WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

Regular Meeting, *28 March 2023*, 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

A C T I O N M I N U T E S

SENATORS PRESENT: J. Albarracin, D. Atherton, D. Banash, M. Bernards, D. Brown, G. Cabedo-Timmons, A. Carr, C. Chadwell, P. Eathington, L. Ebert Wallace, D. Hunter, T. Lough, S. Macchi, K. Perone, B. Petrocovici, M. Shamsuddoha, E. Shupe, Y. Tang, B. Thompson

Ex-officio: Craig Whetten, Parliamentarian; Associate Provost Mark Mossman

SENATORS ABSENT: S. Bailey, D. Barr, B. Bellott, J. Land, J. Wroblewski

GUESTS: Paul Blome, Joe Cantu, Antonio Cardenas-Haro, Dennis DeVolder, Paige Goodwin, Jason Hawkins, Angela Kline, Sarah Lawson, Blair McDonald, Jim McQuillan, Kristi Mindrup, Russ Morgan, Rafael Obregon, Lorette Oden, Jim Olsen, Linda Prosise, Ajum Razzaque, Jim Schmidt, Il-Seop Shin, Sebastian Szjyka

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. March 7, 2023

APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Provost's Report

Associate Provost Mossman gave the report because Provost Zoghi is out of town today. Associate Provost Mossman expressed his thanks to the faculty, staff, advisors, office support staff, chairs, and others in the university community who went out of their way to reach out to and provide assistant to those students affected by the recent off-campus shooting. He particularly thanked Director of the Student Development and Success Center Samantha Klingler, Public Safety Director Derek Watts, Counseling Center Director Cara Cerullo, and all of the employees in these areas who have worked tirelessly since 3:30 Saturday morning to help these students. He noted that the Counseling Center sent out a reference guide to faculty and staff on Sunday with information on how to help students affected by the shooting, which ranges from filing a Leatherneck Care Referral to walking a student to counseling.

Associate Provost Mossman related that the interim report on 2021 has been turned in to the Higher Learning Commission, thereby closing the book on the 2021 assurance review, which was positive. The annual institutional update is due on April 7, and Associate Provost Mossman expects it to be finalized this week. He said next year the university will begin working on the HLC documentation for the next accreditation date of 2031. He will begin working on the four-year report in May.

Associate Provost Mossman told senators the Graduate Research Conference was a success, despite most of the people in charge of running it getting Covid. He stated that, from Academic Affairs to the Office of Distance Education and Research, the strategic planning and SWAT analysis is continuing as plans begin to be made for the future.

Chair Thompson suggested it would be helpful for Faculty Senate to hear a report when these types of unfortunately events, such as the recent off-campus shooting, occur. He thinks senators would be interested to hear how decisions are made, how information is communicated, how Public Safety gets involved, and the logistics of how events unfold. Associate Provost Mossman said he is not

privy to all of this information, although he knows that planning documents and protocols exist and are constantly reviewed. He said each incident contributes to a better understanding how these things happen. Associate Provost Mossman will be training next month on online threats. He stated that there is constant education and research to be proactive and get ahead of these kinds of threats and, when they happen, to handle them as properly as possible. Associate Provost Mossman thinks the team handling the aftermath of the shooting was incredibly student-focused and did a great job.

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

Mr. Cantu reported that SGA is working on the transition for next year and setting up hours for next semester. Chair Thompson asked how Mr. Cantu thinks students are reacting to the events of this past weekend. Mr. Cantu replied that SGA cancelled multiple meetings this week, including the General Assembly meeting, to allow students some relief from outside stresses. He thinks students are still feeling some distress; he has heard from some students in his classes who were in attendance at the party where the shooting occurred, and he thinks they are still very much grieving.

C. Other Announcements

1. Continuation of ChatGPT Discussion
(Antonio Cardenas-Haro, School of Computer Sciences)

Dr. Cardenas-Haro said that while artificial intelligence (AI) like ChatGPT is not new, it has advanced a lot in the past decade and is creating a revolution in a lot of different areas. ChatGPT-3 (version 3.5) was introduced in 2020. Dr. Cardenas-Haro stated tha ChatGPT-4 is ten times more advanced than its predecessor but is only available through a paid service. He explained that this version is more complex, has better context understanding, is better at distinguishing nuances and emotions in the text, and provides more coherent responses. ChatGPT-4 can understand complex mathematical equations and scientific concepts; the input of the previous version was limited to 3,000 words, but ChatGPT-4 can accept an input of 25,000 words, which results in much better responses. The advanced version will also provide sources upon request.

