

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Regular Meeting, 27 January 2015, 4:00 p.m.
Capitol Rooms - University Union

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: J. Baylor, S. Bennett, L. Brice, J. Brown, A. Burke, G. Cabedo-Timmons, M. Carncross, R. Chaves, J. Choi, S. Cordes, D. DeVolder, A. Hyde, G. Jorgensen, C. Keist, J. Myers, T. Roberts, S. Romano, T. Sadler, M. Singh, S. Szyjka, T. Westerhold
Ex-officio: Ken Hawkinson, Provost; Steve Rock, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: M. Siddiqi, A. Silberer

GUESTS: Dale Adkins, Mark Bernards, Andy Borst, Ray Diez, Scott Harris, Angela Lynn, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Patrick McGinty, Mary Mhango, Esmeralda Moreno, Kathy Neumann, Nancy Parsons, Russ Morgan, Roger Runquist, Diane Sandage, Gary Schmidt, Erskine Smith, Bill Thompson, Ron Williams, John Wozniak

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. 2 December 2014

MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Provost's Report

Provost Hawkinson announced that President Thomas sent a spring semester welcome letter and budget update to the campus community late this afternoon via TeleSTARS. The President recently attended a number of receptions in Springfield to congratulate newly-appointed Governor Rauner and other state officials, who offered their support for Western and for higher education in the state. President Thomas was on stage with Governor Rauner in Chicago recently for an event honoring Martin Luther King Day. President Thomas joined Chicago Mayor Raun Emmanuel as one of the main speakers for the event.

Provost Hawkinson informed senators that the current fiscal year state budget was approved under the assumption that the temporary tax increase would be made permanent; that did not occur, and the state now faces a \$1.5 billion shortfall, which is 10 percent of the revenue of the state. President Thomas, Vice Presidents, and Western's Budget Director have been in contact with the Governor's office, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and leaders from other universities to discuss these issues and challenges. Provost Hawkinson related that Governor Rauner's office has asked state universities to look at various scenarios for this year's and next year's budgets. He related that two days ago the Governor's office asked WIU to hold back one percent (\$520,000) of the University's \$52.6 million appropriation for this year. Provost Hawkinson stated that the administration is waiting to see if there will be additional hold-backs or cuts for this year. Financial information will be provided to the University community in the coming weeks detailing how WIU will move forward in light of these reductions.

Provost Hawkinson released preliminary results for enrollments after the fifth day of classes. Graduate student enrollment is up by 60, which is very good news because WIU had seen a downward trend for graduate classes. The Provost stated that Associate Provost Parsons, who oversees Graduate Studies, has been working with chairs, graduate directors, and faculty to promote WIU's graduate programs. The Provost stated that undergraduate enrollment from spring 2014 to spring 2015 is down about two percent (200) as of the fifth day. He added that vast numbers of those failing to return are due to financial difficulties.

Provost Hawkinson stated that the University tracks the number of applications accepted, and WIU is doing very well in this area for next year. He believes that many of the efforts made in recent years – Western Commitment scholarships, Building Connections mentoring program, increased recruiting activities – have made the difference. Accepted applications are up 18 percent overall, including 310 students with an ACT score of 20 or above, which is particularly impressive. He added that accepted applications are up an additional 23 for students with ACT scores of 30-36; a few years ago WIU had only six students at this level, last year there were 25 enrolled, and this year there are 50 students in this category. He said that 60-65 students with ACTs of 30-36 are expected to enroll for the 2015-16 academic year. Provost Hawkinson stated that the administration believes Western has turned a corner in terms of quality of applicants and will continue to see improvement in the coming years.

University Libraries professor Bill Thompson asked the Provost about continuing issues with students unable to obtain their textbooks at the beginning of the semester. He regularly sees students trying to obtain copies of their textbooks to check out from the Library, and the Department of English and Journalism is actively soliciting extra copies of the MLA handbook because students need it the first day of class. Dr. Thompson believes this problem is one that the University should be able to solve, and he expressed the hope that the administration is doing everything in its power to address this issue. He believes that if WIU can issue fines for damage to residence hall rooms and debit the amount from students' accounts, they should be able to debit student accounts for the purchase of textbooks. Dr. Thompson stated that while he understands the problems associated with students receiving money from state and federal governments, allowing them to debit the cost of their textbooks would at least get them in students' hands for the first day of their classes.

Provost Hawkinson responded that these concerns were answered extensively last semester. He related that Bookstore Director Jude Kiah spoke to the Senate Executive Committee about an initiative that may put more textbooks into students' hands next year. Provost Hawkinson stated that while everyone wants students to have access to textbooks, and the administration is doing everything possible to facilitate this, there are difficulties in allowing students to debit those charges to their University accounts. The Provost warned against the University taking on the role of bank or credit card where WIU is essentially giving a loan to students to use to purchase textbooks because there is a difficult classification for universities that operate under this type of system.

Chairperson Singh related that the Bookstore Director invited the Faculty Senate Vice Chair and himself to sit in on a presentation last semester about a textbook initiative that is currently in its preliminary stages. Chairperson Singh stated that, if adopted, the initiative would result in significant savings for students. If the proposal moves forward, it will be brought before the Faculty Senate. Mr. Kiah presented the preliminary proposal to the Executive Committee last semester after concerns were expressed by advisors regarding students' inability to afford their textbooks.

B. Student Government Association (SGA) Report
(Esmeralda Moreno, SGA student representative)

SGA holds its first meeting of the semester tonight. Ms. Moreno invited senators to join President Thomas in attending the Rocky Gala, to be held at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, March 26 in the Union Heritage Room. The Gala will feature a plated dinner for \$12 (or \$80 for a table of eight) and formal or business attire.

C. Other Announcements

1. Stanley Safety Grant Competition
(Scott Harris, Director, Office of Public Safety)

Chief Harris has nominated WIU to compete for a grant for up to \$150,000 from Stanley Security. Chief Harris related that with the current budget crisis requiring WIU employees to do more with less, he felt that such a grant could be a potential windfall for the University and could also unify WIU in voting for something that will benefit the University. WIU is currently ranked second in the grant competition among Tier 2 schools with enrollments of 8,000-19,999 students. The competition began on January 19 and continues until February 12. First place schools will be awarded a \$150,000 grant while second place finishers will receive \$50,000.

Chief Harris explained that individuals can vote once per day in three ways: by tweeting #wiued to #STANLEYSecurity, by texting “wiuedu” to 334455, or online at stanleysaferschools.com utilizing an email address. Chief Harris is voting five times a day utilizing various emails and other methods, and has even joined Twitter in order to vote. He believes WIU students need to get engaged and encouraged senators to talk about the competition in their classes daily. He suggested that professors could ask students to quickly vote while they are taking role and before students put away their cell phones. Chief Harris said the competition gets people talking about safety and put a positive light on WIU and the Office of Public Safety.

2. Chairperson Singh announced that Steve Rock will be filling in for Tej Kaul as Parliamentarian while Dr. Kaul is on leave.
3. Proposed Academic Calendars for 2016-2020

An Academic Calendar Committee, chaired by the Provost and the Registrar, is convened every four years. Provost Hawkinson explained that the Calendar Committee determines future calendars which assure that a sufficient length of time is established between semesters to allow for necessary work to be accomplished and that the appropriate number of days in class and weeks in a semester are adhered to, and establishes various sessions for summer school. He stated that constituency representatives were asked to take the information about the proposed calendars back to their various groups, discuss the possibilities, and come back with recommendations for the Committee; the proposed calendars are also intended to be shared with various governance and constituent groups in order for them to make suggestions. The calendars for 2016-20 will then be given to President Thomas for final approval. Provost Hawkinson promised to carry forward any comments, concerns or suggestions from senators.

Senator Bennett pointed out that the discussion in the Academic Calendar Committee minutes from their December 15, 2014 meeting addresses the desire for some members to recognize President’s Day rather than Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday. But he noted the list of pros for the change does not include the fact that Lincoln’s Birthday disproportionately affects lab classes held on Tuesdays or Thursdays. He strongly believes that rather than having a floating day, since February 12 falls on a different day every year, the University should establish President’s Day as the day off. Senator Bennett believes that the argument that WIU should recognize Lincoln’s Birthday with a day off because Illinois is the “Land of Lincoln” is disingenuous because the University takes Friday or Monday off when Lincoln’s birthday falls on a weekend.

Provost Hawkinson stated that he would add comments regarding the effect on the science labs to the discussion in the minutes regarding Lincoln’s Birthday. He noted that most days off for the University occur on Mondays and occasionally Fridays; the only possibility for a day off affecting Tuesday or Thursday labs is the occasional years when Lincoln’s Birthday falls on those days. He added that whenever holidays fall on weekends, the University default day off is Monday, but if too many nights off fall on Mondays it has a significant effect on classes which are only held on Monday nights since missing two or three a semester is a lot of class time lost.

Provost Hawkinson stated that the Registrar gathered information showing that not many schools celebrate President's Day. Dr. Lynn related that three other public state universities celebrate Lincoln's Birthday, and only one, Chicago State, celebrates President's Day. All others – Northern, Illinois State, Southern, and the University of Illinois – recognize neither Lincoln's Birthday nor President's Day. She concluded that if the intention is to be consistent with other state institutions, there would be no holiday taken. Provost Hawkinson added that some other state universities take Columbus Day as a holiday rather than President's Day.

Parliamentarian Rock recalled that Faculty Senate took up this issue some years ago and conducted a survey to see how faculty, staff, and students feel about celebrating Lincoln's Birthday versus President's Day. At that time there was strong campus support for making the switch to celebrating President's Day. He related that the Senate's commendation was presented to the Board of Trustees where it was narrowly defeated due to a trustee who felt strongly that WIU ought to recognize Lincoln's Birthday. Parliamentarian Rock noted that there has been turn over in the Board of Trustees since that time, and if there is a groundswell of interest it might be the right time to make this case to the Board of Trustees again, particularly since childcare can be difficult to arrange for University employees when area schools are closed for President's Day.

4. IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Request for Impact of Declining Budgets on Students

Parliamentarian Rock observed that the budget situation going into this year is especially dire, and previous budget cuts have had a substantial impact on instructors and students. The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Faculty Advisory Council is gathering a list of some of the negative impacts of the cuts on students. Parliamentarian Rock stated that the focus is on students because legislators do not care as much about the impact on faculty but are vitally concerned about students. He stated examples of this impact might be the inability to order databases or books for the Library, needed supplies for art classes, or equipment for science labs. He related that vendors are unwilling to sell to Chicago State University's science labs because their bills remain unpaid so they have difficulty obtaining equipment. Parliamentarian Rock stated that another example might be the inability to offer sufficient sections of certain subjects due to the budget crisis. The IBHE Faculty Advisory Council is asking public universities across the state to collect these types of stories and will then share them with legislators. Parliamentarian Rock will send a message to WIU faculty via the Faculty Senate listproc soliciting this type of feedback. Anecdotes will be vetted before passing them along to the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council.

Senator Roberts suggested that Ms. Moreno also be asked to relay the message to SGA in case they have stories they would wish to share as well.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council for Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI)
(Mark Bernards, Chair)

1. Curricular Requests from the Department of Dietetics, Fashion Merchandising, and Hospitality

a) Request for Change of Major

(1) Apparel and Textile Merchandising

CHANGE OF MAJOR APPROVED

2. Curricular Requests from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology

- a) Requests for New Emphases
 - (1) Deviance and Criminology
 - (2) Environment and Community
 - (3) Social Inequality
 - (4) Social Institutions
 - (5) Sociological Social Psychology
 - (6) Sociology of Health and Illness

Senator Roberts asked if the emphases would be reflected on diplomas; Dr. Lynn responded that they will not be listed on diplomas or transcribed. Senator Hyde asked if open electives are available to be used for any department or if there are certain levels that must be met in order to count those for the particular emphasis. Sociology and Anthropology professor Patrick McGinty responded that the open electives are already structured into the major and are not anything specifically associated with the emphases.

NEW EMPHASES APPROVED

B. Council on General Education
(Diane Sandage, Chair)

1. Request for Inclusion in General Education

- a) Fl 350, Introduction to Contemporary Critical Theory, 3 s.h.

GEN ED INCLUSION APPROVED

C. Council on Campus Planning and Usage
(Ray Diez, Chair)

1. Proposed Lactation/Intentional Spaces Guidelines

The document prepared by the Council on Campus Planning and Usage (CCPU) defines a lactation/intentional space as “a private, secure room where a WIU constituent can go to express milk, meditate or pray free from intrusion.” It specifies that the space is not to be used for purposes of general breaks or consuming food, and that such rooms will be made available by reservation through the building representative whenever the host building is open. According to the proposal, “Each lactation/intentional space is to be equipped with sitting accommodations, a table/counter space, and an electrical outlet.”

Dr. Diez informed senators that this issue has been discussed for over three years by CCPU, which sometimes included lively debate with not all members in agreement. The final proposal has been vetted by the Director of Equal Opportunity and Access, who provided suggestions that were incorporated into the final document. Once approved by the President, the guidelines would be included on the website for the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access, which already provides information on the University’s Lactation Accommodation Policy and nine existing lactation rooms. The guidelines will not replace any existing policy.

Senator Baylor asked what procedures would be in place if there is a conflict for reservations of the room. Dr. Diez responded that reservations are first come, first served.

NO OBJECTIONS

- D. Senate Nominating Committee
(Dennis DeVolder, Chair)

SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:

Council on Admission, Graduation and Academic Standards

Mike Romano, Biology replacing Susan Meiers Fall 2015 A&S

UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:

University Technology Advisory Group

Brian Locke, Music replacing Charles Wright Fall 2015 FA&C

Motion: To nominate Rich Filipink for the CAGAS vacancy (Roberts)

Paper ballots were distributed; Mike Romano won the election. Drs. Romano and Locke were declared elected to their respective positions.

- IV. Old Business – None

- V. New Business – None

Motion: To adjourn (Brice)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Lee Brice, Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary