

WIU Council on General Education
Zoom Video Conference
October 20, 2022

Attending: Mari Aanenson, Barry Birnbaum, Rob Kelly, Barbara Lawhorn, Tonya Little, Elgin Mannion, Mark Mossman, Febe Pamonag, Jim Schmidt, and Alisha White

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by chair Barry Birnbaum.

The first order of business was a motion to approve the minutes from 5/5/22. Elgin Mannion made a motion to approve with a second from Rob Kelly. All Council members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Elgin Mannion made a motion to approve the minutes from 9/6/22 with a second from Mari Aanenson. All Council members voted in favor. Motion carried.

Council members discussed how to proceed with future meetings. The general consensus was to continue to meet on Zoom. Barry Birnbaum will have Annette Hamm cancel the future reservations for HH1 as we will not be using it. He plans to ask members in January if this is their preferred method of meeting.

Lia Petracovici joined the meeting.

Mark Mossman addressed the council in regard to the following proposal:

Students being admitted with an Associate of Art (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) degree from any accredited community college in the United States will be:

- Accepted into Western with junior standing;*
- Exempt from all University General Education requirements at the University.*

While an AA or AS degree will meet University General Education requirements, it should not be assumed that an AA or AS degree will meet specific departmental or college-level requirements that students accomplish by taking specific courses included in WIU's general education offerings. For example, in Arts and Sciences, under this policy students will not be exempt for the additional hours of "College Gen Ed" required in the College.

Students wishing to transfer to Western should speak directly with advisors in order to plan accordingly.

Justification

The justification for this proposal is as follows:

- *This policy is already in place for community colleges in Illinois and select Iowa locations—we are simply expanding the policy so that transfer students from across the country have the same access to Western;*
- *The policy as it currently stands—that is with its limits to community colleges in Illinois—decreases our agility in handling the impending steep decline in students eligible for higher education, which starts in 2026. As there are fewer and fewer students in Illinois, a transfer policy limited to the state will become increasingly irrelevant.*
- *A change in this policy helps us to become more transfer friendly as we move forward.*

Mark Mossman gave a brief history of the path this proposal had taken up to being brought to CGE. It is currently being reviewed by CAGAS and it was recommended that CGE should review it also. The overriding impetus for this proposal is to make WIU more transfer friendly. Many positive comments were made by Council members in support of this policy. There were a few questions also. Febe Pamonag expressed she would like additional information about how this will impact Gen Ed courses and would like to know what our peer institutions are doing in response to the upcoming decrease in prospective students in the United States. Mark Mossman did not have specific numbers at this time for the first question but did know that many of the major universities have adopted policies like the ones being proposed. All universities in Iowa have policies like this.

After discussion ended, Rob Kelly made a motion to approve the proposal with more data to come. Elgin Mannion gave a second. Ayes: 7, Abstention: 1. Motion carried.

Sarah Lawson was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. She will be on the agenda for the Nov. 3 meeting.

With no other business a motion to adjourn was made by Rob Kelly with a second from Elgin Mannion. All were in favor. The meeting concluded at 3:54 p.m.