Dr. Cardenas-Haro noted that ChatGPT-4 has speeded up performance for software developers. He said it is a very good tool for testing, writing some parts of programs, or for checking the source code and looking for improvements in that code. He noted that weeks of work can be condensed into a few hours, allowing for extraordinary results in record time. He said ChatGPT-4 has the ability to detect some errors of logic. Unlike the previous version, it can check, analyze, and comment on images and graphics; ChatGPT-4 can describe the content of a photo and generate captions for images. Dr. Cardenas-Haro believes some of these features are advantages for educators creating material in an efficient and speedy way.

Dr. Cardenas-Haro stated, however, that the newest version of ChatGPT still has room for improvement. He said this includes the need for more neutrality in output; limitations related to understanding differences in users; integrating with other technologies; and long-term memory issues. Dr. Cardenas-Haro explained that artificial intelligence creates responses based upon previous inputs but is not very good at creating entirely new and longer documents, such as writing a novel. It struggles with generating new ideas because it uses existing data provided by humans. He pointed out that artificial intelligence is just an approximation or simulation of human intelligence; it is not an emulation at the same level or better. He noted that it is very difficult for AI to produce a lot of text and be coherent. He added that while ChatGPT can perform small coding projects to produce something specific, it is not able to write thousands of lines of code to solve something complex.

Dr. Cardenas-Haro said AI is good at detecting malware threats or attacks, but the information it uses is based on previous malware attacks. He explained that most malware

recycles former malware source codes, so it is fairly easy to detect, but if hackers devise a totally original model of attack, AI would not be able to detect it. He noted that this is because AI is not comfortable with entirely new ideas, and it is unknown whether it will ever be able to generate original content. It is also not comfortable with common sense, human emotions, and empathy, and finds it difficult to respond to human needs and preferences.

Dr. Cardenas-Haro explained that the AI system is only as good as the data is has been trained on, so if that data is biased or incomplete, the AI system will provide similar results. This can lead to discriminatory outcomes and is visible in the use of AI for facial recognition. Dr. Cardenas-Haro explained that AI systems are considered "black boxes," and even their developers do not know exactly what is happening inside them. He stated that this lack of transparency makes it difficult to trust the decisions made by AI systems and can lead to ethical and legal concerns. He added that this is why U.S. military bases that use AI do not want to trust AI systems to made decisions about killing humans.

Dr. Cardenas-Haro pointed out that this is not the first time something like AI has impacted higher education; decades ago, the introduction of basic calculators and, later, scientific calculators impacted all levels of education. He noted that the introduction of personal computers impacted education around the world, and a few years later the internet and search engines caused another revolution. Dr. Cardenas-Haro observed that all of these innovations made it easier for students to cheat, but they also allowed professors to learn more and to become more productive. He believes that higher education has to adapt because this technology will not disappear and will only continue to improve. He observed that all levels of education have adapted to and benefited from previous new technologies and have to continue to do so because the purpose of education is to benefit the public.

Dr. Cardenas-Haro thinks one advantage of AI in education is that the one-on-one model will become mainstream. He believes that tutoring and mentorship will become cheaper and more reachable, and individual learning will become more adaptive to the particular needs of the student. Dr. Cardenas-Haro pointed out that for students that want to learn there are a lot of different tools; the problem occurs when students only want to rely on ChatGPT. He thinks one way to prevent students relying on ChatGPT is to use more face-to-face exams. He noted that this was not possible during the pandemic, and cheating skyrocketed, but he thinks professors should try to go back to face-to-face exams whenever possible.

Dr. Cardenas-Haro thinks there will be more AI tools for both professors and students in the future. He noted that some universities in New York and Wisconsin have banned ChatGPT in their institutions, but students are smart enough to find ways around this. He said students could use a VPN from their laptops, a personal hotspot on their phones, or some other kind of private network to get around this rule. Dr. Cardenas-Haro uses ChatGPT to create exams for his class; he gives ChatGPT the topics, and it provides 20 true/false, multiple choice, or fill in the blank questions. He advises professors to use the pros of AI and avoid the cons as much as possible because it is here to stay.

Chair Thompson asked how expensive ChatGPT-4 is and whether students can afford it. Dr. Cardenas-Haro responded that he does not know. Senator Tang noted that it costs $20 per month.

Senator Carr pointed out that face-to-face exams are not possible for online asynchronous classes. She has heard that Turnitin is going to come out with some new detection programming in April. Dr. Cardenas-Haro recognizes that there are tools for detecting use of artificial intelligence, but they are not perfect. He pointed out that AI is evolving and getting better, so it will keep getting harder to detect. Senator Carr asked if professors should just give up on trying to get students to write and to think. Dr. Cardenas-Haro recommends that professors talk to students often about the importance of learning, not just passing classes, tell students that homework is the best way to train for exams, and try to develop a conscience in students. He noted that if exams are online, even without ChatGPT students

can use social media and get help from other students. He suggested professors provide students with different exams or assign questions randomly from a pool. He said professors can also assign 50 questions for a 50-minute class so that students do not have time to search online for answers.

Senator Hunter asked if the fact that AI logic does not hold up on longer papers is a way that professors can recognize a cheated article. Dr. Cardenas-Haro agrees that it is difficult for AI to retain coherence, so it is harder to detect cheating when short paragraphs are assigned. He added that more text will make it easier for cheating detection tools to tell that an assignment is written by artificial intelligence.

Engineering professor Il-Seop Shin noted that Dr. Cardenas-Haro has talked about using AI to write exams and asked whether artificial intelligence could be used to proctor exams. Dr. Cardenas-Haro responded that is a good question, and he has heard that there are tools in development to be able to do this, but he does not know yet how good they will be. He said there are some legal concerns because students would need to take the exams on camera and there are questions about whether they can be forced to do that. He said while there are some limitations, AI can detect network activity if the student is in the same network.

Senator Ebert Wallace asked if senators could have access to the resources listed at the end of the PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Cardenas-Haro said he would send the presentation to Ms. Hamm to distribute to senators.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

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

1. Curricular Requests from the School of Music

a. Request for New Course

i. MUS 198, K-Pop, J-Pop, and C-Pop, 3 s.h.

Music professor Jason Hawkins explained that K-Pop refers to Korean pop music, J-Pop refers to pop music from Japan, and C-Pop music is from China. He stated that Music professor Hong-Da Chin designed the course and is an expert on Asian pop music. The course will be offered entirely online every semester, and Dr. Hawkins thinks it will complement existing General Education courses. He told senators that the School of Music wants to expand their offerings beyond traditional Western music and to increase representation of other cultures and musical styles. He noted that MUS 190, a core Gen Ed course, features classical European and traditional American music, but the school has expanded to MUS 195, featuring American pop music, and a few years ago added MUS 197, American country music, both of which have been very popular and are offered online every semester. Dr. Hawkins said the school has found that the general student population is very interested in contemporary music, and Asian pop music is a trend right now with the popularity of the group BTS. The School of Music thinks this will be a high-enrolled course and will fulfill their mission of expanding the number and style of music classes offered. Chair Thompson thinks this will be a great course and asked if Dr. Hawkins thinks a course might be offered in future on Afropop. Dr. Hawkins responded that the School of Music has talked about expanding into different musical genres but must make sure they have professors in place to teach them; Music professor Al Cooper has talked about offering an African American music course and one on gospel music.

NEW COURSE APPROVED

2. Curricular Requests from the School of Agriculture

a. Request for New Minor

i. Community Forestry

Agriculture professor Paul Blome, who teaches and has worked in this field, explained that this minor is being brought to the front because he has spoken with professionals in the industry and has seen during his past several years teaching at WIU that there is a need for more employees, and the courses he teaches are applicable to the skills that companies seek. He said Agriculture has tried to put everything into this minor so that they will have a credential that can be marketed to students and that companies can recognize is applicable to their industry.

