asked why the limit on Anthropology electives is set at 6 rather than 9 s.h., and how many students have taken the emphasis in Environment and Community. Chairperson Adkins Covert pointed out that all the emphasis options are being eliminated. She also pointed out that students may take more anthropology but can only count two of those courses toward the major. They may instead minor in Anthropology to get credit for the

additional courses. Chairperson Adkins Covert also pointed out the change in major is an effort to eliminate clutter. That some courses were not taught often enough to fulfill most of the options, so that the effort to clean up the major contributed to the changes along with changes in the field.

Senator Filipink pointed out that the justification for the changes is sufficient and he supports it.

Senator Robinett asked whether since it is a department with two majors if there were conversations between the sociologists and the anthropologists on the changes and whether there were unforeseen consequences of the changes. He explained he asked because of prior issues in his own department. Chairperson Adkins Covert answered that there had been little communication, explaining that the only discussion occurred in a department meeting when the completed proposal was presented to all the sociologists and the anthropologists, at which time the anthropologists had not comments.

Senator Bellott asked whether SOC 433 would be a burden on faculty as students seeking internships worked with individual faculty. Chairperson Adkins Covert explained that the sociologists met multiple times and discussed the changes so that everyone is aware of the increased workload. She added that there will be an effort to distribute the workload as evenly as practicable. Senator Bellott asked as a follow-up how many majors and seniors there are. Chairperson Adkins Covert answered there are currently 65 majors, 15 of whom graduate on average in any given academic year so the work burden should be manageable. Senator Bellott asked if SOC 433 would be taught by Unit A faculty only. Chairperson Adkins Covert did not know if there were any restrictions. Senator Bellott explained that the reason for this question was a concern that if SOC 433 fell to unit B faculty it could be an uncompensated burden on them whereas the extra workload would be expected of Unit A.

Parliamentarian McIlvaine-Newsad clarified that the anthropologists have been unanimously opposed to this proposal from the beginning. She also pointed out that with only four anthropologists they do not have enough votes to resist the changes. She further added that while the changes do conform to the suggestions of the ASA mandates, it is atypical of combined Soc-Anth departments to eliminate Anthropology from the core of the Sociology major. The change seems to be contrary to increasing expectations for graduates to be broadly trained and assessed. Parliamentarian McIlvaine-Newsad added that the anthropologists are concerned that elimination of ANTH 110 from the required core of the Sociology major will have negative repercussions for the Anthropology major.

Chairperson Pynes pointed out that the report on the change of major comes to Senate as part of an approved report from CCPI and unless someone objects formally the proposal is accepted.

Senator Dimitrov pointed out that the paperwork identifies the incorrect individual as the department chair.

APPROVED

- B. Council on Writing Instruction in the Discipline (WID)
(Kim McClure, Chair)
 - 1. Request for WID Designation

- a. ARTH 393, Gender & Art, 3 s.h.

APPROVED

C. Council on General Education (CGE)
(Andrea Alveshere, Chair)

1. Report requesting endorsement of the CGE Committee Statement to the IBHE's strategic plan committee

Chairperson Alveshere reminded everyone about the email sent to faculty about IBHE and the strategic plan proposal recommendations. She stated the CGE discussed the strategic plan however the committee shared their ideas with Senator Carr at the time. She added that after communicating informally with Senator Carr the council unanimously approved a letter in support of IBHE FAC efforts to make input on the strategic plan. Chairperson Pynes stated that a copy of the letter was placed in the senate package. He added that CGE is requesting the Faculty Senate endorse the letter formally before it is sent along to the IBHE planning committee.

Senator Bernards asked if there was any data suggesting students who take classes at the university are better served than students who take dual-credit classes. Chairperson Alveshere stated that according to information CGE had received previously from Associate Provost Mossman students who had taken dual enrollment course (taught by University faculty) were more successful than students who had taken dual-credit courses. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that Registrar Lynn can provide actual data for this question on how much dual-credit is brought in once we request it, later.

Senator Carr pointed out that the way dual-credit is organized universities are required to accept any course that is offered as part of the IAI system. She added there is a dearth of data because it is a topic few researchers have investigated. Anecdotal evidence is largely negative.

Senator Bernards expressed concern that the responses to dual-credit as presented sound elitist. He also observed that expertise does not equate to quality teaching and there is a lack of data to support CGE's concerns and those of FAC. He is concerned that without data these responses may not be serving the best interests of students. Chairperson Alveshere expressed the concern of CGE as being to express the interest to ensure that all students have a chance to acquire the same kinds of experiences in college, rather than only those who go to flagship institutions. Chairperson Alveshere said she is open to revising the language of the letter. Senator Bernards considered whether to make a formal objection.

Senator Banash expressed concern that the lack of data will make it difficult to evaluate. He added that this larger topic is a question about the value of the institution; he is concerned about how the chipping away at general education will change the university permanently in a negative way. Senator Banash added that allowing our students to get credit for general education courses that could be taught by individuals without post-graduate training is a serious problem and that data is not going to settle the debate in the near term. Chairperson Pynes expressed a concern about the attack on experts teaching courses is reflected in contemporary attacks on science and expertise in which anyone's view on a topic is as valid or more valid than experts who are trained in the relevant field. Senator Dimitrov Senator Banash mentioned more research and data would need to be done to prove that expert teaching would be more successful. Chairperson Pynes mentioned how expert training is not as appreciated as it should be.

Senator Dimitrov commented to concur with Senators Banash and Pynes. Senator Carr responded that the last paragraph of the CGE letter makes a good point about options. She

observed that it is not elitist to provide students with a wider range of course options to take at colleges and universities than they could enroll in dual-credit situations. Senator Carr added that it is important and useful to have the various fields that are supported by general education courses, but if the general education offerings are reduced these departments and majors may have difficulty surviving.

Senator Cordes pointed out that the Model Partnership Agreement for the Dual-Credit Quality Care Act is extremely reductive document of one page. He pointed out that there are no standards for measuring an instructor's qualifications and the evaluation of "quality of teaching" is merely a "check-box." He added there are no criteria about credentials or experience of the instructor. There is no indication of how quality is measured. He posted a link to it for other Senators.

Senator Lauer responded to Senator Bernard's statement about expertise and excellence. He agreed that there are high school teachers who can teach well, and there are college and university professors who teach poorly. But when we consider whether student experiences in general education courses (taken broadly) are better served by being offered by experts who are active in their fields or by high school teachers who have many time-demands and limited opportunities to remain active in the general education field in which they are teaching dual credit courses the odds of students receiving quality education favor the experts. What makes experts different is that they have devoted significant time to mastering the material and most continue to remain active and up-to-date, regardless of whether they are good teachers.

Senator Stinnett commented in regard to the financial implications of dual-credit courses. These dual-credit courses, which are explicitly designed to save students money also decrease the financial stability of institutions of higher education. This issue has been a continuing concern for colleges and universities generally.

There were no objections. Chairperson Pynes said he would send this report along to the IBHE and legislators.

III. Old Business - **None**

IV. New Business

A. BOT Consent Agenda

Chairperson Pynes reported that the Senate will have a BOT consent agenda. Chairperson Pynes stated that one of the items on the BOT agenda will be the new President's contract. He reminded everyone that unless there is something odd about the contract the Senate would normally approve the agenda. Unless someone really wants to have an extra meeting, he will consent on behalf of the body. When the agenda comes out Chairperson Pynes will send it to all Senators for review and unless something unexpected emerges he will consent, but we reserve the right to object in the future.

Chairperson Pynes reported that CAGAS has been approached by students seeking to have the university again adopt a pass/fail option for grades similar to what was employed in Spring 2020. Senator Bernards stated it would be inappropriate for the pass/fail option this semester since students knew what to expect. Chairperson Pynes stated that he agreed with Senator Bernards and suggested the lack of interest in commenting on the proposal suggest that other senators concur.

Senator Banash? asked if we have statistics on how many students took advantage of the P/F option in Spring 2020. Registrar Lynne responded that 553 undergraduates changed 869 grades. Most of what was changed were C and D grades (nearly 800 of 869).

Senator Dimitrov asked if high schools have this P/F change policy and how does that impact admissions. In a second question specifically for Interim Provost Clow, he asked if the P/F grade change policy is an acknowledgement of lowering the quality of the education because of the situation we are in. Interim Provost Clow responded that the policy is more a measure of the uncertainty in which students and professors find themselves during the pandemic changes of last semester.

B. For the Good of the Body

No items.

Motion to Adjourn: Senator L. Brice

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – 26 January 2021

ZOOM

Lee L. Brice, Faculty Senate Secretary

Christie Hughes, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary