**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

**FACULTY SENATE**

**Regular Meeting, *10 September 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, G. Cabedo-Timmons, M. Carncross, A. Hyde, G. Jorgensen, M. Maskarinec, B. McCrary, J. Myers, K. Myers, B. Polley, J. Rabchuk, S. Rock, S. Romano, M. Siddiqi, A. Silberer, M. Singh, R. Thurman

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

**SENATORS ABSENT:** L. Brice, 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, I. Lauer, T. Westerhold

**GUESTS:** Matt Bierman, Rick Carter, Bradley Dilger, Jessica Harriger, Robert Hironimus-Wendt, D.J. Kim, B.J. Lampere, Angela Lynn, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Russ Morgan, Kathy Neumann, Nancy Parsons, Jack Thomas, Bridget Welch, Ron Williams, Michelle Yager

1. Consideration of Minutes
   1. 27 August 2013

**Correction:** Senator Singh noted that his hometown, which he visited as part of the WIU Faculty Ambassadors Program, is Hyderabad, India, not Agra as was stated on p. 7 of the August 27 minutes.

**MINUTES APPROVED AS CORRECTED**

1. Announcements
   1. Provost’s Report

Provost Hawkinson announced that Founder’s Day will be celebrated on September 23; additionally, the 30th anniversary of the Centennial Honors College will be recognized that afternoon and evening with several events, including welcoming former Honors College Directors back to campus.

* 1. Student Government Association (SGA) Report

(B.J. Lampere, SGA student representative)

Mr. Lampere informed senators that cabinet officers for SGA were approved at last week’s meeting. Tonight SGA will consider a bill authored by Mr. Lampere which would ask the University to establish a documentation process so that professors could uniformly outline any outstanding requirements in order for an incomplete grade to be changed to a passing grade. Chairperson Rock stated that, if approved by SGA, the bill would come before the Executive Committee at their next meeting.

* 1. Other Announcements
     1. Presidential Initiatives – Academic Year 2013-2014

(President Jack Thomas)

President Thomas noted that the academic year has gotten off to a good start and great strides were made last year. Accomplishments for 2012-2013 have been posted on the President’s website. President Thomas will be posting this year’s goals on his website after he presents them to Faculty Senate, SGA, and other governance bodies; the Presidential Initiatives have already been approved by the Board of Trustees and the President’s leadership team.

President Thomas informed senators that the University currently has about two and one half months of reserve funds on hand; the cash flow problem of recent years is continuing as the state of Illinois does not provide funding in a timely manner but sporadically throughout the year. The state currently owes WIU $6.8 million; last year at this time, the state owed approximately $22 million. President Thomas stated that another good sign is that the state has not extended the lapse period for payment, which often is extended until December, so he hopes that the University will receive its funding sometime soon. President Thomas stated that WIU received a $59.9 million appropriation from the state in FY 10 but only $52.7 million for FY 14, an approximately 14 percent reduction over this period. The President related that the University provided 3.5 percent raises for FY 14 per the contractual agreement and is moving forward with the four percent increases stipulated for the coming year.

Town hall meetings for students, faculty, and staff have been scheduled, and there are plans in place to hold open budget meetings. The first town hall meeting for students will be held September 17, with a town hall meeting for faculty and staff scheduled for October 2 at 11:00 a.m. in the Quad Cities and 4:00 p.m. in Macomb. President Thomas stressed the importance of communicating often and continuing to engage in dialogue during these difficult economic times. The town hall meetings will be separate events and discuss different issues than the open budget meetings, which President Thomas stated will probably take place in the last part of October or early November. President Thomas said that the open budget meetings will include presentation of information and discussions about possible cuts that may be needed in order to meet the four percent salary increases.

President Thomas noted that WIU received level funding this year. He appreciated being part of the University Presidents and Chancellors Group and believes that because WIU was at the table, the Governor and state legislators listened to what he had to say about the needs of the University. He stated that, partly because of this open dialogue, he is hopeful that WIU will get the funding released for its Performing Arts Center. President Thomas believes that Western has done well in terms of practicing sound fiscal management and acting conservatively. He observed that it is difficult for the vice presidents to have to approve any expenditure over $500, but it is necessary and has helped the University a great deal.

Last year’s freshmen enrollment was 1,754, and this year is 1,652, a drop of 102 students or 5.8 percent; however, President Thomas is pleased with the increase in the University’s academic profile. This year’s freshmen came in with an average ACT score of 21.2, while last year’s average was 20.7. GPAs for incoming freshmen have gone up from 3.04 last year to 3.11 this year. President Thomas thanked Vice President Biller and Admissions Director Andy Borst for developing the Western Commitment scholarships and their other efforts toward attracting freshmen.

Overall enrollment at WIU dropped from 12,200 last year to 11,707 this year, a 4.1 percent decrease. President Thomas told senators the University would be in worse shape were it not for the consulting efforts of Noel-Levitz, noting that other universities are showing greater decreases than Western. He pointed out that WIU is working toward retaining students through its Western Commitment scholarships, UNIV 100 FYE classes, and the Building Connections mentorship program, although students’ inability to meet their financial obligations and continue their college educations remains a problem. President Thomas stated that the University community needs to come up with new proposals, new strategies, and new ways of facing these types of challenges. He believes that challenges with the budget and with enrollment are forcing WIU to become the great institution that everyone wants it to become. He noted that other institutions are emulating some of Western’s winning ideas: Southern Illinois University-Carbondale has taken WIU’s Western Commitment model, put more money into it, and is outspending WIU. President Thomas noted that when Western Commitment was first proposed to him, it was a much more aggressive plan, but he recommended that it be scaled back due to budget concerns. He stressed that WIU cannot stand still as an institution and must continue to do innovative things in order to move forward.

President Thomas announced that the *US News and World Report* and *The Princeton Review* have both named WIU as a Best Midwestern College, and *GI Jobs Guide to Military Friendly Schools* has again recognized Western as a military-friendly institution. The President noted that Thompson Hall’s renovation makes it a state-of-the-art facility, renovations are continuing with the food court and other areas in the University Union, and sidewalks and lighting improvements have been completed on University Drive. Connexio signs have been placed at five locations across campus, and student facilities fees have been utilized to establish welcome signage at the US 67 entrance to the Macomb campus. President Thomas noted that the signage did not use any state appropriated funds, and he thanked students for paying for this improvement.

President Thomas encouraged everyone to attend the Founder’s Day celebration at noon on September 23 in the Union Grand Ballroom and at 9:00 a.m. on September 24 in the Goldfarb Atrium at the Riverfront Campus.

Senator Rabchuk asked if President Thomas would clarify changes in the state regulations regarding establishment of Ph.D. programs. President Thomas explained that formerly the cut-off for doctoral programs was set at three, but the new regulations specify not more than 20 graduates per year; thus, if WIU does not graduate more than 20 students from its doctoral programs yearly, it can remain in Carnegie classification IIA. He noted that Western has a doctoral program in Educational Leadership currently, and a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences was recently approved by the IBHE. President Thomas hopes that LEJA, which is Western’s largest program and a signature program, will be finalizing their doctoral program soon, and Instructional Technology is developing an online doctoral program for future consideration.

Senator Siddiqi expressed his thanks to President Thomas for doing a good job during difficult economic times. He noted that there has been no funding provided for new online courses this year. Provost Hawkinson stated that $100,000 for online course development was put aside as part of the $3.8 million the Provost’s budget had to give back to meet the funding cut from the state. He noted that there is funding for new online courses through individual colleges; additionally, the Provost is continuing to fund courses toward the existing online MBA degree and toward putting an LEJA master’s degree online. Provost Hawkinson stated that WIU currently offers 230 online courses, so there is a sufficient number to tide the University through the next year or two until the budget improves.

Senator Baylor asked how Nursing could be placed on the list for future consideration for a doctoral program. Provost Hawkinson observed that this was discussed in departmental meetings in the spring, and President Thomas has also discussed this with Nursing Director Lea Monahan. He stated that Nursing is still in a growth stage, and while the administration is willing to continue to discuss the possibilities, they would like to first see Nursing level out in terms of program offerings, faculty and student numbers, and facilities. He added that once these have been raised to the optimum level, the administration would consider adding a graduate program. Provost Hawkinson pointed out that one of the dynamics of the discussion is that the master’s degree in the nurse practitioner program is being converted nationally to a doctoral degree. The issue is also complicated by the necessity of offering no more than 20 doctoral degrees per year. Senator Baylor asked if the 20 student limit applies only to Ph.D. programs or would also apply to the DNP (doctorate in nursing practice) and Ph.D. combined since the DNP is a practice degree and not a research degree. Associate Provost Parsons replied that she will check whether applied programs fall under this restriction as well, adding there may be some other options. President Thomas expressed his concern that if the University grows its doctoral programs to the point that it is reclassified, he would want WIU to be ready in terms of research productivity and dollars. President Thomas would not want WIU to be at the bottom of the list for its classification. He stated the University needs to decide what programs it wants to move forward and to be very strategic and specific about this because doctoral candidates could easily go over 20 and WIU is not ready to move to the next highest, doctoral-intensive Carnegie classification.

