

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, 14 February 2023

4:00 p.m. – Via Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Thompson, Chair; Yong Tang, Vice Chair; Julia Albarracin, Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Manoochehr Zoghi, Provost; Craig Whetten, Parliamentarian; Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Office Manager

GUEST: Jim McQuillan

1) Computer Sciences professor Jim McQuillan asked the Senate Executive Committee to consider proposing to the President that Unit B faculty be eligible for emeritus designation. The current policy bestows the title of “Professor Emeritus” on retirees (faculty and academic administrators) who have been employed at WIU for at least seven years and received tenure and the title of “Administrator Emeritus” on non-academic vice presidents at the discretion of the President. Both titles may be given to someone fulfilling the criteria who passes away prior to retirement. Dr. McQuillan suggested that the Executive Committee could propose something analogous to what is provided for Unit A faculty that might make sense for Unit B retirees. He noted that Unit B employees have the ranks of assistant professor, lecturer, and senior lecturer and suggested that “emeritus” could be affixed to the end of these ranks for those Unit B faculty who have been employed for seven years full-time or an equivalent amount of time if they have part-time contracts. Dr. McQuillan told ExCo the reason he suggested “Assistant Professor Emeritus,” “Senior Lecturer Emeritus,” and “Lecturer Emeritus” in his proposal as the titles for Unit B retirees is because some Unit B have already retired with those ranks and he hoped that perhaps “Emeritus” could be retroactively added to their titles.

Chair Thompson expressed his support for recognizing with an honorary title those Unit B retirees who have worked seven years. He thinks some faculty may object, however, since Unit A faculty must have published and completed the other work necessary to be tenured in order to receive this designation. He noted that many Unit B do perform university service, but the important fact for him is that Unit B faculty have worked at WIU seven years because that means they have had their contracts renewed seven times so have done a good job.

Dr. McQuillan admitted he was unsure about allowing for part-time Unit B with an equivalent amount of hours to equal seven full-time years to also receive the designation. Senator Albarracin said she would prefer that the designation only recognize full-time employees; Chair Thompson agreed. He added that if the proposal meets with opposition, it could be revised to nine years because that is when Unit B faculty achieve senior status.

Ms. Hamm pointed out that Faculty Senate does not own the emeritus policy (Recognition for Retired Faculty and Administrators -- <http://wiu.edu/policies/retfacadm.php>); the Faculty Senate is only charged to provide a recognition to individuals who achieve emeritus status. There was much discussion when this policy was created, but it was decided that the recognition should be sending the retiree a cover letter and certificate certifying their emeritus designation and adding their name to a large plaque in the University Union Brattain Lounge. Faculty Senate hung a smaller plaque in the Brattain Lounge recognizing, en masse, those faculty who met the criteria but retired before the emeritus policy was created. Ms. Hamm stated that neither on the letter, certificate, nor plaque is the rank of the retiree listed – only name and years employed at WIU . She also observed that the Faculty Senate Constitution states that only faculty with the ranks of instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor can serve on Faculty Senate, vote in Senate elections, or be appointed by Faculty Senate to committees and councils.

Senator Tang said he thinks allowing emeritus designation for Unit B faculty is a fantastic idea in terms of fairness and equity. He asked what percentage of colleges and universities bestow emeritus status on Unit B retirees. Dr. McQuillan replied that he only searched for a few examples in different states. He noted that some institutions do not have Unit B faculty or their Unit B faculty do not serve in that position for as long as WIU Unit B faculty do. Senator Tang remarked that it might be confusing that the rank of Assistant Professor can be applied to Unit A and to Unit B faculty. Chair Thompson explained this emerged when Unit B faculty who were Senior Lecturers attained additional degrees, such as a second master’s degree, or made some additional effort, such as publishing.

Dr. McQuillan will revise his proposal to remove the references to Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, and Assistant Professor and just designate that Unit B retirees would become Emeritus after seven years of full-time service. The proposal to revise the existing policy was placed on the Faculty Senate agenda for February 21 under New Business.

2) Ms. Hamm provided the Executive Committee with an update on current elections. February 16 is the extended deadline for petitions to be submitted for seats that remained unfilled after the original call for volunteers. One nominee each has submitted a petition for the College of Education and Human Services, the College of Fine Arts and Communication, and the two at-large seats (3-year and 1-year). No one from the College of Arts and Sciences has submitted a petition for their remaining vacant seat; the Executive Committee approved extending that deadline an additional week if no petitions are received by the 16th.

An election is being held to determine the senator from the College of Business and Technology since two petitions were submitted by the original deadline for that single seat. Faculty in that college must cast their electronic ballots before 4:30 on Monday, February 20.

3) Provost Zoghi stated that after speaking with Interim Dean of the College of Education and Human Services Katrina Daytner, he would like to ask the Senate Nominating Committee to find two faculty representatives for the exploratory task force to consider the feasibility of establishing a College of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration rather than just one. He would now like for one of the faculty reps to come from LEJA and the other from a non-LEJA unit within the college. He hopes the nominees can come forward for the next Faculty Senate meeting because these are the last seats to be filled on the task force.

4) Special guests for the February 21 Faculty Senate meeting will be Library Dean Hector Maymi-Sugranes and Computer Sciences professor Antonio Cardenas-Haro, who will speak about ChatGPT. President Huang will attend the February 28 Executive Committee meeting and the March 7 Faculty Senate meeting.

5) The Executive Committee finalized the remainder of the Senate agenda for February 21, and the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Office Manager
and Recording Secretary