

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Regular Meeting, 12 October, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

Union Capitol Rooms/Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: D. Atherton, S. Bailey, D. Banash, M. Bernards, L. Brice, G. Cabedo-Timmons, J. Choi, S. Cordes, L. Ebert Wallace, R. Filipink, J. Kastel, J. Land, I. Lauer, T. Lough, S. Macchi, D. Oursler, J. Robinett, R. Sawhney, E. Shupe, S. Szyjka, Y. Tang, E. Taylor, B. Thompson, J. Wroblewski

Ex-officio: Billy Clow, Interim Provost

SENATORS ABSENT: None

Ex-officio Absent: Betsy Perabo, Parliamentarian

GUESTS: Steve Bennett, Tom Blackford, Cody Cornell, Dennis DeVolder, Guiyou Huang, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Patrick McGinty, Russ Morgan, Jill Myers, Lorette Oden, Renee Polubinsky, Joani Wilson

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. August 31, 2021

B. September 14, 2021

BOTH MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Provost's Report

Interim Provost Clow said he and President Huang just arrived back five minutes ago from a meeting in the Quad Cities, and the President will arrive at the Senate meeting in half an hour. Interim Provost Clow announced that WIU as of today has a 100 percent compliance rate among faculty and staff in regard to Covid protocols, which is a great target that the University should be proud of. He expects student compliance rates to continue to increase; so far 60 percent of students are vaccinated.

The Provost's Travel Award went live last week for tenure track faculty. Interim Provost Clow stated that there has been a pretty good response as shown by applications for the award; tenure track faculty reached the threshold established for last week, so those applications were held for this week. He said the dollars did not disappear as quickly as in the past; the Provost's office is using a new system, and he should be able to provide more of an update later in the week. He stated that chairs will receive notifications as soon as faculty confirm they have seen their awards. Interim Provost Clow added that a couple of people asked if they had to provide two weeks' lead time, but those faculty who had travel plans occurring sooner were allowed to submit an application. He plans to announce the Provost Travel Award winners at the next Senate meeting.

C. Student Government Association Report

(Cody Cornell, SGA representative to Faculty Senate)

SGA has received complaints from some students about new restrictions on printing. Students are now only allowed to print 250 pages free on campus, so SGA is asking faculty to limit the amount of printing they ask students to do. Mr. Cornell said that many students have told SGA representatives that professors are asking them to print slides, papers, lab reports, and music sheets, so SGA wanted to remind faculty of the limits.

Mr. Cornell related that some students have expressed concerns about security in parking lots. A number of students have told SGA they are worried about security around Lincoln and Washington

Halls since the pathway is not well lit and there are no security cameras. Chair Lauer pointed out that if anyone feels insecure, they can call the Office of Public Safety for an escort.

Senator Bernards asked if there has been any discussion about revisiting the policy of limiting student printing to 250 pages since it is apparently inadequate for many students. Mr. Connell responded that SGA discussed the pros and cons of removing the limit or adding to it because as professors have students print more it makes them worry about the limit and having to pay out of pocket. He noted that the concerns are not coming from all students, but a few have approached SGA. Senator Filipink recalled that Faculty Senate discussed some of the pitfalls of approving this change when it was proposed by University Technology last year. He would suggest that SGA talk to uTech again because this was a foreseeable outcome of instituting these limits. He also suggested that SGA determine which classes seem to be generating the most concern from students. He thinks this could be an especially serious problem for the increasing number of international students at WIU. Senator Szyjka related that he assigns students a course packet that does not cost them as much as a textbook and can be purchased through the Union Bookstore. He would suggest this for faculty who assign a lot of handouts because it only costs students about \$10-\$15 compared to the cost of printing off themselves.

D. Other Announcements

1. President Guiyou Huang (Reordered)

President Huang will visit Faculty Senate at 4:30 p.m.

2. UPC/Senate Elections/Provost Search Nominations

The University Personnel Committee deadline has been extended until Friday, October 15 for vacancies in the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the College of Business and Technology. Robert Hironimus-Wendt, Sociology and Anthropology, was elected to represent the College of Arts and Sciences for a three-year term.

The following faculty were declared elected to the Provost Search Committee:

Rick Hardy, Political Science (A&S)

Dave Hunter, Engineering and Technology (B&T)

Katherine Perone, Health Sciences and Social Work (E&HS)

Julie Cox, Speech Pathology and Audiology (FA&C)

Sean Cordes, University Libraries (At-large)

These can also be viewed on the Faculty Senate elections webpage at http://www.wiu.edu/faculty_senate/elections.php. One at-large vacancy remains. The deadline for petitions for that vacancy has been extended until Friday, October 15. Elections will be held next week if there is more than one volunteer. Chair Lauer stated that the Provost Search Committee will hold its first meeting this week.

3. Amber Schultz, Vice President for Enrollment Management, will visit Faculty Senate at the next meeting on October 26.

4. Chair Lauer related that he was asked by a faculty member about the absence of the *Western Courier* this semester; the last paper came out on April 20, 2021. He has found out that the *Courier* has moved from Student Services to the Department of Broadcasting and Journalism. The department is fixing up a space with new computers and equipment and hopes to bring the newspaper back online in Spring 2022.

Senator Banash said he had been seeking the *Courier* throughout the semester and had just assumed it was off to a slow start. He noted that the changes happened in the dark with no one seeming to have knowledge of what was going on; the *Courier* website makes no mention of any reorganization plans and there has been no press release about the change.

Senator Banash observed that the *Western Courier* is a major institution on campus; it has been one of the most important and well-respected institutions for students and has been historically independent of – and has even engaged in tussles with – WIU’s administration over the years. He recalled that the *Courier* was even banned from campus in the 1970s and operated off campus before it was allowed to come back. Senator Banash thinks it would be helpful for a representative from Broadcasting and Journalism to come to Faculty Senate to provide an update on plans for the newspaper and discuss the importance of keeping it editorially independent. He noted that with this change, student editors will no longer be paid. Senator Banash understands there are other issues to be considered – newspapers are struggling nationwide – but he hates to see these kinds of things happening to WIU’s student newspaper, and he hopes the Senate Executive Committee can get someone from Broadcasting and Journalism to talk to the Senate about their plans.

Chair Lauer remarked that ExCo just found out about the change less than a week ago and promised that he would reach out to the department. Senator Tang, who works in Broadcasting and Communication, agrees that there should be a statement issued about what is going on with the *Courier*. He offered to speak with *Courier* advisor Will Buss. He stated that the *Courier* offices have been moved from the Heating Plant Annex to Sallee Hall, and it is now only available in a digital format. He thinks it is currently in a transitional period but thinks they will sooner or later publish the paper again.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI) (Steve Bennett, Chair)

1. Curricular Requests from the School of Education

a. Requests for Changes of Options

- i. Early Childhood Education
- ii. Multilingual
- iii. English as a Second Language

Motion: To consider the curriculum proposals together since the changes are very similar (Filipink/Brice)

NO OBJECTIONS TO MOTION

CURRICULAR CHANGES APPROVED

B. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC) (Josh Wroblewski, Chair)

1. Faculty Nominations

SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:

Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI)

Feridun Tasdan	replacing	Vacant	2024	At-Large
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UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:

Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council (4-year terms)

William Thompson	replacing	Amy Carr	Fall '21 Member
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There were no additional nominations, and the slate of candidates was declared elected.

IV. Old Business – None

V. New Business

A. Proposed Peer Institutions Ad Hoc Committee

Chair Lauer explained that he thought the structure of the previous ad hoc peer institutions committee was too clunky and did not produce sufficiently robust lists. He created a proposal, approved by ExCo after modifications, for a much more slimmed down committee with an established procedure.

Motion: To approve the proposal (Brice/Filipink)

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Senator Filipink noted that the proposal states that not more than two faculty can be from the same college, but he wonders how the choice will be made if all three faculty members are from the same one. Chair Lauer responded he hopes that does not happen but if it does the first two submissions from the same college would be seated.

Senator Robinett announced that Student Services wants to encourage faculty to use the Leatherneck Referral system if they do not know who to direct referrals to for students who may be missing class or have other issues. He said this will enable the Leatherneck Referral representatives to determine the best person to reach out to students and connect them with a contact person. Senator Robinett said that faculty have been using Leatherneck Referral more quickly and efficiently than the previous semester, and they appreciate those efforts.

Motion: To recess (Brice)

Chair Lauer announced that the Faculty Senate would recess from 4:25 p.m. until President Huang arrives at 4:30.

D. Other Announcements

1. President Guiyou Huang (Continued)

President Huang announced that as of today WIU's Covid vaccination rate is 87 percent for all employees and 61 percent for students. All employees are in compliance with Covid protocols, and 85.6 percent of students are in compliance (786 out of 5,473 students are not in compliance). President Huang said these numbers are current from two hours ago.

The President and his senior leadership team have discussed the need for a policy body. President Huang pointed out that WIU does not have a formal body to recommend on policy formulation or engage in policy review. He hopes that a policy advisory body can be formed later this semester and begin work later in the year. President Huang said he is not talking necessarily about academic policies or policies concerning individual groups, but about university-level policy formulation. He observed that the policy on academic promotion is a pretty clear process, for example, but for non-academic promotion there is no policy. President Huang believes there are a legion of policies that need revision, including the policy on administrative search procedures, and many existing policies are very outdated with a lot of ambiguity and some flaws.

President Huang reported that the search for a CFO/VP for Finance and Administration – led by Craig Conrad, Interim Dean in the College of Business and Technology – is making very good progress. He added that there is a strong pool of candidates, and four have been interviewed via zoom, with some or all to be brought to campus for in-depth interviews in the next few weeks.

President Huang has engaged in conversations with Chair Lauer about the provost search. As of today, the committee has been almost entirely formed with only one or two members still missing. He said the committee will begin working on the job ad immediately because it needs to be

comprehensive, precise, and attractive to potential applicants. He hopes the ad can be launched in the near future after some tweaking by the committee.

President Huang said he sought and received approval to restore the vice presidential position in the former division of Advancement and Public Services, but he thinks that name is rather ambiguous and unclear. He recommended and the Board of Trustees approved the name of Advancement and Alumni Relations because it provides a clearer focus. President Huang related that since his arrival he has had conversations with various areas about the importance of having a leader in place for the next comprehensive funding campaign. He said that there have only been a couple of applicants so far for the reinstated vice-presidential position, adding that many universities across the state are finding it a challenge to recruit senior level personnel at these times and even personnel at the lower levels. He stated that the current search is being cancelled with the hope that it can be relaunched later in the spring.

President Huang related that he has been touring a lot of alumni events in several different states this past spring and summer, including those in Arizona, Florida, Texas, and, most recently, Illinois. He stressed, however, that he will be spending most of his time on campus. He has also been working with local legislators on a number of issues, including the “big picture budget” and preparation for a budget submission for FY 2023.

President Huang and Interim Provost Clow spent since 6:00 this morning meeting with representatives of the Rock Island Arsenal and Kristi Mindrup, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at WIUQC. President Huang said the Arsenal representatives were very friendly and receptive and want to collaborate with WIU on opportunities for employee training and possible collaborations between the Arsenal and WIU’s ROTC program. President Huang had lunch with the Mayor of Moline who he said wants to hear the University’s ideas and collaborate with WIU on Moline’s redevelopment. He said she seemed happy with the information he shared with her. President Huang said the University is exploring the possibility of establishing a childcare center on the Quad Cities campus, an idea that started with WIUQC faculty in Education. He believes that if a childcare center is built with the name of WIU on it, it will benefit both WIU and the Quad Cities region. He promised that this conversation will continue.

President Huang stated that the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) has proposed a study of the educational needs of the Quad Cities area. State legislators have approved \$100,000 toward this study. The last time the President spoke to the Executive Director of the IBHE last year, the study was at the RFP stage, and the state was looking for a possible partner or consultant to take on this charge. President Huang talked about this with the Moline Mayor but she had no news. He said that they both think that a lot of higher education needs have already been met in the Quad Cities, with WIU’s four-year institution and Augustana, St. Ambrose, Black Hawk, and Eastern Iowa community colleges. He hopes the study will include a lot of stakeholders to determine whether needs have been met in this region.

Senator Thompson asked what the administration’s position is on free community college being proposed by President Biden. Senator Thompson understands that university presidents have been asked to comment on this. President Huang responded that he does not have a statement and does not believe that any university president has their own statement; however, the presidents did form a task force to work with community colleges to look at this particular topic. President Huang expressed his opinion to some local politicians and WIU’s governmental relations liaison, and he plans to speak with Senators Durbin and Duckworth on this topic. Meetings with those legislators are being scheduled. President Huang also spoke about this with state UPI President John Miller. He acknowledges that free college is a good thing for a lot of students who might not be able to afford a four-year public education, but it could also result in unfair competition for four-year institutions. He plans to continue to have conversations with various stakeholders and with the presidents as a group and will let Faculty Senate know when they are ready to announce a statement.

Senator Tang remarked that WIU is seeing a record number of international students this year, and he wonders why the university is seeing such a large jump and how the administration plans to take advantage of this momentum to attract more international students in the future. President Huang responded that WIU has a very effective recruiter in Dr. Randy Glean, Executive Director of the Center for Global Studies. He said that office has been particularly effective in recruiting in India, Bangladesh, and Nigeria, to name only a few. President Huang related Global Studies has worked in harmony with the graduate admissions office to produce a very large graduate class this year; as of today, there are approximately 2,300 graduate students across all programs at WIU, and about 670 of those are international students. He added that this year's international numbers are about 100 more than the record number of 570 in 1987. Global Studies is hoping for another strong showing in Spring 2022 as international students are expecting to receive their Visas.

Senator Thompson asked if there is any clarification on the timeline for the Performing Arts Center. President Huang replied that he would defer to Interim Provost Clow. Interim Provost Clow responded that documents are being prepared to be submitted to the Capital Development Board in two weeks; the CDB then has six weeks to complete their final review. After that, the project would go out to bid in November, with bids due in February and the winning bid determined by late February or early March. Interim Provost Clow hopes that construction with shovels in the ground will hopefully begin in late Spring 2022.

Motion: To adjourn (Brice)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Jeremy Robinett, Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary