**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

**FACULTY SENATE**

**Regular Meeting, *27 August 2013*, 4:00 p.m.**

**Capitol Rooms - University Union**

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

**SENATORS PRESENT:** J. Baylor, S. Bennett, L. Brice, G. Cabedo-Timmons, M. Carncross, J. Choi, :45etary. and councils, and to the SEnate for their work this year, to the chairs of SEnate hat she feels as appropriate for tS. Cordes, A. Hyde, G. Jorgensen, I. Lauer, M. Maskarinec, B. McCrary, J. Myers, K. Myers, B. Polley, J. Rabchuk, S. Rock, S. Romano, M. Siddiqi, A. Silberer, M. Singh, R. Thurman, T. Westerhold

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

**SENATORS ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Dale Adkins, Kathy Barrett, Tommy Bell, Matt Bierman, Andy Borst, Rick Carter, Richard Chamberlain, Tom Cody, Dennis DeVolder, Bradley Dilger, Ellen Ehrgott, Justin Ehrlich, Jeff Engel, Stephen Frazier, Mary Margaret Harris, Robert Hironimus-Wendt, D.J. Kim, B.J. Lampere, Dana Lindemann, Angela Lynn, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Patrick McGinty, Rita Moore, Russ Morgan, Kathy Neumann, Sean O’Donnell-Brown, Brenda Parks, Nancy Parsons, Dan Romano, Diane Sandage, Michael Stryker, Matt Tanney, Bill Thompson, Anna Valeva, Bhavneet Walia, Bridget Welch

1. Consideration of Minutes
   1. 23 April 2013

**MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED**

1. Announcements
   1. Provost’s Report

Provost Hawkinson stated that the last couple of weeks have been filled with activities to start the academic year, including presenting his report on the state of Academic Affairs at the faculty assembly and greeting organizations on campus. The Provost will soon be meeting with his mentees for the new Building Connections mentorship program; over 200 faculty and staff are participating in the program this year. Provost Hawkinson will join the President and deans in college “town hall meetings” this year. The associate provosts and assistant to the vice president will continue to attend Faculty Senate meetings this year to answer questions and stay current on issues.

Admissions Director Andy Borst reported that admissions numbers are down about 4.2 percent from last year at this time, which is consistent with other Illinois state institutions with the exception of the University of Illinois. Western’s enrollment for the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses combined is 11,700. Mr. Borst reported that Illinois State University, WIU’s largest competitor, is expecting its enrollment to fall below 20,000 for the first time in several years; they saw a decrease of four percent in new freshman admissions.

Mr. Borst reported that Southern Illinois University-Carbondale was one of the few universities seeing an increase in freshman admissions due to an aggressive leveraging program offering $10,000 scholarships to students who would be receiving $1,000 scholarships at WIU for the same academic profile. As a result, freshman admissions at SIU-C are up 16 percent this year. Increases in freshman enrollments are also being seen at Eastern Illinois University (up three percent) and Northern Illinois University (up five percent). Mr. Borst reported that all state public universities saw decreases in transfer admissions. WIU Quad Cities enrollments increased about 120 students from last year to 1,500.

Chairperson Rock asked how much of WIU’s decrease can be attributed to declines in the number of OAS students. Mr. Borst responded this accounts for a big part of the decrease; OAS student retention is below 50 percent combined with fewer OAS students being admitted. He explained that the decrease in OAS numbers is partly because of students self-selecting not to continue their education due to cost and partly due to lower numbers of students admitted in that category after review of their application materials. Mr. Borst explained that WIU is starting to better understand which students are able to succeed within OAS.

* 1. Student Government Association (SGA) Report

(B.J. Lampere, SGA student representative)

Mr. Lampere informed senators that he is representing SGA on Faculty Senate, CCPI, CGE, and the Provost’s Advisory Council this year. SGA’s first meeting is today at 7:00 p.m. Caleb Markey was reelected as SGA President, Vice President is Steve Wailand, and SGA is adding a new position of Chief of Staff, which will be filled by David Giltzow. This position will handle appointments for committees needing student representation.

* 1. Other Announcements
     1. IT Governance Plan and IT Strategic Plan

(Stephen Frazier, CIO, University Technology)

Mr. Frazier told senators that he has been at WIU nine months, and has spent some of that time developing the IT Strategic Plan and the IT Governance Proposal. He explained the IT Strategic Plan aims to formalize IT governance; once the IT Strategic Plan is implemented, the IT Governance Proposal would make modifications to it as necessary and push the Strategic Plan forward through the years. The two plans were developed last spring with a subgroup of the University Technology Advisory Group (UTAG) and others. Mr. Frazier told senators that Western’s plan adopts parts of plans from other universities, and he would like to see it implemented in October 2013, following its presentation to the Board of Trustees. He added that the plans are not “set in cement” and will continue to evolve as the University improves its processes.

Mr. Frazier and the UTAG subgroup have diagrammed a “process flow and membership” chart that includes an overarching IT Governance Council with subcommittees called Alliances under it representing various interests of the University in relation to IT. Mr. Frazier explained that an idea will be vetted through IT governance if it:

* impacts the University significantly from a directional, policy, services, system, security, finance process, or operational perspective;
* requires significant funding; or
* interfaces with one or more existing systems.

Mr. Frazier explained that a request from Western’s campuses would go to the Executive Committee clearinghouse, which includes chairs from each Alliance; the Executive Committee decides whether to send the request to the Education, Administration, or Marketing/External Alliance for follow up. The specific Alliance can then decide whether to pursue the idea and develop a proposal that would go back to the Executive Committee, who would review the proposal to make sure there are no legal or liability issues involved with its development. The proposal can be returned to the Alliance to address problems, or can be sent up to the IT Governance Council. The IT Governance Council will decide which proposals they wish to push forward, listed by priority, to the “Owner,” who will make sure that they are implemented. The UTAG subgroup has recommended that either WIU’s President or the UTech CIO assume the ownership role. The IT Governance Council would be composed of the President’s Cabinet, the CIO, the Budget Director, and Western’s legal counsel.

