

**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
Regular Meeting of the **FACULTY SENATE**

<http://www.wiu.edu/FacultySenate>

*Tuesday, 14 September 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. Kastel (interim), J. Land, I. Lauer, S. Macchi, D. Oursler, J. Robinett, R. Sawhney, E. Shupe, S. Syzjka, Y. Tang, E. Taylor, B. Thompson, L. Ebert Wallace, J. Wroblewski

**Ex-officio:** William Clow, Provost, Russ Morgan, Associate Provost, Betsy Perabo, Parliamentarian

**SENATORS ABSENT:** C. Suzanne Bailey, T. Lough

**GUESTS:** Lorette Oden, Cody Cornell, Tom Blackford, Sue Martinelli, William Hoon, Francis Godwyll, Joanie Wilson, Jill Myers, Dennis, Kristi Mindrup, Craig Conrad

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. August 31, 2021

Chair Lauer communicated the minutes are not ready for approval and but be presented at a subsequent meeting.

II. Announcements

A. Approvals from the President and Provost

There were none indicated.

B. Provost's Report

Provost Clow expressed gratitude for people participating in Covid efforts. Provost Clow shared that faculty and staff compliance is in the low 90% with a vaccination rate of 84% that continues to grow. Provost Clow acknowledged Patrick McGinty's contribution and expressed gratitude for all those who have reminded students to get vaccinated; he encouraged everyone to remind them as much as we can. He indicated that student

numbers are not yet known but he will communicate them with us when they are available.

Vice Chair Thompson asked Provost Clow about the email that went out to residence hall students regarding potential suspension if students are not in compliance by Thursday, September 16. Provost Clow stated that procedures have been pushed back based on the Governor's message until September 19 and that suspension is the final step in the process, but that the earlier steps are not as severe. Senator Oursler inquired into the implications for students who get suspended in regard to issues like financial aid. Provost Clow indicated that is what Student Services is working out and that students need to be compliant. Senator Macchi asked if Provost Clow could provide an estimation of when student compliance rates would be known. Provost Clow indicated he would get them to the Senate when they are available.

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

Cody Cornell introduced himself as the SGA representative to Senate. He shared that there was nothing new to report and he will take notes from this meeting back to SGA on Wednesday.

D. Other Announcements (UPC/Senate Elections/Nominations)

Chair Lauer shared that CBT and COFAC nominations for the UPC Committee have been extended. He also indicated that the petition process has been extended for the interim Senator position for CBT through September 23. He encouraged the Senators to encourage their colleagues to consider these positions.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A) Senate Nominating Committee  
(Josh Wroblewski, Chair, 2021-2022)  
a. Nominations to Fill Vacancies

Senate Nominating Committee (SNC) Chair Wroblewski noted that the nominations were contained in the digital report. He indicated that the Senate Nominating Committee met last week and worked to fill vacancies; several of their nominations were declined. SNC Chair Wroblewski indicated they are actively working to fill them and encouraged Senators to consider serving and reaching out to others. SNC Chair Wroblewski noted that a few committees are currently defunct (e.g. Talent Grant and Tuition Waivers and Traffic and Parking Committee).

Vice Chair Thompson asked SNC Chair Wroblewski if SNC received an emailed report from the Library; SNC Chair indicated they had received information from the Library. SNC Wroblewski said that he had requested feedback from the chairs of Senate and University Councils and Committees to determine if there was appropriate faculty representation. He indicated that the intent is to make sure the mission of the councils and committees match the charge, and to make sure the Councils and Committees have appropriate representation.

Chair Lauer asked if the floor had any nominations. He then noted that there were no objections and the slate of nominations was accepted.

#### IV. Old Business

There was no old business.

#### V. New Business

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

Chair Lauer solicited nominations and no one immediately volunteered. He shared this committee oversees the academic assessment processes across campus. Senator Kastel asked if an interim senator could serve; Chair Lauer indicated that would not be preferred. Senator Kastel offered to serve if allowed. Senator Bernards asked about the time commitment required of service. Chair Lauer shared that he did not know the exact amount of time, but he anticipated it would be similar to the process of previous years. No one was nominated and Chair Lauer agreed to seek additional information about the committee.

- B. BTC Election (CAS Senator)

Senator Filipink self-nominated and was appointed.

- C. Discussion -- Provost Travel Funds

Chair Lauer opened the floor to the Provost Clow for comments. Provost Clow indicated he supports the motion and would discuss more after the vote. Chair Lauer noted that while the Executive Committee would have liked there to be more funds, they support the following motion: "The Faculty Senate advises the Provost to prioritize Probationary Faculty when determining recipients of the Provost's Travel Awards".

Chair Lauer noted that there had been discussion regarding the awards at a previous Senate meeting and there were concerns related to the timing and how quickly the funds run out. He shared these concerns prompted Executive Committee's desire to recommend additional guidance be put into the procedures.

Senator Macchi shared that last time they were awarded Travel Funds were available only to Unit A Faculty. Provost Clow responded that because of tenure and promotion requirements and because of the lack of available funds elsewhere, it has to remain Unit A. He noted that something should be done for others and he applauds that effort, but he has to be concerned with tenure track faculty getting what they need for promotion.

Senator Brice asked the provost if there were any cases in which assistant professors or untenured probationary faculty who are being paid more than associate faculty in other departments. Provost Clow said he was unaware of that situation, but there may be starting Unit B faculty in some disciplines that make more money than Unit A faculty in other disciplines. Senator Brice asked if there are associate faculty in a who would be disadvantaged if untenured faculty making more were awarded these awards. Provost Clow said he would go back and look but he does not think that is the case. Vice Chair Thompson spoke in favor of the motion as an equity issue and said the ones most in need, junior faculty, by and large don't make as much money as associate faculty. Vice Chair Thompson indicated there are some junior faculty making more than associate faculty.

Senator Filipink asked how much money would be available this year. Provost Clow said it will likely be similar to last year with \$35,000. He indicated his intent is to follow procedures of the past and reserve some monies to be awarded in the spring. Provost Clow stated that the application process has to be rebuilt due to Roger Runquist's departure from CITR. Provost Clow shared that they will communicate the application dates ahead of time; there will be a couple of days reserved for probationary faculty applications, and then the process will be opened up for any Unit A regardless of tenure status. There will be a similar process in January.

Senator Filipink inquired if applicants will be required to have support from departments/colleges or would the monies just come from the Provost Office. Provost Clow shared that colleges could match monies if they chose to do so.

Chair Lauer closed discussion and Parliamentarian Perabo distributed a Google Form ballot via email to Senators. Chair Lauer shared that Executive Committee had verified that the system restricts Senators to one vote and that voting can be done anonymously if needed.

Parliamentarian Perabo indicated that motion carried by a vote of 19-1 and shared her screen to demonstrate the outcome.

Senator Brice noted that he did not receive a ballot and indicated that he would have voted yes. Parliamentarian will follow up with him.

Chair Lauer shared that the Executive Committee had visited the Capital Rooms in the Union to learn more about the spacing capacities and sound quality in the room. The purpose of the visit was to determine if it would be possible for the Executive Committee and vaccinated senators who wanted to do so could begin meeting in person. Chair Lauer proposed that Senate meetings could be done in a hybrid format with some Senators

attending in person and others continuing to do so via Zoom. He shared that the capacity of the Capital Rooms, with 6' spacing, would be 16. With ExCo and Provost using five spaces half of the senators could attend in person if they were vaccinated and wanted to do so. Chair Lauer invited comments and then asked people to email him and state if they were interested in attending face-to-face or continue to attend via Zoom.

Vice Chair Thompson noted that Senators could rotate attending in person or via Zoom if needed. Chair Lauer stated that if a large number of Senators were interested in attending the Senate meeting face to face, it would be feasible to create an A and a B list identifying alternating Senate meetings and which Senators would attend if there are capacity issues.

Senator Brice asked how senators should communicate their preference. Chair Lauer indicated he preferred email and explained that feedback is certainly appreciated. He stated that Senate is going to move forward with a hybrid meeting on an experimental basis, but that no permanent decision has been made. Chair Lauer stated there will be follow up discussion after the hybrid meeting occurs. Senator Bernards asked if the 16 would just be senators. Chair Lauer stated that only senators could attend in person and guests would attend via Zoom. Chair Lauer explained that the capacity regulations will result in more of the room being used by the Senate so there would not be rooms for guests to attend in person.

Senator Banash asked if senators present will have to bring laptops and would there be procedural hurdles to the hybrid format. Chair Lauer indicated that due to lack of administrative support Senate will not be creating paper packets so for the foreseeable future senators would need to bring their laptops. Parliamentarian Perabo pointed out that she could send votes out to people on Zoom and use hands/secret ballot for Senators in the room. She foresees no difficulty running elections via Zoom for those not present and by hand vote or secret ballot for those present; she feels it can be done even if the Senate is hybrid.

Chair Lauer indicated asked that if there are follow up questions or concerns to please email him or other Executive Committee members. He requested that senators please email him indicating if they would anticipate attending face-to-face or through Zoom.

Vice Chair Thompson asked the Administration for clarification on what happened in regard to the TIAA contributions that were not made September 1. Vice Chair Thompson stated that Payroll had admitted some errors occurred and that he has received emails indicating issues are ongoing.

Provost Clow indicated that the issue did not originate in the Provost's Office, but that he could follow up with the appropriate people. Chair Lauer suggested that the appropriate administrator be followed up with at next week's Executive Committee meeting.

Senator Brice moved to adjourn. There were no objections to adjournment and the meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm.

***NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2021***  
***Zoom***