

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 12, 2026
Western Illinois University
Macomb, Illinois
Open Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 8:30 a.m. on March 12, 2026 – University Union, Capitol Room, Macomb. Chair Polly Radosh presided.

March 12, 2026 University Union, Capitol Room, Macomb

Motion to Convene to Open Session – 8:30 a.m.

Action

Trustee moved to convene to open session at 8:30 a.m.

Motion: Trustee Bierman

Second: Trustee Stutz

Roll Call

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

Motion approved.

Roll Call

The following Trustees were present:

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

The following individual joined on-line:

Trustee Kisha Lang

Motion to allow Trustee Lang to appear remotely pursuant to Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/7(a)(ii)

Motion: Trustee Dillard

Second: Trustee Bierman

Roll Call

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

Motion approved.

Also present for the meeting of the Board of Trustees:

President, Kristi Mindrup

Senior Executive Assistant to the President, Athena Brooks

Introduction of the new general counsel, Anne Burton starting on April 1, 2026.

Public Comments

In-person comments:

Merrill Cole

- The Illinois Federation of Teachers in coordination with University Professionals of Illinois has launched a major campaign for full funding for public education in the state of Illinois
- Information given on the upcoming advocacy day event at the Capital on April 16th. The teach out event is available for faculty, students and staff to attend.

Chairperson's Remarks

Chair Polly Radosh

- Congratulations to the women's basketball team on their win at the Ohio Valley Conference and a review of the team's accomplishments. Senior Mia Nicastro was named OVC player of the year and graduate student Mallory Shetley was named the MVP for the tournament. Addi Brownfield was named the OVC and OVC defensive player of the year and coach JD Gravina was named the OVC coach of the year.
- Student athletes on the women's basketball team excel in the classroom. They have a mean GPA of 3.77 and they did not lose a single player from last season. Building commitment, integrity, and a positive sports ethic is as important as winning.
- Congratulations to Coach Gravina, the team, the athletic director, Paul Bubb, and the many, many staff and coaches who facilitated the success of the women's basketball team. The OVC win is historic for WIU.
- Was represented not only by an outstanding team, but also by cheerleaders, the dance team, the pep band, and more than 200 fans. All were respectful of other teams and supported the WIU team whether we had won or lost. It illustrates something that's hard to define about WIU, but it's ever present on this campus.
- I have seen the same deep commitment in the arts, in academics, and applied majors.
- While in Evansville we met a WIU alum touring the museum. We had a 15minute conversation about how much WIU changed his life.
- This week, George Huffagel, a 2005 graduate, was on campus to conduct workshops on

sound design as part of the new music festival. He went into great detail about the foundational experience he had at WIU, the personal enduring relationships he has formed with his professors, and how the skills he acquired are applied in his profession. His story is one that we hear over and over. WIU makes a difference in our students lives.

- Alumni returned to the university decades after they graduated to give back in ways that are meaningful for the next generation of students.
- This was an exciting week with a campus visit of the Illinois Supreme Court on the WIU campus was an outstanding opportunity to see and experience law in practice and to showcase the university for those who are not familiar with us.
- I hope that all will recognize the positive direction for the university that these events illustrate. Take every opportunity to tell others about these and other good news stories.

9:37am Trustee Kirk Dillard rejoined the meeting.

President's Remarks

President Kristi Mindrup

- Review of the key initiatives and things that are creating positive momentum at WIU including the Ohio Valley Conference tournament, the state Supreme Court event and the IHSA Illinois High School Athletic Association event on campus are just a few ways WIU really brings our community together.
- Shared how thoughts center around how much incredible work, success, and progress our faculty and staff have achieved in a relatively short period of time, especially considering the world of higher education today.
- Review of recent successes, including a \$3.6 million federal grant for school psychology, 7-year accreditation for counselor education and the increased campus visibility through the events just mentioned.
- Faculty and academic leadership have transformed its organizational structure to promote interdisciplinary collaboration, enhance communication and processes and the best of all new opportunities for students.
- Working towards identifying ways to strengthen and build positive momentum in enrollment with initiatives that focus on program enhancement, student friendly scheduling, and to develop in- demand credentials and certifications along with new partnerships with Blackhawk College and Spoon River College.
- The Goldfarb Performing Arts Center the space will soon come alive through its daily operation, integration of university people and programs.
- In the coming months, WIU leadership will advocate on behalf of Western Illinois University and public higher education through the state of Illinois budget testimony. Our focus will be on a sustained investment in the adequate and equitable funding formula.
- We maintain our commitment to our mission to provide educational opportunity, support student success, and advance upward mobility during an unprecedented period of change in higher education.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Review and approval of October 17, 2025 Retreat, December 10, 2025 closed and open session minutes.

Motion: Trustee Bierman

Second: Trustee Lowe Mullins

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

- WIU students elected the next student government association president, Alonzo Ruffin and the student representative to the board of trustees, Bradley Jenkins. Both are excellent student leaders.
- SGA has been in very close contact with Mayor Mike Inman and look forward to growing the relationship between the students of WIU and Macomb.
- Expressed an appreciation for the university's continued commitment to student involvement and shared governance.
- SGA recognized AVP Joe Roselieb for his commitment to SGA and willingness to answer questions, be involved and squash rumors. His accessibility and support have helped to ensure that student voices are heard and included in the decision-making process.

Faculty Senate, Jeremy Robinett

- Campus constituencies have continued engaging in meaningful conversations to promote shared participation in responsible decision-making and to strengthen the channels of communication.
- Concern raised in regards to expanded responsibilities that have not been accompanied by corresponding compensation. Respectfully asked that our administration stays mindful as contracts are negotiated and positions are audited.
- Highlight of some shared work being done across campus including the student government association partnering with faculty senate to better serve students by developing a resolution encouraging faculty to voluntarily share key course information prior to the start of a semester.
- Shared governance continues to improve with more staff serving on associate dean search committees and a rebuild committee led by civil service.
- Faculty senate recently approved the creation of 13 administrative schools with more than 85% of eligible faculty participating and with each of the schools receiving at least 70% support. Faculty senate has also completed data collection for the provost and presidential evaluations that the council is analyzing and will present to senate later this month.
- As of this morning 156 of the 273 eligible faculty, over 57%, have voted on governance amendments. Faculty are highly engaged.
- Senate has collaborated with peer institutions across Illinois to support a resolution urging the Illinois Board of Higher Education to advocate for the implementation of the equitable public university funding formula, closure of the documented adequacy gap, and the timely release of legislatively approved appropriations.

- Acknowledged the women's basketball team who are bringing WIU national recognition as they prepare for the NCAA tournament.
- During the OVC tournament halftime, the conference highlighted outstanding faculty members and Student achievements with WIU having an impressive GPA of 3.77.
- WIU livestock judging team, recently named the champion team overall at the National Western Stock Show.
- Our broadcasting and journalism students earned an award for the best television talk show.
- As a Carnegie-recognized opportunity university, this is the work we should be proud of and the work that we, our alumni, our communities, and the state of Illinois should invest in.

Civil Service Employees Council, Natalie Divan

- CSEC continues to work with the administration and has monthly meetings with President Mindrup. She is quick to respond when questions arise.
- We continue to have representatives on search and other various committees. I want to thank Jeremy Robinette for his continued open communication.
- We have been working closely with COAP and last fall collected four boxes of toys for Toys for Tots.
- We also continue to recognize employees who go above and beyond with the Al and Elaine Goldfarb Civil Service employee of the month award. We recognize Danielle Knowles, School of Nursing as the 2025 employee of the year.
- Request made to change the free six semester hours of classes a semester to being able to take two classes each semester.
- CSEC is currently in process of planning our annual civil service appreciation picnic for May.

Council of Administrative Personnel, Lorette Oden

- The Council of Administrative Personnel hosted a professional development event with the human resources executive director Cassandra Standberry in February. COAP members had an opportunity to learn more about why Colleague was being implemented and have and have their questions and concerns addressed.
- During the month of February COAP had a fundraising campaign called Show Some Love for COAP. Payroll deductions as well as one-time gifts were welcomed. Financial gifts to COAP help support professional development scholarships for administrative employees and community building activities that promote and strengthen the university campus culture.
- January's employee of the month was Jennifer Von Kaenel Director of development in the Quad Cities and March employee of the month was Marsha Dace counselor at the university counseling center.
- Thanks to the board of trustees, the campus leadership and President Mindrup for your ongoing support and guidance.
- Thank you to President Mindrup for the monthly meetings where so many questions were answered.

Leadership Verbal Updates

Government Relations, Zach Messersmith

- Review highlights of recent legislation and the proposed budget to come out of Springfield.

- On February 18th, Governor JB Pritzker laid out his fiscal year 27 budget plan with a 1% increase. Two areas held flat AIM High and MAP, which are very important programs for our students. This 1% is more like a 3% because the base number for this year's budget includes that entire 3% from last year. Last year universities got 1% with a 2% reserve totaling the 3%. Our overall new funding last year was about \$560,000 this year it'll be closer to 1.8 million overall.
- WIU's Budget testimony is coming up and I want to thank Renee Georges, our budget director, for all of her hard work in getting us prepared so we can explain why WIU is a great investment. Our House budget hearing is just a week from today on the 19th and then we'll have our Senate budget hearing on the 31st of March.
- We're watching a lot of bills that will help us with procurement reform as well as some capital reforms with the capital development board that would grant us more autonomy and flexibility.
- We still have Senate Bill 1308 which would appropriate \$7.2 million for Quad Cities campus operations.
- On the federal level, we work with the Provost's office on congressional grants attempting to draw down some of those federal dollars for programs. Thank you to Provost Mossman for his leadership.
- We continue to advocate for adequate and equitable funding. You are welcome to come to Springfield and voice support for a funding formula for higher ed on April 16th. Thank you to VP Justin Schuch and Mike Eddy for coming to Springfield to support the effort. We will host a few more events thanks to Drew Donahoo and Amy Crosby.
- Review on MAP funding. The demand is still greater than available funds.
- More detail shared on equitable funding and who is supporting it. Request made to have a list of who isn't supporting it made available to trustees.

Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman

- Review of general announcements and a summary of the rebuild.
- Excellent output of scholarly and creative activity in the division including multiple poems published by Dr. Cole, conference presentations in almost every single discipline across the division, and a significant amount of outreach as well.
- I would like to highlight nursing specifically; the departments are doing everything they can to meet with prospective students.
- Dr. Sherry Lindquist, from the art department was selected to deliver this year's Distinguished University Professor lecture.
- On March 2nd, Western hosted local educational leaders, representatives from the city, and the Mayor for a tour of our engineering and engineering technology labs on the Macomb campus. Thank you to Dr. Kishor Kapale for organizing the event, in addition to being involved with the quantum work, and local outreach.
- Psychology was awarded a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education for \$3.6 million to partner with Western to expand mental health services and professional capacities across multiple rural areas.
- Our livestock judging team earned national titles and top five finishes at the Cattleman's Congress in Oklahoma City. The Leathernecks received championship honors and were named senior college champion team overall at the National Western Stock Show in Denver.
- Western was selected as the 2026 host site for the Illinois Supreme Court's Ride the Circuit series. The justices came to campus yesterday and heard two oral arguments. The

room was packed with dignitaries and we had 287 high school students there from the region.

- Dr. Tara Feld has been named the Dean of the College of Business, Health and Community Programs.
- Dr. Kyle Mayborn has been named the Interim Dean for the College of Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Education. We will start a national search that dean position in the fall.
- The next six to eight weeks we will begin populating the rest of the administrative positions for the divisions rebuild. We'll have representation from across the institution on all of these committees. We've seen progress working with our UPI colleagues on department workload equivalents in the departments pertaining to the rebuild.
- Then we begin phase three which is where we start working on the new scheduling model for classes.

Vice President for Student Success, Justin Schuch

- The full update can be found on the Division of Student Success website.
- Congrats to Alonzo and Bradley for being elected to serve the student body. They both have large shoes to fill with between James and Jace. Thank you both for your service. They will do an excellent job and we appreciate being able to work with them.
- A new website which is www.edu/successhappenshere that we launched recently and has been very well received. It directs people to some of the larger news stories that are happening at the institution. Exciting things that are happening, we always have great news coming out of the institution.
- I really want to take a moment to recognize Walt McGath from the division of student success. He's the business analyst who provides business and finance support for the entire division. In the past few weeks, he has jumped in to help us cover our veterans resource center during half of his day as we navigated some staffing changes. Walt's just a really good example of somebody who's always willing to jump in and understands the importance of that center.
- Introduced Rich Toomey, to share the work that has begun around the development of a strategic recruitment plan.
- Part of what we're going to be doing is developing a short-term tactical plan for recruitment. this is going to be an opportunity for us to have some tactical operational plans in place so we can bring in the next class of students. We also recognize the need to have some long-term strategic plans going forward. We started this process not only by reviewing internal policies and practices, but we're also starting to branch out more to the campus community as a whole.
- We've attended individual department meetings, different academic units and met with not only the chairpersons themselves but with many of the individual faculty that are represented there.
- We've also hosted two listening sessions as they've been called in which we've invited campus faculty, staff and students to come and share the challenges we face and some of the achievements we need to highlight going forward.
- Looking at more intentional uses of data in both the strategy and the tactics we have in place and how can we best represent a multitude of different outcomes.
- Specifically, we are hosting some postcard campaigns and we would welcome any of you to participate in that. It's a practice that's been done in the past especially by many of the academic units but our hope is to expand the usage. We're going to be asking faculty, staff, and students to come and participate and write postcards to admitted students. Our undergraduate students will earn purple and gold points by participating.

- On the evening of April 2nd, we're going to be at Sports Corner inviting local community members as well as alumni to come and participate in this as well.
- Enrollment is job one, working on how we can embrace that as a campus community so that everybody recognizes their role in enrollment moving forward.
- We're going to continue to work with the development of Slate and our establishment of new communication plans, not only at the university level, but at the department level, so that we can start to impact the specific messaging that needs to go to students at various stages of the admission funnel.
- How are we going to use our brand awareness and our brand marketing going forward so that we can actually adjust how students foresee us and start their process, start their journey through the enrollment funnel. We're going to emphasize programs and services specifically.

Introduction of our new student trustee, Bradley Jenkins, first year in grad school. Part of the college student personnel program with an assistantship in the NSFP new student fam programs with Michelle Janisz and Tammy Leigh Brown-Edwards. The co-advisor for TA Sigma Honor Society for transfer students. As well the grad adviser for transfer students.

Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb

- The finance team has been busy through the first quarter of the calendar year 2026 with tax documents and compliance. Changes from the One Big Beautiful Bill not only affected our payroll operations, but we also continue to review, plan, and communicate to the campus community the implications of that One Big Beautiful Bill on student financial aid for future semesters.
- Facilities management continues to adapt and change to better serve students in the university community. Facilities has made some changes that will continue to prioritize our resources and consolidate efforts to streamline our priorities. This facilities management restructure has moved our building service operations out of facilities management and into student success.
- In the student success area, marketing and admissions reporting up to the same vice president sitting in on multiple meetings that will have a twofold positive progress as we move forward.
- We have moved our safety and compliance officer from facilities management to our risk and insurance area. We have seen the service we're able to provide to campus work in a very efficient manner.
- The administrative restructures that we've done help create a better environment for us on our campus. So, thank you for supporting those.
- Continue to work towards future financial planning with the recent governor's budget address that indicated a 1% increase to appropriations in fiscal year 2027. We must continue to advocate for the equitable funding in higher education.

Agenda Topic

Reports and Discussion Items

Report No. 26.3/1

Report on Contributions

(Interim Executive Director of Development, Amy Crosby)

Report No. 26.3/2
Purchases of \$100,000 -- \$499,999.99 or Exempt
(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)

Report No. 26.3/3
Report on Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts for the 2nd Quarter
(Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Report No. 26.3/4
Annual Debt Compliance & Management Report
(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)

Report No. 26.3/5
Budget and Financial Data for Quarter ending December 31, 2025
(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)

Resolutions and Action Items

Resolution No. 26.3/1 **Action**
Purchases of \$500,000 and Over
(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)

Motion: Trustee Bierman
Second: Trustee Stutz

Roll Call

Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	No
Trustee James Bierman	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	No
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 26.3/2 **Action**
Fiscal Year 2027 Housing and Dining Rates Recommendation
(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb and Vice President for Student Success, Justin Schuch)
Motion: Trustee Stutz
Second: Trustee Dillard

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. 26.3/3
Fiscal Year 2027 Student Health Insurance Fee Recommendation
(Vice President for Finance and Administration, Ketra Roselieb)
Motion: Trustee Lowe Mullins
Second: Trustee Bierman

Action

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. 26.3/4
Presentation of the Internal Auditing Department Charter
(Director of Internal Auditing, John Murphy)
Motion: Trustee Bierman
Second: Trustee Stutz

Action

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.

Old Business

New Business

Move the date of the next BOT meeting to be held on the Quad City campus from June 11, 2026 to June 16, 2026 due to a conflict on the schedule
Motion: Trustee Stutz
Second: Trustee Lowe Mullins

Action

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.

Next Meeting

June 16, 2026 Closed and Open Session – Quad Cities Campus in the Riverfront Hall

Adjourn

The meetings audio will be streamed live at <https://www.youtube.com/user/WesternIllinoisU>
Public comments will be held to a total of 30 minutes. Comments will be limited to 3 minutes for those speaking in person and 500 words for those writing. Written comments cannot be submitted on behalf of another individual. Those who wish to have their comments read, please email them directly to Athena Brooks at AM-Brooks@WIU.edu by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Wednesday, March 11, 2026.
Trustees will meet in person.

ADJOURN ACTION

Action

Trustee moved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Trustees at 11:45pm.

Motion: Trustee Dillard

Second: Trustee Bierman

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