The IT Strategic Plan includes ten action items, which Mr. Frazier highlighted for senators. Action item 1.2 includes a recommendation to “identify an individual in the University Technology department to work part-time to facilitate communications with the campus community.” It also recommends that a faculty member and a student be appointed to work with the University Technology senior leadership on a periodic basis as liaisons.

Action item 2.1 recommends that Electronic Student Services (ESS) and Administrative Information Management Services (AIMS) be consolidated into a centralized organization within the University Technology framework. Section 2.2 discusses the reporting line for the CIO for University Technology and recommends that this person, according to Mr. Frazier, “have a seat at the table” with the institution’s leadership team. Action item 2.3 focuses on efforts that are “mission critical” and will differentiate Western from its competitors (core projects) as opposed to context projects, such as email and support for various computing platforms, which are important but do not differentiate WIU from other institutions.

Recommendation 3 proposes engaging the services of “an independent, unbiased 3rd-party consulting firm” to study and make recommendations regarding Western’s enterprise information systems. Mr. Frazier noted that this was also recommended in the MF/ERP Preliminary Evaluation and Recommendations report of 2010. Action item 3.2 recommends the University preserve the performance of its mainframe as long as possible in order to allow WIU to gracefully transition to a new ERP platform, if that decision is made. Item 3.3 recommends creation of mission critical applications that will allow the use of previously unavailable data in order to make institutional analytics more available and actionable. This section also recommends revitalizing the Pentaho business initiative project.

Recommendation 4.1 states that WIU should “seek to lessen its dependency on computer labs and administrative office computers through increased use of desktop virtualization.” Desktop virtualization (VDI) would enable WIU students, faculty, and staff to access lab applications from their personally owned devises remotely or from their offices. Action item 4.2 recommends the formation of a steering committee with significant faculty representation to provide overall guidance for Western Online as opposed to oversight by a few individuals in technology areas. Items 4.3 and, 4.4 endorse expanding the number of electronic classrooms and standardizing existing classrooms, while 4.5 recommends that Western should “create and support one or more facilities where faculty can test and prototype new and emerging technologies that have potential application in instruction.” Item 4.6 states the University should support faculty who wish to incorporate mobile devices into the learning experience of their classrooms, while 4.7 addresses video conferencing equipment, which Mr. Frazier admits is expensive but necessary as new solutions need to be considered.

Item 5.1 recommends that Western’s network be funded with ongoing operating/base resources instead of relying on one-time funding. Mr. Frazier explained that when network upgrades are needed currently, University Technology asks the specific college to fund them, but this needs to be centrally funded with ongoing resources for greater consistency. The IT Strategic Plan notes that “The student residential network (ResNet), which has a consistent source of funding through student residential fees, consistently outperforms the campus network in all respects.” Item 5.4 proposes that WIU increase the bandwidth for both ResNet and the campus network with a goal of reaching 10G in the future. Item 6 states that students coming to WIU should find at least the technology they are used to using, if not better. Recommendation 7 suggests building a network to support mobile devises and segregating that traffic from the core business traffic at the University. Action item 7.2 recommends establishing a mobile computing center and providing assistance building mobile apps for WIU.

Recommendation 8 proposes forming strategic partnerships with vendors or companies and leveraging their ability to come up with solutions to educational problems. Action item 8.1 suggests that the Macomb campus should investigate alternative solutions to its legacy telecommunications system; traditional phone switches are no longer manufactured, which will make it increasingly difficult to find replacement components for Western’s system. The Quad Cities campus already uses Voice over IP (VoIP), which uses computer networks for the transmission of voice and communication-related data instead of copper wire, while the Macomb campus, according to the report, “is relying on a telecommunications system that is antiquated and past its end of life.”

Section 9 includes a recommendation to engage a professional security firm to conduct a comprehensive network and server risk assessment. Action item 9.6 states the University should have a design, implementation plan, and standard procedures for identity management; Mr. Frazier explained this could involve an account being set up when a person is hired at the University showing the permissions that the individual needs and which would follow the individual through job changes at the University and de-provisioning when individuals leave WIU. Action item 10.1, Continue Building and Retaining a Talented IT Workforce, recommends partnering with the ITIL, a best practice approach developed in England. ITIL estimates that 80 percent of outages worldwide are because of necessary IT changes. Mr. Frazier stated that the ITIL change management process will reduce outages over time and develop a more stable environment. He predicted that Western’s University Technology will become the leader in IT quality services among its peers.

Comments regarding the IT Strategic Plan and IT Governance Proposal should be left on the University Technology website by September 5 in order to allow for the proposals to go on to the President with any changes and be placed on the Board of Trustees October agenda.

Senator Rabchuk asked if desktop virtualization would mean that instead of constantly updating software on each machine, it would be centrally updated on the network. Mr. Frazier responded that this process is already being implemented in the Stipes 231 lab. The first thing to be noticed is that it utilizes “thin clients” hidden behind the screen rather than a large tower unit. Two labs are experimenting with the virtual desktop; Stipes 231 is a physical lab, but a virtual lab has also been established where individuals can obtain the same software that they would have access to in the lab.

Parliamentarian Kaul stated that University Technology does a phenomenal job with limited manpower. He distributed an August 17, 2013, article from *The New York Times* titled “Master’s Degree is New Frontier of Study Online.” The article states that “Georgia Tech, which has one of the country’s top computer science programs, plans to offer a MOOC-based online master’s degree in computer science for $6,600 – far less than the $45,000 on-campus price.” Parliamentarian Kaul believes that this may be a “game changer” because it is the first time a major university has offered such a degree, and it is being run as a business venture. He stated that Georgia Tech expects to reap about $213,000 worth of profit immediately and increase to $4.2 million by the fourth year the degree is offered. They expect to attract up to 10,000 students annually into this program. Parliamentarian Kaul stated that if education is to commoditize by utilizing this particular model, WIU should be concerned, and the question should be raised whether Western will be able to compete given the manpower constraints of University Technology and what it is able to do. He pointed out that Georgia Tech is partnering with Silicon Valley for $31.2 million of the cost, as well as establishing a partnership with AT&T, and WIU should also seek public-private partnerships in order to move the University forward. Parliamentarian Kaul urged the Provost to establish a “high-powered” committee, which would include representation from the Center for International Studies, to study this issue. Parliamentarian Kaul stated that for the last several months he has asked why WIU does not have the ability to register international students when they are admitted from their home countries. He stated that the Center for International Studies has told him the problem may be one of visa issues, but visa is a travel document and should not prevent registering for a course to be taken abroad.

Mr. Frazier replied that the way to address the issue of Massively Open Online Courses (MOOCs) is to separate the decision making for IT from the actual implementation of IT. He stated that while University Technology is good at implementation, this level of decision making would be the responsibility of the IT Governance Council and the President’s Cabinet, after which University Technology can determine the costs and scenarios for implementation. He added that there has been somewhat of a backlash against MOOCs and there may be more charges involved for students than what was previously believed.

Senator Cordes asked if WIU would have the infrastructure to support a MOOC; Mr. Frazier replied it could be done if the University wished to move in that direction. Senator Cordes stated that he would like to see WIU be able to do a lot of things with virtual reality, 3D printing, and other technologies, but this has not yet been proven to be a sustainable business model. He stated that while some bodies at Western could explore partnerships with businesses, the article in *The Times* indicates that Georgia Tech will have to increase tuition at some point when their business underwriting disappears. He believes that WIU should, however, be able to pilot a MOOC in case a company such as AT&T would be interested in pursuing something like this at Western, regardless of whether there is a move on campus to do this academically, because the need for these types of classes is just going to get greater.

Provost Hawkinson stated that Western is moving forward rapidly and putting more programs online, such as the current MBA, a master’s program being developed in LEJA, and perhaps at some point a doctoral program in instructional technology. He pointed out that a lot of MOOCs are beginning to collapse; the University of Phoenix, for example, has closed 200 of its operations, is being sued by six states, and its stock has dropped considerably. He wonders whether employers will hire graduates who have been taking online classes with 170,000 other students. Western’s 235 online courses are taught by faculty who have had best practices training, and there has to be live interaction for each course. Provost Hawkinson believes that Western’s degree has great value among employers, and he does not believe that degrees through MOOC programs will have that value. He thinks they are mainly being targeted to Third World countries with no access to higher education whatsoever. While Provost Hawkinson applauds institutions for developing courses for students living in Third World countries, he does not see them as competing for the same market as WIU.

Senator Siddiqi asked how soon WIU faculty can expect an error-free Western Online, noting that there are already problems in the second week of classes. Mr. Frazier responded that the decision was made one to two years ago to move to a hosted system, and in some ways the University is at the mercy of that vendor. University Technology has looked into what it would take to bring the system in-house, and Mr. Frazier thinks maybe the IT Governance Council can consider moving to some other platform, but he warned there are a lot of costs involved and it would have to be a faculty-driven decision. Mr. Frazier was hopeful that when the storage problem was fixed by the vendor last semester it would solve many of Western Online’s problems, and he was disappointed that the University is still experiencing issues with it. Senator Baylor stated that Nursing’s problem is not that the system crashes frequently but that when they receive tests back, there are no discriminators to let them know how good their questions are. She explained that Nursing faculty are unable to test their questions to see if they are at the level that is needed for WIU Nursing students to pass the board exam, and they have been told Desire2Learn is unable to fix this. Mr. Frazier stated that if Western Online was in-house, University Technology would probably not be able to fix this problem either, but he sees a need to open a dialogue about this issue.

Senator Singh commended Mr. Frazier for the mobility-based incentives built into the IT Strategic Plan, stating that they are long overdue. He asked if there is data available about what devices WIU students bring to campus and what platforms they utilize on PCs, Macs, and mobile devices in order to make long- or short-term decisions that can guide faculty in their classrooms. Mr. Frazier responded that there have been surveys done at WIU but they are at least a year old. He added that there is also some Educause data available. Senator Cordes stated that a survey on mobile devises was conducted in fall 2012 by the Mobile Computing Task Force, and an Educause survey was conducted in spring 2013. Richard Chamberlain, Executive Director of Technology User Support Services, added that there was poor turnout for the spring 2013 survey so it did not represent a good sample of WIU students. Senator Cordes added there were only about 200 responses to the spring survey.

Senator Hyde asked about the future of Western’s videoconferencing system. Senator Cordes responded that a number of representatives across the University met this spring to discuss different videoconferencing options. A survey was conducted which, although the turnout was rather low, provided a snapshot of what faculty are using for conferencing, for their courses, and for professional events. He related that some persons use higher-end conferencing software with audio and video, such as Go To Meeting and Adobe Connect, while others utilize a lower-level of videoconferencing, such as desktop Skyping and Google Collaboration. He stated that some larger institutions support both a robust package for highly interactive conferencing and a smaller platform, such as Skype, for instructors who want to communicate professionally or with their classes. Senator Cordes informed senators that University Libraries received a grant a couple of years ago to pilot Adobe Connect and have been using it for everything from WIU Foundation conferencing to academic classwork. He said the University used to pay $540 per room for Adobe Connect, but five rooms can be connected for that price since WIU went through a third-party vendor to purchase the software package. He added that the package includes a white board, audio and video capabilities, and the ability to conduct chats, survey students, and other applications. Mr. Frazier added that the College of Business and Technology has developed a classroom where video can be streamed on a green screen behind the instructor, and UTech is working on its streaming server as well.

Chairperson Rock noted that all three Alliances in the IT Governance Proposal have representation from students, but he does not see why this would be necessary for the Administration or the Marketing/External Alliances. He observed that those two have no representation from faculty and seem to have an over-representation from students. Mr. Frazier responded that if the Alliances are to have student representation, he would be very happy to also see them have faculty representation. He said the subgroup did not think that faculty would want to be involved in the back-end processes being discussed in these two Alliances. He added the intention is to have the Alliances develop their own charges within timelines and a framework, but nothing is “set in concrete” yet. Chairperson Rock observed that it would seem to make sense for students to be involved, along with faculty, in the Education Alliance but not in the other two. Mr. Frazier added that the Alliance meetings will be open for anyone to attend. Chairperson Rock noted that the membership for the Administration and the Marketing/External Alliances are almost exactly the same. Mr. Frazier stated that the subgroup envisioned those two groups as working on different kinds of projects; the desire was to have smaller committees that can break into working groups rather than large committees.

Forums to discuss the IT plans will be held Thursday, August 29, at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and Friday, August 30, at 11:00 a.m. in the Union Capitol Rooms.

* + 1. WIU Faculty Ambassadors

(Rick Carter, Executive Director, School of Distance Learning, International Studies, and Outreach)

Dr. Carter explained that the Faculty Ambassadors Program asks faculty who are traveling for leisure or study abroad to work with the Center for International Studies (CIS) to represent WIU while on their trips. CIS will provide resources, training, and background information so that the faculty member can answer questions about the University, admissions, housing, Western’s English as a Second Language Program, scholarships, and other topics. Dr. Carter stated that former WIU advisor Patty Jones did something like this last fall, and the program was piloted when Senator Singh approached Dr. Carter last spring to do outreach in India. Dr. Carter stated that Senator Singh “broke the ice” at one university in India because he knew the area and who to contact to build relationships on behalf of WIU. CIS is now ready to expand the program campus wide.

Dr. Carter stated that the Program does not come with funding; it is an effort to utilize the natural resources and expertise of Western’s faculty who are personally invested in and familiar with the University. CIS will help faculty learn how to talk to students from other countries and provide answers to the questions they might ask.

Senator Singh stated that Dr. Carter, Provost Hawkinson, and President Thomas have represented a small team helping him with the process of reaching out in India. He added that Bhavneet Walia in Economics and Decision Sciences started the program off by attending a recruitment fair in India. Senator Singh related that WIU’s Computer Sciences program draws a large number of its students from a school in Agra, India, where Senator Singh is originally from, so it was a natural extension for him to visit them and at least start the process of recruitment. He stated that the process has just begun, but the goal is to eventually have a memorandum of understanding between WIU and the school in Agra so that there is a formal process for admitting those students as seamlessly as possible and with fewer points of inertia. The school will then have a better understanding of the academic standards that WIU expects of its students and what needs to be done to be admitted. Senator Singh added that faculty with diverse backgrounds in various countries are a natural extension to facilitate entry of students to Western from those countries, and CIS is a very valuable resource to help this process.

Dr. Carter expects the Faculty Ambassadors Program to morph and grow as faculty attend conferences and visit their home countries, and more details will be worked out as it develops. He wants the program to become a campus wide initiative and asked senators to encourage their colleagues to talk to Dr. Carter about how they can become a part of it. Senator Brice asked how much time Dr. Carter envisions faculty having to commit to the initiative. Dr. Carter responded that this somewhat depends on where faculty are traveling. He stated that developing a memo of understanding would take more time than if a faculty member were visiting a career fair or a school that has already had contact with WIU. Dr. Carter anticipates that faculty would generally have to meet just a few times but it depends on a lot of factors. Senator Brice asked if the program will be run ad hoc, on a case-by-case basis; Dr. Carter responded affirmatively. Senator Singh added that when officials in Agra asked questions for which he did not know the answers, he simply referred them to CIS.

Senator Maskarinec stated he would like to see some compensation or transportation reimbursement available for participants in the program. Provost Hawkinson stated that he would be willing to support in-country travel if it is pre-arranged and in the general area where the faculty member is already visiting. Senator Maskarinec asked if this information could be worked into the Faculty Ambassadors for International Recruitment document. Provost Hawkinson responded that the document can include information about covering incidental or local travel expenses.

Dr. Walia suggested it might be helpful to let embassies know that faculty are visiting and what they are doing. Dr. Carter responded he would be happy to contact embassies in the countries, adding that he always works with embassies when he visits various countries.

* + 1. Ad Hoc Committee on Medical Absences – Implementation Update

(Jessica Harriger, Chair)

Dr. Harriger reported that a lot of work was accomplished over the summer months once Faculty Senate approved implementation of the new absence system in April. She thanked Roger Runquist, Director of the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR), and his graduate assistant Neehar Doppalapudi for their assistance. The new Online Absence Reporting System (OARS) is intended for students to self-report all of their absences, not just medical absences. Providers at Beu Health Center will no longer issue appointment slips to be used to verify medical absences. Dr. Harriger related that she spoke at a meeting of Beu staff and they are very excited about the new system.

Dr. Harriger explained that students will go to [www.wiu.edu/oars](http://www.wiu.edu/oars) on the day they are absent and explain why they must miss their class(es). A message is automatically sent to the student’s faculty members, advisor, the Office of Student Development and Orientation (SDO), and Sara Lytle, the SDO Assistant Director for Retention and Student Success. Dr. Harriger stated the system will allow advisors and SDO stuff to identify students who are struggling earlier and provide interventions when appropriate. There has been a massive marketing campaign for the new system: Rocky in a boat is featured on WIU’s homepage, Dr. Harriger is speaking to resident assistants this week, information cards are being handed out at Beu, and a Telestars message will be distributed to students, faculty, and parents. Dr. Harriger provided senators with a frequently asked questions sheet that was also distributed at the faculty assembly. CITR will be providing training, and department training will also be made available. Feedback on the new absence reporting system can be emailed to [oars@wiu.edu](mailto:oars@wiu.edu).

Dr. Harriger told senators the ad hoc committee is exploring the possibility of changing the language of the University absence policy in the future because it currently mentions getting documentation from Beu. The committee is also exploring developing a website with a login system so that faculty could obtain a list of how many times a student has missed class.

Chairperson Rock asked the SGA representative if the publicity for the new system is starting to reach students. Mr. Lampere responded that many students are aware of the new system, and teachers are explaining it to their classes. He thinks it is an excellent addition. Dr. Harriger has been working with faculty and answering lots of questions; some faculty have emailed her their absence policies and asked how the new system can be worked into their current classroom procedures.

Senator Siddiqi asked how faculty can know that students are really sick when they self report. Dr. Harriger responded that faculty do not know, but they really didn’t know previously because students visiting Beu who were not really sick would walk out with the same documentation as those who had a genuine illness. She believes faculty have to trust their students. Senator Choi asked if OARS could be combined with systems at Beu so that it can be verified that a student has actually visited there or obtained a prescription. Dr. Harriger responded that OARS does not integrate with systems currently in use at Beu, and there is no plan to pursue such integration because the intention is to discourage use of Beu for absence excuses. Students can indicate that they saw a provider and the date, but OARS is intended to work primarily with the attendance tracker and not with any Beu system.

Senator Rabchuk noted that use of OARS is voluntary this year but he wonders if there have been discussions about making its usage a requirement. Dr. Harriger responded that this decision is not within the purview of the ad hoc committee and would need to be a decision for Faculty Senate. Senator Rabchuk remarked that it would take a lot of thought to decide to make use of OARS required, and he would not recommend this route because it is very restrictive in terms of the kinds of reporting that faculty are receiving. Dr. Harriger noted that, although student athletes provide faculty with a letter stating the days they will be absent for travel or events, when they report their absence on OARS the day of the event it can provide faculty with a reminder. She added that Apple has given permission for OARS to be added to WIU’s app so that it will be available on all mobile devices with any platform.

Chairperson Rock thanked Dr. Harriger and the ad hoc committee for their hard work on implementing the new absence system.

1. Reports of Committees and Councils
   1. Council on Admission, Graduation, and Academic Standards (CAGAS)

(Jessica Harriger, Chair, 2013-2014)

* + 1. Annual Report (Jeff Engel, Chair, 2012-2013)

CAGAS met 34 times over the last academic year. They heard 351 appeals initiated by students, down from 450 appeals in 2011-2012; the change was due to decreases in appeals for late withdrawals and special requests for readmission. The CAGAS Chair reviewed 100 reports of academic integrity violations; three appeals of academic integrity decisions by college committees were heard with two of those denied and one found in favor of the student. The Council also considered changes to FYE, admissions criteria, and advanced placement policies for the School of Engineering. CAGAS formed a subcommittee to consider revision of the Policies for Academic Integrity and Grade Appeals in spring 2013 and will continue the process of revising those policies in the coming year.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

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

(Bradley Dilger, Chair, 2013-2014)

1. Annual Report (Kris Kelly, Chair, 2012-2013)

Five new WID courses and one new BGS online course were approved last year. The Committee participated in a full review of the WIU Writing Program, which resulted in a recommendation for a national search for a Director of Writing Across the Curriculum. The Committee also participated with CITR in a number of writing workshops.

The WID Committee began the process of developing a multidisciplinary student journal focusing on examples of professional writing produced by students in WID courses. University Libraries has agreed to house the journal. Senator Rabchuk was appointed interim managing editor, and the first call for papers was distributed in spring 2013.

The Committee revised its bylaws last year by changing the membership requirement for current or previous WID instructors only to a “preference” for faculty who have taught or are teaching WID courses. The student representative to the Committee was made a full voting position. A subcommittee was created to review existing WID guidelines, changes to which will be brought before Faculty Senate later this year.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

* 1. Council on Campus Planning and Usage (CCPU)

(Jeff Laurent, Chair, 2013-2014)

* + 1. Annual Report (Dana Lindemann, Chair, 2012-2013)

CCPU provided a faculty voice in the process of updating the campus master plan, attending meetings with consultants from Smith Group JJR and providing input during regular CCPU meetings. Working with Facilities Management Director Scott Coker, who serves as an ex-officio member of the Council, CCPU provided input on an important Facilities Management memo prior to its distribution and discussed suggestions for improvement in communication, the most important of which will be establishing new building representatives who are nearly always available and in the buildings.

Last year CCPU discussed: a petition from Morgan Hall faculty about air conditioning during finals week; establishing “intentional spaces” on campus for meditation, prayer, and other private actions; and texting while driving, all of which were forwarded to CCPU for consideration by the Executive Committee.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

* 1. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI)

(Bridget Welch, Chair, 2013-2014)

* + 1. Annual Report (Steve Bennett, Chair, 2012-2013)

CCPI approved 65 requests for new courses this year, up from 42 in 2011-2012, as well as over 72 requests for changes to existing courses, 11 new experimental course requests, 20 changes in majors, 23 changes in options, and eight changes in minors. One new major (World Languages and Cultures) was approved last year, three new minors (Network Technologies, Criminalistics, and Communication Sciences and Disorders) and four new emphases from the Department of English and Journalism (Creative Writing, Literature, Professional Writing, and Middle School Teaching).

**NO OBJECTIONS**

* 1. Council on General Education (CGE)

(Diane Sandage, Chair, 2013-2014)

* + 1. Annual Report (Patrick McGinty, Chair, 2012-2013)

The annual report outlined decisions that CGE made last year in respect to general education assessment:

1. Although each General Education course should be assessed every semester, General Education data only needs to be transmitted annually.
2. General Education data will continue to be transmitted to the Associate Provost for compilation, but departments are being encouraged to review the data and not to consider the transmission the end of their responsibility.
3. CGE is taking a more proactive stance regarding educating WIU faculty about General Education, including making it a component of New Faculty Orientation.
4. Working with the Associate Provost, more assessment data from departments is being collected.
5. The Council has adopted the goal of visiting all departments that offer Gen Ed classes to discuss with them the goals and philosophy of General Education.
6. CGE will continue to use Telestars and emails to send messages regarding writing in General Education and Gen Ed assessment throughout the year and to develop directed messages for administrators regarding supporting General Education.

CGE now requires that all articulation requests be accompanied by a course syllabus; 81 requests were considered during 2012-2013, down 26 from the previous year. Of these, 26 were approved, 34, were denied, and 21 remain in process.

CGE has established a subcommittee to explore the possibility of a reading requirement for the General Education curriculum.

The Council approved seven requests for inclusion in General Education last year. In future, requests will not be forwarded to the Faculty Senate until departments have provided and CGE has approved an assessment mechanism for the courses.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

* 1. Council for Instructional Technology (CIT)

(Anna Valeva, Chair, 2013-2014)

* + 1. Annual Report (Chandra Amaravadi, Chair, 2012-2013)

Chairperson Rock observed that the annual report includes a recommendation that Faculty Senate examine the timing of the textbook buy-back program. In a discussion with Sara Thomas from the WIU Bookstore about the course search database, oversight of which is part of CIT’s responsibilities, the Council expressed the view that buy-back beginning as early as October encourages students to sell their books back well before the end of their coursework. Chairperson Rock stated that this issue will be placed on a future ExCo agenda.

Chairperson Rock hopes CIT will play an important role in the IT Strategic Plan. He would like to see faculty representation on the Education Alliance being taken from CIT members.

CIT heard presentations last year on the latest handheld technologies and changes to password policy. The CIT Chair represented the Council on the task force for researching web conferencing systems. CIT recommended three clickers for adoption consideration last year as part of the Provost’s Task Force on Clicker Selection. They also met with Mr. Frazier to discuss a number of campus computing issues.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

* + 1. Policies and Procedures

CIT included in their annual report revision to their policies and procedures which would establish their quorum as at least 33 percent of the membership (four out of 12 members). At least 50 percent of the membership would need to be present to “vote and make a decision.”

**NO OBJECTIONS**

* 1. Council for Intercollegiate Athletics (CIA)

(Christopher Kovacs, Chair, 2013-2014)

* + 1. Annual Report (Christopher Kovacs, Chair, 2012-2013)

The Council provided a summary report of student-athlete absences to Faculty Senate early in 2013. Besides reviewing the athletic schedules, CIA discussed the realignment of conference membership across the collegiate landscape and its impact on Summit League membership and scheduling. The Council also reviewed the most recent NCAA academic performance data.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

* 1. Council for International Education (CIE)

(Bhavneet Walia, Chair, 2013-2014)

* + 1. Annual Report (Michael Stryker, Chair, 2012-2013)

CIE approved four General Education Global Issues (GEGI) and two Discipline-Specific Global Issues (DSGI) courses last year. There are now 53 DSGI and 26 GEGI courses available to students. A waiver period for Bachelor of General Studies students to meet the foreign language/global issues (FLGI) requirement was solved with the development of new online GEGI and DSGI courses scheduled to begin this fall, resulting in an additional 167 seats for students pursuing the BGS degree.

CIE last year attempted to develop a review process for approved Global Issues curricula in order to certify that the goals and objectives upon which the courses were initially approved were continuing. After concerns from the UPI President, this process was put on hold. Chairperson Rock asked that references to an “evaluation” process, “evaluation” instrument, and “evaluation” measures in the final paragraph on p. 2 of the report be changed to “assessment”

**NO OBJECTIONS**

* 1. Summer School Committee (SSC)

(TBD, Chair, 2013-2014)

* + 1. Annual Report (Ellen Ehrgott, Chair, 2012-2013)

In addition to its annual student and faculty surveys, the Summer School Committee collected information from the Regional Office of Education on the interest of educators taking continuing education courses at WIU and surveyed departmental advisors to collect information from the perspective of those who enroll students in courses. Surveys were also completed by 449 students and 187 faculty, with responses remaining relatively consistent in the three years these surveys have been administered. SSC recommends that the annual surveys be eliminated due to the large quantity and consistent information that has already been collected. ExCo will discuss this recommendation at a future meeting.

**NO OBJECTIONS**

1. Senate Nominating Committee

(Martin Maskarinec, Chair)

**SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITEES:**

* Council on General Education

Yin-Chi Liao, Mgt/Mktg replacing Donna Aguiniga 15 At-large

* Council for International Education

Istvan Szabo, Music replacing Doug Huff Spring 14 only At-large

**UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:**

* Bachelor of General Studies Advisory Board

Diane Sandage, Soc/Anth replacing Ginny Boynton 15 A&S

* FYE Committee on Classes

Casey LaFrance, Pol Sci continuing position 14 A&S

Mark Hoge, Agriculture continuing position 14 B&T

Paul Schlag, RPTA continuing position 16 E&HS

Algerian Hart, Kinesiology continuing position 15 E&HS

Stacey Macchi, Comm continuing position 15 FA&C

* Talent Grants and Tuition Waivers – Macomb campus

Jonathan Hammersley, Psy replacing Tim Roberts 14 At-large

* University Benefits Committee

Shaozhong Zhang, Chem replacing Don Johnson Spring 14 only At-large

* University Honors Council

Todd Lough, LEJA replacing Nancy Parsons 14 E&HS

* University Technology Advisory Group

Brian Bellott, Chem replacing Walter Kretchik 14 A&S

Kishor Kapale, Physics replacing Jongho Lee Spring 14 only A&S

Senator Maskarinec explained that the Senate Nominating Committee is asking Faculty Senate to verify appointments previously made to the FYE Committee on Classes so that from this point on they will all be Faculty Senate appointments.

There were no further nominations; the slate of candidates was approved.

1. Old Business – None
2. New Business
   1. Marriage Equality Resolution

**Whereas**     WIU has long been a leader in the area of the LGBT inclusivity, being among the first universities in Illinois to offer domestic partner benefits, and being the first public university to hold an LGBT student orientation; and

**Whereas**  WIU does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation (see <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/affirmact.php>), but instead has expanded its non-discrimination statement to include gender identity and gender expression; and

**Whereas**   Western Illinois University regularly lobbies the legislature on behalf of legislation that will benefit the institution and the citizens of Illinois; and

**Whereas** Whereas the state of Illinois does in fact discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation when defining marriage: *(750 ILCS 5/201) (from Ch. 40, par. 201)  
Sec. 201. Formalities.) A marriage between a man and a woman licensed, solemnized and registered as provided in this Act is valid in this State.   
(Source: P.A. 80-923.) See also* <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs5.asp?ActID=2086&ChapterID=59>; and

**Whereas** the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of UNITED STATES v. WINDSOR, EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF SPYER, ET AL. (2013) has declared that this form of law stigmatizes and injures children and adults, and thus current and future students, alumni, and employees of Western Illinois University who are denied the material and social benefits of marriage; and

**Whereas** an act to allow same sex marriage, the “Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act” (Senate Bill 10) has already passed the Illinois Senate (<http://bit.ly/11gXDN7>), and Governor Quinn has stated that he will sign the legislation; and

**Whereas** Senate Bill 10 has yet to be voted on in the Illinois House of Representatives;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Faculty Senate of Western Illinois University believes Senate Bill 10 to represent the best interests of all citizens of Illinois, including our workers, our students, and our future students, and thus we hereby advocate in the legislature for the immediate passage of Senate Bill 10.

**Submitted By:** Robert Hironimus-Wendt, William Thompson, Debra Miretzky, Holly Stovall, Armand Affricano, Bridget Welch, and Janice Welsch (professor emerita)

Library faculty member Bill Thompson explained that there is legislation currently in the Illinois House that has passed the Senate and would equalize marriage in Illinois, as has been accomplished in New York and Massachusetts. He stated that Western lobbies in Springfield on behalf of legislation of interest to students, faculty, and staff, and this would seem to be such an issue since there are gay members within Western’s community, some of whom are “married” but cannot be officially recognized as such in the state of Illinois.

Dr. Thompson stated that the resolution would ask President Thomas to direct the University’s lobbyist to lobby on behalf of faculty. He believes the legislation speaks to basic civil rights, and noted that WIU lobbies in regard to other legislative issues, such as concealed carry and the budget. He pointed out that the issue of marriage equality seems to obviously be an issue of interest to many at the University and would affect many if passed.

Senator Thurman asked that consideration be given to not moving the resolution forward. He finds the resolution to be biased and divisive in the way it is written. He stated that, without denigrating whoever wrote it, the resolution appears to have been written by someone “with an agenda,” and Senator Thurman does not think it is representative of the University. He asked if Dr. Thompson would consider rewording the resolution to try to better represent the campus community. Chairperson Rock asked if Senator Thurman’s concerns were with the “whereas” statements or the “therefore”; Senator Thurman replied that his concerns are with both. He added that his preferences for wording would emasculate the resolution to the point where it would become an “odd” kind of document.

Senator Thurman asserted that “Whereas the state of Illinois does in fact discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation when defining marriage” is a biased statement. He would prefer wording such as, “Wherefore the state of Illinois currently defines marriage as …” He noted that the resolution talks about the Illinois Senate passing Senate Bill 10, but it does not mention the House of Representatives not wanting to bring the bill forward because they know it won’t pass. He suggested that rather than advocating in the legislature for the “immediate passage of Senate Bill 10” the resolution should “encourage the House of Representative to vote on Senate Bill 10” because it otherwise seems to represent the opinion of the entire University.

Chairperson Rock asked if Senator Thurman could support the resolution if the language were changed. Senator Thurman replied that he could support parts of it if the language was revised, but he does not think it represents a document that the University should be putting forward. He does not see it as a run-of-the-mill type of resolution, and he advised senators to deliberate and think carefully about its approval. Senator Thurman does not know how much impact the resolution would have but it sends a statement that he does not think represents the opinion of the entire University.

Senator Rabchuk said the statement that Senate Bill 10 represents “the best interests of all citizens of Illinois, including our workers, our students, and our future students” is a fair one and should be kept in the resolution. He agrees that “does in fact discriminate” could instead be changed to a statement of fact, but he thinks the resolution is appropriate overall. Senator Rabchuk observed that not everyone may agree, and individuals have a large range of differences in terms of behavior and choices, but he thinks as a university it is important to make a statement that the WIU community is supportive and inclusive, and that everyone who makes a positive contribution to WIU is welcomed and treated equally.

Senator Cordes asked if Dr. Thompson could provide information regarding peer institutions in other states and trends in education regarding this issue. Dr. Thompson responded that he has no idea what other institutions are doing; it never entered his mind to consider whether other universities are doing anything to move Senate Bill 10 forward because to Dr. Thompson this was the right thing to do. He would like to see WIU be a leader in this area, but it is the decision of the Senate whether to vote the resolution up or down.

Senator Siddiqi stated that, while he respects every individual’s choices, he will have to abstain because he cannot support the resolution. Senator Brice said that while he is in favor of the idea of marriage equality, he is concerned about voting with a show of hands on a highly divisive political issue. He stated that there may be a certain amount of pressure to not abstain, but he does not see the resolution as a political football which the Faculty Senate by itself should endorse. He asked if WIU’s administration has a statement regarding their position on the resolution. Dr. Thompson said he was told by WIU’s lobbyist that the administration has no position on this legislation. He then decided to submit a resolution to Faculty Senate which would only be a recommendation to the President since it is he who determines the formal position that the University takes and passes that on to the lobbyist.

Senator Brice asked if the resolution would go on to the lobbyist if it is not supported by President Thomas. Provost Hawkinson pointed out that the “therefore” paragraph states that the resolution is the will of the Faculty Senate, not of the University nor of the President, so as it is worded President Thomas would not have to respond to this resolution. The President would see the resolution and would understand the will of the Senate regarding this issue, but Provost Hawkinson does not see the resolution as a call for action on the part of the President. Dr. Thompson agreed.

Chairperson Rock asked if Dr. Thompson anticipates taking a similar resolution to other constituents. Dr. Thompson replied that he has no interest in other constituents because he is a faculty member and Faculty Senate is the body that represents him. He added that if SGA, the Civil Service Employees’ Council, or some other group wishes to develop a similar resolution that would be great, but he will not take this resolution further.

Senator Rabchuk asked who the “we” is in the statement “thus we hereby advocate in the legislature for the immediate passage of Senate Bill 10.” He wonders if “we” represents the faculty or the University. Senator Cordes replied “we” would seem to be Faculty Senate. Dr. Thompson said he has no objections if the Senate wishes to make this clearer. Senator Rabchuk pointed out that Faculty Senate has no mechanism to advocate; Dr. Thompson agreed that Faculty Senate’s only lobbying mechanism is its ability for individual members to contact their representatives.

Parliamentarian Kaul suggested that Chairperson Rock, who serves as WIU’s representative to the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, could take the resolution, if adopted, to that council to see if they have a position. He stated this could be a different way to move the resolution forward, particularly if the President is against sending it on to the lobbyist. Senator Siddiqi asked if Faculty Senate has communicated with external agencies in the past because he thought that everything Senate approves goes to the Academic Vice President or to the President.

Senator Rabchuk pointed out that rather than have a show of hands on the resolution, senators could conduct a private vote by ballot. He stated that at this point, what Senate decides to do is a matter of conscience; the resolution will have no authority regardless of whether it is approved, but senators can express their consciences. Senator Cordes stated that he is unsure of the concerns of the constituents that he represents since he has not spoken to them about the resolution and is not sure if he can vote on it at this point. Senator Choi agreed that deciding at today’s meeting may be too soon since the issue is so political; senators need to have time to consider the opinions of their constituents and then vote on the resolution. He also noted that when Senator Brice asked the opinion of the administration, the question was answered by Dr. Thompson, but he would like to hear the Provost’s response. Provost Hawkinson stated that currently the University does not have a position on this issue. He said the University’s lobbyist usually tries to get funding for higher education and issues of that nature, but the administration usually avoids taking a position on issues such as those of the resolution. He stated that this has nothing to do with the personal views of the administration, which could be very supportive, but has to do with representing a university and all of its constituents, and sometimes the administration believes it is better not to take a stand on a particular issue.

Chairperson Rock observed that senators can vote on the current resolution, make a motion to table the resolution until the next meeting so that they can talk to their constituents, or suggest language changes or a substitute motion.

**Motion:** To table the resolution (Siddiqi/Brice)

Senator Siddiqi stated that in the meantime senators can propose changes of language in consultation with the resolution’s authors and consult with their constituents so that senators can be better informed and make better choices. Senator Thurman said he sees no reason to table the resolution and urged senators to vote on it today, then move on.

**MOTION APPROVED 12 YES – 7 NO – 2 AB**

* 1. Election of Senators to Serve on Provost’s Advisory Council

Senator Cordes volunteered to replace Senator Singh on the Council.

* 1. Election of Committee on Provost and Presidential Performance (CPPP)

Senator Rabchuk volunteered to represent the Executive Committee on the CPPP. Senators Choi, Myers, Baylor, and Siddiqi also volunteered to serve.

Senator Rabchuk, who chaired the Committee last year, explained that CPPP changed the timeline for the survey this past spring; the survey was moved from spring to fall because it was thought that this would enable faculty to more easily reference the previous year in their responses. Now, however, the Board of Trustees has asked that the Senate evaluate the President and Provost for the current year rather than their previous year’s performances. He stated it is up to the Senate whether the CPPP should now evaluate the two administrators for the current year this fall or proceed as has been done previously. Chairperson Rock stated that one possibility would be for Faculty Senate to conduct this fall’s evaluation for the current *and* the previous years since the goals of the President and Provost are similar from year to year. After conducting the survey over two years this fall, future surveys would only evaluate the current year. He asked CPPP to make a recommendation to the Senate regarding how they think this issue should be resolved.

Senator Myers asked how often CPPP meets; Senator Rabchuk responded they meet as often as necessary, which last year was five times because they were rewriting the survey, which will not have to be undertaken this year.

**Motion:** To adjourn (Brice).

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Jim Rabchuk, Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary