

## FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 20 January 2026  
4:00 p.m. – Via Zoom

### ACTION MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeremy Robinett, Chair; Lisa Wipperling, Vice Chair; Alice Melkumian, Secretary

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mark Mossman, Provost; William Gblerkpor, Parliamentarian; Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Office Manager

**GUEST:** Sarah Lawson, Registrar

#### 1. *Rebuild update*

Provost Mossman reported that most positions for which there were recent searches have been staffed, and the process will now begin to fill the positions of school directors. He will meet this week with College of Business and Technology Dean Tara Feld and College of Arts and Sciences Interim Dean Kyle Mayborn, who will continue to serve until the Dean of the new College of Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Education is named. He plans to talk to them about associate deans and staffing in the two new colleges as well as next steps for implementation. He added that Dean Feld has met with numerous representatives in the new colleges, and they have done a lot of work already. Provost Mossman said that in the coming weeks he will be scheduling meetings with individual departments and programs to talk about aspects of the Rebuild.

Provost Mossman reported that UPI is working on contract language related to program coordinators. He thinks this may result in a memorandum of understanding. He related that there has been a lot of disagreement about duties of the program coordinator positions.

Provost Mossman observed that Associate Provost Jessica Lin and Registrar Sarah Lawson have done incredible work on the Rebuild Efficiency Committee, which is working on retooling ACE sheets. He said the Constituency Committee will meet often starting in February with the goal of having everything completed by July 1.

Chair Robinett reported there was a good conversation on Friday, January 16 at the Faculty Senate Spring Welcome event, but there were not a lot of people present. Provost Mossman apologized for having to miss the event due to illness. Chair Robinett proposed that the PowerPoint that was shared at the event be updated, since things have already been modified just since last week, and presented to Faculty Senate at its first meeting to let a larger group of senators know where things stand. He noted that there were a few senators at the Spring Welcome but he thinks they would be fine sitting through the presentation again. He thinks the document will help individuals understand the massive amount of work that has been completed since the fall. Provost Mossman agreed that the more that document can be shared, the better the communication will be. He agrees there has been a lot of work done in the past six weeks, including hiring new associate and assistant provosts who are already fully engaged in the Rebuild. He is very happy to be part of this effort. Senator Melkumian agreed that it would be a good idea to share this information with the Senate as a whole so that everyone can know what has been accomplished and what is left; Senator Wipperling also expressed her agreement. This was added to the January 27 Senate agenda under the Provost's Report.

Chair Robinett noted that part of the Spring Welcome presentation included information about the results of the AI survey. He thinks it is interesting that both faculty and students primarily use IA for very similar purposes – reviewing and editing their writing – which complicates discussions of how to adjudicate when this usage is proper. Provost Mossman thinks the university needs to go a step further in its usage of AI, a topic he plans to bring up with the AI reading group. He thinks the conversation needs to go beyond asking AI to write a report and focus more on finding information in a much quicker way. He thinks the challenge is to expand the understanding of both students and faculty as to how AI is supposed to work.

Chair Robinett asked if there are any updates for the second dean search. Provost Mossman responded he will meet with the search committee again tomorrow to talk about next steps, adding that they have been excellent

to work with. He hopes by Thursday, January 22 to email an update to the faculty about this search. Chair Robinett said he has reiterated to faculty who have asked him about this that the Provost is working closely with the search committee. Provost Mossman realizes he has asked a lot of both search committees and thinks they have done excellent jobs. Chair Robinett thinks that it is more important to get this right than to get it done within a particular timeline because these are important positions for leading the university forward.

## 2. *Discussion of council and committee reports*

Chair Robinett noted that there is currently a lot of discussion about the schools, and the bylaws changes being addressed by Senate councils in regard to their memberships are based on the configuration of schools that was passed by Faculty Senate last May. He noted that if a request is submitted to Faculty Senate to change what was previously approved, it will affect the membership changes already being sent forward by the councils. He explained that while the actual bylaws changes to council memberships may have to be delayed until later this spring, some other things the councils have been working on may be able to come forward, specifically, council reports that are more informational in nature and those that may affect things such as policies rather than affecting the Senate Bylaws. He added that council policies and procedures/operating papers will, however, have to be held back since they changes to the councils' memberships are included within those documents. Chair Robinett regrets that some council chairs may have to come to Senate three times – for first reading and second reading of their bylaws changes as well as for their policies/procedures changes or other things they may bring forward as part of their charges – but agreed with Senator Wippering that in some cases reports may be able to come forward on the same meeting's agenda with other council items, if possible.

Senator Wippering remarked that this sounds like it may result in some very long meetings this spring. She noted that although Senate councils are not the group deciding on the new schools, that decision will have to be solidified before the council changes can come forward. Chair Robinett clarified that those councils whose memberships will be changed to school-specific rather than college-specific would have to wait on a final decision on school configurations. Provost Mossman asked how many this might affect. Chair Robinett responded at least three councils are proposing to change their memberships in this way; additionally, the Faculty Governance Committee is proposing changing the Faculty Senate membership to one senator per school rather than a certain number per college.

Ms. Hamm asked when the possible changes to school configurations might come forward to Senate since the election notices for new senators need to go out in early spring in order for them to be seated by the elections for new officers in April. She noted that with changes to Senate representation being proposed by the ad hoc committee, and these needing both Senate approval and the approval of the faculty at-large, the election process will likely be considerably delayed. Provost Mossman anticipates that a new proposal for changes to school configurations will likely come forward to Faculty Senate at one of its two meetings in February.

## 3. *Finalize agenda for Senate meeting of January 27*

Amy Patrick Mossman, Director for Assessment, Accreditation, and Strategic Planning, will speak to Faculty Senate during Announcements on January 27. Senator Hamner and Audrey Adamson, Executive Director for Outreach and Quad Cities Campus Operations, will also speak during Announcements on January 27; they Co-Chair the Rebuild Interdisciplinarity and Co-Curricular Committee, and Chair Robinett said they want senators to begin to brainstorm about these topics.

Chair Robinett noted that Amy Carr, WIU's representative to the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, will speak on February 10; Justin Schuch, Vice President for Student Success, will visit the Senate on February 24; and Vice President Roselieb and President Mindrup are on the agenda for March 31. Senate elections and the report from the Committee on Provost and Presidential Performance will occur on April 14.

The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Office Manager/Recording Secretary