

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY
SENATE Regular Meeting, 9 March, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: D. Banash, M. Bean, B. Bellott, M. Bernards, L. Brice, A. Carr, J. Choi, S. Cordes, R. Dimitrov, R. Filipink, D. Hunter, I. Lauer, T. Lough, M. Maskarinec, D. Oursler, C. Pynes, J. Robinett, R. Sawhney, E. Shupe, M. Stinnett, E. Taylor, J. Wroblewski, K. Zbeeb
Ex-officio: Martin Abraham, Provost; Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: S. Macchi

GUESTS: Daniel Atherton, Suzanne Bailey, Lori Baker-Sperry, Steve Bennett, Tom Blackford, Keith Boeckelman, Guada Cabedo-Timmons, Craig Conrad, Jason Covert, Dennis DeVolder, Douglas Freed, Francis Godwyll, Christie Hughes, Pete Jorgensen, Kishor Kapale, James Land, Angela Lynn, Susan Martinelli-Fernandez, Kristi Mindrup, Russ Morgan, Mark Mossman, Kat Myers, Lorette Oden, Elizabeth Orwig, Renee Polubinsky, Jim Schmidt, Gary Swegan, Sebastian Szyjka, Yong Tang, William Thompson

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. November 10, 2020

Chairperson Pynes stated that Senator Carr has already sent a request to have the portion of the minutes where she spoke corrected, so that will be considered to be part of the corrected minutes.

MINUTES APPROVED AS CORRECTED

II. Announcements

A. Provost's Report

Provost Abraham announced that the search for the Director of Distance Education and Support has been extended. Two more candidates will be interviewed next week, and Provost Abraham is optimistic that a high-quality individual will be selected to provide some excellent leadership in that area so that the University can get some additional elements together to allow for the expansion of online offerings. He hopes the search process can be completed in the near future.

Provost Abraham related that there were multiple extensive discussions over at least a month's time prior to the University's decision to hold a hybrid spring commencement event. He pointed out that there are a lot of challenges trying to do something in-person; first of all, WIU does not know if the institution will be permitted by the state to hold an in-person commencement in May, so there was reluctance to get the planning too far ahead of the state, which would have been problematic. Beyond that, Provost Abraham said the University wanted to have a ceremony that was guaranteed to be held rain or shine; while students say they would be happy to sit outside in the rain for commencement, he is not sure how faculty would feel about sitting outside in their caps and gowns in the rain, and he is unsure how this would affect the electronic equipment. He related that the hybrid plan that was developed will allow students to do a fairly personalized walk across a stage where they will be able to have some guests to see them collect their diploma cover while wearing their caps and gowns and having their photographs taken. Provost Abraham believes this will be a reasonably good experience; 167 of graduating students must also believe it will be a good experience since that is how many have signed up as of today. He said there have been a number of students who have expressed disappointment at not having a full in-person commencement, and Provost Abraham and President Huang are equally disappointed. Provost Abraham said he and the President were looking forward to an in-person ceremony, and he spent a lot of time working with the planning group, trying every possible way to determine something that would be feasible, but at

the end of the day they felt that they needed to make a determination -- that in order to have a good quality hybrid experience they had to make the call because they were running out of time to wait. He hopes students will have a high-quality experience that is meaningful for them.

Associate Provost Mark Mossman provided senators with a brief overview of the reaffirmation process for Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation. There are two main components to this process; the first is a large set of written documents. Associate Provost Mossman explained the first part of this documentation consists of the assurance argument, which is composed of five criteria or chapters where it is demonstrated how WIU meets these individual standards, similar to the type of reporting done within education. WIU's document came to 30,000 words. The second part of the written documentation is the evidence file; if the assurance file states that WIU does efficient and effective student assessment, for example, the evidence file includes pages of information documenting every assessment plan or report showing this type of information. Associate Provost Mossman stated that the evidence file is gigantic and includes everything from catalogs to CAGAS minutes. Other aspects of the written documents include an introductory page, forms, such as the federal compliance form and a COVID-19 compliance form, and much more. Associate Provost Mossman stated that all this documentation was completed nine days ago and uploaded to the HLC system one day early.