Chair Thompson asked if Mr. Blome thinks this could at some point become another major because in reading the letters of recommendation and looking through the proposal it sounds like there will be a lot of interest in it. Mr. Blome agrees there is a lot of interest, and the industry is definitely a growing one with the need for people to go into it. He related that getting people to go into the industry has been challenging, however, to the point where the industry is so desperate for employees that they are training people themselves. He said companies prefer to hire individuals with some advanced training, such as students coming out of an educational institution that could start into entry-level management and move forward from there.

Chair Thompson remarked that this seems like an industry that would be climate-change proof because community forestry is becoming increasingly important to help address the effects of the changing climate. Mr. Blome agrees, adding that humans have tried to invent machines to solve this problem but there is no better way to cool the planet than trees. He believes community forestry will bring awareness to a lot of people of the benefits of trees. He noted that to get the greatest benefits from those trees, people are needed who now how to plant them, where to point them, how to care for them, and how to best use them. Mr. Blome wants students to recognize that there are climate problems and the benefits that trees offer in solving those problems. He thinks students will then be able to see the need for people to take care of and manage trees and keep them healthy in communities to solve some of these problems for the benefit, not just of themselves, but for their neighbors, community, children, and grandchildren down the road to make the world a better place for those who follow.

NEW MINOR APPROVED

3. Curricular Requests from the School of Engineering and Technology

a. Requests for New Courses

i. ENGR 374, Electrical Circuits II, 3 s.h.
ii. ENGR 375, Electric Machines, 3 s.h.
iii. ENGR 430, Power Electronics, 3 s.h.
iv. ENGR 431, Electrical Energy Systems, 3 s.h.
v. ENGR 474, Renewable Energy, 3 s.h.
vi. ENGR 480, Microgrids, 3 s.h.

vii. ENGR 492, Independent Study, 3 s.h.

Dr. Goodwin observed that most of the requests pertain to Electrical Engineering, which is a relatively new program that has recently received ABET accreditation. She stated that the School of Engineering and Technology has a new faculty hire which has allowed them to revise, update, and expand their curriculum. Chair Thompson suggested that all of the new course proposals be considered as a group.

Engineering professor Il-Seop Shin confirmed that Electrical Engineering is a very young program with a new faculty member who started this spring, and the focus is now on growing the program. He said the new courses are intended to provide more options for students and increase enrollment. He noted these are very fundamental 300-level courses as well as more specific courses, such as ENGR 430, which concentrates on power applications. Dr. Shin said this would include any electronics, small or larger, which power from small integrated circuits into smartphones or other applications. Dr. Shin related that ENGR 431 goes over everything about these systems – how they are generated, stored, distributed, and anything else to do with electrical energy. He noted that renewable energy is a hot topic nowadays; in this class students will go over solar, wind, and geothermal energy. He stated that microgrids are another hot topic in electrical energy; towns can be considered a micro scale of the power grid, for example, and individuals can store energy in solar panels. He said individuals can not only utilize this power generated by utility companies but can actually sell those electrical energies harvested from renewable energy. Dr. Shin stated that the program has not had an independent study course, but he thinks it will be helpful to offer more special topics courses.

Chair Thompson remarked that he saw in the *Wall Street Journal* today that there is a shortage of electrical engineers. Dr. Shin agreed it is a big problem because the student population is decreasing. He noted that most engineering programs are designed as five-year programs, and students know this, but with the changes to the major, WIU's Electrical Engineering was able to stay within 120 s.h. He said the program used to require 130-140 hours to graduate but was reduced to attract more students while providing more course options. Chair Thompson remarked that the *Wall Street Journal* article said there are a lot of jobs available, and if people properly train they can easily get hired. Dr Shin said that he has been told that for every mechanical engineer hired by John Deere, one of the biggest employers in the Quad Cities area, they need three to four electrical engineers.

Senator Petrocovici noted that the description for ENGR 374 states that students will use Fourier Transform and the Fourier Series. He asked how much this course will use differential equations or if it will just rely on the frequency domain and use MATLAB to do all the work. Dr. Shin responded that the course will cover the Fourier Series and Fourier Transform fundamentals specific to circuit analysis. He said a lot of simulations will be performed, either using any programming language or using MATLAB. Senator Petrocovici asked if there is very much differential equations work involved in that. Dr. Shin replied that differential equations are covered in their other courses, such as Electrical Circuits I. Senator Petrocovici said he was surprised to see that MATH 333 is not a prerequisite for Circuits I but just Calculus III. Dr. Shin responded that ordinary differential equations is a prerequisite for all engineering courses. Senator Petrocovici wondered if students could take the proposed course, for example, before taking differential equations because Calculus III is the prereq for Circuits I, and a

student may take the two circuits courses before taking any of the default courses. Dr. Shin explained that differential equations could be taken concurrently with Circuits I, but without taking ordinary differential equations students cannot take any course beyond Circuits I; since differential equations is a prerequisite for Circuits I, a student would not be able to go on to Circuits II without taking it. Senator Petrocovici asked if this is listed somewhere in the catalog; Dr. Shin replied that it is. He shared with senators the program map showing the prerequisite structure for engineering courses. Senator Petrocovici thanked Dr. Shin for showing the program structure map and said he has no objections to differential equations not being listed as a prerequisite since it clearly in the structure and students cannot proceed without taking it early on.

NEW COURSES APPROVED

b. Requests for Changes of Majors

i. Civil Engineering
ii. Electrical Engineering

Dr. Shin explained that most of the changes being proposed to Electrical Engineering are in order to provide more of an emphasis on the new courses. Engineering professor Blair McDonald explained that the Civil Engineering program up to this point has been very linear; students have not had any elective choices, and there was a desire to open the program up a little bit. The proposal adds two areas of electives, one of which is a fundamental engineering elective which would allow students to choose two courses from a group of six. Dr. McDonald explained the six are fundamental courses from the core program of general engineering which are often dropped for Civil Engineering programs to make room for the four disciplines that are required within that major. He stated that the proposal drops the requirement to take Electrical Circuits but retains it as one of the electives, and adds additional elective courses on material science, statistics and probability, thermodynamics, and others; students will take courses from two areas instead of just the one Electrical Circuits. Six elective hours have also been added to the junior/senior year where students can broaden the base of what they do. Dr. McDonald said the proposal uses construction management courses and existing 400-level engineering courses for those electives. Engineering has been able to add electives into the program without adding new courses to the catalog or curriculum. Dr. McDonald pointed out the changes include adding a surveying class in the freshman year that will expand the computer-aided design work that students do and introduce them to plane surveying. Additionally, the capstone project will change from a two-semester sequence to a one-semester course, and the requirement for the engineering internship has been removed.

Senator Hunter asked about the justification for increasing the semester hours for the Civil Engineering major. Dr. McDonald explained that in order to give students the option to take these other electives, there had to be some additional room added. He noted reducing the engineering capstone senior project by three hours and eliminating the required internship saved five hours, but the program will go up from 120 hours to 127, which Dr. McDonald thinks is justified by the additional background and fundamentals that civil engineers need. He added that the major is really ten hours short of what the school would really like it to be.

Senator Banash asked how other programs across the country compare and if they are 137 hours since that the proposed program will be 127 hours and there are some who would really like it to be ten more. Dr. McDonald responded that civil engineering programs range from 120 to 135, and programs of 125 to 127 hours are not unusual. He has been a proponent for 120 hours for the last 20 years and worked hard to keep that lid on, but as he looks at the civil engineering graduates currently going out without having taken a surveying class and having only taken electrical circuits but not material science or thermodynamics, he thinks it is time to let this hours cap go, add the extra hours in, and send out graduates with better backgrounds.

Chair Thompson asked if civil engineers have to pass examinations; Dr. McDonald replied that they do for professional licensure. He added that an engineer must take the fundamentals of engineering exam, then work under the guidance of a professional engineer for four years, and finally pass the principles of engineering exam. He noted there may be state exams as well, particularly in California, Texas, Pennsylvania, and New York. Chair Thompson asked if these curricular changes will help students prepare for that. Dr. McDonald replied the six fundamental courses are intended specifically to provide knowledge for the fundamentals of engineering exam that graduates take to start on their professional licensure path. Chair Thompson stated that when looked at like that, the additional hours seem very reasonable. Dr. McDonald stated that by keeping the cap at 120 hours, something had to be sacrificed, and these courses represent the basic background that engineers need. He said that rather than continuing to sacrifice, Engineering plans to ask its Civil Engineering graduates to do a little bit more.

4. <u>Curricular Requests from the Department of Mathematics and Philosophy</u>

a. Requests for New Courses

Dr. Goodwin remarked that the changes are primarily aimed at simplifying issues related to transfer students. She recommended that the first two course requests be considered together.

i. MATH 106, Mathematics for Elementary Teaching I, 3 s.h.
ii. MATH 206, Mathematics for Elementary Teaching II, 3 s.h.

Mathematics professor Jim Olsen related these changes were originally proposed by advisors in the School of Education. He recalled that about ten or 15 years ago the state of Illinois published new standards for teacher education, and WIU determined plans to meet those standards, but it has been found that the result was not very transfer friendly. Dr. Olsen related that MATH 106 and 206 existed until about 12 years ago, at which time Math determined its own course to meet the new standards. He added that MATH 106 and 206 are still being taught across the country and included in the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI), so many transfer students already have taken these courses.

Dr. Olsen related that the goals in purposing these two courses are to make WIU more transfer friendly; remove some of the barriers to becoming a Pre-K through 8th grade teacher; respond to recommendations from Math professional societies; and make sure to meet the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) standards. He noted that MATH 106 is taken by Early Childhood, Elementary Education, Special Education, and Middle School Education students and focuses on number sense and algebraic thinking.

MATH 206 focuses on geometry, measurements, and statistical reasoning. Dr. Olsen explained that after these two courses, Early Childhood students are done and go on to their teaching methods course; Elementary, ESL, and Special Education students go on to MATH 266; and Middle School Education students go on a different path.

Senator Carr asked if Dr. Olsen thinks anything is lost by returning to the original 106 and 206 courses; Dr. Olsen thinks this is a good change. He explained that previously the idea was to use existing courses and the decision was made to use MATH 128, Pre-Calculus Algebra. He said MATH 128 was not part of the program but was a prerequisite course for MATH 260, so it became a difficult and unnecessary hurdle for Early Childhood students. He thinks it will be a positive change to require the three 3 s.h. courses for the Elementary Education majors and two for the Early Childhood majors. Dr. Olsen added that at the time the former plan seemed to make sense, but over the course of 12 years it has become kind of problematic.

Senator Petrocovici, who was assistant chair of the Department of Mathematics for many of those years, related that at that point the department wanted to use existing courses to meet the new ISBE requirements, but one-size-fits-all does not work. He thinks Pre-Calc was overkill for these majors that did not need that much math but is still a valid course for Middle Level Math. Senator Petrocovici thinks that toning down the level of math is appropriate, and the previous plan was an experiment that did not work out. He added that the department tried to minimize creating new courses at the expense of making them too hard for many students, so he thinks it is a good move to go back and choose the appropriate level of math for these majors.

MATH 106 AND 206 APPROVED

iii. MATH 266, Algebra and Statistics for Elementary Teaching, 3 s.h.

Dr. Olsen explained that MATH 266 was specially designed to meet the standards of the ISBE and to meet the content test that these students will be expected to pass. He added that it picks up some additional algebra and statistics topics.

Chair Thompson asked if the changes are reflective of the fact that statistics is becoming a more important part of math in our culture; Dr. Olsen confirmed this is true. He explained that the new state requirements 12 years ago ramped up the statistical knowledge expected of teachers, and STAT 171 was being used for that purpose. He noted that MATH 266 includes an introduction to statistics and some of the material from STAT 171, as well as additional topics. He noted that while not all of General Education statistics will be covered in this class, the statistics expectations for teachers and most of educated society are higher now than they were 20 years ago. Chair Thompson remarked he has read that in future this may be looked back on as the great age of statistics because it gets put into everything, even the statistical analysis of English texts.

MATH 266 APPROVED

b. Request for Change of Minor

i. Middle Level Mathematics Teaching

Dr. Olsen related that Middle School Mathematics Teaching is located within the School of Education, but in order to teach anything graduates have to have an area of study. He noted that there are four areas, with the Middle Level Mathematics Teaching area located in the College of Arts and Sciences. He explained that state regulations require that this area be at least 24 s.h., but WIU requires that minors be no more than 24 s.h., so part of the challenge was to make sure it was 24 hours exactly. He stated that in order to do that MATH 260 is being removed while MATH 106 and 206 are being added. He added that when changes were made 10-15 years ago, MATH 402 had to drop to 2 s.h., but it can now be returned to a 3 s.h. course. The directed elective is also being removed.

Dr. Hunter asked why MATH 402 was increased from 2 s.h. to 3 s.h. Dr. Olsen explained that when changes were made a number of years ago, MATH 402 was a 4 s.h. class. He said at that time there were a number of classes that were not 3 s.h., although all Math classes have now been changed to 3 s.h.; in order to make 402 fit it was decided at that time to trim it to 3 s.h. He added that MATH 402, an upper-level geometry course that is targeted at teaching, is a G course, and a number of graduate students take it along with undergraduates. He noted that graduate students prefer 3 s.h. courses because 2 s.h. courses are not good fits, so this is a neat tidying up to accompany the package of changes. Dr. Hunter asked if the course has expanded its material content by 30 percent. Dr. Olsen responded that it has, and the change in semester hours and description was approved at the college level and at CCPI.

CHANGE OF MINOR APPROVED

IV. Old Business

A. Updated Unit B Emeritus Faculty Proposal

Computer Sciences professor Jim McQuillan, who proposed the change, thanked Senator Banash for suggesting that a survey be conducted to determine what emeritus title Unit B faculty would prefer if the proposal was passed. He related that Unit B faculty were given three choices: to append Emeritus to their title (Instructor Emeritus, Senior Instructor Emeritus, Assistant Professor Emeritus); to just have the title be Emeritus; or Associate Faculty Emeritus. He said 24 Unit B faculty responded; 13 of them chose as their first choice Associate Faculty Emeritus. Seven of the 24 chose to append Emeritus to their titles, and four chose just Emeritus as their first choice. Because Associate Faculty Emeritus was chosen by more than half of those responding, the proposal was revised to adopt that title in a revised policy.

Chair Thompson asked if Unit A faculty are simply referred to as Emeritus; Dr. McQuillan responded that Unit A faculty who have worked at WIU seven years, are tenured and retired are referred to as Professor Emeritus; non-academic vice presidents who retire after seven years get the title of Administrator Emeritus. Dr. McQuillan noted that currently Unit A faculty get no recognition, but this proposal would provide them with an Associate Professor Emeritus title if they retire after seven years of full-time employment. He added that if Faculty Senate approves the proposal, the recommendation would go to President Huang to decide whether to change the policy.

Motion: To approve the proposal (Hunter/Tang)

MOTION APPROVED 13 YES – 0 NO – 0 ABSTENTIONS

Dr. McQuillan thanked senators for considering and approving this proposal.

V. New Business

A. For the Good of the Body

1. Chair Thompson told senators that the President, Provost, and all the Trustees he has spoken to agree that WIU should have a bullying or mobbing policy. He related that President Huang thinks this can be a university policy rather than a Board of Trustees policy. Chair Thompson thinks creating a university policy would have the same effect as changing the Board of Trustees regulations.

2. Senator Carr stated that the reason senators had an early college consideration document in their packets for today was because this was recently passed by the Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council. Senator Carr said the council hopes the document can be used in a variety of venues, such as by high school students, parents, advisors, and others at the high school level. They also hope it might help dual credit coordinators at the community college level to have more discernment about how much early college credit classes to recommend that high school students take. Senator Carr added that the document was crafted by representatives of both community college and four-year institutions.

   Chair Thompson thinks the document is a good idea and that it clarifies the issues. Senator Carr remarked that there seems to be an assumption that early college credit is all good, and this document kind of pushes back on that idea. She thinks there is a lot of pressure from parents to pursue these courses.

3. Senator Shupe announced that a mobile food pantry will be held on Friday, March 31 in conjunction with River Bend. The mobile food pantry, which is open to all university and community members, will be held at the old HyVee parking lot at 318 University Drive. Senator Shupe said the food pantry will have whole turkeys, pork loins, sliced ham, fresh produce, and more. She related that individuals can come in their cars from 10-11:30 a.m. and have the food loaded into their vehicles. She asked senators to share this information with their students and others.

4. Chair Thompson asked Ms. Hamm when the Faculty Senate elections will be held. Ms. Hamm responded that they will be on the April 11 agenda. She said that Faculty Senate officers and Senate Nominating Committee representatives will be elected for the fall.

Motion: To adjourn (Banash)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary