

**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Regular Meeting, 6 March 2018, 4:00 p.m.
Capitol Rooms - University Union**

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

SENATORS PRESENT: M. Allison, B. Bellott, V. Boynton, S. Czechowski, J. Franken, R. Hironimus-Wendt, A. Hyde (via teleconference), N. Lino, B. Locke, S. Macchi, H. McIlvaine-Newsad, K. Pawelko, B. Perabo, J. Plos, R. Porter (via teleconference), S. Rahman, T. Roberts, S. Rock, M. Sajewski, D. Sandage, F. Tasdan
Ex-officio: Kathy Neumann, Interim Provost; Tej Kaul, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: S. Saddler, C. Tarrant

GUESTS: Samir Almhiemid, Lori Baker-Sperry, Justin Brown, Katrina Daytner, Dennis DeVolder, Amanda Divin, Nicholas Ebelhack, Christopher Ginn, Wil Gradle, Rome Hamm, Anita Hardeman, Jim LaPrad, Angela Lynn, Madison Lynn, Colton Markey, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Marty Maskarinec, Jim McQuillan, Susan Meiers, Kristi Mindrup (via teleconference), Seth Miner, Jill Myers, Russ Morgan, Lorette Oden, Nancy Parsons, Grant Reed, Amanda Silberer, Killian Tracy

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. February 20, 2018

MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

Senator Hironimus-Wendt expressed his disappointment that the Senate agenda did not include a discussion of the petition for a vote of no confidence for the administration. He understands why it was not included but wishes it was at least an announcement item because it involves an action on the part of the Faculty Senate. He observed that the Tri-States Public Radio website today reported that Chairperson Rock had decided that a simple majority vote would be needed to approve the referendum. Senator Hironimus-Wendt asked that Faculty Senate seriously evaluate that, noting that if 123 faculty vote “no confidence” and 10 faculty vote “confidence,” then over 400 faculty have not voted, and those abstentions would represent the majority of the body. He would prefer that the proportionate vote of confidence, no confidence, and no response be reported.

Chairperson Rock responded that the information on the amount of votes needed to pass the referendum was a decision by Parliamentarian Kaul. He added that it was always his intention to report how many faculty voted each way, as well as how many faculty did not vote, but he will respect the will of the Senate. Senator Hironimus-Wendt responded that he is then comfortable. He wants to see the full vote of the full body rather than the simple majority, as was reported on the public radio website. Chairperson Rock stated that if that is what the radio station reported, that information is incorrect.

II. Announcements

A. Approvals from the President and Provost

1. Approvals from the President
 - a. CCPI Terms Related to Academic Programming
2. Approvals from the Provost
 - a. Request for New Course
 - i. HIST 492, Capstone Seminar in Public History, 3 s.h.

- b. Requests for Changes in Options
 - i. History
 - ii. History – Teacher Education
- c. Request for WID Designation
 - i. HIST 492, Capstone Seminar in Public History, 3 s.h.

B. Provost's Report

- The Graduate Research Conference was held last Friday, coinciding with the recognition of WIU's 75th year for its School of Graduate Studies. Biological Sciences professor Andrea Porrás-Alfaro gave the keynote address on "Building a Successful Career through Mentoring and Networking," which Interim Provost Neumann reported was well received.
- The spring Career and Internship Fair was held today in the University Union.
- Dietetics, Fashion Merchandising, and Hospitality's Food and Culture Club will host an event on the Philippines on Thursday, March 8 from 5:30-8 in the University Union.
- Spring break is next week. Shortly afterward, the annual reports and budgetary presentations by deans, directors, and vice presidents will begin.
- The spring Board of Trustees meeting will be held March 23.

Senator Bellott asked if the results of the University Diversity Council's campus climate survey will be reported to the entire campus or just to the administration. Interim Provost Neumann responded that she does not know but will check.

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

Ms. Lynn reported that SGA has a full agenda for their meeting this evening, including a visit from Macomb Mayor Mike Inman. Bills on class participation and attendance will be coming before SGA in the near future. One bill on student fee structure and another on appropriations will be considered at tonight's meeting.

Chairperson Rock asked Ms. Lynn to explain more about the upcoming bills on class participation and attendance. Ms. Lynn replied that she is not an author of either bill, but some students had concerns about requirements and grading for class participation and a separate concern about attendance requirements. Ms. Lynn said she cannot speak much further on the bills and would encourage the SGA representative from the College of Business and Technology to speak to Faculty Senate about it. She added that this representative has already spoken to Chairperson Rock about the bills, but Chairperson Rock countered that she has not.

Chairperson Rock asked what the next step would be if the bills on attendance and participation should be approved by SGA. Ms. Lynn replied that she does not know; this was a concern she voiced to SGA Senator Wrenn when she was writing the bill. Ms. Lynn added that she is not a supporter of the bills, and her concern is one that others on SGA have also had.

Senator Allison asked for clarification of the issue. Ms. Lynn replied that some students expressed concerns about attendance policies – being graded on attendance and penalized if they do not attend. Ms. Lynn asked Student Representative to the Board of Trustees Wil Gradle if he would like to further clarify these two bills. Trustee Gradle explained that the two bills were tabled by SGA pending a survey to see how students feel about these subjects. He stated that the student that brought the bills forward expressed concerns about participation points disproportionately affecting students that do not participate in the classroom. He added that the SGA senator who proposed the bills also believes that attendance is a student right; if students believe it is not worthwhile to go to class, they should have that option.

Senator Allison asked what the impact will be if these bills pass SGA. Trustee Gradle replied that the intent, if it is passed, is to express the opinion of the students so that professors can take that into consideration when designing their syllabi. He added that it is not intended to establish a policy that would prohibit professors from offering attendance points. Senator Boynton remarked that students do not like writing papers or taking exams, but professors require those, also. Trustee Gradle stated that he does not think the student's concerns should be dismissed, nor that they should automatically be put in the same category as required exams and papers.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt expressed his appreciation for students taking initiative and encourages them to continue to do so. He explained that what is being expressed on the Senate floor is that faculty have complete authority over their classrooms. He suggested, in the spirit of collegiality, that if the bills are approved and presented to Faculty Senate, it should be made clear that they reflect the will of the students but that there is no obligation to rewrite existing policy. Trustee Gradle related that SGA, in discussing the bills, observed that they do not seem to interfere with academic freedom or attempt to usurp power from faculty; they are an expression of frustration by students who disagree with something and wanted to make a statement about it in hopes that professors might take upon themselves to perhaps heed their opinion. Senator Allison does not see the proposed bills as a power issue. She stated that her classroom style is discussion, and if students do not like that style they do not have to take the class. She added that students who do not attend her class would not get the same educational experience.

Ms. Lynn pointed out that these topics are being talked about at SGA currently, and some SGA members have brought these concerns forward to the table. She stated that members of SGA do see the faculty side of this discussion and are divided on this issue, which is why the decision was made to table the bills.

Senator Czechowski related she teaches Studio Art five hours a week, which involves doing demonstrations almost the entire time. It takes her almost as much time to prepare for the classes as she spends in the classroom, and she must prepare for them anew each semester as opposed to using lecture material from the previous semester. Senator Czechowski related that her students do come to class and generally do not miss, and she thinks it is awful for students to think they should be able to miss as many classes as they want. She stressed that students cannot view her demonstrations on YouTube, and she would like for SGA representatives to reinforce these types of things when they talk to students.

Trustee Gradle related that some students feel that faculty sometimes abuse using videos in class in place of lecturing, and it is not a good use of students' time. Trustee Gradle stressed that he is not necessarily expressing support in the bills but believes there is some validity in the argument that students could watch a video outside of the classroom and discuss it the next day in class. Although Trustee Gradle stressed that the overwhelming majority of classroom time is worthwhile, he thinks students want the autonomy to decide for themselves whether the best use of their time is to attend a certain class.

Senator McIlvaine-Newsad is glad that students are speaking out because that is part of learning to be a good human. She thinks their concerns are valid but pointed out that there is already a mechanism in place for students to evaluate their professors and voice their concerns at the departmental level, which is where these concerns really should be addressed. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology has a suggestion box, and Senator McIlvaine-Newsad encourages her students to provide feedback on such subjects as why they do not like her textbook or if the subject area is not of interest to them, as well as what she has done well, but sometimes students do not take that opportunity seriously. She stated that most professors read the suggestions with interest because faculty are here because they like to teach and want to hear how they can do things better. Trustee Gradle thinks evaluations are worthwhile and help future students, but since they occur at the end of the semester current students often feel that is too late to address any grievances they might have. He noted that evaluation results are not given to professors until after grades are

turned in. Trustee Gradle tells students with grievances to first talk to the professor or the department chair, but many students do not feel they can talk to their professors without retribution or retaliation. He added that, while there are remedies for that, and it is discouraging to think that students feel that way, that is part of the reality.

Senator Tasdan related that sometimes he encourages students to come to his classes by offering bonus points. He added that in some classes attendance is counted as a percentage of a student's grade, but if it is a small amount, such as two to five percent, which is what most of his faculty colleagues do, then attendance may not be as much of an issue, while if attendance is 40 or 50 percent of the grade, it would become more of an issue. Senator Tasdan gives students 20 bonus points for attendance, which is reduced as students begin missing lectures and can go down to zero. Trustee Gradle stated that he has had professors that offer incentives for attendance; he has also had a professor who lowers students' grades by one letter for every class missed beyond three.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt asked if a significant part of the problem from students' perspectives is that different faculty have different expectations, and students are not held consistently to the same standards. Ms. Lynn responded that could be the case, but these and other questions will be answered with the results of the SGA poll, which will be received by the author of the bill. She also pointed out that the SGA General Assembly still has to vote on the bill.

Senator Sandage stated that higher education does so much more for students than just educate them in certain knowledge about their disciplines; it prepares them for life, so students need to show up, even when they might not want to, in order for that process to be worthwhile. She pointed out that learning to interact with people is a skill, and young people are experiencing greater difficulty in mastering this skill, partly due to technological factors; class participation teaches these types of life skills that will make things better for students in many ways, including in their personal relationships.

Trustee Gradle stressed that he is only trying to make the case to senators that was made to him by other students after he offered to help the SGA senator who wrote the bill develop the survey. Parliamentarian Kaul asked what SGA expects will happen if this bill passes. Trustee Gradle responded that SGA Senator Wrenn hopes that faculty will rethink the process by which they evaluate participation and attendance. Senator Tasdan pointed out that there are studies which show that up to 70 to 80 percent of real learning happens in the classroom, particularly in math and science classes, which is why he encourages attendance.

D. Other Announcements

1. One petition was received from Quad Cities faculty by the extended deadline to fill a Fall 2018 vacancy on Faculty Senate. Khaled Zbeeb, School of Engineering, was elected to that three-year seat to represent faculty whose primary appointment is at WIUQC.
2. University Personnel Committee (UPC) election notices have been emailed to full professors in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business and Technology, and Fine Arts and Communication. UPC recommends to the Academic Vice President in cases where there are any negative recommendations. Only full professors can serve on UPC, and only members of Bargaining Unit A can sign petitions or vote in UPC elections. The deadline for petitions is March 23.
3. Chairperson Rock announced that Senator Roberts has published a book, available through Copperfield's, concerning letters written between a local couple from Lewistown, Illinois during the Civil War. Senator Roberts stated that the book, published by Kent State University Press, includes annotated love letters between the woman raising the family in the north and the Union soldier in Sherman's army in the south. Senator Roberts added that they both rant against President Lincoln.

4. Senator Bellott announced that Nikki Walker, a student that he mentors, was chosen to present the results of her summer research at the national Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy in Orlando. Chairperson Rock observed that some senators attended the President's recent Town Hall meeting, which was intended to discuss what is good about WIU, and it was pointed out that the University does not highlight the accomplishments of its faculty and students as much as it should. He noted that Faculty Senate Announcements provides a good forum for those types of things.
5. Senator Perabo announced that last week she attended the College of Arts and Sciences student presentation series, featuring five students from a variety of disciplines, from math and science to anthropology. The demonstrations and talks were spectacular, and she was really impressed.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI) (Anita Hardeman, Chair)

1. Curricular Requests from the School of Computer Sciences
 - a. Requests for New Courses
 - i. CS 472, Introduction to Big Data, 3 s.h.
 - ii. CS 478, GPU Programming, 3 s.h.
 - iii. IS 345, Foundations of Information Technology Service Management, 3 s.h.
 - b. Requests for Changes of Majors
 - i. Computer Science
 - ii. Cyber Security
 - iii. Information Systems

ALL CURRICULAR REQUESTS APPROVED

IV. Old Business

A. Budget Transparency Committee Membership

Chairperson Rock announced that the committee will not begin meeting until Fall 2018. Previous volunteers included Senators Macchi, Perabo, and Czechowski. Khaled Zbeeb, Engineering, a new senator representing WIUQC beginning Fall 2018, has volunteered to fill the B&T vacancy. A volunteer is still needed to represent the College of Education and Human Services.

There were no further volunteers. This item will return under Old Business at the next Senate meeting.

B. Ad Hoc FYE Program Review Committee Membership and Charge

The Executive Committee asked Faculty Senate's approval to add an additional charge for the ad hoc committee: "To consider some way to attach the face-to-face requirements of FYE to the changing educational environment of the University, which includes incoming freshmen who take only online courses."

NO OBJECTIONS

One additional volunteer is needed to complete the membership of the committee since no one volunteered at today's meeting. Chairperson Rock told the four existing volunteers that they can begin meeting.

V. New Business

A. Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Adjust the Size of the Senate

Chairperson Rock asked to table this agenda item because he does not think it is ready for the Senate to act upon. He explained that a statistician has made some suggestions to strengthen the proposal, and Senator Tasdan would also like to provide some input.

Motion: To table first reading of the proposed Constitutional amendment (Roberts/Franken)

MOTION TO TABLE APPROVED 20 YES – 0 NO – 0 AB

Motion: To adjourn (Roberts)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Susan Czechowski, Faculty Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary