FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

A C T I O N M I N U T E S

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jen McKenzie, Chair; Hollie Mason, Vice Chair; Deb Allwardt, Secretary
ALSO PRESENT: Mark Mossman, Provost; William Gblerkpor, Parliamentarian; Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Office Manager

1. *Provost updates*

Provost Mossman reported that movement has started on the Macomb campus with some changes of spaces. He announced that one move that will be occurring is for Social Sciences to move from Morgan Hall to Stipes. He added that the Interim Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Education (CHASE) will be meeting with that school. He noted that Associate Provost Jessica Lin met with CHASE Interim Dean Mayborn and English professor Marjorie Allison about the areas moving to Simpkins Hall.

Provost Mossman encourages Faculty Senate or the Executive Committee to provide him with feedback about how the moves are going or if they have suggestions about different ways of doing things as the university works through this process. He thinks information about the moves is, for the most part, being communicated, but he wants to make sure it is getting to the individual schools and departments because he wants everyone to have as much communication as possible as the university undergoes these moves.

Provost Mossman stated that he and Chair McKenzie will meet at some point about the CHASE Dean search. He noted that there is a process underway to change the way the different searches are conducted, similar to the way Faculty Senate last year changed its membership, because the number of faculty at the university has been reduced which makes it difficult for them to serve on as many committees. He noted, however, that the decision was made to continue with the current way of conducting the dean search for the upcoming CHASE Dean, so that committee will be a giant one. He added that there will be a meeting on Thursday, October 22, to decide how to populate that committee and begin that process.

Provost Mossman has visited five of the 13 schools at the university, and almost all of the meetings have lasted over an hour. He related there have been some excellent discussions, and those meetings will continue.

Provost Mossman noted that the Town and Gown event will occur this evening, and this is Homecoming Week as well. He stated that Waka Flocka Flame will perform a concert this coming weekend in the Grand Ballroom. He said 65 percent of tickets are already sold, so they anticipate a big audience; a high percentage of those purchases are coming from community members.

Chair McKenzie stated that when Provost Mossman said that changes to uses of space are being communicated, she was surprised because that was not the case for the School of Education recently. She said they received no notice that the Macomb Royals, a program through the Regional Office of Education, have had a significant amount of space in Horrabin Hall allocated to them. Chair McKenzie found out about this at the Board of Trustees meeting and communicated it at the School of Education's faculty meeting, where no one, including the school director, had heard about it. She noted that the space the Macomb Royals have been given was already being used by the University Infant and Preschool Center and included their kitchen area; without those spaces, the preschool will not be able to operate. She hopes that things are being communicated with areas that are going to be moving, but she suspects that these planned moves are not being well communicated in all instances. Chair McKenzie recognizes that the School of Education does not own these spaces, but Horrabin Hall is where they conduct business on a day-to-day basis, and she thinks they are the best stewards of the space in that building because they know how it is being used currently. She can see a lot of positives about the Macomb Royals being in Horrabin Hall, but had some people from the preschool been involved in this planning it would have been done differently because there are things they will no longer have access to.

Provost Mossman agrees and has seen a struggle with communication during his entire tenure at WIU. He hopes there will be better communication as a result of the two-college structure and moving the deans to Sherman Hall, which he thinks is creating more of a team atmosphere. He noted that one of the intentions of the Rebuild was to work on better communication, and he has seen highs and lows in this area. He related that when meeting with schools he has been frustrated that a lot that was previously communicated by school directors and across divisions does not seem to have been widely heard or understood. He has been trying to improve communications by many different initiatives, but it is a two-way street.

Provost Mossman wants to know when things like this are not working so that they can then begin to be addressed. He expressed interest in Senator Allwardt's experience with Social Work's move to Memorial Hall this past summer because that represents the first of the dominos to fall in this moving process. He thinks that many at the university will understand that these moves are necessary, but others will not. Senator Allwardt related that part of the problems associated with Social Work's move involved the school director being at times on leave and that electricity was out in Memorial Hall last summer, so Social Work could not check out their new space to know what to bring with them. She said that they only had partial information about what furniture would be there, for instance, so Social Work ended up moving everything and then found out some things needed to be moved back, such as bookcases and chairs. Senator Allwardt didn't know if and when to contact people about logistics, which was frustrating; nothing was prearranged about what happens to mail delivery and telephones, for instance, so she has just now gotten a phone months after the move, and before then presumably calls went to a phone in an empty office. She thinks these kinds of things could be thought out better in advance.

Provost Mossman noted that what he is finding out in his meetings with the five schools is that a couple have met with their new members multiple times, have many different initiatives planned, and are working together, while the others have not. He acknowledged it was an assumption on his part that school directors would call their new members together, and he is a little frustrated that this is not happening in some cases. He thinks this is part of cultivating a culture of communication; there should be regular meetings of all of the schools with everybody communicating and moving together into the same spaces.

Senator Allwardt remarked that Social Work moved from a program in one college into another college at the same time as the physical move. She suspects that nobody knows who should be coordinating this effort. She stated that there were advantages to the reorganization, but there is also a disconnect, and many rumors are going around the campus. Provost Mossman said he will meet with school directors next week to talk about many of these issues because they need to determine how to allocate their resources. He thinks that school directors need to get on the same page and go from there.

2. *Review of current search committee policy and developing a search committee for the CHASE Dean*

Chair McKenzie remarked that a resolution passed by Faculty Senate in October 2025, shortly after the new schools were established, outlined the Senate's responsibilities for dean searches. She noted that while the dates from last year are not relevant to this year's search, it would make sense to use the same guidelines and procedures for the CHASE Dean search. She asked if this should be added to the Senate agenda for October 27 in order to solicit a CHASE senator to volunteer to serve on the search committee. Provost Mossman recommended that it be added to the agenda so that the process can begin. Chair McKenzie noted that in addition to a senator from the college, Faculty Senate, according to the Administrator Selection Procedures, facilitates the election or selection of six faculty representatives from the college to serve on the dean search committee. The CHASE Dean Search was added to the October 27 Senate agenda under New Business.

3. *Finalize agenda for Senate meeting of October 27 – guests Ketra Roselieb and Amy Carr*

Special guests for the October 27 meeting will be Ketra Roselieb, Vice President for Finance and Administration, and Amy Carr, Chair of the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council and WIU's representative to that group.

The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,