

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 3 February 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; Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Office Manager

ABSENT: William Gblerkpor, Parliamentarian

1. *Proposed charge for CGE*

Chair Robinett pointed out that one thing proposed within the charge is that any changes to General Education that are brought forward during the review process (Spring 2026 through Fall 2027) would be only reviewed if agreed to by the Council on General Education (CGE) and the Provost's Office; the intent is to pause, unless urgent or needed, requests from moving through during the review. He said Keith Boeckelman, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, brought up to the Rebuild Constituency Committee that there is a class in that college which recently received Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) approval, so that course may need to be brought forward to be considered for inclusion in WIU's Gen Ed. Provost Mossman will check with Associate Dean Boeckelman because he thought the intention was to complete the Gen Ed review before starting any additional General Education curricular development. He thinks that if departments continue seeking IAI approval, it will make the process more complicated.

Chair Robinett told ExCo the charge has been vetted by Amy Patrick Mossman and Lori Baker-Sperry in the Provost's Office, and the Council on General Education will look at it on Thursday, February 8; everyone has had this document since before winter break. He admitted there is a lot in it, but any document talking about university general education has to cover written skills, critical thinking skills, and AI competencies, as well as understanding what WIU is doing with its Gen Ed program. Provost Mossman remarked that Associate Provost Baker-Sperry has served on CGE for about 20 years, so he is pretty confident that the charge is in good shape if she, as well as others, have read through it.

The Executive Committee discussed whether a vote was required since normally when the Executive Committee charges a Senate council, they can simply provide Faculty Senate with the information without requiring a vote. Ms. Hamm thinks a vote was required in the past when a General Education review was conducted because it is a huge undertaking that affects the entire campus community and often includes a moratorium on new General Education requests. The Executive Committee agreed that this charge is a special case, and the charge, and a resolution to accompany it, will come forward to Faculty Senate on February 10 under New Business for a vote.

Chair Robinett told ExCo that, according to the proposed charge, CGE will get this semester to build what the process of their review will look like, then they will bring that back as a report to the Senate later this spring.

2. *Proposed changes to CAGAS appeals procedures*

Chair Robinett noted that neither the Registrar nor CAGAS Chair Dan Malachuk were able to be present for today's meeting, but he expressed his thanks for the incredible amount of work that CAGAS completed last semester and their excellent job of explaining the changes to their documents. He observed that sometimes there has been the perception that students were being asked to disclose information multiple times during the appeals process that was potentially sensitive in regard to Title IX. He said in response to this, CAGAS proposes building into their instructions that students should seek the assistance of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access when documenting circumstances related to Title IX and of the Student Development and Success Center (SDSC) when documenting circumstances related to personal, medical, or emotional health concerns. He said the logic behind this is that SDSC already documents and helps students navigate through many procedures, and if they have already provided this then students would not need to go through it multiple times.

Chair Robinett noted that proposed changes to the Policy on Grade Appeals would encourage faculty to resolve grade appeals informally if possible. He said CAGAS checked with UPI before proposing to add to the policy that if a faculty member is off contract, on medical leave, on sabbatical, retired, no longer employed at WIU, or otherwise unable to attend the hearing, they may be represented by the department chair, another administrator, or another faculty member assigned by the chair. Chair Robinett said that sometimes when students appealed a grade close to a break period, a delay in the appeals process led them to not be awarded a scholarship or not meet the academic requirements to return for another semester in the same way as before. He noted that, particularly in summer, an appeal may not be adjudicated until ten days into the next semester, at which point a student may have made the decision to go elsewhere. Chair Robinett supports the proposed changes which he thinks will lower the stress on students and allow the university to potentially retain them.

3. *Proposed revisions to the Senate Constitution*

Chair Robinett thinks the ad hoc Faculty Governance Committee did good work on its proposed revisions to the Constitution. He will prepare a Resolution to Amend to accompany the document. He stated that first reading will occur on February 10 during New Business; second reading and the vote will occur on February 23 under Old Business. The proposal will require two-thirds approval because amendments require a higher threshold than other items. He and Ms. Hamm have spoken about the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws at length; the document is broken into Articles, so that it can be divisible if needed, and Articles with no changes are still included for the purposes of completeness and transparency. He noted that if senators wish to vote on each Article separately rather than voting on the entire document, they can make a motion to do so.

Once Faculty Senate approves the proposed changes to the Constitution, they will be sent out to full-time faculty for a vote. Chair Robinett has proposed that ballots be mailed out March 2 and be returned by March 13. He had originally thought about giving faculty until March 23 to vote but asked the Executive Committee whether they supported shortening that timeline; they agreed that faculty would not need that much time. The threshold for approval for the faculty vote is 50 percent plus 1 of those who submit their votes. He hopes that by the time this vote is completed, the proposals for the schools will be finalized and Faculty Senate can start to consider changes to the Bylaws; Bylaws do not require a vote of all of the faculty but only of senators. Chair Robinett added that 15 senators (two-thirds) will need to vote in support of the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws for them to pass.

4. *Proposed timeline for Spring 2026*

Chair Robinett proposes moving Senate elections for officers back to April 28 because the election notices cannot be sent out until the schools are finalized.

Five surveys will be going out to Faculty this spring: the Provost and Presidential evaluation surveys, the Senate Nominating Committee interest survey, the Constitution, and the survey from the University Committee on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression (UCOSOGIE). Chair Robinett met with UCOSOGIE Chair Donald Laney today to discuss sending their survey out using the Faculty Senate's Qualtrics license. He will only take care of sending the survey to faculty; he recommended that Mr. Laney reach out to Vice President for Student Success Justin Schuch for help sending the survey out to students, and to Assistant Vice President for Student Success Lorette Oden for help distributing it to staff. He said UCOSOGIE has wanted to send out this survey for two or three years. He will share it with the Executive Committee before it is distributed to faculty.

Senator Melkumian recommended some changes to the dates that surveys are distributed and end so that they do not overlap overmuch; those recommendations were adopted. Chair Robinett will talk about the timeline with senators during his Chair's Report on February 10.

Chair Robinett told ExCo that he and Provost Mossman spent a lot of time over the summer mapping out how shared governance will happen at WIU, and he is happy they have stuck to their guns to make sure that things are getting done in this way. He said the timeline was vetted with the Rebuild Constituency Committee, and some were not excited about how quickly things were moving, but Provost Mossman and Chair Robinett

explained to them why some things are moving so fast. Senator Melkumian thanked Provost Mossman for coming to faculty meetings and doing his best against the things that come his way, which she understands can be frustrating. She appreciates that he is willing to work with the faculty during these difficult times.

Provost Mossman thinks that everyone has inherited a massive communication problem, which has led to other problems. He thanked Chair Robinett and the Executive Committee for continuing to talk to him about the issues; he thinks problems are getting solved through trying to see the other side of things. Provost Mossman served as a union rep when he first came to WIU and recalls trying to work within a broken communication structure when decisions needed to be communicated. He thinks the university has gone a long way to addressing this in a short time but still has a long way to go. He appreciates the endurance that everyone on the Executive Committee and Faculty Senate have demonstrated.

5. *Finalize agenda for Senate meeting of February 10*

Amy Carr, WIU's representative to the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, will speak on February 10.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Office Manager/Recording Secretary