Dr. Dilger noted that Budget Director Matt Bierman at the faculty assembly indicated that it would be impossible for Western to cut its way out of the current revenue problem. He asked if there are any plans for increasing WIU’s sources of revenue. President Thomas responded that Mr. Borst said in his enrollment management presentation that he would like to see the University grow its way out of its financial difficulties. President Thomas stated that with all the University has put in place to boost enrollment, he believes the downward trend will become an upward trend as early as next year or within the next two years. He believes the University’s retention rate from freshman to sophomore years should grow with the strategies now in place. He noted that this year’s Building Connections mentees seem to be much better than last year’s – asking questions and engaged in the process. The President also thinks the University will have to do more in terms of fundraising. He believes the University will reach its $60 million goal, but at the same time WIU needs to start reaping funds for other projects that will offset some of the current financial situation. President Thomas will be sending an email out to address the topics of growing our way out of the financial situation and raising additional funds.

Senator Rabchuk asked about performance-based funding and where the University stands in relation to this initiative. Mr. Bierman stated that he and Institutional Research and Planning Director Rhonda Kline have been attending meetings of the Performance-Based Funding Refinement Committee. He explained that at this point the decision has been made to hold universities harmless by only allocating one-half of one percent of each university’s total appropriations based on performance-based funding, although there is pressure in the legislature to increase that amount by another one-half or one percent, with some even advocating for a five percent allocation. He stated that some legislators would like to see one hundred percent of university funding allocated through this model. The ultimate goal is to use only new funds for performance-based funding but that is not yet possible. Mr. Bierman stated that WIU receives points for diversity and lower economic status of students, which has really helped. He stated that while enrollment trends could affect funding, the model is not built on students coming in but on what occurs after they are enrolled, such as retention and graduation rates. He told senators that only two Illinois institutions lost money under performance-based funding, and WIU gained about $20,000 this year and approximately $14,000 last year. President Thomas added that although the state wants performance-based funding in place, he does not support it, noting that the state wants universities to bring in more students and do more to keep them in school through graduation but continues to cut funding which might enable this. He noted that in the state of Tennessee institutions receive new money for performance-based funding, and President Thomas believes that makes more sense than Illinois’ cutting funds from universities and then giving some of it back based on the performance-based funding matrix. Mr. Bierman related that at the last Performance-Based Funding Refinement Committee they discussed allocating funds in a different manner; since institutions are receiving level funding at best, it was suggested that performance-based funding only be initiated if there are funding increases to be distributed.

Chairperson Rock announced that the sponsors of the Marriage Equity Resolution requested that it be moved up on the agenda; he asked if senators would consider making a motion to consider it next.

**Motion:** To reorder the agenda to consider Old Business next (Rabchuk/Singh)

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

IV. Old Business **(Reordered)**

A. Marriage Equality Resolution

Two changes were made to the original resolution based upon discussion at the previous Senate meeting. Wording was changed from “Whereas the state of Illinois does in fact discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation when defining marriage …” to “Whereas the state of Illinois defines marriage in such a way as to exclude same sex marriage …” Additionally, in the section beginning “Therefore, be it resolved,” an addition was made stating “…thus we **recommend that WIU** hereby advocate in the legislature for the immediate passage of Senate Bill 10.”

One of the resolution’s co-sponsors, Robert Hironimus-Wendt, thanked the Senate Executive Committee for allowing the resolution to be brought forward before the Senate. He stated that the resolution is straight forward and asks that Faculty Senate consider sending a statement that the faculty of WIU believes that same sex couples should be treated the same as heterosexual couples for tax and benefits purposes. Dr. Hironimus-Wendt told senators the resolution was not intended to be an egregious political statement but a statement reflecting the beliefs of the members of the Senate acknowledging that persons in same sex relationships should be treated equal.

Dr. Hironimus-Wendt recognized that for some senators it may present a moral or religious dilemma to support the resolution, and said that he understands and appreciates that. He encouraged senators to vote with their consciences, pointing out that no one expects them to vote against their wills. He noted that senators serve on Faculty Senate as representatives of others, and for some issues senators ask those that they represent how they should vote on their behalf; but he encouraged senators in this case, particularly if approving the resolution represents a moral dilemma, to vote with their consciences, and to only vote in favor of the resolution if they are willing.

Dr. Hironimus-Wendt related that when he and Bill Thompson wrote the resolution, ten states recognized same sex marriage and the need for children of these relationships to be treated the same as children of heterosexual relationships; that number has now increased to 13, and Dr. Hironimus-Wendt believes that Illinois will soon move in this direction. He stated that the resolution asserts that senators believe same sex couples should be treated as equal under the law.