Associate Provost Mossman stated that the second component of the review is the visit, which this time will be virtual due to Covid. He recalled that ten years ago the HLC visit covered multiple days and nights and involved up to 14-hour days with nearly continuous meetings with every possible group on campus. Associate Provost Mossman is working with the HLC Review Chair on the actual schedule, but the schedule from ten years ago has been largely scaled back. He said there will be several open sessions for faculty, staff, and students and meetings with the President and the Board of Trustees Chair, but it will be a much-shortened schedule. Most of the visits will be virtual, but one reviewer will visit the Quad Cities campus on March 26 and the Macomb campus on March 29. The drafts of the assurance arguments are available on the assessment, accreditation, and strategic planning website (<http://www.wiu.edu/aasp/index.php>), which includes a series of podcasts (<http://www.wiu.edu/aasp/accreditation/podcast.php>) on each chapter as well as a discussion on why accreditation is important. Associate Provost Mossman stated that a concluding podcast with the President and Provost will be recorded a week from today. He knows that the HLC team has been listening to the podcasts, and he invited senators to check them out as well. He stated that while the entire University community has participated in this work and many have served on review teams and working groups, an Executive Writing Team (Mark Mossman, Lori Baker-Sperry, Justin Schuch, Amy Patrick Mossman, Angela Bonifas, Kristi Mindrup) and a Final Stretch group (Mark Mossman, Amy Patrick Mossman, Debbie Kepple-Mamros, and Jeremy Merritt) worked non-stop over the past ten months on this documentation. Associate Provost Mossman added that it has been an honor to work with these excellent colleagues, and they have done a real service for the institution.

Senator Bernards asked if there was anything in the review that struck Associate Provost Mossman as significant, such as a notable success or something that the University should try to change. Associate Provost Mossman replied that one part of the documentation was a student survey conducted by HLC which showed overwhelmingly positive numbers for the University's faculty and classes, so WIU students clearly value the education they are getting and see value in the courses they are taking. He thinks one strong point of the documentation is Criterion 3 and 4, which documents the University's teaching, student learning, and very clear tenure and retention process. Associate Provost Mossman said when he first came to WIU, he was overwhelmed with the number of committees and their acronyms, but in the eyes of an accrediting body that is a very strong point. He noted that WIU basically has a policy for every behavior on campus, which is another strong point. He remarked that WIU shares its weak points with every other institution in the state of Illinois and most institutions in the country: namely, the University is under stress financially so is more dependent upon student tuition than upon appropriated dollars, which leads to various kinds of pressure points, an issue shared with all of public higher ed. Chairperson Pynes believes that one of WIU's strengths is its Faculty Senate because for everything that the institution does there is a Senate council or committee that influences or provides feedback. He noted that the Senate Constitution, which was ratified by the Board of Trustees, says that this body has input on any issue

that affects the welfare of the institution, which is the kind of strong, significant shared governance that an accreditation body really appreciates.

1. Summary of Assessment of Student Learning for 2019-2020
(Lori Baker-Sperry, University Assessment Coordinator)

Associate Provost Mossman explained the assessment matrix is a document presented annually to the Faculty Senate that describes the various levels and practices of student learning assessment on campus. Dr. Baker-Sperry added the Provost's office has been preparing the matrix for 11 years, and this year it looks the best it ever has. She related that the assessment team commented on every point they could find in the original submissions – if there was a small red flag, they asked about it in hopes that departments would be able to address maybe half of them. Dr. Baker-Sperry said the departments and associate deans really came through, so she is really proud of this year's summary.

B. Student Government Association Report
(Elizabeth Orwig, SGA Director of Academic Affairs)

Ms. Orwig reported that Registrar Angela Lynn, Interim Vice President for Student Services John Smith, and Provost Martin Abraham visited SGA two meetings ago to discuss graduation. She thinks the response to the final decision was positive and expressed her thanks for the long hours and extensive work done to finalize these plans.

Ms. Orwig reported that Associate Vice President for Student Services J.B. Biernbaum, Executive Director of Personnel and Financial Affairs Ketra Roselieb, and Executive Director of Auxiliary Services and Risk Management Joe Roselieb spoke to the SGA Cabinet about student fees. She thinks the proposal will be to keep fees the same. SGA has not yet discussed or voted on this but will do so soon. Interim Vice President Smith, Associate Vice President Biernbaum, and Ms. Roselieb will attend tonight's SGA meeting for a further discussion of fees.

Ms. Orwig told senators that SGA recently had Director of University Technology Rebecca Slater speak to them about the technology fee. She reported that SGA is not interested in changing that fee, but they are interested in changing how it is used. She explained that currently most of the technology fee goes to printing in order that students can have "free and unlimited" printing, but the printing is in reality not free because it is paid for by student fees. Ms. Orwig said that SGA thinks this has been abused by some students, with the top ten percent printing an enormous amount that may not be necessary while most students print out an average amount and some students do not use this printing allowance at all. SGA is proposing a new plan to cap printing at \$25 per student; what remains unused in the technology fee will be put toward newer, better technology around campus. Ms. Orwig stated that SGA does not have legislation prepared on this yet, but once it is finalized it will be brought to the Faculty Senate for consideration. She thinks professors will also need to be informed about this change to keep so that they can keep it in mind if paper assignments need to be turned in, although many assignments are now online due to Covid.

Elections will be held in late March/early April for the next SGA President, Vice President, and Board of Trustees representative.

Chairperson Pynes asked if each student can print up to \$25 worth of paper at about three cents per page and after that must pay out-of-pocket. Ms. Orwig confirmed this is correct. She said SGA has not entirely decided what the flat fee will be, but this is the one they are most attracted to. She said if a student goes beyond the \$25 allotment, they will be charged four cents per page, so University Technology will make about one cent per page.

C. Other Announcements

1. Chairperson Pynes announced that there is an ongoing Faculty Senate election for a Macomb at-large seat. He said Macomb faculty members should have received an email

around noon today. He encourages eligible faculty to vote in this election. If individuals want to know who the candidates are, they can find those on the Faculty Senate website under Elections.

2. Elections for Faculty Senate officers will be held at the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting on April 6. Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Senate Nominating Committee members will be elected at this meeting. New senators will be invited to the virtual table for this meeting in order to vote.
3. The Registrar asks faculty to submit early warning grades by Monday, March 15 at 4:30.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council on Admission, Graduation, and Academic Standards (CAGAS) (Jason Covert, Vice Chair)

1. Recommendation from University Admissions to Extend the Current Admissions Policy

CAGAS Vice Chair Covert related that CAGAS was asked by Undergraduate Admissions to take the temporary policy approved for the previous year and make it the policy going forward. He said there was considerable discussion at CAGAS, after which the council voted unanimously to approve the change to the policy. Vice Chair Covert told senators that Admissions presented some retention numbers showing how they had changed while using the temporary policy as compared to previously. He admitted that this is a very small sample size, representing only one year of data, and it is hard to tease out how things have changed; certainly, the mode of instruction has changed with Covid, and probably grading has changed somewhat as well. Mr. Covert added that Admissions found no significant changes in retention under the temporary policy, and grades were slightly higher.

Senator Filipink asked why the University should make this a permanent policy based on one semester of data as compared to collecting additional data. Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Gary Swegan responded that Undergraduate Admissions approached the Senate Executive Committee and were directed to CAGAS initially because the policy that was passed last spring only went through 2021, so Admissions needed to have something in place. He said the reason Admissions is asking for the word “temporary” to be removed is a data driven discussion. He explained that while there has only been one year under this policy, Admissions can go back many years and demonstrate that, whatever the admissions policy, the University will have students with GPAs between 2.75 and 3.29 in the freshmen class. This past year, there were 686 admitted students within that category, and Admissions denied two percent. Associate Vice President Swegan related that, from there, Admissions looked at the impact on the freshmen class; albeit the policy was only passed last spring, so it represented only part of the year, but this past fall saw the highest GPA for a freshmen class in recent history. He related that Admissions then looked at the impact going forward, since the policy was in effect for Fall 2021 through the entire cycle, and as of a week ago WIU’s admitted freshmen for Fall 2021 based on grade point are doing better than last year – 3.50 versus 3.47. He said other factors considered included the demographics of what the state of Illinois is facing; between now and 2025, it is predicted that WIU will only lose three percent of high school graduates, but from 2025 to 2037 it is predicted that an additional 22 percent will be lost. Associate Vice President Swegan told senators that WIU is in the worst position in the Midwest in a demographic environment that is predicted to be miserable for everybody. He said Admissions noted that something needed to be in place after Fall 2021, and the temporary admissions policy appears to be working, from what can be determined at this point, without negatively impacting retention, continuation from fall to spring, or overall academic credentials coming in. Senator Filipink asked if having fall-to-fall data would not be better for deciding to make the policy permanent as opposed to using fall-to-spring data. Associate Vice President Swegan admitted that it probably would be, and CAGAS had a discussion of some length about that. He said they determined that, while they may want to go back and look at this again, the

way an admissions cycle works counselors are already beginning to talk to students for 2022 and beyond, so there needs to be something in place. He added that there will not be reliable data for fall-to-fall until well after census day, but Admissions is committed for 2022 no matter what, and they need to have something in place that will allow them to move forward. He noted that many of WIU's sister institutions have similar policies, and WIU is going up against, particularly, the directional Illinois institutions with GPA admissions requirements of 2.75 and some even as low as 2.5, so there are some competitive concerns if the requirement is not kept where it is.

Senator Carr said her question is not intended to challenge the proposal, but she is curious – having just learned from Senator Shupe about weighted grades – how those factor in. She asked if a high school has a GPA scale up to 4.5, whether that is converted to a 4.0 scale when the grades come into WIU. Associate Vice President Swegan responded that the data that is being provided to senators compares apples to apples. Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Enrollment Services Doug Freed explained that WIU accepts whatever the high school says is the student's grade, whether weighted or unweighted; if a student has achieved a 4.5 GPA in high school, WIU accepts it as a 4.5 on a 5-point scale. Associate Vice President Swegan remarked that this may raise some eyebrows, but he has worked at about five institutions and none have done it any differently than this. He knows that senators have probably heard of or attended graduate school at institutions which are considerably more selective and might do some recalculations, but this is a very typical way that admissions offices operate, and the data is being presented in the same way each year so it is not mixing and matching. Senator Carr remarked that she is curious to understand this process more, but she is not sure it is directly relevant to the current discussion. Chairperson Pynes remarked that he is sure that Director Freed would be willing to explain it more to Senator Carr, adding that the important point is that WIU's Admissions office takes whatever GPA the student provides and every year reports the data the same rather than trying to recalculate the GPAs every year.

Chairperson Pynes explained that since the report was brought forward by a Senate council, it will be automatically approved unless there is an objection from a senator, after which a vote would need to be taken to restore the item to the agenda if discussion is to continue today.

SENATOR FILIPINK OBJECTED TO THE REPORT

Motion: To restore the item to the agenda (Hunter/Lauer)

MOTION TO RESTORE APPROVED 15 YES – 4 NO – 0 AB

Chairperson Pynes explained that in order to continue the discussion, a senator would need to make a motion to approve the CAGAS report, after which senators can hold additional discussion, followed by a vote on the proposal.

Senator Lauer asked Senator Filipink to state the reason for his objection. Senator Filipink explained that he would far prefer to see an extension of the temporary policy in order to see if, in fact, it is bringing in students who can succeed at WIU rather than taking people's money for coming here for a year. Chairperson Pynes said basically the word "permanent" was removed from the previous policy, and all that is proposed is to extend the current policy until it is changed again. Senator Filipink said he appreciates that the word "permanent" is not in the policy, but he also appreciates that this sort of thing takes on an inertia of its own once the policy is no longer considered temporary or piloted. He would like to see some additional data, which would mean continuing to pilot the current policy for another year or two. He understands the need for the Admissions office to have an extension of this policy to make sure that they can apply it for the students they are already seeing and trying to recruit for Fall 2022, but he would also appreciate this not being a permanent change or at least to have the "temporary" remain until Fall 2023 so that additional data can be gathered before making changes that look like the University is going

to bring in significant numbers of students who are not going to succeed. Chairperson Pynes asked if Senator Filipink would like to have a sundown clause on the policy rather than no sundown clause; Senator Filipink confirmed this is his preference in a nutshell.

Chairperson Covert told Senator Filipink that CAGAS did discuss with Admissions that they would like for them to return to CAGAS when additional data is available in order to continue this discussion, so the council would hear back from Admissions about how the policy is affecting things in approximately a two-year cycle, at which time CAGAS could assess if the policy is causing a negative effect in admitted students. He thinks this would address Senator Filipink's concerns so that the University is not simply taking students' money and instead being really concerned about their success. Senator Lauer asked if a two-year sundown clause would actually strengthen CAGAS's request to look at the data in two years. Chairperson Covert responded that he does not have an opinion on that one way or the other, but he is not opposed to it.

Chairperson Pynes asked if Senator Filipink's sundown clause is a friendly amendment to the CAGAS report. He noted that since CAGAS is a council that reports to the Faculty Senate, the Senate can make changes to its recommendations if desired. He said that if senators wanted to do this, they would need to vote on that particular change before voting on the report itself. Chairperson Pynes specified that any motion would need to include a precise date and asked if Senator Filipink would want the policy to expire at a certain time or if he intends instead for it to be reevaluated by CAGAS at a particular time. Senator Filipink replied that, for the benefit of the Admissions office and for the University as a whole, he would like for the policy to be reevaluated by CAGAS and sent to the Faculty Senate at a certain time. He struggles, however, with determining a good date because he does not fully understand the vagaries of the admissions cycle. He suggested that it come back in Spring 2023, which would provide two full years of fall data and result in the policy coming back to CAGAS just before Admissions begins recruiting for the subsequent year. Chairperson Pynes asked if Senator Filipink would like to add to the proposal that CAGAS will need to review the admissions policy in Spring 2023, which will mean that it will probably not be changed for the following year; Senator Filipink confirmed that is correct. He said that while he has significant skepticism about the proposal, he is trying to be fair to both sides; he wants to make a data-driven decision, but also understands that the Admissions office will be operating throughout the process.

Chairperson Pynes summarized that Senator Filipink wants to add that [the](#) Faculty Senate would decide on the admissions policy again in Spring 2023, where it would not be able to take effect until Fall 2024. He pointed out that this means Admissions would not be hamstrung in the middle of the year. He asked if this timeline would be an issue for Admissions. Director Freed thinks it will work if the policy does not have to come back to CAGAS until Spring 2023, but he asked what metrics Admissions would need to bring to CAGAS at that time that are not available now. Associate Vice President Swegan added that if Admissions does this in 2023, any changes made at that time would begin impacting students in Fall 2024. Chairperson Pynes confirmed this, adding that he wants senators to understand that any change would be a year out.

Motion: To add to the CAGAS report that Admissions will have to come back to CAGAS in Spring 2023 with all of the relevant data in order for the policy to be reapproved for implementation in Fall 2024 (Filipink/Banash)

Senator Bernards asked what is really gained by approving this motion. He noted that all of WIU's competitors are moving toward this model, even some of the more elite institutions, and the likelihood that a decision would be made to go back to mandatory testing is unlikely. Chairperson Pynes thinks Senator Filipink's biggest concern is to maintain accountability through bodies like CAGAS and the Faculty Senate, so he conceives of this motion as a check to guarantee that; Senator Filipink remarked that this was nicely put.

Senator Bellott asked if any harm would occur as a result of this motion. Chairperson Pynes replied he can see no harm from the motion because it gives Admissions an extra year if the body decides to change the policy. He suspects Admissions will come to the Executive Committee in the future with more data. He noted that the Registrar's office and Institutional Research and Planning have been very forthcoming with data, so nobody is hiding anything. He does not see any direct harm; it is a guarantee to get Admissions to come back, which they would anyway if they were asked.

Senator Bellott asked if the current temporary policy is unable to be reflected in the online University profile because it is not an official policy. Director Freed replied that the GPA profile can be posted online because that is consistent from year to year but, given the lack of students taking ACT and SAT tests, he would not continue to use a profile based on those tests because that is not a fair comparison, adding that at many universities students have been unable to take the tests this year, and fewer will be taking it in future. Senator Bellott asked if the fact that this policy is temporary affects this at all. Director Freed says it does not because the GPA will still be able to be posted to WIU's profile page. Chairperson Pynes asked for additional clarification. Senator Bellott explained that WIU's profile on its website lists the GPAs and ACT/SAT scores that the University accepts, and it may not be clear to a high school student what they have to do since WIU's official policy requires these scores but this temporary admissions policy does not. He noted that the old admissions policy and this policy are actually quite different. Chairperson Pynes asked if Senator Bellott was worried that the word "temporary" made it so that students could not really compare. Senator Bellott replied he was concerned that students might wonder if the temporary policy might change or go away after Covid relief is no longer in place. Chairperson Pynes stated that while the word "temporary" has been removed, the word "permanent" has not been put in, and right now a sundown clause has been proposed.

MOTION APPROVED 15 YES – 2 NO – 2 AB

Chairperson Pynes announced that the CAGAS report has been amended and the policy will come back to the council in Spring 2023 at which time CAGAS can decide what to do about it after that. He remarked that senators now have to vote on the actual report.

CAGAS REPORT APPROVED AS AMENDED 18 YES – 0 NO – 1 AB

Chairperson Pynes thanked CAGAS and Admissions for their work on the proposal and said the Faculty Senate looks forward to seeing the additional data in the future. He said senators want WIU students to be successful, and he hopes the new admissions policy will allow for a robust freshmen class, retention persistence, and graduation of future alumni.

B. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI)
(Steve Bennett, Chair)

1. Curricular Request from the Department of Political Science

a. Request for New Course

i. POLS 224, Latinx Politics, 3 s.h.

POLS 224 APPROVED

2. Curricular Requests from the Department of Physics

Physics Chair Kishor Kapale explained that the department thinks that students going through the two Physics sequences – PHYS 114/115 and PHYS 124/125 – would be better served by the new proposed minor rather than the standard Physics minor, which historically they have not chosen.

Motion: To consider the two requests together (Filipink/Lough)

NO OBJECTIONS TO THE MOTION

- a. Request for Change in Minor
 - i. Physics
- b. Request for New Minor
 - i. Conceptual Physics

Senator Carr asked if the new minor would replace the standard minor or will supplement it. Chairperson Kapale responded the new minor is not intended to replace the standard Physics minor. He explained the department would like to open up the knowledge of physics, astronomy, energy, and space at the conceptual level to a large class of students, especially those that take Physics General Education courses. He pointed out that the Conceptual Physics minor would only require high school algebra as a prerequisite, and students would learn most of the 20th and 21st century concepts so that they are better informed citizens of the technologically advanced world we all live in. He hopes this will help to create a science loving and admiring populace, and this new minor is just one small step towards that. Senator Carr said the part that confused her was the change in minor form, which made it sound like it was one Physics minor being changed when actually it is just being changed to add this other route for students to minor in. Chairperson Kapale responded that when the new minor is in place, the department would like Conceptual Physics to be open to students taking the PHYS 114/115 and PHYS 124/125 sequence because they do not normally choose the current standard Physics minor. He added that the existing standard Physics minor requires the change because now there will be another option for these students.

PHYSICS REQUESTS APPROVED

IV. Old Business

A. Faculty Advisory Council of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (Amy Carr, WIU Representative to the IBHE FAC)

Senator Carr noted that senators should have received some of the recommendations and responses to the IBHE Strategic Plan for Higher Education that have been coming out from both the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council and from University Professionals of Illinois (UPI). She thinks at some point UPI may ask for some support from the Faculty Senate for some of these recommendations. Senator Carr explained the recommendations basically ask that the strategic plan align all of its strategic priorities around one of the core vision statements that is in the plan on higher education as a public good that enriches life, with a focus on research and scholarship not being forgotten. She said both the UPI and the Faculty Advisory Council recommendations largely focus on paying attention to the unintended consequences on research and scholarship of expanding early college to, in particular, high school teacher-taught courses – especially in General Education fields – but also having consequences for equity. She stated that even though equity is one of the aims of these courses, there are other kinds of inequity that arise when students do not have access to a broad range of Gen Ed courses but just those at their high schools and do not have the opportunity to explore discovery majors and minors. Senator Carr stated that anyone wishing to see copies of the documents can email her.

Senator Carr noted that community colleges are much more involved in approving dual credit courses, whether taught by their faculty or by high school teachers. She is finding that there are some community college leaders who are interested in limiting early college, which is one of the recommendations – not to entirely eliminate these courses but to eliminate how many are taken or

encouraged. Senator Carr said the IBHE FAC had a conversation with Ryan Gower, Chancellor of the eastern community colleges, who told them this is being discussed, and she wonders if there has been a similar discussion among public university provosts or presidents about limits to early college, in keeping with some of these recommendations. Provost Abraham responded that he has not heard of any discussion amongst the provosts. Senator Carr stated that since it most immediately affects community colleges in a whole variety of ways, they are more involved in this discussion.

Senator Bernards asked where the plan goes from here since there have been comments made on it. He asked if there would be revisions or if it will just be enacted and the comments only represent protests. Senator Carr responded that this is a good question. She said that there will have been three meetings of these various design groups through the end of March. She added that other recommendations are coming forth, such as in response to efforts to have teacher education programs moved to community colleges; there has been some organizing around that as well. Senator Carr said the design groups, including the one about high school to college transition, where the early college part is focused, will have to discuss in their third meeting how all these proposals align with the core principles in the strategic plan. She will be curious to see how those factor in. She said the recommendations have also been presented by the Chair of the Faculty Advisory Council in the public comments section of the last strategic planning meeting. She does not think it is clear yet how much these comments and recommendations will shape the conversations of the design groups, but that will be known by the end of the month, and there will continue to be room for public comment. Senator Carr encourages anyone who is interested to go to the IBHE website where there is a relatively short section on the strategic plan and make comments; any comments submitted there will be made publicly available to anyone.

Chairperson Pynes expressed his thanks to Senator Carr for this important work. He said the Executive Committee has asked Senator Carr and Senator Shupe, who is the backup Advisory Council rep, to make some recommendations to them in the future.

V. New Business

A. For the Good of the Body

Chairperson Pynes announced that the Executive Committee will probably meet twice before the next Senate meeting on April 6. He will send out an email to all faculty letting them know about this.

Motion: To adjourn (Brice)

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