

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Regular Meeting of the **FACULTY SENATE**
<http://www.wiu.edu/FacultySenate>

Tuesday, 31 August 2021 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: D. Atherton, D. Banash, M. Bernards, L. Brice, G. Cabedo-Timmons, J. Choi, Filipink, D., J. Land, I. Lauer, T. Lough, S. Macchi, J. Robinett, R. Sawhney, E. Shupe, S. Syzjka, Y. Tang, E. Taylor, B. Thompson, L. Ebert Wallace, J. Wroblewski
Ex-officio: Russ Morgan, Associate Provost; Betsy Perabo, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: C. Suzanne Bailey, D. Oursler

GUESTS: Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Sarah Lawson, Mark Mossman, Tom Blackford, Megan Owens, Tim Roberts, Miguel Narvaez, George Mangalraj, Kim McClure, Craig Conrad, Russ Morgan, Kristi Mindrup, Steve Bennett, William Hoon, Elizabeth Orwig, Lorette Oden, Dennis DeVolder, Jason Covert, Francis Godwyll, Jill Myers

I. Consideration of Minutes

- A. April 20, 2021
- B. Senator Brice motioned for approval. Chair Lauer coordinated the vote and the minutes were approved.

II. Announcements

- A. Approvals from the President and Provost
- B. Provost's Report

Associate Provost Morgan presented on Provost Clow's behalf. He welcomed us back and expressed disappointment that we're back in a virtual setting rather than in person. He said that he is looking forward to in person Senate meetings in the Capital Rooms when it is safe to do so. Provost Travel Awards are going to be available this year, and travel will be allowed based on Covid procedures. The awards will be done as they had been in previous years. They will be \$500 awards available on a first come first serve basis. The plan is to release the majority of dollars in fall, but some will be held back for spring. Information will follow soon. The program will be run through CITR as it had been in the past. Roger Rundquist left last spring and they've been working to get everything back in order. Vice Chair Thompson mentioned that travel monies went out very quickly when done first come first served last time; he questioned if it was best to

distribute monies this way. Associate Provost Morgan shared that it's a small amount of money and people will be made aware of it so they can apply in time.

Senator Brice asked how many faculty, staff, and students have turned in proof of vaccination. Associate Provost Morgan indicated they have some estimates, but the information is not firm yet. He indicated that there were some data collection issues that need to be addressed. He indicated that employees' vaccination numbers are somewhere in the low 70s to 75% and we don't have a grasp on student numbers yet. Senator Brice asked what is the policy going to be moving forward on requiring vaccines. Associate Provost Morgan indicated that they met with UPI last week and one of the determinants about requiring vaccination is going to be what other public Illinois institutions do. He shared that what other schools do will greatly impact our enrollment. He shared that WIU has had students and parents say that if there is a vaccine mandate, they would drop out; if all schools require vaccination there will be less of a hit. He indicated that the President has spoken with other presidents and university provosts are speaking later this week to coordinate plans. He shared that requiring vaccination is under consideration, but we don't want to move too quickly.

Senator Brice asked if the University is going to consider SGA's view to which Associate Provost Morgan replied yes and indicated that SGA has not yet met. He shared that there have been questions about the Covid dashboard and indicated that the University intends to have it operating again by the end of the week.

Vice Chair Thompson asked how flexible are these room capacity numbers and why faculty are being asked to add additional students. Associate Provost Morgan indicated that there have been requests to add students when the room has flexibility and that faculty have been provided opportunities to add some students. Vice Chair Thompson suggested that faculty are probably not in a position to make such judgments and expressed concern that faculty are being asked to make decisions that affect their students' health. Associate Provost Morgan indicated that if the classroom is too small, they wouldn't be given that discretion. He noted that if the decision should be made by department chair or dean the faculty would have no choice. Vice Chair Thompson responded that having Department chairs and Deans make the decision gave faculty the opportunity to question the appropriateness of it.

Senator Bernards noted that in the ExCo minutes Provost Clow said compliance with Covid testing was high and asked if there are statistics related to this and was data kept. Associate Provost Morgan noted he was not familiar with the data. Chair Lauer clarified that the high compliance claim is based in the fact that Student Services did not have to engage in as much disciplinary action related to testing as was expected.

Associate Provost Morgan shared that adjustments were made to room capacities early in August. To avoid last minutes changes in the spring, the administration is

planning on 6' spacing and will adjust to enable less spacing if the opportunity arises.

Associate Provost Morgan indicated that Provost Clow asked him to encourage faculty to remind students about getting vaccinated and tested and general safety measures. He asked us to encourage students to do what they can to keep everyone safe. Senator Filipink suggested that faculty remind students that the local community has low vaccination rates, so washing hands and wearing masks when out in the community is in their best interests.

C. Student Government Association Report Elizabeth Orwig
(SGA representative to Faculty Senate)

President Orwig introduced herself and reminded Senate that last year she was the SGA Director of Academic Affairs. SGA Cabinet interviews are later this week and there will be a new Director of Academic Affairs this year. She shared that SGA has been dealing with many issues related to Covid. She shared that the percentage of students who haven't turned in vaccination cards or started testing is high. She shared that the University president sent out an email to students reminding them of the disciplinary impact. She expressed her disappointment that those numbers are high; SGA is drafting a letter to send to students. Covid, parking, and printing are the issues SGI intends to address.

D. Other Announcements

Chair Lauer indicated that petitions are out for positions on UPC; there are vacancies from Arts and Sciences, Business and Technology, and Fine Arts and Communication. Petitions are September 6, 2021.

Chair Lauer indicated that there are petitions out to replace senators who are out on sabbatical (Arts and Sciences/Business and Technology). Those petitions are due on September 10, 2021.

Chair Lauer explained that the Senate Reallocation survey is done every other year and that will be no reallocation of Senate seats for the upcoming year. He shared that the Board of Trustees will be meeting on September 10, 2021 and that so far the agenda has not been posted. He requested that Senators contact him if they do notice any items of concern when the agenda is published.

Chair Lauer shared that Senate is not committed to Zoom only meetings for the rest of the semester.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council on Admission, Graduation and Academic Standards
(Jason Covert, Chair, 2021-2022)

1. Annual Report (Megan Owens, Chair, 2020-2021)

Former Chair Owens delivered the report. She shared that information was contained in the report and that they presented policy and departmental considerations to the Senate for review. Some of the key issues they dealt with last year were withdrawal deadlines, the academic integrity policy, and Mathematics and Biology brought forward updates.

In discussing the number of appeals was outlined in the report's table, Owens pointed out that there was an uptick in the number of appeals (total late withdrawals and selective withdrawals and other Admission appeals). She said many appeals involved Covid and personal challenges related to it and online learning. Owens indicated that CAGAS tried these things into consideration, and that there were significant personal situations they heard in the appeals. She thanked Susie Fowler for keeping appeals organized and working with students. She thanked Sarah Lawson for accepting new responsibilities in the Registrar's Office.

Senator Bernards asked whether the academic integrity issues were prompted from software used for monitoring tests. Owens indicated that there were a variety of issues involving exams, papers, and projects; she expressed the issues couldn't be tied to one specific thing. She indicated CAGAS could go back and look if there were specific issues.

Parliamentarian Perabo asked if the late withdrawal deadline change made in the fall helped students stay registered for some classes and if CAGAS was considering making formal recommendation regarding the deadline. Former Chair Owens indicated she might be an appropriate thing for CAGAS to investigate this year. CAGAS has not been able to more formally analyze the impact of changes in the late withdrawal deadline partly because of the personnel change in the Registrar's Office. She indicated that the decision to extend the late withdrawal deadline represented an attempt to respond to the challenges posed by Covid and not to make a broad shift in the University's withdrawal policy.

Chair Lauer observed that a significant percentage of selective late withdrawals were approved and asked if it was typical. Former Chair Owens indicated that CAGAS could look at the data. She shared that CAGAS ran into appeals involving students who registered for classes by their advisor (transfer, new freshmen) for which they were unaware they were registered. Owens indicated that CAGAS had follow up conversations with advisors regarding this; she indicated that CAGAS dealt with many situations involving Covid, and that CAGAS may have been more flexible this year.

B. Council on Campus Planning and Usage
(Tim Roberts, Co-Chair, 2021-2022)

1. Annual Report (Anita Hardeman/Tim Roberts, Co-Chair, 2020-2021)

Former Chair Roberts presented and indicated he was Co-Chair with Dr. Hardeman in the fall. He thanked the committee and Troy Rhoads from Facility Management. He explained that the committee worked with Facility Management to evaluate which buildings on the Macomb

campus might warrant closing. In the fall, a report was compiled looking at cost, historical significance, and the extent to which multiple departments would be affected by closure. CCPU ranked buildings and made suggestions. The committee recommended closing Tillman Hall; the action was deferred. In the spring they surveyed departments about new facilities and equipment needs. They polled the colleges and the information is in the report. Former Chair Roberts indicated that there were issues in the fall related to classrooms having HEPA filters. He shared that some filters aren't working or plugged in. He encouraged us to remind colleagues to make sure they're working.

Senator Bernards asked about if there was a plan for demolishing Tillman Hall if it was closed. He suggested that having closed buildings around campus would send negative messages related to enrollment and have negative impacts on recruitment. Roberts responded that the process did not progress that far and that his understanding was that the closing would potentially happen this summer to have work done by fall of 2022. The committee did not get into timing or practicalities of the implementation.

Senator Bernards asked how CCPU identified alternative spaces for the affected departments. Roberts indicated the affected colleges were going to look at reallocation of spaces. Colleges are aware of the plan and are likely developing plans.

C. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction
(Steve Bennett, Chair, 2021-2022)

1. Annual Report (Steve Bennett, Chair, 2020-2021)

Chair Bennett expressed that CCPI receives fewer requests in the fall than the spring and that CCPI appreciates having their workload spread out across the year. He shared that teacher education requirements took a considerable amount of CCPI's time and attention. They had 16 changes in options last year, the largest since 2012. There weren't many new courses, but many changes to existing courses, options, majors.

Vice Chair Thompson asked if they have considered a study of why the numbers of new courses go up and down. Chair Bennett noted some years the council has as many as 50 new courses and last year they had 17. Vice Chair Thompson hypothesized it may have a relationship to the hiring of assistant professors.

D. Council on General Education
(Andrea Alveshere, Chair, 2021-2022)

1. Annual Report (Andrea Alveshere, Chair, 2020-2021)

Chair Lauer noted that no one was available to present the report, but that if there were any concerns and objection could be made. No one objected and the report was accepted without presentation.

E. Council for Instructional Technology

(TBD, Chair, 2021-2022)

1. Annual Report (George Mangalaraj, Chair, 2020-2021)

Chair Mangalaraj reported that CIT acts as focal point for instructional technology. They are regularly visited by UTECH and CITR/ODES who talk about technology needs with them. This year they discussed Respondus, internet infrastructure, and laptop replacements for desktops. One member was in UTAG and goes through IT governance and the Vice Chair of CIT sat on that group.

~~F. Council on Intercollegiate Athletics~~

~~(TBD, Chair, 2021-2022)~~

~~1. Annual Report (Stephen Gray, Chair, 2020-2021)~~

Chair Lauer explained this report was not ready to be presented and will be presented and discussed at a later meeting.

G. Council for International Education
(Miguel Narvaez, Chair, 2021-2022)

2. Annual Report (Miguel Narvaez, Chair, 2020-2021)

Chair Narvaez indicated that the Council evaluated the level of achievement of GI courses. He shared that new members of the Council posed interesting questions and the Council requested more data. The Council is close to finalizing a report for Senate. They also evaluated a course proposal for GI: ARTH 393: Gender and Embodiment in the Visual Arts.

Chair Lauer asked if grades were used as the measure of assessment in global issues. Chair Narvaez responded that courses were assessed on how they were meeting objectives. This was done by looking at syllabi over two-year periods. Specifically, they looked at if syllabi listed CI objective or it serving as a Gen Ed Course. They also explored if there were there differences in the delivery methods.

As a point of information, Chair Lauer reminded Senate that if there are no objections the reports are assumed to be accepted. If there are objections, reports are removed from the agenda and a 2/3 vote is required to restore it to consideration in that meeting or at a later time.

H. Writing Instruction in the Disciplines (WID) Committee
(Doug LaFountain, Chair, 2021-2022)

1. Annual Report (Kim McClure, Chair, 2020-2021)

Chair McClure indicated the Committee was busy last year though they only approved one course for WID designation. The committee reviewed WID designated courses. Traditionally there is a three-year rotation of reviewing courses. Last year, the committee followed up with WID faculty and enrollment numbers to make sure courses were consistent with WID

Committee values. The committee wanted to try a new way of evaluating the courses, so they are now providing faculty an opportunity to provide specific feedback about the value of the WID courses they're teaching. They are implementing a survey this fall that will be sent to department chairs to distribute to WID faculty. Once faculty respond, an *ad hoc* of the WID Committee will compile the data and consider faculty feedback about WID at the University level. McClure indicated the committee also reviewed enrollment data and found two courses were overenrolled by one or two students. She shared there the WID Committee offered a faculty development session through CITR. Even though it was not well attended, the Committee plans to offer more sessions in the future. The committee is seeking to have an SGA representative at their meetings.

McClure shared that WID has its own email address now, and a shared Google drive for historic record keeping. They have example syllabi linked to the WID website for faculty considering applying for WID designation. McClure shared that there were some tasks they were not able to accomplish due to a lack of administrative support including making significant changes to how WID operates and creating a list of current WID instructors. She also pointed out that the Senate charge related to securing feedback from groups about writing instruction at the university was unclear to the Committee and suggested that Faculty Senate may want to consider how to implement that charge.

Vice Chair Thompson asked if the survey concern was that there was too much or not enough writing. Chair McClure responded that the committee cannot know that from what has been previously assessed. Historically, the survey looks for over enrollments; was the class at 20 or at least within the limit of 20-25. She suggested that this data did not seem like the best way to convey information about their writing instruction courses. The survey was designed to be close to the writing values the committee has and address issues through the survey. It asks how faculty are feeling about their WID courses and provides opportunities for qualitative feedback. Vice Chair Thompson asked if this is the first time a survey like this has been conducted. McClure indicated it is the first time she remembers a survey being conducted and that frustration from members of the committee motivated it. They have a desire to understand faculty needs and get better information to fulfill their advisory role.

Parliamentarian Perabo asked if there might be some overlap with work done by the HLC accreditation team. McClure indicated that she's less familiar with the team's work and the goal of this survey is to see if faculty need more support. She suggested that perhaps the committee could look into that this year.

Chair Lauer asked if there was data related to the percentage of WIU courses that have gone online in the past two to four years. McClure responded that there is not and suggested that might be a good thing for the Faculty Senate to ask the WID committee to look into.

- I. Senate Nominating Committee
(Josh Wroblewski, Chair, 2021-2022)
 1. Annual Report (Jeremy Robinett, Chair, 2020-2021)
 2. Nominations to Fill Vacancies

Chair Robinett thanked the members of last year's SNC and Annette Hamm for their work. He noted that the committee has moved away from the binders that used to be prepared and now operates from a virtual shared listing of appointments and vacancies. He acknowledged that there were issues with SNC communicating appointments to committees as that task was traditionally done through the Senate administrative support. He indicated that he had met with incoming Chair Wroblewski and that vacancy nominations would be presented at the September 14 meeting.

Chair Lauer asked if SNC was finding it easier or more difficult to find faculty willing to serve on Committees. Chair Robinett noted that there were fewer faculty on campus and that some areas certainly were getting difficult to fill. Overall, it was getting harder to fill vacant positions.

Chair Lauer asked if anyone was present to speak on behalf of the CGE report; he noted that it was a thorough report. He asked if anyone had questions or concerns for the CGE; there were none. The report was accepted.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

- A. Election of Senators to serve on Budget Transparency Committee (FA&C and B & T)

Chair Lauer explained that two senators were needed to serve two-year terms on the Budget Transparency Committee and called for volunteers. Senators Macchi (FA&C) and Bernards (B&T) volunteered to serve.

- B. Election of Committee on Provost and Presidential Performance (five senators, to include one Executive Committee member, to serve one-year terms)

Chair Lauer explained that performance surveys are not completed during a provost or president's first year. Given that the president and provost are both in their first year, these surveys will not be run this year. He indicated this provides an excellent opportunity for the committee to consider the evaluation process more broadly.

Senators Taylor, Brice, Banash, and Choi volunteered.

- C. Election of Senator to Student Learning Assessment Committee (one senator to serve a one-year term)

Chair Lauer indicated that this is a one year term and that he was not certain how the recent completion of the HLC process would affect this committee. He asked for volunteers. No one volunteered. Chair Lauer indicated he would get more information and revisit this position.

- D. For the Good of the Body

Chair Lauer indicated his pleasure at seeing everyone and indicated his hope to be able to see everyone at an in-person meeting at some point.

Vice Chair Thompson reminded the Senate that this is a contract negotiation year. He indicated that UPI is looking for input from everyone; they will be visiting departments via Zoom. Negotiations will start fairly soon with the goal being to finalize the contract in spring.

Chair Lauer entertained a motion to adjourn. Senator Brice moved to adjourn and the meeting concluded at 5:06 pm

NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2021
Zoom