

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Regular Meeting, 10 February 2015, 4:00 p.m.
Capitol Rooms - University Union

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: J. Baylor, S. Bennett, L. Brice, J. Brown, A. Burke, M. Carncross, R. Chaves, J. Choi, D. DeVolder, A. Hyde, G. Jorgensen, J. Myers, T. Roberts, S. Romano, T. Sadler, M. Siddiqi, A. Silberer, M. Singh, S. Szyjka, T. Westerhold
Ex-officio: Ken Hawkinson, Provost; Steve Rock, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: G. Cabedo-Timmons, S. Cordes, C. Keist

GUESTS: Tommy Bell, Andy Borst, Ken Clontz, Tom Cody, Craig Conrad, Simon Cordery, Sue Hum-Musser, Chuck Lydeard, Angela Lynn, Jennifer McNabb, Esmeralda Moreno, Kathy Neumann, Nancy Parsons, Russ Morgan, Erskine Smith, Terry Solomonson, Matt Tanney, Bhavneet Walia, Ron Williams

Chairperson Singh and Faculty Senate recognized by ovation Senator Siddiqi, who was recently announced as this year's Distinguished Faculty Lecturer.

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. 27 January 2015

MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Approvals from the Provost

1. Request for Change of Major
 - a) Apparel and Textile Merchandising
2. Requests for New Emphases
 - a) Deviance and Criminology
 - b) Environment and Community
 - c) Social Inequality
 - d) Social Institutions
 - e) Sociological Social Psychology
 - f) Sociology of Health and Illness
3. Request for Inclusion in General Education
 - a) FL 350, Introduction to Contemporary Critical Theory, 3 s.h.

B. Provost's Report

Provost Hawkinson updated senators regarding tenth day enrollment counts. Spring 2015 total enrollment is 10,676, down 1.3 percent from last year's total of 10,821. Provost Hawkinson stated that 8,852 of that total are undergraduate students; last year's total included 9,063 undergraduates, a 2.3 percent decrease. Graduate enrollment for spring stands at 1,824, an increase of 3.8 percent from last year's total of 1,758. Spring international enrollment is 503, up 36 percent from last year's 369 international students. At least 60 of the 503 international students are enrolled in

Computer Sciences. Provost Hawkinson also credited the jump to the fact that WIU is retaining its international students, and their enrollment numbers were high in fall 2014.

Provost Hawkinson stated that freshmen retention was 88 percent from fall 2014 to spring 2015, down just slightly from the 90.5 percent retention rate last year. OAS student retention is 85 percent, almost the same as last year and comparable to the regular admissions retention rate. There were 431 new transfer students in spring 2015 compared to 353 in spring 2014, a 22 percent increase. New undergraduate students increased 16 percent, from 194 in spring 2014 to 226 in spring 2015.

Provost Hawkinson observed that undergraduate enrollments are the reason overall enrollment is slightly down; all other areas showed increased enrollments. He noted that there were 50 to 60 less freshmen in fall 2014 than the previous year. The Provost related that only a couple of years ago the University accepted up to 470 OAS students, but now those numbers have been reduced to 250, which explains some of the decrease in freshman enrollments. He stated that WIU could open its doors to students who might not be ready for higher education and see enrollments go up, but the University would also see lowered performance and retention rates. He credits Western's good retention rates to recruitment of higher quality students, a revamped First Year Experience Program, and the Building Connections mentorship program.

Provost Hawkinson reported that he and Assistant Vice President Ron Williams delivered a major paper at a recent Provost's Conference. He stated that very few schools are seeing retention increase as much as WIU has seen in one year. He explained that there are fewer 18 year olds, so Western is experiencing increasing competition with surrounding states as well as with online colleges and universities. The Provost stated that there are 100 more college and university recruiting offices in the Chicago area than there were a few years ago. He believes that new student enrollments for WIU's competitor schools are much further down than Western's, and stated that the administration is confident that WIU has turned a corner and will see freshman enrollments increase next year. He thinks it may take longer to see an increase in overall enrollments because Western has larger senior classes. Provost Hawkinson reiterated that the University needs to work harder to bring in traditional freshmen and retain them at the highest rates possible.

Senator Myers asked if Provost Hawkinson has statistics related to which geographic areas are losing or attracting students relative to different majors. She also asked if the University is losing enrollments from the Chicago area for reasons other than competition from new recruitment centers, such as lack of sufficient numbers of admissions personnel to work in that area. Senator Myers stated that geographic information regarding where WIU majors are coming from would be very helpful to departments so that more targeted recruitment could go on in those areas. She noted that Fire Science is a relatively new program within the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration (LEJA), and it would be nice to know where to concentrate marketing; there are a lot of technical schools and high schools with fire science programs in the Chicago area, but it would be nice to know if this is indeed where the enrollees are coming from.

Provost Hawkinson responded that the University is gaining enrollments in some areas of the state, such as southern Illinois. The University opened a recruiting office in the St. Louis area last year, and Provost Hawkinson stated that this seems to be paying off. He noted that WIU is losing students from other areas, such as the Chicago collar counties, primarily due to competition from the University of Missouri, University of Iowa, and universities in Indiana. Provost Hawkinson stated that the University website can track hits and determine how many of those expressing interest actually end up becoming WIU students. He said that Law Enforcement and Justice Administration has one of the highest percentages of students actually enrolling in WIU after exploring the website.

Admissions Director Andy Borst announced that overall freshman acceptances are up 18 percent across the board. He stated that while there are no regional pockets where acceptances are not up, there are some regions where acceptances are higher than normal. WIU recently established an

admissions staff member in St. Louis to do recruitment in the region and has now added a second recruiter since acceptances in that area are up 150 percent. Pre-Nursing acceptances are down due to the high academic standards for the program. Business majors also show a decrease, but Dr. Borst attributes that to the way the application form is worded.

Senator Myers asked where departments should spend their recruiting time and efforts. Dr. Borst replied that local recruiting results in the greatest yield. He stated that any contact or time spent with a prospective local student in the ten-county region surrounding WIU will show a yield of about 50 percent, and the more time spent with local students, the better. This is true for students both in Macomb and the Quad Cities areas.

Dr. Borst observed that since he has been at WIU he has seen declines in student enrollments from the north and west suburbs of Chicago and increases from the southern suburbs. He stated that basically the biggest market that WIU is losing is white females from the northern suburbs. He explained that most of that is occurring within the College of Education and Human Services and is attributable to changes in teacher education at the state level. Dr. Borst promised to work with the associate deans to see if this type of information can be communicated to chairs and others at the department level.

Senator Hyde asked for an overall breakdown for enrollment in the Quad Cities. Dr. Borst replied that enrollment in the Quad Cities is down about 45 students, or three percent.

The Provost stated that a full review has been completed of the Faculty Initiatives Proposal that came forth from Faculty Senate in October. Communication Chair Pete Jorgensen had submitted the proposal to add majors and other pertinent information to diplomas of graduating seniors. Provost Hawkinson stated that Registrar Angela Lynn headed the effort to put this proposal into effect and asked her to describe that process. Dr. Lynn told senators that she and her colleagues were able to accomplish everything that was requested in the Faculty Initiatives Proposal. The Graduate Council, however, requested that the name of the major be suppressed if it duplicates the name of the degree program; for instance, a student achieving a Masters of Liberal Arts with a Liberal Arts and Sciences major would only have the degree listed and not the name of the major since it is duplicative. Dr. Lynn also noted that if a student graduates with a double major, only one degree will be noted on the diploma with the two majors listed underneath, even if one of those majors does duplicate the name of the degree. She added that student honors such as *cum laude* will be noted on the diplomas. Provost Hawkinson stated that if a student graduates with a double major, and one major is a Bachelor of Arts, for instance, while the other is a Bachelor of Sciences, the degree from the primary major will take precedence and be listed on the diploma but not both degrees; in order to have both degrees listed, the student would have to take an additional 30 credit hours, which is not required of a second major. If students do not have honors or double majors, the diplomas will not show blank lines, which had been one initial concern. Chairperson Singh thanked Provost Hawkinson and Registrar Lynn for implementing the diploma changes in a timely manner.

C. Student Government Association (SGA) Report
(Esmeralda Moreno, SGA student representative)

SGA last week passed a bill in support of opening faculty parking lots to the public at 4:30 p.m.

SGA passed a bill to approve writing to the Secretary of Education to ask that students not be removed from Title IX areas. Ms. Moreno stated that the entire SGA sponsored this bill because they thought it was very important.

Ms. Moreno encouraged senators to attend the SGA-sponsored Rocky Gala on March 26.

SGA also made appointments to committees at last week's meeting.

In response to a request at the previous Faculty Senate meeting for SGA to list some impacts of the recent budget cuts on students, Ms. Moreno said that students have expressed concerns about:

- less technology in classrooms;
- fewer on-campus student jobs;
- repairs not being made in a timely manner;
- professors spread too thin and less classes being offered;
- cutting extracurriculars (for instance, lack of transportation money to attend the Model Illinois Government event);
- reductions in MAP grants affecting enrollment and retention; and
- reduced dining center options.

Ms. Moreno stated that recent reductions in dining center options are of particular concern to students because it creates a time crunch with being able to travel to other dining centers and make it to class on time and being able to get to dining centers in other residence halls before they close.

Student concerns will be communicated by Parliamentarian Rock to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Faculty Advisory Council, on which he serves as Western's representative. Senator Roberts asked how the information will be reported from the Advisory Council to legislators. He wondered if short video clips by students might be an effective way to transmit this information. Parliamentarian Rock responded that this would be very powerful. He explained that the Advisory Council will be combining feedback from public universities and community colleges to compile a succinct message for legislators highlighting a few stories that would be universal across the state. He plans to meet with the statewide Council in a week and a half to determine how to compile the responses.

D. Other Announcements

1. President Thomas

Chairperson Singh announced that President Thomas was unable to attend the Senate meeting due to illness. His visit has been rescheduled for April 14.

2. IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Statement of Shared Governance (IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Representative Steve Rock)

Parliamentarian Rock shared for informational purposes a resolution prepared by the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council "Reaffirming Support of Shared Governance." The document states that the Council "wholeheartedly reaffirm our commitment to shared governance at all the various public and private institutions of higher learning in the State of Illinois." Parliamentarian Rock explained that shared governance is the model of how universities should be run, but some state institutions have not been following that model. The FAC reaffirmed a brief resolution they passed a few years ago and asked Advisory Council representatives to share the document with faculty senates across the state. Parliamentarian Rock stressed that the resolution in no way reflects upon Western Illinois University. He stated that shared governance works well at WIU, but there are some state institutions where it does not.

3. Election notices were sent out this week for upcoming vacancies on Faculty Senate. Three Macomb at-large, one WIUQC at-large, one Fine Arts and Communication, one Business and Technology, four Arts and Sciences, and one Education and Human Services senators will be sought for terms beginning in fall 2015. One at-large position and two Arts and Sciences positions will be for two-year terms in order to adjust the Senate rotation cycle to make it more balanced, as approved by Faculty Senate last spring. Senators serving less than a three-year term would be eligible to run for a second term without the normally stipulated year off between terms. Petition forms and election notices can be found on the Faculty Senate website.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council on Admissions, Graduation and Academic Standards (Terry Solomonson, Chair)

1. Revision of GPA Gateway for Law Enforcement and Justice Administration

Dr. Solomon reported that CAGAS approved a gateway change for LEJA which will streamline, and basically remove, the distinction between pre-LEJA and LEJA. LEJA professor Ken Clontz related that the school discovered last year that pre-LEJA was creating some issues, and faculty decided to eliminate that distinction. He stated that one consideration when deciding to eliminate pre-LEJA was the requirement that students must have at least a 2.5 GPA before registering for upper division courses and must maintain that GPA. In order to prevent freshmen and sophomores from overrunning the school's upper division courses, LEJA had originally proposed a C+ be required in LEJA core courses. After speaking with CAGAS and Admissions, it was decided to change the C+ requirement to a C for purposes of recruitment. Dr. Clontz added that the 2.25 cumulative GPA and 2.5 GPA in the major before applying for and being assigned an internship, which has been in place many years, will remain untouched.

NO OBJECTIONS

B. Council for Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI) (Jennifer McNabb, Vice Chair)

1. Curricular Requests from the Department of Management and Marketing

a) Request for Change of Major

(1) Management

CHANGE OF MAJOR APPROVED

2. Curricular Requests from the Department of Biological Sciences

a) Request for New Course

(1) ZOOL 407, Field Herpetology, 3 s.h.

NEW COURSE APPROVED

3. Curricular Requests from the Department of History

a) Requests for New Courses

(1) HIST 217, The History of Sports in the United States, 3 s.h.

(2) HIST 421, Global Environmental History, 3 s.h.

NEW COURSES APPROVED

C. Council for International Education (CIE) (Bhavneet Walia, Chair)

1. Requests for General Education Global Issues Designation

a) HIST 115, World History to 1500, 3 s.h.

- b) HIST 116, World History Since 1500, 3 s.h.
- c) HIST 211, Technology and Science in World History, 3 s.h.

Senator Brice asked if it is true that the topic was raised in the CIE meeting about the relevance of History as a discipline as well as its relevance as a department on campus. Dr. Walia replied that she did not recall this specific comment, but one of the members did raise a question about the connection between history and global issues. She added that there was discussion on the requests, but there was also a majority vote to approve them. Senator Brice asked if the Council would be entertaining in future the topic of the relevance of any departments on campus; Dr. Walia responded that they would not.

GEGI DESIGNATIONS APPROVED

D. Council on Intercollegiate Athletics (CIA) (Jim Olsen, Chair)

1. Student-Athlete Absence Report for 2014-2015

Senator Baylor related that she recently engaged in an email discussion with CIA representatives in regards to students missing clinicals in the School of Nursing. She asked if it is correct that even if a student misses two to three hours of classwork it is only counted as one absence on the report. NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative Tom Cody responded that is correct; CIA does not report missed hours, only missed days.

Senator Siddiqi asked what happens when student absences due to athletics exceed the recommended guidelines for missed classes. Dr. Cody responded that is left to the negotiations between the student and his/her professor. Senator Siddiqi stated that while professors have certain absence policies, Athletics also has certain guidelines and should also take some steps in cases where this occurs.

Dr. Cody told senators that WIU has dual policies that are in direct conflict with one another. The Students Participating in University-Sponsored Activities Policy states that faculty should work with students that miss class due to University activities. Dr. Cody noted that this applies not only to Athletics but to other University-sponsored activities as well. He related that he had seven students miss a week of his classes due to a vocal performance; although this was a class that met only three weeks in person and the rest of the semester online, he made adjustments and worked with the students. Dr. Cody noted that the UPI contract indicates that attendance policies are left to the discretion of the professor. He stated that while students must make the necessary adjustments and communicate absences with the professor, professors are expected not to penalize them for missing classes due to University-sponsored events.

Provost Hawkinson observed that Tuesday/Thursday classes meet one hour and 15 minutes, while Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes meet for 50 minutes, but fewer misses are allowed for Tuesday/Thursday classes than for Monday/Wednesday/Friday – five in one case and four in the other, which accounts for the number of allowable minutes missed. Provost Hawkinson pointed out that Western’s student-athletes have higher GPAs on average than other students, and their retention rates are much higher. Additionally, WIU’s student-athletes tend to have a very high rate of participation in the Honors College and have been nominated for some of the most prestigious academic awards. The Provost added that they tend to also be very engaged in other activities such as social services and charity work. Provost Hawkinson stated that while he recognizes that student-athletes have to miss class from time to time, he believes the University is getting so much value added from student participation in athletics and sporting activities that the trade-off is more than worth the sacrifice that professors have to make to provide extra consideration for these students.

Senator Myers pointed out that with the current financial crisis, many students are only able to attend universities because of athletic scholarships; if these scholarships were taken away because the students could not participate in sports, their opportunity to attend WIU would also, in many cases, be taken away. She believes that their athletic participation is part of the reason that student-athletes are motivated to excel. Senator Myers also believes that professors should make accommodations for student-athletes because they are doing the best they can to get an education, and athletic scholarships are particularly vital with reductions in MAP and other types of funding. She added that student-athletes are often the best students in her classes.

Parliamentarian Rock pointed out that some sports in which the number of absences exceeds the recommended guidelines are due to special circumstances, such as tournaments, but under normal situations the guidelines are not exceeded. Dr. Cody agreed, adding that some are one-time trips while in other cases the number of teams in a conference has increased, resulting in expansion of the conference season. He stated that sometimes factors are beyond Western's control.

Intercollegiate Athletics Director Tommy Bell told senators that under his administration one thing is stressed: academic excellence. He stated that the expectation is that student-athletes will attend class and will do well because students are attending Western to get an education first. He said this message is given to every recruit no matter what sport.

Mr. Bell related that the NCAA underwent some drastic changes in January. He stated that the Summit League Conference, which includes Western, took a drop in its membership, which has been the biggest detriment to WIU's scheduling but is out of the University's control. Mr. Bell noted that next year's men's basketball schedule includes one mid-week game, which has never occurred before. He stated that this situation causes Athletics to look both at how their funding is spent and how they treat Western's athletes. This situation might only be resolved by chartering an airplane, which Mr. Bell sees as a justifiable expense to guarantee that student-athletes are in their beds by midnight Wednesday night so that they can be ready for Thursday morning classes. He asserted that Athletics does everything they can to get student-athletes back to campus as soon as possible after games, but it is like fitting a gigantic jigsaw puzzle together. Mr. Bell related that the football coach had asked if the team could take a charter flight on a Thursday about 2:00 or 3:00 p.m., but Mr. Bell would rather have players in class on Friday mornings and then travel because even one missed class counts as an absence for the team according to CIA guidelines.

Senator Baylor stated that the sooner student-athlete schedules can be communicated to professors in the School of Nursing, the better, because then those students can be plugged into the clinicals schedule for days they do not have games. She stated that Nursing has had multiple student-athletes and has managed to get them through the program with no delays, but it has been very difficult, and earlier information regarding students' athletic schedules makes a lot of difference in regard to accommodating those students. Senator Baylor added that student-athletes must take and pass a board exam upon completion of the Nursing program; if they do not get all the information they need to pass the board exam, that does not benefit Western or the student-athletes.

Mr. Bell expressed his thanks to the School of Nursing for working with student-athletes. He said the new volleyball coach was in his office this morning talking about clinicals and complications with a senior athlete's schedule. Mr. Bell told the coach that the team may have to leave this student behind when they travel on Thursday; a graduate assistant may have to fly out or otherwise travel with this student on a different day so that she does not have to miss her clinicals. Mr. Bell stressed that he has told athletic coaches to be prepared to leave students behind if academic responsibilities demand it.

Senator Roberts asked if having a tutor travel with the team would quality as having them attend class. Dr. Cody replied that this would not count as attending class. He added that it is one of his responsibilities as the NCAA Faculty Representative to travel with teams on occasion as a tutor, for instance during the conference basketball tournament. Dr. Cody will hold study halls in the lobby on trips and proctor exams on the road if a professor has a policy that students cannot take tests early or late. He stated that while there are ways to work around some of these issues, it still counts as missed class time. Mr. Bell reiterated that even if one student-athlete out of 65 on a team misses one class during the day, it counts as a missed class day for the entire team.

IV. Old Business – None

V. New Business – None

Motion: To adjourn (Brice)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Lee Brice, Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary