

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Regular Meeting, 6 December 2022, 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: J. Albarracin, D. Atherton, S. Bailey, D. Banash, L. Brice, D. Brown, G. Cabedo-Timmons, A. Carr, C. Chadwell, L. Ebert Wallace, D. Hunter, J. Land, K. Perone, B. Petrocovi, B. Thompson, J. Wroblewski

Ex-officio: Craig Whetten, Parliamentarian; Provost Manoochehr Zoghi

SENATORS ABSENT: D. Barr, B. Bellott, M. Bernards, T. Lough, S. Macchi, B. Polley, E. Shupe, Y. Tang

GUESTS: Andy Baker, Lori Baker-Sperry, Tom Blackford, Joe Cantu, Craig Conrad, Julie Cox, Dennis DeVolder, Bob Emmert, Paige Goodwin, Randy Hyllegard, Greg Kain, Rick Kurasz, Sarah Lawson, Mike Lukkarinen, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Patrick McGinty, Christopher Merrett, Kristi Mindrup, Russ Morgan, Mark Mossman, Lorette Oden, Betsy Perabo, Renee Polubinsky, Linda Prosis, Jeremy Robinett, Jim Schmidt, Sebastian Szyjka

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. November 15, 2022

APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Provost's Report

Provost Zoghi related that there are multiple initiatives occurring in the various colleges and other areas of the university that will be reported in detail next semester. He announced that deans of the academic colleges, University Libraries, and Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs will be making presentations on Friday, December 9 at a day-long summit regarding their student retention plans. He added that they will subsequently finalize those plans and prepare a final report for the President.

Chair Thompson remarked that he has heard anecdotally that retention is not looking great currently for next semester and asked if the Provost knows anything yet about that. Provost Zoghi responded that part of that perception is that non-registered students have been a big challenge for the various colleges, who have been trying to step up their efforts to creatively encourage current students to register for next semester. The Provost has been asking everyone to do everything they possibly can to get students to register because if students register for the next semester they are more likely to return to WIU. Provost Zoghi related that at some institutions he has worked, chairs would go into classrooms to encourage students to register, and tables would be set up in the residence hall cafeterias to help students to do so. Chair Thompson asked if it is a trend that students are registering increasingly later for the following semester. Provost Zoghi responded that is correct; it is a universal challenge. He pointed out that some students do not register because they are unsure if they will pass their classes, but they would do better to register and then drop a class than to not register at all.

B. Student Government Association (SGA) Report
(Joe Cantu, SGA Director of Academic Affairs)

Mr. Cantu reported that SGA has been working on internal things to get ready for next semester and solicit ideas for what kinds of thing to do in the spring. SGA continues to look for students to fill committees and has been having some success in this area.

C. Other Announcements

1. Election of Faculty Senate Vice Chair

Senator Brice has resigned his seat on Faculty Senate representing the College of Arts and Sciences, and a search is underway for his replacement. He has also been serving as Senate Vice Chair, so a replacement from any college for that position is being sought.

Motion: To nominate Amy Carr as Vice Chair (Hunter). Senator Carr stated that she is currently overcommitted, particularly since she serves as secretary for the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, and declined the nomination.

There were no further nominations.

Senator Hunter asked about the function of the position. Chair Thompson responded the Vice Chair acts as Senate Chair if the Chair is unable to attend a meeting. The Vice Chair also attends Executive Committee meetings on the Tuesdays that Faculty Senate does not meet and helps to set the Senate agenda. The Vice Chair engages in conversations with campus leadership regarding various issues. Chair Thompson added that this service is a great way to help frame discussions on important issues for the campus, and he encouraged senators to get involved in order to let their voices be heard. He noted that faculty voices can be heard in many places, but the Senate Executive Committee discusses issues with those who are shaping the institution.

Senator Banash pointed out that this is the last Senate meeting and is during the last week of classes, so it is hard to think about taking on a major commitment. He suggested it may be better to postpone this election until the beginning of spring semester and send an emailed reminder to senators when they come back with fresh energy. Ms. Hamm also pointed out that there are eight senators missing from today's meeting. Chair Thompson agreed to put the election on the first January Senate agenda when more senators may be present.

2. Dropbox/Technology Discussion
(Greg Kain, CIO, University Technology)

Mr. Kain stated that cybersecurity is a more important topic now than it has ever been as everyone's lives become more digital; the university's auditors and insurers have been looking more closely at cybersecurity recently, and new federal and state regulations are being created to address it. Mr. Kain noted that last year WIU underwent audits in regard to cybersecurity in general and as it relates to financial aid, and when these audits are performed, they are not done arbitrarily. He stated that auditors have a very structured framework that they use to compare universities against standards developed in 2014 by the National Institute for Standards and Technology, so this is relatively new ground for the industry and for Illinois.

Mr. Kain explained that the framework being used by auditors has evolved to become an extremely thorough, complex, time consuming, and expensive process, but it is important for WIU to have a secure framework and to meet the standards. He stated there are 14 categories of controls and 110 total, if subcategories are included. For example, control #1 deals with awareness and training; Mr. Kain related that WIU had a 97 percent compliance rate for cybersecurity training in October which was required as remediation for audit findings. Mr. Kain noted that University Technology recently inactivated administrative rights on work computer stations, which addresses control #4, Configuration Management, and #4.9, Software Vetting. He added that about 48,000 unused user accounts were also recently inactivated. Mr. Kain stated that these types of remediation actions are very specific and thorough, and there will be more to come next semester because even with the remediation already completed, the university is not yet compliant.

Mr. Kain related that WIU's software vetting process determined there were over 8,000 inventoried software products, which is quite a lot. University Technology has had 117 requests to return removed software that users thought were important for their jobs. Mr. Kain stressed that University Technology does not intend to tell WIU employees they cannot use software and supports employees having the software they need to do their jobs, but the software needs to meet certain standards.

Mr. Kain read from the press release sent out to WIU employees yesterday regarding Dropbox, which he says is a problem "because the University does not have an enterprise license for the software, so we have zero insight into the files and data that are transferred between personally owned and WIU-owned devices. This is a significant security concern, as Dropbox provides an unmonitored pathway for both sensitive data and intellectual property to leave the institution." Mr. Kain said this represents a big hole because employees can either knowingly or unknowingly move files with sensitive data, personally identifiable information, intellectual property, or university property, which is a control violation. He related that University Technology is in the process of no longer supporting Dropbox, but they realize that a lot of faculty use it. He stated that, because University Technology wants to be compassionate and does not want to interrupt the work faculty do on Dropbox this late in the semester, they will delay the inactivation of Dropbox until after the end of fall semester. University Technology will provide individual support as needed to help users of Dropbox to transition to Google Drive, which is a similar product; a new website, wiu.edu/googlehelp, will also provide resources to help with this transition.

Mr. Kain stated that, in the meantime, he has received feedback from faculty with additional concerns about which documents it is okay to have in their personal accounts and which can only be stored on university devices. His response is that documents with FERPA information must stay in university accounts while papers that faculty may be working on can be stored on their personal devices, although he admits there is some ambiguity in this answer. Mr. Kain thinks a working committee needs to be created to provide clarification on exactly what this means. He told senators that University Technology knows Dropbox will be a problem for the institution and wants to provide more clarity for these types of questions because he thinks this will continue to evolve.

Senator Carr related that she had a conversation with Mr. Kain earlier and thinks it is important to determine what file storage systems faculty currently use. She noted that other areas of concern might include thumb drives, One Drive, Microsoft 365, and downloading Dropbox versus using it on a browser. She thinks there are other questions that need to be addressed. She asked if reading reflections, exams, and papers faculty are grading are considered to be university property or can be saved on personal drives. Senator Carr does not plan to stop using Dropbox and instead will be double saving documents. Mr. Kain agrees more clarification is needed. He plans to talk to Chair Thompson about what kinds of faculty representation might be needed on a working group to address these questions. Mr. Kain would like for University Technology to be able to provide everyone with as much guidance as possible. He noted that other cloud-sharing programs similar to Dropbox are affected by the new guidelines as well and will no longer be allowed to be installed on university devices, although employees will have web access to them. He noted that this brings back the question of what can be saved in faculty's personal spaces and what needs to be saved on their university spaces, and that clarification needs more work. University Technology is willing to work with faculty and the administration to develop better guidelines for this.

Senator Ebert Wallace remarked that this conversation is the first inkling she has had of this change, and other faculty may also have not yet heard about this problem. She has not seen any notification about this anywhere. Senator Ebert Wallace said she has already exceeded the newly restricted Google Drive storage allowance, which is one of the reasons she uses Dropbox. She asked if Mr. Kain, as a technical expert, can recommend something faculty can use besides Google because she does not trust it and has found that her documents sometimes get lost on it. She does not think Google will meet the needs of faculty. Mr. Kain

does not want faculty to explore other options than Google, especially for space limitations. University Technology has already granted space exceptions; for instance, Music faculty needed more space to store videos of performances. Mr. Kain stressed that WIU employees need to stay within the institutional thresholds that Google recommends, and University Technology is willing to work with faculty on that. He stated that Google Drive is an excellent product, and he has not heard any reports of lost files or quality problems with Google. He is willing to work with faculty to make sure Google works for them because it is the institutional standard that WIU has purchased and supports, and it is important that everyone knows how to use it.

Senator Albarracin related that she similarly ran out of space in Drive, uses Dropbox, and does not plan to stop using it. This is the first time she has heard of any obligation for faculty to share all of their professional information with the university. She asked if it would be possible to increase Google space for everyone. Senator Albarracin does not save performances, videos, or pictures, just documents she needs for her work, and she still ran out of space. Mr. Kain responded that the space limitations were set before he arrived at WIU because when universities exceed the threshold for what Google provides for institutions it costs money. He said WIU was able to get its storage under the threshold, which is good, and University Technology is now dealing with this on a case-by-case basis if employees need additional space. He advises faculty who need additional space to open a ticket with the Help Desk and someone will work with them on this.

Chair Thompson observed that faculty create certain intellectual content in the pursuit of university business, such as a web-based class, and the university has a non-exclusionary license to that content. He noted that WIU can use that content for its own purposes, such as running a web class created by one faculty member under another faculty member's name, but the faculty who create that content can also take it with them if they get a job at a different institution. He added that there are restrictions as to how the university can change the content the faculty member created, although there are some gray areas in this rubric.

Senator Albarracin observed that someone asked on the zoom chat if the change to Google Drive is partly so the university will have access to all faculty files at all times. Senator Wroblewski remarked that one reason he uses Dropbox is that Dropbox does not mine his files to sell to ad companies while Google Drives looks at every document that is put into it; he added that some universities prevent their employees using Google Drive because it is not secure. Mr. Kain clarified that this is a feature of Google Drive that University Technology has turned off. Bob Emmert, Business Applications Director for University Support Services, clarified that what Senator Wroblewski stated is true for personal data but Google Drive does not mine educational data. Senator Wroblewski said this makes him feel more at ease; Mr. Emmert added this was one of the things University Technology looked at when deciding to move to Google because it was a concern.

Senator Wroblewski said he still has the same concerns, however, as everyone else has expressed. He noted that while one concern University Technology has about Dropbox is that it enables users to transfer files, employees could still do that on a thumb drive. Mr. Kain remarked that everyone at the university is required to take FERPA training, and if the items transferred to a thumb drive or a personal Dropbox are covered by FERPA, they cannot leave the university, which is a federal guideline. He clarified that documents with personally identifiable and confidential information about students cannot go to an employee's Dropbox; student records must stay within the university domain. He thinks more information needs to be provided regarding what is a FERPA document because sometimes this can be a fine line; there may be questions as to whether a roster or a paper a student submitted is a FERPA document, and Mr. Kain understands this is a gray area. He thinks a FERPA expert needs to be brought into this conversation because this is a regulatory requirement of everyone as educators. Chair Thompson remarked that he would imagine the transparency requirement for Google Drive has to do with making sure that government or public property is not being misused in any way; for instance, if someone were to store pornographic images on a university computer, they could get in trouble for

that. He stated that this transparency is guaranteed to the employer, similar to the fact that an employee's office is not a private space, and the employer has a duty to make sure that government resources are not being misused. He does not think the university is scanning computers all the time, but they have the right to do so.

Senator Banash has found it relatively easy to separate the two systems: the papers he writes and the conferences he develops are in a private Google Drive account, while everything related to teaching and service in his department takes place through university email and Drive systems. Mr. Kain said this is a perfect example of what University Technology is trying to get to and he thinks Senator Banash should serve on the new committee they plan to develop. Senator Carr asked if faculty scholarship and research is considered university property; Chair Thompson responded that typically it is not, although if it is grant funded the federal government owns access to it. He stated that if the work is patented and the faculty member begins to earn money off of it, the university can split the profits, but this is an ambiguous area. He added the response to the question depends on what is meant by "research." In response to a follow-up question, Chair Thompson added that, to his knowledge, book royalties have never been split like that. He stressed it is important for everyone to remember that they are in a workplace; if faculty create work for hire, it is legal for the university to have an interest in that work, and that is the balance that needs to be maintained. Chair Thompson related that when he worked at Louisiana State University, they had a 20/80 split, with 20 percent of revenue created going to the workplace, but he is not sure what the split is at WIU.

Senator Petrocovic noted that it is very easy to move files around using the Google Drive desktop app. He said that employees must VPN to it. He observed that part of the allure to Dropbox is the ability to easily move files, but Google Drive has similar capabilities. Senator Albarracin said she has tried this but found it to be complicated and was unable to access her files from everywhere the same way she can with Dropbox. Mr. Kain offered to work with Senator Albarracin on this to make sure she has a better experience.

3. First Year Experience (FYE) Program Updates
(Mark Mossman, Associate Provost)

Chair Thompson remarked that the report Associate Provost Mossman submitted was rather bleak and shows that the FYE budget has been almost completely consumed. Associate Provost Mossman said the Provost's office has been trying to get multiple areas of the university invested in FYE, and one way to do that is to get them to pay for things. He stated that everyone knows the first four weeks of the semester are crucial, so a variety of offices from University Housing and Dining Services to Emergency Management to the University Union and others have stepped in to support the \$30,300 in initial events for students at the beginning of fall semester. Chair Thompson asked how the budget cuts have affected FYE. Associate Provost Mossman responded it has reduced the ability to hire student assistants for the program. He thinks FYE needs to focus on personnel costs to hire real peer mentors for classrooms. He explained that a road map has been developed for FYE to highlight the Leatherneck Success Leaders (LSL) program, which is resulting in really positive peer and social mentoring. Associate Provost Mossman stated that LSL students are in contact with new freshmen starting in April and all the way through their arrival on campus. He stated that FYE will soon be hiring ten of these students for this year and plans to hire 16 next year, but really 30 or more are needed. He related that the FYE program envisions expanding the LSL model so that those students have more contact with incoming students and greater flexibility to deliver support in those first weeks and somewhat after. Associate Provost Mossman related that when he began working with FYE the program had a graduate assistant; that position was quickly eliminated due to budget constraints, but some personnel support is still needed.

Associate Provost Mossman told senators it is really hard to measure the impact of the First Year Experience Program, which was hurt in recent years as a result of Covid. He stated that the program is in triage mode and trying to refocus currently because students are

experiencing content loss. He observed that in 2018 WIU's retention was 64.9 percent; after the FYE program was revised the retention rate increased to 67.2 percent, but Associate Provost Mossman is not saying the FYE changes were entirely responsible for this change because there were multiple factors. He noted that the Fall 2020 retention rate was 76.6 percent, then dropped to 71.4 percent in 2021 while the university was in the midst of the Covid crisis, and further dropped to 66.3 in the fall of 2022. Associate Provost Mossman thinks it will be interesting to see the impact on retention of returning to face-to-face instruction for most classes into the second semester of 2022-23 and next fall. Chair Thompson asked if students who went through the FYE program are tracked as to whether they persist into the second semester; Associate Provost Mossman responded that they are. Chair Thompson asked if Faculty Senate could request an update on that figure next semester; Associate Provost Mossman responded affirmatively.

Chair Thompson asked how much money the FYE program would ideally need. Associate Provost Mossman responded that he would like to see FYE returned to 2018 funding levels of about \$188,000. He said this would allow FYE to develop and correctly model the Leatherneck Success Leaders program. He noted that although the budget is dire, the second half of the report outlines all of the work the FYE program is doing. He noted that there is a great group of "Y" faculty, and pre-Covid there were some good workshops offered to these faculty members. Associate Provost Mossman stated that the FYE Leadership Committee only met once per year in the fall during Covid, and he would like to see that reactivated with Faculty Senate representation included.

Senator Brice asked if FYE is still a graduation requirement; Associate Provost Mossman replied that the "Y" course is, but the "U" course is optional except for Reach students, for whom it is required. He noted that based on recently approved changes to admissions requirements, there will be an increase in Reach-eligible students next year, so it will be important to have a "U" course in place to work on issues that come up in those courses. Senator Brice remarked that if this is something Reach students need to graduate, it seems that the university is robbing Peter to pay Paul, and he wonders who will be robbed next year in order to fund the FYE program. Associate Provost Mossman replied this is a very good question. He explained that what the Provost's office has tried to do, and has been successful in doing, is to get support from a lot of different places across the university rather than just from Academic Affairs. He noted that receiving support from Emergency Management and Student Success is very positive, but it is not enough because these areas have experienced budget cuts as well. He noted that this also decentralizes the First Year Experience program to some extent, which is good but also makes it difficult to get institution-wide programs off the ground when there is a large audience with different demands. Associate Provost Mossman said he has been hearing the expression "robbing Peter to pay Paul" a lot recently, and he recognizes the issue. Senator Brice pointed out to the Provost that the President has been clear about emphasizing institutional distinctiveness, and FYE is part of that, so he wonders why its budget is being cut. He thinks this question should be taken back to the leadership committee because Faculty Senate will not be able to resolve this.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI) (Paige Goodwin, Chair)

1. Curricular Requests from the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration

a. Request for New Course

i. HM 200, Food Service Principles and Application, 3 s.h.

b. Request for Change of Major

i. Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration

Jeremy Robinett, faculty member in the Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration (RPTA), told senators that representatives from Dietetics and Nutrition, RPTA, the College of Education and Human Services Dean's office, and the Provost's office met earlier this fall to discuss courses that had been shared since Hospitality and Dietetics were formerly part of the same department (Dietetics, Fashion Merchandising, and Hospitality). Hospitality became part of RPTA in 2018, and that program has begun to go in a different direction than Dietetics regarding what RPTA would like to offer online, in-person, and in partnership with other agencies. Dr. Robinett related that RPTA has begun to focus on transfer students and has four articulation agreements with the College of DuPage. He stated that it does not make sense to ask a class offered by another department to fit RPTA's curricular goals, particularly since accreditation standards have changed and the other department needs things that RPTA does not. Dr. Robinett stated that HM 200 will focus more on hospitality food service in order to make sure students get what they need in this area. He added that, besides adding the new course to the Tourism, Hospitality, and Event Management Option, the change will also include requiring only RPTA 399, whose new name will be Professional Issues and Practices in Leisure Services, rather than requiring both RPTA 399 and 398, Internship Seminar, which is being deleted. He said both courses were geared toward professional competencies that students needed before going on internships, but they were causing scheduling issues for students and ACE issues for faculty so were combined.

NEW COURSE AND CHANGE OF MAJOR APPROVED

2. Curricular Requests from the School of Agriculture

a. Request for New Course

i. ANSC 280, Pre-Veterinary Sciences, 3 s.h.

Chair Thompson asked Andy Baker, Director of the School of Agriculture, if he has seen an increase in interest in the field of veterinary science. Dr. Baker replied that with approval of this course, the school will be able to offer a curriculum to a population of students that up to this point not had a curriculum to embrace. Dr. Baker has thought about offering such a course during his seven years as Director of Agriculture, but he thought the essential key was having a veterinarian teach it. He has now found a WIU alumnus who graduated from Iowa State with a DVM, returned to the area, and is willing to teach the course as an adjunct; she taught it as an experimental course in Spring 2022 with 16 students enrolled. Dr. Baker related that one of the most difficult things for the School of Agriculture as far as yielding students is that students admitted as Pre-Vet have not had a curriculum to take beyond animal science courses. He recognizes that animal science courses are helpful because students have to take large animal clinical courses in veterinary school, but the companion animal part of their education has been missing. Dr. Baker said a second experimental clinical course in veterinary science was offered this fall because the instructor said that there were certain clinical practices which she needed to know when attending veterinary school but did not have the background in from WIU. He hopes that with the addition of ANSC 280 Agriculture will see a higher acceptance rate into veterinary school for WIU students in future. He noted that a new Pre-Vet Club has been created as a result of the new curriculum. He is very happy to have someone qualified to teach this

curriculum who can give students insight into what is ahead of them as veterinarians. Chair Thompson asked if Dr. Baker is saying the interest was always present, but the school did not have a way to capture it until now; Dr. Baker responded affirmatively.

NEW COURSE APPROVED

B. Council on Admission, Graduation, and Academic Standards (CAGAS)
(Julie Cox, Chair)

1. Request for Waiver of FLGI Requirement for Early Childhood Education Students with AAS Degrees

The request asks, “on behalf of the School of Education and in consultation with program coordinators, faculty, directors, and the assistant dean for teacher preparation in COEHS ... that the Foreign Language Global Issues (FLGI) course be waived as a requirement of program candidates who are working toward completing the Early Childhood Education Para Track undergraduate program option and who have transferred in an AAS degree.” CAGAS approved the request by a vote of 5 yes, 3 no, and 0 abstentions. Dr. Cox told senators that, similar to other requests approved this semester related to Early Childhood transfer students, this request is related to state legislation that limits to 120 s.h. Early Childhood programs that students admitted with an AAS degree can transfer into. She stated that the legislation is a little vague, and CAGAS discussed whether the wording really limits General Education courses since it only states that there will be a 120 s.h. cap.

Chair Thompson asked if students could take one fewer elective course if they wish to take an FLGI course as long as they stay within 120 s.h. Dr. Cox responded that the legislation is less about the elective piece and more about students taking one fewer course while working on their educator licensure. Chair Thompson asked if this means there is currently no space in their WIU curriculum to substitute an FLGI course for an elective. Dr. Cox responded that in some cases there would be space because some students will now be able to get life credit when transferring in their AAS degree. Registrar Sarah Lawson explained that her office must count all of the hours these students bring in with their AAS, which in some cases does not leave space for certain other WIU classes while remaining under the 120 hour cap.

Senator Carr said she has the same concerns about this waiver request as she would for a Gen Ed waiver. She noted that the students bringing in AAS degrees may come from places where there is not a lot of diversity, and it has already been determined that they are exempt from taking Multicultural studies. Senator Carr related that one of her students from a small town wrote that all of her experience of Muslims came from references to them in news stories about 9/11. This student wrote about how children should be engaged in many cultures with all of their senses. Senator Carr said this made her think about the ECH students transferring to WIU and how important it is that future educators understand global issues or foreign languages. She does not support this request but wonders if there is a way that ECH faculty could work with faculty teaching FLGI courses to incorporate global issues in their curriculum.

School of Education Interim Director Sebastian Szyjka responded that the school is making every effort to make sure these courses are included in the ECH program through advising because they recognize that FLGI is a graduation requirement. Chair Thompson asked how it is possible for ECH students not to take an FLGI course if it is a graduation requirement. Dr. Szyjka responded that there are a lot of loopholes in the way students are being brought in to accommodate different situations, and every situation seems to be unique for each ECH student. He said the School of Education is trying their best to get students to meet the expectations put on them by the legislation as well as bridge what WIU requires. He noted this is kind of a fine line, but the school is trying to get everything to work out.

Chair Thompson asked if the Registrar could provide an example of how a student might not take a required graduation course. Registrar Lawson responded that this is exactly what the School of Education is asking for: a waiver for a very specific small population of students because the university is being held to the new 120 hour rule and everyone is struggling with it. She added that average, traditional students will still have to take the FLGI class.

Senator Banash thinks this again raises what he sees as a larger problem. He thinks WIU is in a moment of transition where it seems complete control of its curriculum is being lost. He noted that Faculty Senate's main job has historically been to decide matters of curriculum. Senator Banash remembers that when FLGI was first created, the Senate engaged in a gigantic debate because it already represented a painful compromise to not solely require a foreign language. He recalled it seemed like the university did not care about that anymore, mostly in the name of recruitment and retention. He said that while FLGI is a huge compromise that was hammered out years ago, Faculty Senate is being told yet again, because of outside regulatory pressures, that there is another course that does not fit in this requirement. He said it is really hard to try to think about and to wrap one's head around the larger philosophical question of "Where are we?" and how many more requests like this are coming forward. Senator Banash wonders if this is the beginning of a slippery slope where essentially these larger goals for General Education and achieving a bachelor's degree will be whittled down so that WIU becomes a straight vocational program. While Senator Banash does not think this particular request has reached that point, he wonders where the university stands philosophically and practically, and what decisions can be made in relation to this.

Dr. Cox said these concerns were exactly what CAGAS debated when the request came to them, but the particular issue which is pushing these AAS requests is the legislation. She said that it affects a very small population of students, which is what pushed CAGAS to approve the request. Dr. Szyjka reported that a survey of teaching positions last year showed 2,000 vacancies in Illinois alone. He said the legislative response has been to reduce the number of barriers as much as possible; GPAs have been adjusted for a lot of Education programs, with Early Childhood reduced to 2.0 and other programs to 2.5 in an attempt to address teacher shortages. Chair Thompson asked the Registrar if she thinks the 120-hour legislative limit is what is behind a lot of the decisions regarding requested waivers; Registrar Lawson replied that is absolutely the reason. Senator Ebert Wallace observed that a couple of times people have said that this affects a small specific population and she wonders how many students this is. Registrar Lawson replied that at the beginning of fall semester there were five students.

SENATOR CARR OBJECTED TO THE REPORT

Senator Brice stated that a two-thirds vote would be required to restore the report to the agenda, and if it is not restored to the agenda it would be set aside. Chair Thompson asked if this means it would be returned to the council. Senator Brice replied that it would effectively be tabled. He said voting to restore the item to the agenda only allows for senators to discuss it further; it neither approves nor denies the request.

Motion: To restore the report to the agenda for further consideration (Brice/Hunter)

MOTION TO RESTORE FAILED 5 YES – 7 NO – 0 ABSTENTIONS

Senator Banash thinks this represents a more consequential issue. He said one reason he did not vote to return the report to the agenda is because this is a much bigger issue which will be raised again because Faculty Senate has been asked to decide similar requests over the years. Senator Banash thinks there needs to be a better, more informed way of thinking about these things. He is not completely philosophically opposed to saying that the university needs to "play ball" with the state and accept these students where they are, but Senator Banash thinks there needs to be a better framework and some deeper thinking about these issues. He thinks there needs to be a real debate about how Faculty Senate is going to

handle these requests and that some consistency and philosophy needs to be developed. He suggested that the Executive Committee bring in people to help Faculty Senate understand this and let that debate occur. Senator Banash thinks the debate in CAGAS probably needs to occur at Faculty Senate in a bigger way and involve feedback from others in the university who can better inform senators. He remarked that not everyone reads the directives from the state regarding what has to happen to comprehensive majors and other programs in the same way; accrediting bodies ask for certain things, but there is wiggle room, and not everybody interprets that in the same way. Senator Banash thinks Faculty Senate needs a much more grounded sense of where the university is with all of these types of issues because that is critical, and he suspects this is just the beginning of an avalanche of these types of requests.

Chair Thompson agrees that Faculty Senate should have a more robust discussion about this and about Gen Ed more generally – what WIU means by Gen Ed, what they want from it, and what its future looks like. Chair Thompson pointed out that the Registrar said this particular request is being pushed by statute and noted that the request could be brought forward again at a later date. He noted that this is the state legislature getting involved in the university’s curriculum, and sometimes WIU has to do things it would rather not do because state statutes require them. Chair Thompson is mindful of the pressure that the School of Education and others are under to stay within the state-mandated limits. Senator Brice reiterated that although the item was not restored to the agenda, it could be discussed again at a later date, but, since it was not restored, at this point the Senate must move on and talk about this at a further meeting.

C. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)
(Dave Hunter, Chair)

1. Faculty Nominations

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Academic Calendar Committee

Four faculty (one from each academic college) are appointed to this committee, which is convened by the Provost’s office, every four years to determine the academic calendars for the next four years. This year the committee will plan the calendars for 2025-26 through 2028-29.

Robert Mann, Mathematics and Philosophy	A&S
Mark Bernards, Agriculture	B&T
Denny Barr, Education	E&HS
Amy Burke, Speech Pathology and Audiology	FA&C

Senator Hunter asked if there are further nominations from the floor or for any of the other vacancies on the SNC report. There were none, and the slate of candidates was elected.

IV. Old Business – None

V. New Business – None

VI. For the Good of the Body

Motion: To adjourn (Brice)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Julia Albarracin, Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Interim Faculty Senate Recording Secretary