Chairperson Rock pointed out that there was extensive discussion at the last Senate meeting about the resolution and stated that if anyone has anything new or germane to bring up, now would be the time.

**SENATOR RABCHUK CALLED THE QUESTION**

Chairperson Rock announced that some senators had expressed a preference for utilizing a secret ballot for voting rather than a show of hands, and there is precedent for doing this. He explained the three options for voting: a yes vote if in favor of the resolution, a no vote if in opposition to the resolution, and an abstention, which does not count either way in the voting. He added that if the majority vote “yes,” the resolution will pass, and an abstention does not count as a “no” vote.

**RESOLUTION APPROVED BY SECRET BALLOT 10 YES – 6 NO – 1 AB**

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

(Jessica Harriger, Chair)

* + 1. Change of Status Proposal for Students Admitted Through OAS

Dr. Harriger reported that CAGAS recently approved removing the academic warning status automatically given to all students entering Western through the OAS program. She explained that, given changes to admissions policies, the new Building Connections mentoring program, UNIV 100, and the grade replacement policy, CAGAS believes it is now appropriate to give first semester OAS students the same opportunities to take advantage of these resources as those students who are admitted to Western just above the OAS admissions line. She explained that under the current system if OAS students fail to meet the requirements, they are suspended, whereas traditional first semester students are given a second semester to avail themselves of resources and bring up their GPAs.

Chairperson Rock asked if this would also apply if OAS students receive less than a 1.0 their first semester. Registrar Angela Lynn responded that if OAS students receive less than a 1.0 their first semester currently, they are automatically suspended; if regularly admitted students receive less than a 1.0 their first semester at Western, they are put on probation but can return the second semester. Chairperson Rock asked if either group receives between a 1.0 and a 2.0 their first semester at WIU, whether they would be placed on academic warning and must show progress to continue. Dr. Lynn responded that if students admitted through OAS earn between a 1.0 and a 1.99 their first semester, under the current system they would go from warning to probation but be allowed to continue; regularly admitted students in that same situation would end up on academic warning.

Senator Thurman asked if CAGAS reviewed the reasons why the current policy was put into place. Dr. Harriger responded that there was considerable discussion at CAGAS about this policy. She stated that there have been a lot of changes at the University over the last few years and it seems that the time is right to revise it. Senator Thurman asked why the policy was originally put into place. Dr. Harriger responded the policy of admitting OAS students under academic warning was put in place as an incentive to make sure that OAS students take their first semester at WIU seriously, that they must be dedicated their first semester, and that they understand that the University is concerned about them. She stated that CAGAS no longer believes that academic warning is the way to convey this and that it stigmatizes OAS students.

Senator Romano asked if OAS students will be unable to receive certain services because they are no longer under academic warning. Dr. Harriger responded that they will continue to receive the same services; they will continue to be part of OAS and participate equally, receive more advising, be restricted from Greek enrollment, and other things already in place to help OAS students succeed.

Senator Polley related that he chaired CAGAS in 2010 when the Noel-Levitz consultant recommended that OAS students should enter the University with the same rights and responsibilities as any other student, and there was considerable discussion on the Council as to whether or not to support the proposal. He informed senators that the 2010 decision by CAGAS not to support the Noel-Levitz recommendation was not unanimous, and there were good points made on both sides. He stated that concerns were expressed about not wanting students who come to Western with very poor preparation to dig themselves further into a hole rather than be suspended right away. He pointed out that under the current system, if OAS students achieve between a 1.0 and 1.99 GPA their first semester, they drop one level, but if they only achieve a 1.0 or less, they drop two levels. Senator Polley believes that the points made about changes to University policy – such as UNIV 100 and the grade replacement policy, which was instituted the year after CAGAS did not support the 2010 proposal – are very relevant and change the landscape of the University considerably because now students can retake a course in which they did poorly. Senator Polley expressed his strong endorsement of the current proposal.

**Motion:** To approve the CAGAS report (Siddiqi/Polley)

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

Chairperson Rock asked when the proposal would take effect; Dr. Harriger replied that, if approved by the Provost, it would take effect immediately and be retroactive for this semester.

* 1. Senate Nominating Committee

(Martin Maskarinec, Chair)

**UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:**

* FYE Committee on Classes

Bill Knox, English/Journalism continuing position 15 A&S

Anna Valeva, Economics/Dec Sci new position 15 B&T

Bree McEwan, Communication new position 16 FA&C

**SGA COUNCILS**

* Council on Student Activities Funds

Justin Ehrlich, Computer Sciences replacing C.T. Weiss 15 At-large

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

1. New Business – None

**Motion:** To adjourn (Polley)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Jim Rabchuk, Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary