

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 20, 2025

Western Illinois University

Macomb, Illinois

Open Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 9:30am on March 20, 2025 in the Macomb Union, Capitol Room. Chair, Carin Stutz presided.

March 20, 2025 – University Union Capitol Room

Trustee moved to convene to open session at 9:30 am.

Motion: Trustee Cornell

Second: Trustee Dillard

Roll Call

Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	NA

Motion approved.

Roll Call

The following Trustees were present:

Trustee Derek Wise
Trustee Polly Radosh
Trustee Kirk Dillard
Trustee Carin Stutz
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins
Trustee Cody Cornell
Trustee Kisha Lang

Also present for the meeting of the Board of Trustees:

President, Kristi Mindrup
Interim Legal Counsel, Victoria Smith
Senior Executive Assistant to the President, Athena Brooks

Public Comments

In-person comments:

- 1) Patrick McGinty – Concerns with transparency reviewed and the request for more data behind the decisions being shared. Current optics point to reduced resources but then there is the request to lift the cap on athletics. There needs to be more transparency on this topic. Request to remove the item from the agenda and talk about it at the next meeting.
- 2) Craig Tollini – Concerns with APER and program elimination. Review of personal experience.
- 3) John Nichols – Current grad student with concerns about the elimination of the Environmental Science program. Review of his personal experience.
- 4) Ruth Kelly – Retiree from WIU. Concerns with transparency on the APER process and elimination of the school psych program. Request for a constituency group for programs to make them more viable.
- 5) Renee Nestler – Representative for AFSCME Local 417 with concerns about the bargaining process and the inability to agree on a contract for this meeting. Request for the Board of Trustees to hold a special meeting to approve contracts once agreed upon.
- 6) Anita Hardeman – Concerns with moving the music library by the end of the month. Request to look at this move and to make sure students still have access to all needed materials.
- 7) Christopher Kovacs - Concerns with the slated Scuba program elimination. Review of programs that benefit from this program. Handed out information to Trustees.

Written comments read by Victoria Smith.

- 8) Jeff Laurent - Concerns with the possible elimination of the School of Psychology program. School psychologists are desperately needed in Illinois and beyond.
- 9) Richard Mathers - Concerns with the Sociology Graduate Program elimination. The loss of the Graduate program will affect future donations. Voiced support of a fully online MA program and restructured graduate course offerings.
- 10) Brian Locke – Concerns with the Music Library being boxed up and inaccessible to students as it is moved to the Malpass Library. Request to justify the move.

Review and approval of December 6, 2024 Closed and Open Meeting Minutes

Motion: Trustee Lowe Mullins

Second: Trustee Cornell

Roll Call

Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes

Motion approved.

Chairperson's Remarks

Ms. Carin Stutz

- Thank you to everyone for being here today.
- Due to the hard work of numerous units the income and expenses are more closely aligned. We are moving in the right direction.
- Thank you to the administration and the campus community for all of the hard decisions that you shouldered to move the university closer to a sustainable income and spending alignment.
- More decisions are pending.
- I would like to recognize the APER committee recommendations and the hard work and decisions that went into this process of aligning programs to our strengths.
- The presidential contract listed today has a salary under the salary of the former president of WIU. It ties EIU for the lowest salary paid to a University President. Also note that the give back of salary to the university by Dr. Mindrup while in her Interim role as President was a generous gift.
- The board wishes that it could pay all employees' salaries comparable to other universities.
- The Board thanks the university community for its hard work and dedication to moving Western to a financially sustainable future.

President's Remarks

President Kristi Mindrup

- Good morning to the Board of Trustees, the WIU community, faculty, staff, students, and others who are here with dedication today.
- This has been one of the most intense and challenging years in our professional lives and I know our university community likely agrees.
- Review of the last year's difficulties and changes in Higher Education.
- I see our university emerging from its challenges with promise on the horizon looking to the future.
- This was a period of significant change and a chance to reinvent WIU while also being true to our mission to serve all students, promote social mobility and meet students exactly where they are regardless of their identity and background.

- Over the past three years, WIU has reduced the number of vice president lines in our budget from six to three, freeing up funds to eventually reinvest and strengthen areas that impact institutional growth.
- As Clare Thompson announced her departure as vice president, she shared her ideas for a new vision for advancement and alumni relations. The teams within those divisions are prepared to rise up and lead in new ways. This will maximize their talents while carrying forward the planning as well as the leatherneck spirit Clare promoted. Thank you, Clare, for your dedication.
- I want to thank our new interim executive director of development, Amy Crosby, for stepping in to lead that division.
- Other changes included aligning Leatherneck athletics with student success, organizational changes within administration and finance, student success and plans are underway within academic affairs.
- I appreciate the leadership of Provost Mossman and Senate Chair Jeremy Robinett who have been working collaboratively to find program opportunities and guide the development of the refocus in the division.
- I'm appreciative of all of our faculty who step up and take on difficult challenges.
- I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of individuals across our institution and outside of our institution to advocate for our institution's needs within our communities and especially at the state level. UPI, led by Dr. Merrill Cole and John Miller at the state level, have been instrumental in advocating for adequate funding for WIU and especially for bringing the WIU community together with the Anew WIU event.
- Advance Illinois joined the university to promote the equitable funding formula that will benefit higher education and especially institutions like WIU.
- Zach Messersmith and I have been part of the negotiating team that recently concluded our efforts to finalize the bill for equitable funding and we are grateful to Representative Carol Ammons and Senate Majority Leader, Kimberly Lightford, a WIU alum, to move this impactful bill forward.
- Finally, I would like to thank the WIU leadership team, my longtime colleagues, Provost Mark Mossman, Vice President Justin Schuch, Vice President Ketra Roselieb and Director of Government and Public Relations Zach Messersmith for their work to advocate for our institution.
- Thank you to the Board of Trustees for calling on us to make bold moves that you have been asking for over the years. You have found the right team, the right Leatherneck community, at the right time, to make real change and pave the way to a bright future. I am grateful each day for this opportunity to be part of this amazing resilient and dedicated Leatherneck community.

Advisory Groups Verbal Updates

1. Student Government Association, Makena Martin (Macomb)
2. Student Government Association, Harrison Dehnert (Quad Cities)
3. Faculty Senate, Jeremy Robinett
4. Faculty Council Co-Chairs, WIU-Quad Cities, Everett Hamner and Dana Lindemann
5. Civil Service Employees Council, Natalie Divan
6. Council of Administrative Personnel, Holly Sutton

Leadership Verbal Updates

1. Government Relations, Zach Messersmith
2. Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman
3. Vice President for Student Success, Justin Schuch
4. Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb

Reports and Discussion Items

Report No. 25.3/1

Budget and Financial Data for Quarter ending Dec. 31, 2024
(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)

Report No. 25.3/2

Purchases of \$100,000—\$499,999 or Exempt Purchases of \$500,000 and Above
(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)

Report No. 25.3/3

Annual Debt Compliance & Management Report
(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)

Report No. 25.3/4 Report on Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts for the 2nd Quarter (Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Request made to table this report until the June meeting. Approved

Report No. 25.3/5

Report on Contributions
(Executive Director of Development, Amy Crosby)

Report No. 25.3/6

Proposed Amendment to Board of Trustees Regulation Section IV, Subsection J.
Intercollegiate Athletics Policy—First Reading
(President, Kristi Mindrup)

Report No. 25.3/7

Report on APER recommendations and actions
(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Resolutions and Action Items

Action

Resolution No. 25.3/1

Approving Presidential Employment Agreement
(Interim General Counsel, Victoria Smith)

Motion: Trustee Lowe Mullins

Second: Trustee Radosh

Action

Roll Call

Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 25.3/2

Action

Fiscal Year 2025 Tuition Recommendation

(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb and University Budget
Director, Renee Georges)

Motion: Trustee Radosh

Second: Trustee Lowe Mullins

Open for discussion

Roll Call

Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	No
Trustee Kisha Lang	No
Trustee Cody Cornell	No
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 25.3/3

Action

Fiscal Year 2026 Housing and Dining Rates Recommendation

(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb and Vice President for
Student Success, Justin Schuch)

Motion: Trustee Radosh

Second: Trustee Dillard

Correction of a formula error changed in the chart on page 43 from 4.78% to 5.02% but the
dollar amounts remain the same.

Roll Call

Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes

Trustee Cody Cornell	No
Trustee Kisha Lang	No
Trustee Derek Wise	No
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 25.3/4

Action

Fiscal Year 2026 Fees Recommendation

(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb and University Budget Director, Renee Georges)

Motion: Trustee Lang

Second: Trustee Cornell

Student Inter-Hall Council reviewed and approved this increase. Food cost is up 11.4% this year.

Roll Call

Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	No
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 25.3/5

Action

Fiscal Year 2026 Student Health Insurance Fee Recommendation

(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)

Motion: Trustee Lowe Mullins

Second: Trustee Wise

Roll Call

Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes

Motion approved.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

Next Meeting

May 9, 2025 Closed and Open - Macomb Campus in the University Union, Capitol Room

ADJOURN ACTION

Trustee moved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Trustees at 1:54 pm.

Motion: Trustee Lang

Second: Trustee Cornell

Roll Call

Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes

Motion approved.

Carin Stutz, Chair
Athena Brooks, Senior Executive Assistant to the President