**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

**FACULTY SENATE**

**Regular Meeting, *4 March 2014*, 4:00 p.m.**

**Capitol Rooms - University Union**

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

**SENATORS PRESENT:** S. Bennett, L. Brice, G. Cabedo-Timmons, M. Carncross, J. Choi, A. Hyde, G. Jorgensen, I. Lauer, M. Maskarinec, B. McCrary, J. Myers, B. Polley, J. Rabchuk, S. Rock, M. Siddiqi, A. Silberer, M. Singh, R. Thurman, T. Westerhold

Ex-officio: Ken Hawkinson, Provost; Tej Kaul, Parliamentarian

**SENATORS ABSENT:** J. Baylor, S. Cordes, K. Myers, S. Romano

**GUESTS:** Irina Andreeva, Andy Borst, Scott Coker, Simon Cordery, Janna Deitz, Ray Diez, Bradley Dilger, Lorri Kanauss, Hongbok Lee, Angela Lynn, Jennifer McNabb, Mary Mhango, Russ Morgan, Kathy Neumann, Lorette Oden, Nancy Parsons, Diane Sandage, Erskine Smith, Joe Rives, Heriberto Urby, Roger Viadero, Brian Wehde, Bridget Welch, Ron Williams, Gregg Woodruff

1. Consideration of Minutes
   1. 18 February 2013

**MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED**

Chairperson Rock asked the Faculty Senate Office Manager to report on the status of elections to vacant positions on Faculty Senate for fall 2014. Ms. Hamm reported that two petitions were received before the deadline for the three vacant seats dedicated to the College of Fine Arts and Communication. No petitions were received by the deadline for the remaining College of Business and Technology vacancy. Efforts will continue in the two colleges to fill the remaining two fall seats.

1. Announcements
   1. Approvals from the Provost
2. Requests for New Courses
   1. FS 101, Basic Elements of Firefighting I, 3 s.h.
   2. FS 102, Basic Elements of Firefighting II, 3 s.h.
   3. FS 103, Basic Elements of Firefighting III, 3 s.h.
   4. GEOG 303, Introduction to Remote Sensing, 3 s.h.
   5. GEOG 406, Spatial Statistics in GIS, 3 s.h.
   6. NUTR 308, Nutrition for the Older Adult, 3 s.h.
   7. NUTR 379, Nutrition for Travel Studies, 3 s.h.
   8. NUTR 440, Nutrition and Foodservice Management Internship, 9 s.h.
3. Requests for Changes of Minors
   1. Hospitality Management
   2. Nutrition
4. Request for Change of Option
   1. Fire Science
5. Request for Change of Major
   1. Supply Chain Management
6. Requests for New Certificates of Undergraduate Studies
   1. Integrated Marketing Communications
   2. Marketing Technologies
   3. Provost’s Report

Provost Hawkinson informed senators that WIU received $2.9 million from the state two days ago. The state of Illinois now owes WIU $26 million in appropriated dollars and $6 million in MAP funds. The Provost hopes that additional money will be received from the state once universities begin to use up more of their tuition funds. He added, though, that the state has until December to pay money owed to universities for the previous fiscal year, which would put enormous pressure on the University over the late spring and summer months.

President Thomas, Provost Hawkinson, Budget Director Matt Bierman, and Vice President for Administrative Services Julie DeWees were called to Springfield last week for a special hearing on the pressures that public universities are experiencing. President Thomas spoke at the hearing about falling resources and the fact that money is received from the state in such an unpredictable way, which makes planning difficult. Provost Hawkinson related that discussions also centered on the pressures of compliance issues; increasing layers of bureaucracy have been added in regard to procurement, purchasing, and other aspects of university business. He noted that sometimes universities receive criticism for adding administrative staff, but one reason that they are sometimes forced to do so is the enormous amount of paperwork that must be submitted on an ongoing basis. Provost Hawkinson stated that other discussions included the results that might occur if the minimum wage is increased by $2 per hour. He explained that this minimum wage increase would result in $1.25 million of additional expenses to the University, which would have to come from the state or could result in a number of student worker positions being eliminated.

