

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Special Meeting, 4 December 2018, 4:00 p.m.
Capitol Rooms - University Union

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: M. Allison, B. Bellott, V. Boynton, S. Cordes, S. Czechowski, R. Dimitrov, S. Macchi, M. Maskarinec, H. McIlvaine-Newsad, B. Perabo, C. Pynes, S. Rahman, M. Sajewski, K. Zbeeb (via teleconference)

Ex-officio: Kathy Neumann, Interim Provost; Ilon Lauer, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: G. Delany-Barmann, J. Franken, A. Hyde, J. Plos, C. Tarrant, F. Tasdan

GUESTS: Brad Bainter, David Banash, Tom Blackford, Keith Boeckelman, Amy Carr, Katrina Daytner, Jack Elfrink, Tara Feld, Michelle Janiszcz, Ruth Kelly, Jim LaPrad, Jeff Laurent, Angela Lynn, Colton Markey, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Rose McConnell, Candace McLaughlin, Russ Morgan, Rich Musser, Lorette Oden, Katharine Pawelko, Luciano Picanço, Cindy Piletic, Bill Polley, Jeremy Robinett, Darcie Shinberger, Amanda Silberer, Letisha Trepac, Ron Williams, John Wozniak

I. Announcements

A. Provost's Report – None

B. Student Government Association Report
(Colton Markey, SGA Director of Academic Affairs)

Mr. Markey informed senators that the SGA Newsletter was emailed last week and told them that anyone who wishes to be added to the mailing list should contact him.

The SGA State of the Student address will be presented on Monday, April 22 at 3:00 p.m. in the Union Heritage Rooms.

The SGA Students of the Month for November were Kyle Sandhass, an undergraduate Law Enforcement and Justice Administration major, and Ethan Rockwood, a Computer Sciences graduate student. The December SGA Students of the Month are Nayarit Romero and Nicholas Hatler, both Law Enforcement and Justice Administration majors. Mr. Markey stated that faculty can nominate students for exceptional service to the University. SGA members are ineligible for the award. Nominations can be submitted on PurplePost. Senator Perabo asked what the criteria are for the award; Mr. Markey promised to find out and report back to senators.

C. Other Announcements

Chairperson Pynes reminded senators that Senator Maskarinec had recommended at the last meeting that announcements with positive news from the University should be increased. He recalled that Inessa Levi, former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, had recommended the same. Today's announcements include examples of positive achievements occurring across the University, and Chairperson Pynes stated that this information will be made available to the media as well.

1. On November 10, a team of three WIU Athletic Training students (Kelly Crowley, Charysse Berkowski, and Lindsey Schafer) competed against teams from nine other universities across the State of Illinois at the annual Illinois Athletic Trainers' Association's college jeopardy quiz bowl. In a nail biter that came down to the final jeopardy question and amount of points wagered, WIU took first place and now moves on to represent Illinois against five other states (Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin) at the district competition in March.

2. The Anthropology major (with just 3.5 faculty members) now has 43 majors and 42 minors. (This is well above the threshold for being removed from the APER list.) Faculty are also working with Tim Hallinan and Amy Crosby to produce a "crowd funding" campaign to support the WIU 2019 Archaeological Field School at the world renowned Orendorf Site. The campaign should go live in the next couple of weeks. This will expand WIU's reach to students from other universities who might also want to study at the field school this summer.
3. This year's EGO/ΣΤΔ (English Graduate Organization/Sigma Tau Delta Honors Society) conference was a great success, thanks to the terrific teamwork of the English Graduate Organization students and the Sigma Tau Delta undergraduate students. Together, they did the heavy lifting. All these students deserve kudos!

STATS:

- 6 Regional colleges and universities were represented by 8 students
- 14 Undergraduates presented
- 19 Graduate Students presented
- 11 WIU English Faculty presented
- 65 people--from freshman First-Year-Experience students to graduate students and faculty-- attended keynote speaker Dr. Kishonna Gray's (University of Illinois at Chicago) talk, "Hypervisible Blackness, Invisible Narratives: The Digital Stories that Games Tell." Students led a standing ovation for Dr. Gray after her remarkable and powerful presentation!

AWARDS:

The current WIU English department faculty raised \$165.79 to award the top three critical papers by graduate students:

- First Place: Lisa Ellison (WIU) for her essay, "Surviving the Ordeal: Tracking Richard's Depression in Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere*."
- Second Place: Nicholaus Nusbaumer (WIU) for his essay, "My Beautiful Dark Twisted (Urban) Fantasy: How Kanye West and Richard Mayhew Overcome the Below in Order to Conquer the Above."
- Third Place: Rhobie Underwood (WIU) for her essay, "The Technological Representations of Desire: Revisiting Carter and *The Infernal Desire Machines of Doctor Hoffman* through "Black Museum."

The WIU chapter of the Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society awarded prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25 for the best three overall papers (critical or creative) by undergraduates:

- First Place: Apryl Moore (WIU), for her essay "Bundren BDSM: Sadomasochism, Duty, and Meaning in *As I Lay Dying's* Addie Bundren"
- Second Place: Sophie Jeffrey (McKendree University) for her essay, "A Resurgence of Patronage: No More Starving Artists?"

Third Place was a tie!

- Third Place: Mary Arnold (Stephens College) for her essay, "The Influence of Feminism in Disney Princesses"
- Third Place: Joseph Schwenker (The University of Dubuque) for his essay, "The God Complex in August Williams's *Fences*"

4. WIU History Department Chair Dr. Jennifer McNabb contributed an essay, "'She is but a girl': Talk of Young Women as Daughters, Wives, and Mothers in the Records of the English Consistory Courts, 1550-1650," to the book *The Youth of Early Modern Women*,

which was published by Amsterdam University Press on November 15 as part of its series on "Gendering the Late Medieval and Early Modern World."

5. The members of Dr. Ginny Boynton's History 510 graduate research seminar will present approximately 20-minute conference papers based on their seminar research at "The American Revolution: A Graduate Research Mini-Conference." All who are interested are invited to attend any or all sessions.

Wednesday, November 28 in 453 Morgan Hall, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Session 1. Perspectives on the War for Independence:

Scott Rowley, "The Significance of General John Burgoyne in the American War for Independence"

Richard Schwab, "The Morale of Soldiers during the American Revolution"

Session 2. The View from the States:

Ricky Newcomb, "'A Lively Experiment': Revolutionary Rhode Island Politics Under the Royal Charter"

Colton Kurtz, "New York's Role in the Constitution: 'To Ratify or Not, Is the Question'"

Wednesday, December 5 in 453 Morgan Hall, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Session 3. Diplomacy in the Revolutionary Era:

Matt Bersell, "Help from an Unlikely Source: France's Role in the Early Stages of the American Revolution"

Mikayla Kitchen, "The Treaty of Alliance of 1778 and the Tradition of American Foreign Policy During the Revolutionary Era: A Lesson and Study in American Foreign Policy"

Session 4. Revolutionary American Society:

Tim Bradish, "Coffee in the Colonies: Using Coffee as a Lens of Analysis for Social Interaction During the American Revolution"

Harrison Schulte, "Loyalists in America: Connections between Motivations and Post-War Life"

6. Senator Boynton reminded senators that yesterday was the State of Illinois's 200th birthday; on December 3, 1818, Illinois became the 21st state in the Union.
7. Senator Perabo said she was impressed with the cooperation surrounding the recent Rally for Love; she felt like WIU's administration and faculty and the Macomb community stepped up to work on this response. She related there was a reference to WIU in *The New York Times* in an article on the Indiana student who is being protested against by Westboro Baptist Church and felt that it is good that WIU was recognized in this positive way.
8. Senator Czechowski announced that the Department of Art for the past year has hosted a visiting scholar from South Korea, Ho-jung Nam, who will exhibit her art in the University Art Gallery from 4:30-6:00 p.m. today. Additionally, the Department of Art's annual Holiday Sale will be held from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on December 10, 12, and 14 (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of next week) in the Union Brattain Lounge. Senator Czechowski stated that all of the money earned goes back to the WIU students creating the artwork for sale.

9. Budget Director Letisha Trepac and Interim Vice President for Administrative Services Bill Polley

Ms. Trepac explained that WIU has three different account categories: appropriated, which includes tuition income; restricted funds, such as those for auxiliary services; and other unrestricted local funds and grant accounts. She told senators that over the past couple of years WIU's budget has not been balanced, which the administration is trying to correct. Ms. Trepac presented a slide illustrating the history of WIU's state appropriation, which for FY 19 is \$47.2 million. The state appropriation in FY 10 was \$59.9 million. Ms. Trepac explained that the budget impasse of FY 16 created a big hole in the University's budget that has never been made up by the state, which, combined with declining enrollments, is part of the reason that WIU is in its current predicament. Interim Vice President Polley added that the FY 16 and 17 state appropriations combined were only a little more than the University would normally receive in one year. Ms. Trepac pointed out that this year's appropriation was two percent higher than last year but was still down eight percent from FY 15.

Ms. Trepac told senators that the University should not use one entity to subsidize another; if WIU is to become self-sufficient in its appropriated budget, its cash flow should not go beyond its expenses each month as it has historically been doing. She explained this means that the University is being subsidized by unrestricted funds. Interim Vice President Polley stated that the cash flow history of the appropriated funds, including tuition funding and state appropriations, will occasionally fall below the appropriated expense line, as it did in twice in FY 16 and four times in FY 17, but that cannot be maintained for very long because it means that the unrestricted cash is insufficient to meet a month of payroll. Ms. Trepac stated that the University needs between \$8.5 and \$10 million per month to operate, although this fluctuates. She added that if the University's unrestricted cash on hand falls into the negative, it can become a legal issue because the University would need to dip into its restricted cash; Interim Vice President Polley added that this can also be reported to WIU's bond holders. Chairperson Pynes recalled that a couple of years ago the Board of Trustees voted to authorize using restricted funds if needed, and the state then came through with more money. Senator Dimitrov recalled from a previous presentation that WIU "fell below the red line" in November 2010 and July 2011 (a reference to a red line on the slide indicating unrestricted cash insufficient to meet one month of expenses). Interim Vice President Polley responded that he does not have that information right now. He added that if the University's unrestricted cash is less than needed to meet a month of payroll, this is dangerous but would not cause the same problems as actually going below zero. Ms. Trepac explained that if for some month WIU could not meet its expenses with unrestricted funds and had to dip into its restricted funds, those would have to be paid back within one year, and the University is currently on a trend line where it would be impossible to pay this back within a year without making some serious corrections to future year's budgets.

Ms. Trepac stated that the income fund reserve history shows that the fund was at its peak between FY 12 and 13. She added that FY 17 did not make up for the losses of FY 16, and, due to deficit spending, WIU is now seeing what little money there is in the reserve dwindling and a projected zero balance for FY 19 in our reserve. Interim Vice President Polley stated that if nothing is done to diminish expenses this fiscal year, WIU would end the year being subsidized by the other unrestricted accounts.

Ms. Trepac stated that the headcount for WIU this year is 8,502 for both the Quad Cities and Macomb campuses; enrollment and retention rates have become more important than the state appropriation because the University's revenue now primarily comes from tuition. She showed a chart indicating that WIU's retention rate has been steadily falling from 73 percent in 2013 to 65 percent in 2017. Interim Vice President Polley related that about 60 percent of WIU's appropriated revenue comes from tuition and only 40 percent is

provided by the state, which is the reverse from 16 years ago and is why declines in enrollment really hurt the University on the revenue side. Senator Dimitrov asked if the projections for FY 19 anticipate that the state will be providing more than 50 percent of the appropriated revenue or if there is the expectation that the state will reduce that amount. Ms. Trepac responded that the Budget Office tries to assume a level appropriation, but it could go either way, particularly since there will be a new set of people coming into Springfield government in the spring. Senator Dimitrov observed that the appropriation levels were formerly at 60/40 and are now at 40/60 and trending toward 50/50, so he wonders if the administration thinks the state will reduce their percentage of the University's budget. Interim Vice President Polley responded that legislators in Springfield look at the University's funding as an actual amount rather than as a percentage of the University's budget; this year it was \$47.2 million, which was two percent more for FY 19 than what was received for FY 18. Senator Dimitrov asked if legislators ask how many students the University has; Ms. Trepac responded that this information is reported but legislators do not currently use any type of formula to dictate what the appropriation bill will be. Chairperson Pynes added that legislators have used enrollment figures in the past as a percentage of the "big pie," when the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) provided emergency funding. He added that the reason the trend is toward 50/50 is because the administration is projecting lower student enrollment for WIU next year.

Senator Dimitrov asked if Springfield will cut WIU's budget due to lower student enrollment. Ms. Trepac responded that right now a group is working on a funding formula, although a lot of details still need to be ironed out. She related that the group originally announced that they would develop a performance-based funding formula; WIU has argued that if money is being carved out of what universities were already scheduled to receive, that is a punishment model, and that kind of model should not be used to impact existing appropriation but only if it is intended to distribute new money. Ms. Trepac related that legislators and others are confused about how the original appropriation amounts were determined; in former years universities received an incremental budget with all of them receiving a piece of the pie, until those budgets began decreasing, but no formula was used to determine those initial amounts. Interim Vice President Polley added that the one exception to this was the emergency funding appropriation from the IBHE, which was based on a funding formula. He explained that over the past few years, all state universities have seen their appropriations go up or down together by the same percentage; FY 15 was the last year for a good budget appropriation, FY 16-17 was the budget impasse, and FY 18 saw a ten percent reduction applied to what was received in FY 15 without any concern about the chaos that occurred in FY 16-17. He stated that FY 19 was two percent more than the FY 18 appropriation, which is still about eight percent less than was received in FY 15. He explained that these appropriations are not based on student enrollment, and at this point WIU does not want it to be because this is a low point in the University's enrollment cycle.

Senator Maskarinec asked if the PowerPoint slide shows the entire appropriated budget. Ms. Trepac answered that the chart distributed in Senate packets [which was distributed at the June BOT meeting] shows the actual revenue and expense projections, but this will not match exactly the reserve amounts because those are very fluid. Senator Maskarinec observed that net income over expenses on the Senate handout does not exactly match the PowerPoint slide. Ms. Trepac responded that the carryover reserve balance will most closely match the chart that was included in the packets because the net income over expenses, plus or minus any year, will take away or add to those reserves. Interim Vice President Polley added that the chart included in the packets was produced at the end of May or early June, but the PowerPoint reflects an updated projection for where the University will be in FY 19. Ms. Trepac added that the FY 19 projection will change throughout the year. Senator Maskarinec observed that the projection in the packets has the "horizon effect" on it, which means that the FY 20 projection will be worse yet; Interim Vice President Polley confirmed that is true.

Senator Dimitrov observed that there seems to be a negative \$4 million reserve fund reflected on the [newer] PowerPoint slide, but the projections included in Senate packets showed negative \$6.5 million in reserves for FY 19. He asked if deficit minus reserves gives the carryover reserve balance; Interim Vice President Polley confirmed this is correct. Senator Dimitrov observed there seems to have been a revision of \$1.5 million for the FY 19 number. Interim Vice President Polley confirmed that the change reflects actions that have been taken since May 2018, but, although it is a measurable amount, what has been done so far is not enough to take the University where it needs to be. Ms. Trepac stated that she updates the projections on a daily basis, so as actual income comes in and actual expenses go out, the projection constantly changes, and it will become increasingly accurate as it draws closer to the end of the year.

Senator Czechowski observed that it seems like enrollment figures are a little high for Fall 2018. Chairperson Pynes clarified that what is reflected is headcount rather than full-time equivalency (FTE); FTE headcount was 7,260. Senator Perabo asked if there is any relationship between the amounts of state funding the University receives and retention rates since there have been some discussions in the past about the uncertainty surrounding MAP grant amounts, the gaps between what students actually receive in funding and the cost of their educations, and how both of these affect retention. Ms. Trepac responded that retention does not currently factor into what WIU receives from the state, but it is one of the things being discussed by the group considering a new funding formula. Senator Perabo asked if there is any correlation between whether students drop out at a higher rate as the University's funding levels get worse, but Ms. Trepac responded that she has no information about that. Interim Vice President Polley told senators that all state universities experience approximately the same increases and decreases in state appropriations, but every institution's retention rates are different and fluctuate for a number of reasons.

Chairperson Pynes asked what year the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) moved to the positive side; Interim Vice President Polley responded that he cannot recall. Chairperson Pynes believes there is a lot of correlation between WIU's retention and when the University's financial aid package became unable to cover the entire cost of a WIU education. Interim Vice President Polley said he would agree with that, and thinks that this happened within the past ten years. He related that since the recession about ten years ago and the resulting financial crisis, WIU saw its students become much more tuition price sensitive. He stated that this is why in 2015 WIU decreased its tuition by three percent, which was essentially value neutral as far as the administration has been able to tell because that was the year that a lot of other institutions were losing students at a much greater rate than WIU, which stayed basically flat. He related that WIU was only down eight students from FY 15 to FY 16 while the rest of the state institutions were down much more than that; in the years since, all state institutions have been going down at about the same rates. Interim Vice President Polley stated that when WIU lowered tuition, it enabled it to preserve its incoming freshman class and probably came out revenue neutral; he believes that if WIU had not taken this step, the University would have decreased by about three percent or more, and it would have been "a wash" for tuition. He related that in the past couple of years, WIU has been more aggressive with its financial aid packages to attract students; this year, Aim High and WIU's match will hopefully help turn the tide in enrollment, but all the other state universities have Aim High and match funds, too, so there is tough competition. Ms. Trepac related that WIU tried to be as creative as possible in packaging the Aim High opportunity, and WIU's Director of Marketing and the Interim Director of Admissions did a great job, but it is an even playing field across the state. She believes that when WIU does not have the money to invest in being competitive in marketing and in enhancing programs, it does probably indirectly play a part in retention. Interim Vice President Polley said he knows that Vice President for Student Services Ron Williams, Interim Admissions Director Jason Woods, and the Office of Financial Aid are trying to achieve more for prospective students, with the goal

of zero out-of-pocket costs to attend WIU, which he thinks is important in order to attract students to come here. He added that in the days before there was such a gap between financial aid and university costs, most students could attend for nothing or a modest amount out-of-pocket.

Senator Allison observed that retention rates increased dramatically in 2012-13 and again in 2015. She wonders if anyone is investigating why that happened. Ms. Trepac responded that she has posed that question as well. The Interim Admissions Director and Director of Institutional Research and Planning are trying to get an answer back to Ms. Trepac. Senator Allison observed that there was a nine percent increase in 2012-13. Vice President Williams recalled that in Fall 2011, WIU let in about 480 Office of Academic Services (OAS) students. He said that proved to be a challenge because of the number of students, but it was done to bring additional students to the University and give those students a chance at a college education. He said that Fall 2011 was also the time that Noel-Levitz had just left WIU after recommending that Admissions no longer conduct entrance interviews and recommending a more rigorous, comprehensive process for OAS admittance. Vice President Williams told senators that the University is moving toward that more rigorous OAS process for 2019 because of the need to make sure that students who are admitted can be successful academically. He stated that the students admitted in Fall 2011 were below the 25 percentage level of their classes, which is policy, but the University lost about half of them, so the following year Admissions corrected the number of OAS admits, which made it much more manageable. Vice President Williams said that the administration is aware that WIU's retention rate needs some work, but if one looks only at the retention rate for regularly admitted students, it is on par with the national trend of about 70 percent. He stated that while WIU has awesome people in the University Advising and Academic Services Center working with OAS students, it becomes increasingly difficult for those students to be successful because they have both academic and financial deficiencies, which is not the best recipe for success. He stressed that WIU's advisors are wonderful and do what they can, but sometimes these students are unable to be successful within a one semester timeframe. Chairperson Pynes recalled that after the big OAS class in Fall 2011, the policy at WIU was changed; all OAS students used to be admitted under academic probation their first semester, but Faculty Senate voted to change that so that all OAS students would get a full academic year to turn things around. He recalled from a BOT presentation that there is a correlation between the EFC of students, their financial pressures, and the reduction in WIU's retention rate, so it is not a simple story and is complicated by money. Senator Allison said she can kind of understand the sharp increase because retention between 2010-2012 was down and then 2012-2013 showed a spike, but she is still curious about the increase, which has been sort of explained but not completely. Interim Vice President Polley observed that 2012 was abnormally low and 2013 represented a kind of revision to this trend, after which the entire trend has been more steadily downward.

Senator Dimitrov observed that EFC is a number that a student receives after completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); he believes WIU uses this number as a guide for what the student and his/her family are able to pay. He recalled that former Admissions Director Andy Borst presented information on the Western Commitment Scholarship and its relationship to ACT scores – whether it should be set at 19, 20, or 21 for the receipt of these scholarships. Senator Dimitrov asked if there has been a change in policy for the Western Commitment Scholarship. Vice President Williams replied that the most recent change, in Fall 2019, involves the amount of money that students are given. He added that 21 remains the lowest ACT that a student can earn in order to qualify for the lowest amount of the Western Commitment Scholarship. Senator Dimitrov asked if this is the same ACT standard for the Aim High grants; Vice President Williams replied the cut off for those grants is 20 because Aim High is designed to only apply to tuition and fees. He explained that WIU is trying to create a situation where incoming students can couple Aim High funding with the Western Commitment Scholarship to pay for tuition, fees, room, board, and books so that most students can come to WIU for zero out-of-pocket in

order to increase enrollment and retention. Interim Vice President Polley added that students at the top end of the ACT scale do pretty well with the Western Commitment Scholarship, and Aim High can be added onto that. He confirmed that for students with 20 ACTs, who might just miss the Western Commitment cut off, Aim High is able to give them something that will only apply to tuition and fees, not room and board like Western Commitment. Senator Dimitrov asked if there is a breakdown of retention rates for the various groups; Interim Vice President Polley replied that was not something that was supposed to be part of today's presentation and is something that would need to be requested from Student Services. Ms. Trepac added that information may be able to be gathered from the WIU Fact Book. Chairperson Pynes observed that until last year, the University could not give more than three percent of its tuition income fund in the form of waivers, so there are certain restrictions that Student Services has to work within. He stated that the Fact Book should be available soon, and previous years' Fact Books since 2006 are online.

Chairperson Pynes stated that if individuals are interested in retention rates, there is a committee looking into that on which he served for two years. Vice President Williams clarified that this committee has evolved into an enrollment management group because the retention committee only focused on retention, and Student Services is now trying to focus on enrollment holistically. He said the current committee considers outreach, recruitment, enrollment, matriculation experiences, retention, and graduation, so it looks at the process in a more comprehensive way. He said the group is large, but he can provide information in case faculty want to join or listen in on the group meetings. Chairperson Pynes acknowledged there are a lot of people working very hard to figure out and solve this problem. He told senators he was very impressed by the members of the committee and their commitment and creativity.

Returning to the Expense History slide, Ms. Trepac explained there is always a difference between budgeted expenses and actual expenses; the budget guides the University's expenditures. She said the Expense History slide matches up with the spreadsheet that senators received in their packets. She added that the University has cut expenditures, but they have not been cut as quickly or as much as necessary for WIU's revenue. Senator Boynton observed that it appears that operating expenses have increased over the past couple of years; Chairperson Pynes agreed that it appears operating expenses have returned to 2015 amounts. Senator Boynton asked if this has been caused by anything in particular; Ms. Trepac replied that the reason is primarily institutional aid. Ms. Trepac explained that when budgets are cut by 25 percent while the University is adding enrollment initiatives, expenses stay pretty level. She added that the challenge is for the University to reduce while it is at the same time investing.

Interim Vice President Polley told senators that the income and expense history for appropriated funds may be similar to what former Vice President for Administrative Services Matt Bierman presented in the past, but it is good to review. He said the University needs to reduce expenditures by \$5 million for the current fiscal year and reduce the budget by about \$21 million for FY 20.

During difficulties experienced with the Quad Cities teleconference connection, Chairperson Pynes pointed out that an email was sent to senators regarding additional teacher licensing issues at the state level. A letter has been sent from state university presidents and chancellors about the Illinois State Board of Higher Education (ISBE) proposal. Amy Carr, WIU Representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Faculty Advisory Council (FAC), added that the Illinois Federation of Teachers and the Illinois Articulation Initiative board also signed off on the letter along with the presidents. Senator Boynton related that at a University Committee for Educator Preparation (UCEP) meeting yesterday (December 3), graduate programs were approved that will provide alternative licensure programs in mathematics, science, and special education. She explained these master's degrees are intended for working professionals

who want to change careers and become teachers in those fields and represent one of the efforts WIU is taking to address the teacher shortage. She added there will be three options within one master's degree. Senator Boynton also told senators that the meeting featured a guest from Peoria Public Schools who wants to develop a connection between WIU and schools in his district. She said this individual would like to see WIU professors teach in Peoria schools and also have their students come to WIU for classes; the district needs additional teachers in all areas but particularly in mathematics, science, and special education. Senator Allison asked if there is any sense of where the political winds are blowing on this issue. Dr. Carr replied that she was unable to attend the last IBHE FAC meeting so the WIU alternate member attended in her place. The council had a conversation with a representative from the ISBE, but Dr. Carr said she hears different versions about how things are progressing at the state level depending on who she talks to.

Interim Vice President Polley told senators that the University has a process for creating a budget every year which provides a guideline for spending; revenue is subject to state appropriations and enrollment, but the University has some control over expenses, even up to the middle of the year. He pointed out that before the budget impasse – in FY 11 and 12 particularly – budget and revenue were very close; things were more predictable, and the state was increasing its budget appropriation each year while WIU's student enrollment was not falling as precipitously at that time, so there was always more revenue than expenses. He pointed out that when the budget impasse hit in FY 16 and 17 and the University received about one year's worth of state appropriation for two years, the University ended up with an appropriated deficit of about \$14 million for those years combined. Interim Vice President Polley stated that this \$14 million deficit ate up a lot of the \$20 income reserve that WIU had going into that crisis, but the University was able to decrease its expenses somewhat and to preserve what was left – a small but positive reserve going into FY 19. He stated that for FY 18 and the prediction for FY 19, revenue has fallen precipitously relative to the University's budget numbers; the budget for FY 19 is around \$124 million and was \$127.5 for FY 18, but the expected revenue for this year and the actual revenue for FY 18 was considerably below that, so ultimately the University's expenses are greater than its revenue. Interim Vice President Polley said this explains the need for \$5 million right away as the University completes this year with an actual expense reduction, and that has to happen to keep WIU from going into the red. He stated that if the trend does not change, the University would end the year needing to take \$4 to \$5 million from the income reserve fund, so the \$5 million is needed to keep WIU from falling below zero (or not too far below zero). He noted that this does not, however, address the ongoing problem for FY 20, 21, and beyond. He pointed out that on the spreadsheet in Senate packets, the projections for FY 20 and 21 were net income and expenses of \$14 million and \$18 million, respectively, if no changes are made, so expenses will need to be reduced at least that much in order to bring the budget into balance. He stated that because WIU's budget is already far above what its income and expenses have been in the past couple of years, it needs to be brought back into alignment. He added that there are a lot of vacant positions still on the budget that have not been filled, and taking those off the books will reduce the budget numbers without impacting the expense numbers, helping to bring the budget back into some alignment.

Ms. Trepac told senators that the current projections are based on level new students and level state appropriations, but those are variable and could change. She recognizes that many are hopeful that the University will receive a higher appropriation for next year, but she does not think WIU should put all of its eggs in one basket, especially since she has spoken to the state budget director who has informed her of the situation at the state level. She said that if WIU were to do nothing to address its budget situation, she could conceivably be off a few million in her estimate, but she thinks it very unlikely that her projections would be off \$20 million, which is something to keep in mind when considering budget versus actual income and expenses. Interim Vice President Polley stated that even if WIU received what everyone in the room would consider a satisfactory outcome from the state, which would be to go back to FY 15 funding, that is only about \$4

to \$5 million of what the University would need. Ms. Trepac confirmed that even if this were to occur, WIU would still need to make structural changes. Interim Vice President Polley stated that the University could potentially reduce the amount that expenses need to be decreased if the state were to increase its appropriation, but when one is talking about closing a \$21 million budget gap, an extra \$4 million to \$5 million from the state would be wonderful but would not do the job. He added that a couple hundred more students would bring in a couple million more dollars but would also not bring the University all the way to where it needs to be.

Senator Allison said she does not understand the \$5 million and the \$20 million expense reduction amounts. Chairperson Pynes explained that next year's \$21 million **budget** reduction is not the same thing as this year's \$5 million **expense** reduction. He added that some of the \$5 million will also be recounted in next year's expense reductions, but the Budget Office does not know that number yet; additionally, \$6 million of next year's budget reductions are vacant positions that do not affect spending at all. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that if both of these amounts [the \$5 million expense reduction and the \$6 million reduction from vacant positions] were able to be carried over to next year, then the budget reduction for next year would be \$10 million. Ms. Trepac added this is because the University would have already identified a continuous expense. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that if a secretary position is not filled, it represents an ongoing expense reduction that will provide the same savings this year and next year. Interim Vice President Polley explained that the University wants to reduce expenditures in the second half of FY 19; if that is because of position eliminations that happen this year and are then not filled next year, that also counts toward the \$21 million budget reduction, which only begins with the fiscal year that starts on July 1, 2019 and ends on June 30, 2020. He added that if the position were to continue to be vacant, it would represent savings in FY 21 and beyond. Ms. Trepac explained the \$5 million reduction is intended to slow down the University's expenditures this year; the \$21 million next year is intended to get the budget in line with revenue, and over \$20 million is needed to address this discrepancy. She observed that Chairperson Pynes and Interim Vice President Polley have said that the University is trying to identify reductions to reset the budget to be in line with expected revenue as well as trying to scale back expenditures this year to help prevent going into the negative and having to borrow from reserves. She explained that if there are continuous positions that will not be filled, that whole salary can be taken off the books and counted as a budget reduction for FY 21 as well as counting toward the \$21 million budget reduction for FY 20.

Senator Boynton asked why the budget is so much higher than what is actually being spent; Ms. Trepac replied it is because the budget has not yet been adjusted to be in line with the University's revenue. Interim Provost Neumann explained that if there is a position that is currently open but not filled, that position remains on the budget; Ms. Trepac added that the position may remain vacant for two years and still remain on the budget. Interim Vice President Polley added that the University budgets high for heating expenses, for example; when there is a warm winter, the University might spend \$1 million less than it budgeted, which helps explain the gap between expenses and the actual appropriated budget. He explained that the budget represents the maximum amount of spending that an area is allowed to do; in FY 11 and 12, this was very close to the actual revenue, but the differences have been magnified in the last few years because of vacant positions that have not been filled since the budget impasse. Ms. Trepac added that this is coupled with a steep decline in revenue in a short period of time. She added that in some cases these open positions have not been filled in seven or eight years but remain on the books.

Senator Dimitrov asked how much of the \$5 million reduction for the current fiscal year is already known, how much is unknown, and how much has already been reduced. Ms. Trepac responded that personnel expenses are trending down by only about 1.5 percent, but she is waiting to hear back from vice presidents so does not have a complete answer today. Chairperson Pynes added that some of the reserves will make up a portion of that

difference, too, so that the University does not have to reduce tenured professors. Senator Maskarinec observed that net income over expenses is called deficit in the federal government, and the carryover is debt, which is an accumulating sum. He stated that \$21.8 million is the accumulated sum over two fiscal years; if reductions are made in the first fiscal year, they can be continued into the second fiscal year and be counted twice. Chairperson Pynes explained that one thing that is causing confusion between the spreadsheet that was in the packets and the PowerPoint slides is an accidental equivalency because one \$21 million is referring to expenses and the other \$21 million is about the budget; there are two \$21 million numbers by coincidence since the spreadsheet shows actual expense projections at \$21.8. Interim Vice President Polley stated that the \$21 million budget reduction will result in some amount less than \$21 million savings in actual expenses; the University will reduce the appropriated budget by \$21 million, which will reduce actual expenses by something less than \$21 million.

Speech Pathology and Audiology Chair Amanda Silberer observed that if she retires on January 1, the savings would count toward the \$5 million expense reduction for this year and, if the position is not filled, it would count again toward the \$21 million budget reduction for next year. Senator Allison asked why positions remain on the books if they have not been filled for six or more years because it makes it sound as if the budget is not real, and if the University needs to cut then the discussion needs to be about real numbers. Chairperson Pynes asserted that the budget is real in the sense that certain projections need to be made, such as about the cost of heating. He noted that the budget is not just salary and is always bigger than the actual expenses because it is impossible to get that exactly right. Interim Provost Neumann related that every year the administration goes through a budget exercise with each of the deans and area directors to determine which positions they anticipate needing to fill for the coming year and take those positions off the books that they do not anticipate filling soon. She said the administration has been more aggressive taking those positions off the books over the past couple of years so that those areas will have to ask for a budget increase in order to add those positions back in. She does not think there are any positions in Academic Affairs that have been on the books for more than a year at this point unless they represent a failed search. Chairperson Pynes explained that units leave positions on the books because otherwise when they want to fill a position they have to ask for money for that position, which makes it look like the University is asking for additional money from the legislature. He stated that part of the issue is that the budgeting process involves budgeting for the university that one desires as much as for the university that one has, so part of the reason that positions are left on the books is to allow for that kind of maneuvering. He added that the budget is a forward-looking document so it will always be bigger than actual expenses.

Senator Allison understands that the budget is more than what the University plans to spend, but the campus has hanging over its head “whatever happened last Friday and whatever is happening this coming Friday,” which some people have suspected are discussions of layoff notices for November 30 and December 7. She stated that if there are things on the budget that the University never expects to pay for, that creates a certain level of anxiety on the campus, which is driving her question. Senator Allison pointed out that the University community has been told that it needs to save \$5 million this fiscal year and reduce its budget by \$21 million next fiscal year, and that something happened on November 30 and will happen on December 7, but no one has been told what that is. Chairperson Pynes explained that were deadline dates for vice presidents and unit directors to provide their expense reduction plans for this year. He pointed out that since individuals are still able to take advantage of the early retirement incentive, areas are trying to figure out where they have to cut expenses, not just cutting positions. He added that this is one of the reasons that Interim Provost Neumann halted the faculty travel fund. Chairperson Pynes clarified that November 30 was when non-Academic Affairs areas had to provide their expense reductions (not their budget reductions), and this Friday, December 7, all deans will give their reports on how they plan to reduce expenses, which is different than reducing the budget. He pointed out that areas do not know what expense

reductions might be needed next year because this depends on enrollment, next year's budget, and how much of the \$5 million savings from this year will be able to be saved next year, so it is complicated. Chairperson Pynes has told President Thomas and Interim Vice President Polley that the messages have to be clearer and simpler, and today's meeting provides the opportunity to disseminate good information.

Senator McIlvaine-Newsad asked if there are different projected scenarios since everything presented today is based on cutting, whereas the hope is that the University grows enrollment and increases retention and its appropriated budget. She wonders if different scenarios are being developed for the next five years if this occurs. Ms. Trepac responded affirmatively, adding that she works with an enrollment matrix model, one variable of which is an increase in new students. She explained that this model allows one to determine how many students are needed to "climb out of this hole" without reductions, but she has not run those numbers because it would be impossible to achieve without reductions since WIU's market share of students is predicted to shrink by 2025. She added that her office does take a look at those models and communicates with Admissions in order to develop better targets and goals. Senator McIlvaine-Newsad asked if those models could be shared with Faculty Senate at some point. Ms. Trepac responded that she can share what it would take for WIU not to have a projected deficit. Chairperson Pynes recalled that two years ago former Admissions Director Seth Miner and Vice President Williams presented those projections to Faculty Senate, and he will get back to Ms. Trepac to follow up on this.

Senator Dimitrov suspects that other universities spend much more than WIU on hiring. He observed that things went wrong for WIU in FY 16, when the University received a \$14 million appropriation rather than \$51 million. He wonders if the University could ask the state for additional funding. Ms. Trepac responded that the administration has asked this of the state on numerous occasions. She related that last Thursday, November 27, WIU's governmental liaison set up meetings for WIU officials with different appropriations groups and with legislators in their offices; Interim Vice President Polley added that he and Ms. Trepac wanted to make this presentation to Faculty Senate on that day but were called to Springfield for these meetings. Senator Dimitrov observed that \$5 million and \$16 million cuts are making WIU kind of dysfunctional. Ms. Trepac stated that she has also stressed that in discussions; it is a story that WIU's administration tells religiously and repeatedly. She related that they go into detail, such as explaining the civil service situation to legislators. She told senators that oftentimes legislators do not understand that if the University needs to reduce civil service positions – and with staff cuts this deep pretty much every group is at risk – it leads to bumping and to individuals in seats that they are not trained for, and those who would train them are in some cases already out the door. Ms. Trepac told senators that the administration has been very specific in detailing the hardships to legislators while also being very careful not to harm WIU's reputation or to give the impression that WIU will not be here in the future. She stated that if real stories about the impact of the budget crisis seem to hit legislators the hardest, and she will be happy to include them in every letter she sends. Interim Vice President Polley told senators that there will be declines in services because part of the reductions that will need to take place will be on the facilities side. He said that if individuals think the University is at bare minimum now with maintaining classroom buildings and offices, future cuts will mean that WIU will be reaching the bottom even more and services will be decreased. He fears that this will make things very difficult.

Interim Chair of the Department of English David Banish remarked that he has found the presentation very helpful, and he appreciated Interim Vice President Polley and Ms. Trepac taking everyone through the numbers. Dr. Banash wonders about the timing of the reductions since one of WIU's crises is retention, and there is a sense of uncertainty at the University right now. He explained that departments are unsure how they will be reorganized or if they will be eliminated, and they are already understaffed; Facilities Management could barely get snow cleared from the campus with their current staffing.

He thinks students have felt this uncertainty in all sorts of ways and wonders why these actions are being taken in the middle of the academic year when the first two months of the spring semester will already see brutal layoffs and bumping. Dr. Banash asked if there would be any prudence in delaying these actions until the end of the academic year so that more can be done over the summer with less disruption to students and to the mood of the campus. Ms. Trepac responded that she wishes the answer were yes, but the University has to start working to address these problems now because of the details and the backend work needed to actually see these decisions through. She admitted that if WIU receives a higher appropriation that could change some things, but she must work within notification requirements, and if the University were to do nothing, cash flow is projected to run out in October 2019. Interim Vice President Polley pointed out that it is easy to show charts outlining the net financial position at the end of a fiscal year; it is a snapshot of a single point in time. He explained that deficit spending, however, takes place over time, and the projections of where the University will be in about seven months, on June 30, 2019, is not a good place to be at all. He stated that this can be changed somewhat by starting now because when an institution is deficit spending, every day that it continues to deficit spend make the eventual adjustment that much more difficult. Interim Vice President Polley said he, too, wishes the answer was different, but it is not.

Senator Boynton observed that incoming Governor Pritzker has appointed his new higher education advisory panel and asked if WIU is allowed to contact them before they take office. Ms. Trepac responded that the University has to rely on its governmental liaison; the administration will be reaching out to Jeanette Malafa to get them in touch with those groups as soon as it is possible. Interim Vice President Polley added that the membership of the higher education panel was announced last Tuesday and was discussed at the meetings that he and Ms. Trepac attended that day in Springfield. He said that they have spoken to staff from the offices of the majority and minority leaders and other legislators on both sides of the aisle, but the new governor will not be in office until January. He added that Ms. Malafa will set up appointments as soon as individuals are seated in their new positions.

Senator McIlvaine-Newsad asked if there have been discussions or any new ideas about bringing revenue into the University that do not rely on cutting positions of faculty and staff. She believes that one initiative that would help is hiring the institutional grant writer; Interim Vice President Polley agreed this would help. He explained that the University has two major sources of revenue – the state and tuition dollars – and every other source is small by comparison. He observed that if WIU were to increase the number of grants coming in, it is unlikely that it would be enough to turn the current situation fully around, in the short term, but it would add a little bit on the margin. Ms. Trepac observed that some of the grant income would have to be directed toward very specific things, similar to Foundations, which receives donations that cannot be used for WIU's regular operations.

Parliamentarian Lauer asked if the income projections are informed by projections in enrollment provided by Admissions. He pointed out that all of the models assume that the new normal for enrollment is this year's figures, which may or may not be a glitch. Interim Vice President Polley stated that over the past couple of months it has still been a little early for Admissions to tell exactly where enrollment will be next year. He added that, having served on the Student Cost Task Force the past few years and working very closely with Admissions on that effort, it is really not until the first of the year that projected enrollment numbers are able to be firmed up. Parliamentarian Lauer recalled that in 2005 or 2006, WIU was authorized to borrow on a contingency basis for a limited time. He wonders if the administration has considered asking for that authorization again until it is possible to get a more accurate assessment of all the information so that projections can be made more efficiently. Interim Vice President Polley responded that, because of WIU's credit rating, borrowing from the market would be at a very high interest rate. Chairperson Pynes recalled that the state legislature that year passed a special law to allow state institutions to borrow. Parliamentarian Lauer asked if the administration

has considered talking to the state legislature to ask for permission to borrow. Interim Vice President Polley responded that the administration has not specifically talked about that. He added that when the legislature allowed for borrowing, it was regarded as a temporary fix, but what is being considered for WIU is for the long term. He added that if WIU does not make the kinds of corrections that are being discussed, things will only get worse. Parliamentarian Lauer pointed out that the University will not know if last year was a glitch until January. Interim Vice President Polley stated that the number of student that WIU would need to really fully correct its current financial situation is not realistic at this point in time, especially considering the demographics of the state and the nation. He explained there is a downward trend in high school graduates until 2025, which will ripple through the system until that date, and the big picture will not get better until then. He stated that WIU can do a little bit on the margins to improve its market share, such as by attracting more students from the Chicago area and Iowa, but those markets will continue to get smaller before they pick up again. Parliamentarian Lauer asked if this means that the administration is not considering asking for authorization to borrow; Interim Vice President Polley responded that they have not discussed asking for a loan from the state or for authorization to borrow. Ms. Trepac added that there have been letters sent by administrators to state legislators requesting a change in the Certificate of Participation to allow more flexibility, but it has not gotten any traction. Interim Vice President Polley added that Certificates of Participation are usually about capital projects rather than operating expenses.

Chairperson Pynes expressed his thanks to Interim Vice President Polley and Ms. Trepac for all of their time explaining the financial situation to him personally and to Faculty Senate. He told senators if they have more questions to submit them to him or to either of the two presenters. He asked senators to be good stewards and explain what they learned today to as many of their colleagues as possible. Interim Vice President Polley stated that he hopes the presentation was helpful and expressed his willingness to come back before Faculty Senate when needed.

II. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Senate Nominating Committee
(Ginny Boynton, Chair)

1. Faculty Nominations

SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:

Council for Instructional Technology
Ricky Sepulveda-Rodriguez, Music replacing Ilon Lauer 2019 FA&C

There were no further nominations.

III. Old Business

A. Action Items/Consent Agenda Discussion for BOT Meeting of December 13/14

Chairperson Pynes told senators there are only two items at this point that may need to be addressed: resolutions 18.12/1, presentation of the internal audit report, and 18.12/2, the release of the closed session minutes, which will need to be voted on. Senator Bellott asked Chairperson Pynes to explain more about the first item. Chairperson Pynes responded that from what he has read in the report, it seems to be an accreditation requirement for internal auditing that the University create this particular charter. Digger Oster, the University's Director for Insurance, Risk Management, and Compliance, created the document, which Chairperson Pynes thinks is a standard charter for risk analysis. Senator Boynton asked if the document has anything to do with

auditing departments; Chairperson Pynes confirmed that it does not since it is only about University auditing.

Senator Bellott asked if, for the second item, the Board of Trustees just said “no” to Faculty Senate’s request that they not destroy past closed session minutes. Chairperson Pynes explained that this resolution authorizes that the BOT may eliminate their July 13/4 and September 28, 2017 closed session minutes and that they will not release any of the closed session minutes verbatim from recordings that they have already deleted. He added that the BOT is not required to release these, but the University attorney did previously release one of those from the list. Senator Rahman recalled that Faculty Senate discussed last week working closer with the BOT and that it would be in the Senate’s best interests to do so, but this resolution does not make her want to work with the BOT. She would vote not to consent to this item on the BOT agenda. Chairperson Pynes related that after the last Executive Committee meeting, he sent trustees, President Thomas, and the University counsel an email asking for the release of the closed session minutes, and no one responded. He included the Senate resolution [stating that *Faculty Senate requests that the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees release all currently held verbatim recordings of closed session meetings from the July 2017 Board Retreat until the most recent Board meeting of 27 September 2018 by no later than 7 December 2018*] and vote total to all the same people after the November 27 Faculty Senate meeting at which it was approved, and no one has responded. Senator Rahman remarked that this says a lot.

Senator Perabo asked if Faculty Senate can consent to the first item and not to the second item; Chairperson Pynes confirmed that this is allowable. Senator Perabo asked if this would mean that the BOT would not be allowed to consider the second item. Chairperson Pynes explained that generally constituents do not withhold their consent to the action items; when Faculty Senate has not consented to items in the past, the BOT went ahead and did certain things anyway. He concluded that it depends on the nature of the action item. Senator Perabo asked what the purpose is of asking constituents to consent to agenda items. Chairperson Pynes responded that the BOT requires feedback from its constituent groups regarding what they do, and one of methods they use is to ask the groups to consent to items on their agendas. He explained that this process was followed when Vice President Rives asked Faculty Senate to consent to the Higher Learning Commission accreditation document in the past; Vice President Rives needed the Senate’s consent in order for the item to go forward, so different items require different levels of consent. He observed that if one constituency group is consistently refusing to consent to things on the BOT agenda, that could cause trouble for the Board. Chairperson Pynes stated that usually the things that the BOT considers are *pro forma* because they have already been vetted by constituent groups and the administration before reaching that level, but this particular agenda item is slightly different.

Senator Allison reiterated that, although it is not popular, she recommends that Faculty Senate not consent to anything from the BOT. She can see the disadvantages of this course of action but feels it is a way to send a message that this body would appreciate being consulted or considered first. She told senators, however, that she will take the middle ground and just move to not consent to the second agenda item. Senator Allison observed that it is known that the BOT agenda can be changed up to 48 hours before the meeting, and many faculty believe that the agenda will be changed at some point. She wonders if Faculty Senate should make its authorization at that point, perhaps by taking a straw poll via email. Chairperson Pynes responded that if this were to happen, he would say to the BOT at that point that the body of the Faculty Senate has not consented and reserves the right to not consent in the future. Chairperson Pynes noted that senators could authorize him to make the decision [about whether to consent], but he would prefer not to do that because he thinks it is important for the body of the Senate to make those decisions. He recalled that some of the past December BOT meetings have been fairly light on agenda items, so he is not convinced there will be many things added to this agenda. He pointed out that some trustees’ terms are expiring, so there may be some formal thanks to these members added to the agenda, but he does not suspect there will be several action items added in the 48 hours before the meeting.

Senator Boynton observed that it seems as if the BOT is saying that the BOT has decided that certain minutes should remain confidential, but this is the same BOT that has been wrong in the past. She asked if the Faculty Senate is being asked to trust them on this issue. Chairperson Pynes responded that the BOT is asking to eliminate particular verbatim recordings and to keep those minutes confidential that they can legally continue not to release. Senator Boynton asked if the trustees who have violated the Open Meetings Act are the ones who are determining that they have not violated the Open Meetings Act in this particular case. Chairperson Pynes responded negatively, explaining that the trustees are not determining that but are stating that they believe confidentiality for these particular meetings still exists. He explained that the legal justification for the BOT keeping these minutes quiet is that they believe the content is still confidential; it is not about whether they believe what they did was permissible based on the Open Meetings Act. Senator Boynton observed that the BOT seems to be saying that everything in these minutes is allowed to be kept confidential under the Open Meetings Act and are asking Faculty Senate to trust that they are not lying about this, even though the same trustees have lied about this in the past. Chairperson Pynes stated that he does not think the proposed action is self-referential in that regard. He explained that the BOT is allowed to say that the minutes are required to remain confidential as long as they think should be allowed to remain so, and it does not indicate that the BOT did or did not violate the Open Meetings Act. He added that it would require an independent person to make that determination, and the BOT cannot keep the minutes from the Public Access Counselor (PAC) in the Illinois Attorney General's office.

Senator Rahman stated that the real issue is that the BOT wants to authorize the destruction of recordings of their closed session minutes, and there is not much information in their written minutes, as has been seen in the past. She asked if this is legal; Senator Perabo confirmed that it is legal. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that the action item does not say the BOT *will* destroy the recordings; it says that they *may*. Senator Rahman observed that these decisions seem to be made in private anyway; she gets the impression and keeps hearing that faculty have no confidence in the BOT and that they have lost the faculty's trust, and she wants to reiterate that. Senator Boynton stated that is a good reason to object to this agenda item.

Motion: That Faculty Senate does not consent to the second agenda item (18.12/2) and appends a statement indicating that, given the recent violations of the Open Meeting Act, Faculty Senate does not think it is appropriate for this currently constituted Board of Trustees to be destroying verbatim transcripts (Perabo/Boynton)

Senator Rahman asked if there are seven members of the BOT; Chairperson Pynes confirmed this is correct. Chairperson Pynes added that two of the seats are vacant, and three of the trustees' terms end on January 21, leaving only two seats filled, so there will likely be a significant turnover in the BOT in January. Senator Boynton asked if BOT members must not be employed by the state; Chairperson Pynes confirmed that is correct. Parliamentarian Lauer said he understands what is being said, but one possibility might be to reiterate this position with a new Board. He observed that, unfortunately, the current Board did not see the Faculty Senate's resolution [to release previous closed session minutes] as an olive branch to try to gain trust, but that is not to stop the next Board from doing so. Senator Rahman stated that the Faculty Senate asked the BOT to show some good faith and that the Board does respect the Senate enough to share those minutes, but instead the BOT has said they would like to destroy those records. She noted that on January 21 there could be five new BOT members, but they would not be able to share with the Faculty Senate records that have already been destroyed; Parliamentarian Lauer agreed. Senator Boynton asked what the hurry is to destroy this evidence – she wonders whether there is a shortage of space and why they cannot be preserved since this is evidence of what happened during those meetings. Chairperson Pynes responded that they are not actually “evidence,” but there is no hurry, and he will make that point to the BOT. Senator Allison pointed out that it is not just the BOT that is “on the table” since Vice President Rives was also heard on the released closed session recording saying “Let's talk about these things that we can't talk about during the BOT meeting,” so the recordings are evidence. Chairperson Pynes stated there is a new PAC review of three of the sets of minutes, so there are other channels working to try to get these things.

SENATOR RAHMAN CALLED THE QUESTION

NO OBJECTIONS TO ENDING DISCUSSION

MOTION APPROVED 12 YES – 1 NO – 0 AB

IV. New Business

A. For the Good of the Body – None

Motion: To adjourn (Cordes)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Susan Czechowski, Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary