

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 26, 2025

Western Illinois University

Macomb, Illinois

Open Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 9:30 a.m. on September 26, 2025 – University Union, Capitol Room, Macomb. Chair Polly Radosh presided.

September 26, 2025 – University Union, Capitol Room, Macomb

Trustee moved to convene to open session at 9:30 a.m.

Motion: Trustee Lang

Second: Trustee Bierman

Roll Call

Trustee James Bierman	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes

Motion approved.

Roll Call

The following Trustees were present:

Trustee Polly Radosh

Trustee Kirk Dillard

Trustee Carin Stutz

Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins

Trustee James Bierman

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:

Merrill Cole – Concern voiced in regards to raises given to the President and Provost when they accepted their permanent roles. UPI looks forward to negotiating salary improvements for our members.

No written comments.

Chairperson's Remarks

Dr. Polly Radosh

- Welcome to the first board meeting of the academic year.
- A couple of changes in administration include, Mark Mossman has been named as Provost. Also welcome to Richard Toomey as the new Assistant VP for Admissions and Enrollment Support.
- WIU has been faced with the same statewide enrollment pressures that have challenged higher education in Illinois for several years. Many college-aged adults are opting out of college altogether and nearly half of potential Illinois students choose to pursue their education out of state.
- One thing that WIU has always been good at is finding new and imaginative ways of tapping into emerging trends. I'm confident that Western will continue to assess regional, state, and national needs and that creative programming will move the university forward.
- I'd like to encourage the entire university community to focus on two things during the year, recruitment and retention. We must expand our efforts and see what each of us can do to attract new students and retain current students through graduation.
- WIU has been given the Carnegie classification, only 16% of colleges and universities have been designated as opportunity universities, and Western is one of them.
- Help tell our story. I hope that all of you will take the charge to speak positively about Western, to tell the story of what WIU does to open opportunities and potential for students, and to encourage potential students to apply.
- Retention of enrolled students should garner the attention of the entire university community. If you are aware of struggling students, refer them to the many resources available.
- Welcome to the new academic year.

President's Remarks

President Kristi Mindrup

- Good morning to the board of trustees and Western Illinois University faculty, staff, students, and community members.
- University assembly provided an opportunity to set the tone for the year.
- The WIU community is excited for the year ahead and focused on our earned designation as an opportunity university that promotes social mobility for our students.
- We outlined our university priorities for the coming year and beyond. Enrollment success will be a focus across all areas. We will also focus on cultivating self-authorship and ambition and strengthening the WIU brand by celebrating and elevating

accomplishments, success, and major milestones such as the greatly anticipated opening of the Goldfarb Center for Performing Arts.

- Efforts by the dedicated enrollment team and volunteers pushed enrollment higher than projected. The entire WIU community helped welcome new and returning students on move-in day in the classroom and during a variety of engaging and fun welcome events during the first four days and now during the first four weeks.
- The university continues to make progress with repositioning the Quad Cities campus. Western is committed to a presence in the Quad Cities through in-demand programs and outreach. And there's also an opportunity to centralize operations to Riverfront Hall this fall and early spring while creating space in the Quad Cities complex buildings for future revenue generation and symbiotic partnerships.
- This coming spring, 2026, the Moline School District will implement plans to lease buildings A and B to temporarily relocate Lincoln Irving Elementary School.
- Also, in the Quad Cities, I would like to congratulate the College of Education and Human Services and Director Eduardo Pérez for the successful grand opening of Rocky's Play Space.
- The new center will fill a critical need for dual language child care while also providing practical experiences for WIU education students.
- We were thrilled with the reinstatement of the WIU ROTC program, thanks to Mick Cumbie for offering strategy, and legislators including state representatives Swanson and Halpin, Congressman Sorensen and La Hood, senators Durbin and Duckworth for their advocacy and recognition of the positive impact of Western's ROTC program. Thanks also to Zach Messersmith who facilitated those connections.
- Finally, I want to congratulate and thank Dr. Mark Mossman for his work as provost and academic vice president. Dr. Mossman has served in a variety of academic roles and brings a portfolio of experiences and accomplishments to position academic affairs for continued and new success. Dr. Mossman balanced both sustainability and innovative academic redesign. He has demonstrated unwavering dedication to the success of Western Illinois University and is active in the Macomb Community.
- Our shared focus on excelling as an opportunity university gives us clear focus for the future. Our upcoming strategic planning process and also the academic redesign will create space for us to work together as a university community to define the next evolution of Western Illinois University.

Review and Review and approval of June 17, 2025 closed and open session minutes.

Motion: Trustee Bierman

Second: Trustee Dillard

Roll Call

Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee James Bierman	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes

Motion approved.

Advisory Groups Verbal Updates

Student Government Association, Jace Green (Macomb)

- Working to get positions filled.
- The group is extremely passionate about WIU.
- The momentum is something that SGA is excited to carry forward.
- Our mission is simple this year. We want to amplify our students' voices, foster collaboration with faculty and administration, and create opportunities for students to thrive both in and outside of the classroom.
- This year we are looking forward to working closely with university leadership on initiatives to strengthen our student life, enhance the academic experience and celebrate the unique community that makes WIU so special.

Faculty Senate, Jeremy Robinett

- Students, faculty, staff, and administrators are all working very hard every day to fulfill our mission.
- Concerns voiced about how our leaders have been appointed.
- I encourage board members to use your time on campus to engage with those who are not always visible to them. Walk hallways you haven't been in. Explore offices and classrooms. Ask faculty, staff, students, and administrators about their experiences.
- Faculty Senate and its councils and committees are reviewing bylaws and processes to facilitate faculty's participation in shared governance. We're also trying to break old silos by facilitating transparent, timely, and consistent communication.
- I ask that we recognize emotional labor and be intentional about fostering trust, morale, and fairness in an environment where resources, be they time, money, or energy, are scarce. Actively listen to those who are being asked to implement initiatives.

Civil Service Employees Council, Natalie Divan

- Concerns voiced about the announcement of moving employees to the colleague system that will result in changes to payroll and leave benefits.
- Concern voiced that once again non-negotiated civil service employees did not receive a pay raise.
- Our annual luncheon is on Thursday, October 30th in the Grand Ballroom. This is our fundraiser for dependent scholarships and all are welcome to join. There will be a costume contest, pumpkin carving contest and raffles including parking passes.
- We do continue to recognize employees who go above and beyond with the Al and Elaine Goldfarb Civil Service employee of the month award.

Council of Administrative Personnel, Lorette Oden

- Welcome to all new and returning Leathernecks to the fall 2025 semester.
- COAP was happy to contribute to the annual Rocky's Great Leatherneck Campus Block Party.

- We recognized outstanding employees who went above and beyond their regular duties to support the university community with the COAP employee of the month award. We had the privilege of honoring the former Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, Billy Clow as the Administrative Personnel Employee of the year recipient.
- Our goal is to explore opportunities to collaborate with the campus community to celebrate and recognize the amazing students, faculty and staff at Western Illinois University.
- COAP will continue to host monthly development sessions. The threat assessment team joined us for our first session this month to discuss their role in mitigating risk and supporting campus and community safety.

Leadership Verbal Updates

Government Relations, Zach Messersmith

- State and federal level update given.
- Review of direct admits and the website created called Oneclick.
- Senate Bill 1310 that was signed in to law earlier this year.
- The governor signed an executive order to request state agencies to reserve 4% of funding and to limit hiring to only necessary roles and restrict travel. We are not directly impacted by the executive order.
- Review of how our budget was broken up by the state this year.
- We're grateful for the support and involvement of our local legislators at quite a few different events on campus such as Veterans Resource Kickoff, University Assembly, and Constitution Day.
- The equitable funding formula doesn't seem to have the legislative momentum right now, but we will surely be back to advocating strongly in the spring.
- Our ROTC program suspension came as a shock to us all and we are grateful for everybody's work to see that WIU continues on as an extension unit.
- We are grateful for the coverage in the Chicago Tribune that not only talked about enrollment but also talked about the need for equitable funding.

Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman

- Three areas of focus. First an update on the rebuild, information on the Carnegie classification, and then highlights from the division.
- The Senate approved and the university adopted a two-college structure for the division of academic affairs. The two colleges are the College of Humanities, Arts, Sciences and Education and the College of Business, Health and Community Programs.
- We are focused on transparency. We're trying to maximize stakeholder engagement, increase interdisciplinarity across the division, and reduce administrative costs.
- Thank you to Chair Robinette in the Senate and the entire process thus far, from my perspective has been very positive.
- Review of our Carnegie classification and how it will positively affect the University.
- Review of division wide events, including our University Distinguished Professor Dr. Sherry Lindquist, the Lincoln Laureate student is Miss Julietta Marini from our Speech-language Pathology and Audiology program, review of grants that have been applied for,

a book by Julia Albarracin that was published and a weekly podcast series hosted by Jamie Johnson for prospective and current students as well as law enforcement and justice industry professionals.

Vice President for Student Success, Justin Schuch

- Review of the report posted on the Vice President for Student Success website.
- Overview of our Leatherneck launch programs and a very successful first four days of programming with individuals throughout the institution to welcome our new students on the Macomb campus.
- Veterans Resource Center has been very active this semester, welcoming students through their check-in days, open houses, and have already helped facilitate students saving over \$25,000 just by utilizing their benefits.
- This year, the team really took a deep dive into what the first four weeks of the semester should look like and have put a ton of energy towards redeveloping our programmatic offerings with what students should experience early on in the semester.
- The trend of students seeking health and wellness resources continues to rise. To aid with student overall health, the student development and success center has opened an Oasis room. An initiative funded by the mental health early action on campus grant from the state and it just opened this fall.
- Within student success I would like to lift up two individuals. Catering Manager David Bryant has elevated every program, event, banquet, and celebration through his focus on our catering operation. The second individual I want to thank is from our photography and design production team who is known for their remarkable work on countless projects. Miss Rachael Keating has worked tirelessly to ensure coverage for hundreds of events over the past few weeks. And while you may not have seen her around, I'm confident she has photographed every one of you.

Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb

- I do want to take this opportunity to highlight the work of a few offices in our division.
- Human resources is continually working to keep up with the everchanging federal guidance while implementing a new ERP. We've also merged additional functions into the supervision of human resources and that is adding to campuswide collaboration and overall efficiencies.
- The office of financial aid worked tirelessly and diligently to ensure a smooth startup to the semester and they were overall successful in this venture administering tens of millions of dollars in federal, state and university dollars on a targeted timeline that was communicated with students.
- I would like to congratulate Bob Emmert on his new role as the Director of University Technology. Leading this department, Bob brings over 29 years of technology experience and a passion for supporting the mission of the institution. The university technology team has continued implementation of additional security measures such as multifactor authentication to ensure compliance and increase security for students and staff.

Reports and Discussion Items

Report No. 25.9/1

Purchases of \$100,000-\$499,999.99 or Exempt
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)

Report No. 25.9/2

Budget and Financial Data for Quarter Ended June 30, 2025
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)

Report No. 25.9/3

Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts for the 4th Quarter
(Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Report No. 25.9/4

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

Report No. 25.9/5

Enrollment Report
(Vice President for Student Success, Justin Schuch)

Resolutions and Action Items

Action

Resolution No. 25.9/1

FY 2026 All-Funds Budget
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb and Budget Director, Renee Georges)

Action

Motion: Trustee Bierman

Second: Trustee Lang

Roll Call

Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins Yes

Trustee Kirk Dillard Yes

Trustee Carin Stutz Yes

Trustee James Bierman Yes

Trustee Kisha Lang Yes

Trustee Polly Radosh Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 25.9/2

FY 2027 Appropriated Operating Budget Recommendations
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb and Budget Director,

Action

Renee Georges)
Motion: Trustee Lang
Second: Trustee Dillard

Roll Call

Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee James Bierman	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 25.9/3 **Action**
FY 2027 Appropriated Capital Budget Recommendations
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb and Budget Director,
Renee Georges)
Motion: Trustee Bierman
Second: Trustee Lang

Roll Call

Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee James Bierman	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 25.9/4 **Action**
Approval of the Calendar December 2025 and Year 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Dates
(Senior Executive Assistant to the President, Athena Brooks)
Motion: Trustee Stutz
Second: Trustee Lang

Roll Call

Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee James Bierman	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 25.9/7 **Action**
Income-Producing Contract Approval – Illinois Department of Human Services
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)

Motion: Trustee Bierman
Second: Trustee Dillard

Roll Call

Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee James Bierman	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 25.9/5 **Action**
Approved Depositories and Signatories
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)

Motion: Trustee Lang
Second: Trustee Bierman

Roll Call

Trustee James Bierman	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 25.9/6 **Action**
Authorizing Annual Presidential Performance Review
(Board Chair, Polly Radosh)

Motion: Trustee Dillard
Second: Trustee Bierman

Roll Call

Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee James Bierman	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 25.9/8 **Action**
Income-Producing Contract Approval – Moline-Coal Valley School District
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)

Motion: Trustee Stutz
Second: Trustee Bierman

Roll Call

Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee James Bierman	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 25.9/9 **Action**
Election of a Trustee to serve at the Audit Chair for Western Illinois University
(Director of Internal Auditing, Rita Moore)

Motion: Trustee Bierman
Second: Trustee Lang

Roll Call

Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee James Bierman	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes

Motion approved.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

Next Meeting

October 17, 2025 - Retreat - Macomb Campus, Union Capitol Room

ADJOURN ACTION

Trustee moved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Trustees at 12:12pm.

Motion: Trustee Dillard

Second: Trustee Lang

Roll Call

Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee James Bierman	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes

Motion approved.

Polly Radosh, Chair
Athena Brooks, Senior Executive Assistant to the President