Provost Hawkinson said that legislators brought up a number of questions and asked about the Center for the Performing Arts. The Provost stated that there seems to be universal support for the Center, but Governor Quinn needs to release the money that has been set aside and is waiting to be used for this project. WIU’s administration is hopeful this funding will be released before the November elections. Provost Hawkinson stated that the chairman of the House committee wants the University to adopt a zero percent tuition increase next year because of the strain on families; WIU’s administration agrees that tuition increases are a strain on families, but thinks it would be very difficult to have a zero percent increase because of lack of support from the state. President Thomas and the Budget Director will be in Springfield again tomorrow to meet individually with legislators; the group returns to Springfield on Thursday, March 6 for testimony before the Senate.

Provost Hawkinson and President Thomas completed their fifth town hall meeting with the four colleges and University Libraries. Provost Hawkinson told senators that the Library had the largest turn out with 50 attendees; approximately 25 to 40 persons attended in each of the academic colleges. The Provost plans to recommend that this process be repeated next year because it is helpful to talk about their specific issues with each area.

Provost Hawkinson expressed his congratulations to College of Business and Technology Dean Tom Erekson and Director of the School of Engineering Bill Pratt on their receipt of a prestigious federal grant. President Obama announced that the University of Illinois will be the recipient of a $70 million grant geared toward high-tech manufacturing. Of the 20 university consortia that were part of the U of I project, only three were highlighted in the actual grant proposal, one of which was Western Illinois University and its Quad Cities Manufacturing Lab. Provost Hawkinson stated that another $250 million in addition to the original $70 million is expected to result from corporate giving and in-kind contributions. He explained that Western should expect to receive $1 million to $5 million in the first few years, but it will lead to millions of dollars from other grants and investments to support the QC Manufacturing Lab and WIU Engineering program, which are tied together. He said that this recognition is very high profile and will provide opportunities to Western’s students; WIU’s Engineering program will receive national and international prominence because of this grant and these investments.

* 1. Student Government Association (SGA) Report

(Brian Wehde, SGA Representative to Faculty Senate)

Mr. Wehde informed senators that SGA has approved money for a fan bus to travel to South Dakota and support the WIU men’s basketball team. SGA has also started its election process for next year’s President, Vice President, SGA Representative to the Board of Trustees, and five senators at-large. SGA has revised its election rules to make them more inclusive and in-depth and to correct any discrepancies or violations. Mr. Wehde stated that previous SGA election rules were two pages; this year’s election document is nearly six pages with an attempt to cover more material and close any existing loopholes.

* 1. Other Announcements
     1. Academy for Student Persistence and Completion

(Joe Rives, Vice President for Quad Cities and Planning)

Vice President Rives is excited about Western’s participation in the Academy for Student Persistence and Completion, a new initiative from the Higher Learning Commission. Vice President Rives was one of 19 representatives who designed this initiative. He stated that the Higher Learning Commission looked for institutions, like WIU, with “a commitment to educational improvement through ongoing attention to retention, persistence, and completion rates in its degree and certificate programs.” To be accepted into the Academy, institutions must demonstrate that they set persistence and completion goals, collect and analyze persistence and completion data (such as assessment of student learning), adhere to good practices in data collection, and use the data to make improvements. Vice President Rives stated that WIU should participate in the Academic because it will 1) increase WIU’s completion rate, 2) fulfill accreditation requirements, 3) allow WIU to participate in national initiatives designed to increase retention and graduation rates, and 4) assume a national leadership role in student persistence. He believes strongly that Western can be the national leader in the Academy for Student Persistence and Completion. Western is one of only 19 institutions selected for the first cohort out the 1,900 participating in the Academy. Vice President Rives related that these 19 represent a very diverse array, including private and public institutions, that will really allow participants to hone in and look at best practices from a variety of perspectives. He hopes that some of these best practices may be scalable to WIU.

Vice President Rives explained that the Academy offers a model of continuous process improvement with which WIU is already familiar. He pointed out that while Western’s retention is increasing, the University has been trending downward somewhat in persistence and graduation rates. He explained that the Academy will use a predictive analytic framework that will allow the University to become even more successful in the initiatives it has in place, such as the FYE and Building Connections programs. Vice President Rives explained the predictive analytic framework will help WIU to 1) describe subpopulations of students who persist and those that do not, 2) predict which retention strategies can have even more pronounced effects with different subpopulations of students, and 3) support continuous process improvement recommendations that respect University roles, responsibilities, structures, and processes. He explained that this will mean moving away from “retention by hammer,” where initiatives are applied uniformly to all students, and toward more refinement of retention plans that can provide greater benefits.

Vice President Rives related that the University is now at the stage of forming implementation teams for the Academy. The implementation teams will tackle three research questions:

1) What are the empirical reasons for lower retention and graduation rates, and have programmatic changes in the First Year Experience helped reverse these trends? Vice President Rives stated that this deals with the program on the Macomb campus.

2) How effective is the Linkages program, and are there different results based on categorization of students and community college partners? Vice President Rives stated that this is a Quad Cities-based program.

3) What are empirical reasons for off-campus student attrition, and how do retention and graduation rates for off-campus students compare to those for on-campus students?

When an Academy for Student Persistence and Completion “data mentor” made a two-day visit to WIU in January, he determined that the University has collected enough data to be ready to begin analytic work, which Vice President Rives stated is very complementary to the institution. The data mentor’s conclusion was that “WIU is rich with data. WIU is also very pro-active in terms of transparency and openly shares summaries of this data on the WIU website. Accordingly, the upcoming challenge will not be to create new data sets, but to identify what data most closely aligns with WIU’s three research questions.”

Vice President Rives is looking for volunteers to serve on committees that will research the three questions. Chairperson Rock asked if there is a website where interested persons can obtain further information. Vice President Rives responded that a website should be online within a week; currently, interested persons can contact him via email.

Senator Rabchuk asked what Vice President Rives envisions as the outcome after four years. Vice President Rives envisions WIU advancing to the median or beyond of its peer institutions in the area of retention. He stressed that implementation will need to respect intact structures and processes, so there will be a lot of communication, collaboration, and routing through the appropriate channels. Senator Rabchuk asked what the timeline will be for implementation after all of the analytics have been completed. Vice President Rives responded the initiative will operate on a four-year loop, but it is not sequenced; some areas may need more in-depth conversation than others. Vice President Rives must provide an institutional update to the overseeing commission every six months; the key goal is to get more students to graduate.

Senator Polley asked who will be doing the number crunching for this project – WIU’s Office of Institutional Research and Planning, faculty who have expertise in this area, or outside consultants. Vice President Rives responded that Institutional Research and Planning, the Registrar’s Office, Administrative Information Management Services, and Lindsay Fender, who works in Vice President Rives’s office, represent the core data team, but faculty expertise is also needed.

Senator Polley asked if WIU has the resources to become a national leader in this field and what it would take to become a national leader. Vice President Rives thinks that WIU does have the resources necessary. He asked senators to consider all of the initiatives that have been accomplished in recent years at WIU and pointed out that the current administration has stood behind those initiatives. He thinks one resource that will be needed is the faculty and staff time commitment to make the project successful. He is confident that other institutions will watch the initial cohort and will peg those that are successful as models for this field.

* + 1. Facilities Planning and Master Plan Update

(Scott Coker, Director of Facilities Management, and Vice President Joe Rives)

Mr. Coker presented an update on the planning process for the next two years, which he also presented to the Board of Trustees in December. Mr. Coker noted that the University Strategic Plan includes some facilities information, which is translated into the Long-Term Plan developed last year with Vice President Rives regarding how the facilities plan should be implemented. The Facilities Master Plan for the Macomb campus was completed about one year ago. Mr. Coker stated that the charge at the forefront of this plan is to develop implementable and affordable strategies to enhance the student experience. He believes that a lot can be accomplished in the next five years to improve facilities in Macomb.

Mr. Coker related that the Facilities Master Plan requires facilities condition assessments every five years. This examines plumbing, HVAC, roofs, electrical systems, and other big picture items system-wide and what needs to be done to improve them. About five years ago, this document included the statement that the Macomb campus has about $500 million in deferred maintenance. Some items on the list have been completed, including Heating Plant and steam line improvements. Mr. Coker stated that the Master Plan Implementation Team intends to update the facilities condition assessment and concentrate more on individual buildings on the Macomb campus.

Mr. Coker related that a campus space study was begun in fall 2014. Among other things, it will assess how many and what types of teaching spaces (classrooms, labs) are available on the Macomb campus, as well as analyzing the quality of these teaching spaces. A Type A classroom is the correct size and shape in which to teach; Type B classrooms need improvement, and Type C rooms should probably never have been used as a classroom. Mr. Coker stated that the space study will also examine utilization; a consultant has been hired to help with this process. They will consider such aspects as scheduling efficiency and changing pedagogy of teaching spaces, such as the trend away from fixed-seating classrooms and toward more flexible spaces which can be rearranged for different instructional needs.

Mr. Coker stated that the Implementation Team is also updating the plan for the Science Building, which is now the first priority on the capital request list to the state. The initial programming study was completed five years ago, but much has changed since then, including teaching and lab standards, so the plan must be reevaluated.

Mr. Coker told senators that the Master Plan Implementation Team has recommended a tactical improvement matrix so that small improvements, such as painting, can be made to every college and building every summer. Other implementable things that can be done include replacing floor and ceiling tiles. Facilities Management asks the deans for their priorities for these types of improvements.

The strategic building renovation matrix helps the Master Plan Implementation Team make decisions regarding major remodeling. Decision factors that impact how the remodeling is prioritized include if buildings are important to the First Year Experience, house signature programs, or has been previously remodeled; deferred maintenance needs; and whether state funding or corporate sponsorships are available. Mr. Coker added that the Science Building and the renovation matrix feed into the capital request list that is filed with the state every October.

Senator Rabchuk asserted that some of the labs in Currens Hall need to be dedicated to specific subjects due to special equipment needs. He noted that these labs may not be used the entire day but they need to be set aside for specific areas. Mr. Coker stated that the space planning consultants have been provided with all of the data from the Registrar’s office regarding classroom and lab usage; the consultants work with similar issues across the country, and these subjects have been raised with them. Mr. Coker said that all of the science buildings, particularly Currens and Waggoner, are experiencing these same issues and having similar discussions. He noted that this involves more than straight scheduling, and the planning process is trying to take these needs into account.

Chairperson Rock asked about the level of faculty involvement in the master planning process. Mr. Coker responded that he attends all meetings of the Senate’s Council on Campus Planning and Usage, and one member of the Council also attends meetings of the Master Plan Implementation Team.

Vice President Rives announced that Mr. Coker was a featured speaker for Best Practices and Facilities Planning at the recent meeting of the Society for College and University Planning. Senator Rabchuk added that Mr. Coker is a graduate from WIU’s Pre-Engineering program. Mr. Coker was given a round of applause.

Vice President Rives stated that when the master plan was approved by the Faculty Senate several years ago, it included five guiding principles. The first principle, Enlivening the University Environment, includes plans for the Center for the Performing Arts, featuring the Ken and Lorraine Epperson Lobby in recognition of their seven-figure gift to the University. He stated that Memorial Hall parking will be temporarily moved to the current band practice field during the construction. The long-term master plan calls for a parking structure to be constructed between Knoblauch Hall and Malpass Library.

Vice President Rives stated that an area where small expenditures can have larger results is the Art Gallery. Previously the second floor was uninhabitable but has now had new lighting installed and been painted so that it can be utilized. The Art Gallery has 1,200 pieces, most of them in storage, and future Gallery options are being evaluated.

The Board of Trustees has approved certain projects as University priorities for FY 15, including Phase I and II of the Science Complex, a Visual Arts Center, renovation of Stipes Hall, and a new education building. Phase I of the Science Complex, which would support instruction and research for Waggoner, Currens, and Tillman Halls, is estimated to cost $60 million. Phase II would include the renovation of existing science facilities and is projected to cost $51.1 million. The Visual Arts Center, a $64.6 million project, would address inadequate instructional and design spaces and environmental protection and ventilation concerns. Renovation of Stipes Hall, projected at $46.7 million, has been determined to be more cost effective than new construction. Stipes was built in 1968 and has a high deferred maintenance backlog. The new education facility is estimated at $69.6 million. Horrabin Hall was constructed in 1965 as a temporary building and does not meet the needs of the College of Education and Human Services.

Vice President Rives stated that the second guiding principle, Enhancing the Student Experience, focuses on recreation and housing. The University Union renovation falls under this category; the Union hosted 4,696 events in FY 13, an average of 19 per day, and saw 140,000 individuals attending those events. Almost 300,000 card swipes of people entering the Student Recreation Center occurred in FY 13. Vice President Rives stated that the recently completed Thompson Hall renovation cost $20 million and included replacement of the exterior wall and HVAC systems in residential rooms as well as new carpets, overhead lighting, paint, and furniture in student rooms.

Guiding principle #3, Strengthening Campus Identity, reinforces the importance of first impressions and includes the new north gateway entrance to the campus. The sign that was previously at that location was moved to the entrance to Macomb from the west. As part of campus beautification, 43 new trees were planted, 44 trees were removed, and 57 trees were injected with a preventative insecticide. WIU has been designated a Tree Campus USA. An initiative led by Dr. George Potter to label the outside artwork on campus also contributed toward campus beautification. The fourth guiding principle, Engaging the Strategic Plan, concentrates on campus technology and efficiency, including development of new videoconference classrooms.

Vice President Rives stated that the University also wants to develop visionary, yet implementable, strategies. Target Western Forward funding has already helped with Brophy Hall shot clocks, flagpoles at Hanson Field, and the strength and conditioning center, and there are plans to continue renovating Hanson Field.

Bonded projects include recent upgrading of the ancient steam distribution infrastructure on the Macomb campus at a cost of $10.5 million. The existing 27 miles of underground steam distribution lines provide the energy for about 98 percent of the heating and 72 percent of the cooling of campus buildings. Other recent bonded projects include the asbestos abatement and re-insulation of a number of buildings and roof repairs in Morgan, Brown, and Waggoner Halls and the University Union.

Vice President Rives informed senators that the Quad Cities 60th Street Campus building is for sale. A steering committee is working on Phase II of the Riverfront Campus project; the keys to the building will be delivered to Vice President Rives on July 16. A Phase III programming study will kick off Friday, March 7. A four-year rotation has been put in place for all technology in the Quad Cities. The historic Moline Train Depot has been donated to WIU; a $300,000 renovation was voted on by Quad Cities students to enable it to become a student center for the Riverfront Campus. A new Amtrak line will be established to bring students from Chicago to the Quad Cities, which could also provide a second train line to Macomb. Vice President Rives stated that private housing is also planned for the Riverfront campus with the development of The Mills at Riverbend Commons. He stressed that no university money will be spent on this housing; it is entirely private development similar to that which exists near the Macomb campus.

Senator Rabchuk asked what will happen to the large collection of junk that is currently behind Riverfront Campus. Vice President Rives responded that WIU has been speaking to the scrapyard with the goal to getting that area relocated, and local legislators are helping to work with the property owner on this project.

1. Reports of Committees and Councils
   1. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI)

(Bridget Welch, Chair)

* + 1. Curricular Requests from the Department of History
       1. Request for Change of Minor
          1. Contemporary United States Studies

**CHANGE OF MINOR APPROVED**

* + 1. Curricular Requests from the Department of Health Sciences
       1. Requests for New Courses
          1. EM 470, Comparative Emergency Management Systems, 3 s.h.
          2. EM 499, Independent Study in Emergency Management, 1-4 s.h., repeatable to 4 s.h.

**NEW COURSES APPROVED**

* + - 1. Request for Change of Major
         1. Health Services Management

Senator Rabchuk observed that the request form indicates that the changes are in preparation for a Health Services Management MBA. Interim Health Sciences Chair Lorette Odem confirmed that the department envisions this happening soon.

**CHANGE OF MAJOR APPROVED**

* 1. Writing Instruction in the Disciplines (WID) Committee

(Bradley Dilger, Chair)

* + 1. Requests for WID Designation
       1. FCS 277, Historical Costume – Twentieth Century, 3 s.h.
       2. HM 453, Lodging Systems Management, 3 s.h.
       3. NURS 408, Community Nutrition, 3 s.h.

Senator Rabchuk observed that one WID course is being replaced with three and asked if this is in preparation for three different majors; Dr. Dilger confirmed that this is correct. Senator Rabchuk, who formerly chaired the WID Committee, recalled that the single WID course for the major has historically been overenrolled; he believes that the creation of three WID courses is a good solution to resolve this issue. Chairperson Rock asked about the new prefix ATM, which will replace FCS for the Historical Costume course. Dietetics, Fashion Merchandising, and Hospitality Chair Mary Mhango responded that this stands for Apparel and Textile Merchandising.

**NEW WID COURSES APPROVED**

* 1. Council on General Education (CGE)

(Diane Sandage, Chair)

* + 1. Request for Inclusion in General Education
       1. FIN 101, Financial Health, 2 s.h.

Senator Singh thanked the department for bringing the request forward and wishes they had done so ten years earlier, stating that this is long overdue and will address a pressing issue. Senator Rabchuk stated that he thinks the course does fit in the Human Well-Being category of Gen Ed but asked if there was any discussion about its inclusion in this category. Dr. Sandage replied that CGE discussed this request over two meetings; the overall conclusion was that it fit best in the Human Well-Being category.

**REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN GEN ED APPROVED**

* 1. Senate Nominating Committee

(Martin Maskarinec, Chair)

**UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES**

Outstanding Academic Advisor Award Committee

Sheryl Boston, DFMH replacing Jason Franken 2015 At-large

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

1. Old Business – None
2. New Business
   1. Faculty Initiatives Proposal

Chairperson Rock explained that the thinking behind the proposal was that it would provide an avenue for good ideas from the faculty to “bubble up” and be heard; these would not necessarily fit into the normal channels of the budget process that works through departments and colleges. He noted that faculty seem to have lots of interesting ideas, and there is a sense that those ideas sometimes do not get to see the light. Dr. Dietz, who initiated the proposal with Dr. McNabb, said she thought it would represent a good way for faculty with innovative ideas that might contribute to the overall mission of the University to receive a hearing. She believes that it is appropriate for Faculty Senate to be the body to hear those kinds of big issues, such as those addressing enrollment. She noted that while there are existing venues for administrators to hear these kinds of issues, this proposal would provide faculty with an opportunity to receive feedback and perhaps cross-disciplinary support for their proposals.

Chairperson Rock explained that the form, which resembles those used by CCPI for course proposals, would be submitted to the Faculty Senate office along with a statement of 500 words or fewer. The proposal would be submitted to the Executive Committee for vetting; ExCo would decide if it was appropriate to invite the author to Faculty Senate to give a brief presentation. He pointed out that a number of administrators already attend Senate meetings, and ExCo could invite other pertinent administrators as appropriate. If approved by the Senate, the Faculty Initiatives Proposal would be publicized through the Senate listproc and faculty would be encouraged to bring forth their ideas.

Senator Rabchuk asked for Dr. Deitz to provide some specific examples of types of proposals that might be appropriate for this process. Dr. Deitz related that she is planning an internship in Washington, D.C. which reaches across different colleges and majors which would have been a good fit for a Faculty Initiatives Proposal. She stated that future proposals might be ones that add to the student experience and help with recruitment and retention; proposals including outreach to the community and that may involve multiple departments within a college or are campus-wide might also be appropriate. Dr. McNabb added that the proposal process is not intended to be a “court of appeals” for faculty who get turned down after going through the normal funding process. She stated that the Faculty Initiatives Proposal is intended for more universal applications, not for department-specific or one-time-only events except in very rare circumstances.

Senator Singh thanked Drs. Deitz and McNabb for opening this potential channel for faculty. He stated there are many reasons why good proposals can be derailed. He likes that this initiative will provide a vetting process by faculty peers on the Senate which can make the faculty member’s idea better as it moves forward. Dr. McNabb noted that additional collaboration might result from the deliberations that occur when proposals are brought before Faculty Senate, giving proposals even more weight and significance by creating moments of cross-program cooperation.

Senator Rabchuk asked if senators feel comfortable that the documents clearly indicate what will be expected once proposals reach the Senate and how senators should respond to proposals. He noted that the proposal states, “The Senate will either encourage the faculty member(s) to continue to refine the proposal or formulate a non-binding recommendation to the Provost or appropriate administrative unit concerning further review of the proposal.” Senator Rabchuk asked if this would be accomplished as the result of a motion. Chairperson Rock responded that he thinks the Senate will have to see how the process develops. Dr. McNabb related that she and Dr. Deitz visited the Executive Committee three times to discuss the proposal, and the group talked about including the actual submissions in Announcements or making a new Roman numeral for these proposals at the end of the agenda. She observed that the proposals would not necessarily fall under New Business because the Senate cannot compel an administrative unit to take action on them. She believes the Senate can, and should, support faculty ideas and recommend further review and evaluation of appropriate proposals. She added that the idea is for a quick turnaround of approximately four weeks.

Senator Lauer agreed with Senator Rabchuk that the quoted sentence may need additional elaboration to indicate that the Faculty Senate can make whatever recommendations they see fit after their deliberations so that senators do not feel pigeon-holed into believing their only options are recommending revisions or formulating a non-binding resolution to the Provost. He observed that in terms of some proposals, such as those for community outreach, neither option may be the best action. He thinks some language to increase the flexibility of what Faculty Senate can recommend would be wise. Chairperson Rock stated that this could be adopted as a friendly amendment.

Senator Singh noted that if a proposal is brought forward to the Faculty Senate asking senators to weigh in on its merits, he believes a recommendation would be sufficient and leaves the Senate ample latitude in terms of guiding the faculty member and moving the proposal forward. He observed that any recommendation will be non-binding; the intention is to use the Faculty Senate’s input to guide the faculty member and enhance the effort while pointing out any potential deficiencies in a proposal being brought forward. He noted that Senate cannot compel the faculty member to submit their proposal in a certain way nor compel the administration once it is sent forward. Senator Singh does think that Faculty Senate should track what happens with proposals that are sent forward to administrative units and report that out at the end of the academic year. He stated that the Senate should evaluate whether some of the proposals come to fruition and add value to the campus community, and, if they do not, then senators should consider pulling the plug on the project. Senator Singh has enough faith in the wisdom of the Faculty Senate to determine which ideas are worthy of being pursued.

Senator Brice pointed out that Senator Lauer’s recommendation for a friendly amendment does not correspond with Senator Singh’s recommendation to leave the proposal as submitted. Chairperson Rock stated that if the Faculty Senate wants to do something different than the two specified options with a proposal that it submitted to it, that would be within its purview without any additional language. He thinks that the proposal process may need some tweaking once it gets underway. Senator Rabchuk thinks the Faculty Initiatives Proposal is a great addition for the Faculty Senate and for the faculty as a whole in terms of developing more collegial relations and getting faculty engaged in the process of improving the University.

Chairperson Rock called for a vote on the proposal with the language as originally submitted. He noted that by virtue of being put on the agenda, the Executive Committee has moved and seconded the proposal.

**MOTION APPROVED 18 YES – 0 NO – 0 AB**

* 1. Rotation Adjustment for Faculty Senate

Chairperson Rock noted that elections have become somewhat out of sequence for certain colleges; specifically, there will be several vacant seats for the College of Arts and Sciences next year but none this election year, which was pointed out to the Executive Committee by a faculty member. He stated that ExCo thought that with some slight adjustments a much more symmetrical rotation schedule could be established. The proposal before the Senate would see the remaining Business and Technology seat for this year become a one-year term; for 2015, one at-large position and two Arts and Sciences positions would be changed to two-year terms; and in 2016, one at-large position would be advertised as a one-year term. This change would result in a new cycle of two at-large and two Arts and Sciences positions becoming vacant every year beginning in 2017. One Fine Arts and Communication position will become available every year (after electing three faculty this year for staggered terms), and the Education and Human Services positions would be staggered at 2-1-1. Chairperson Rock stressed that no positions would be eliminated as a result of the proposal; the only change would be to terms for the various positions.

Senator Polley noted that any senators who are elected to a term of less than three years would be eligible to run again the next year for a full three-year term without the otherwise mandatory lay-off of one year from Senate. Chairperson Rock explained that, by virtue of being placed on the agenda, the proposal can be considered to be moved and seconded by the Executive Committee.

**MOTION APPROVED 17 YES – 0 NO – 0 AB**

**Motion:** To adjourn (Brice)

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

Jim Rabchuk, Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary