

**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Regular Meeting, 8 March 2016, 4:00 p.m.
Capitol Rooms - University Union**

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: S. Bennett, V. Boynton, J. Brown, A. Burke, G. Cabedo-Timmons, D. DeVolder, K. Dodson, R. Hironimus-Wendt, S. Holt, K. Kapale, C. Keist, N. Lino, B. Locke, J. Myers, K. Pawelko, T. Roberts, T. Sadler, B. Siever, A. Silberer, T. Solomonson, T. Westerhold
Ex-officio: Nancy Parsons, Associate Provost; Janna Deitz, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: D. Halverson, C. Pynes

GUESTS: Andy Borst, Craig Conrad, Katrina Daytner, Margaret Hoffman, Tammy Killian, Charles Lydeard, Stacey Macchi, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Kyle Mayborn, Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Dovile Svirupskaite, Lora Wolff, Jeannie Woods, John Wozniak

Vice Chair Myers acted as chair in the absence of Chairperson Pynes.

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. February 23, 2016

Corrections:

- Add Senators Solomonson and Pawelko to list of Senators Present.
- During the Provost's Report, add that the Pre-Law Symposium included a WIU Alumni Panel which was composed of graduates from History, Political Science, and Law Enforcement and Justice Administration, all of whom are currently attending law school. (Roberts)

MINUTES APPROVED AS CORRECTED

II. Announcements

A. Approvals from the Provost

1. Requests for New Courses

- a) ANTH 210, Medical Anthropology, 3 s.h.
- b) CHEM 190, Introduction to Chemistry Research, 1-4 s.h., repeatable to 4 s.h.
- c) CHEM 251, Introduction to Forensic Applications, 3 s.h.
- d) CHEM 455, Forensic Serology and DNA Analysis, 3 s.h.
- e) POLS 447, Administrative Law and Politics, 3 s.h.

2. Request for Change of Major

- a) Forensic Chemistry

B. Provost's Report

Associate Provost Parsons announced that President Thomas will be testifying on WIU's budget before the state legislature in Springfield on March 10.

C. Student Government Association (SGA) Report

(Dovile Svirupskaite, SGA Representative to Faculty Senate)

- SGA President Wil Gradle will give a State of the Students address at 3:00 p.m. on March 9 in the Sherman Hall Auditorium.
- SGA elections will be held after spring break. The voting period has been extended to one month rather than two weeks.
- A bill will be coming before SGA to encourage WIU to add gender-inclusive housing in residence halls. The bill seeks to have one undergraduate living-learning community floor dedicated to non-binary and transgender individuals. It has the support of three resident assistants and the head staff member of Thompson Hall. Ms. Svirupskaite noted that the bill asserts that students have left WIU and/or the residence halls because of the lack of gender-inclusive housing.

D. Other Announcements

1. The election to determine two representatives on the Faculty Senate for fall 2016 from the College of Arts and Sciences resulted in Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Sociology and Anthropology, winning one seat while the other seat ended in a tie vote. Ballots to vote for Matt Blankenship, Psychology, or Marjorie Allison, English, to fill the remaining Arts and Sciences seat are due by March 11.
2. The deadline for the Senate Nominating Committee interest survey is March 10. Senator Boynton asked senators to encourage their colleagues to complete the survey.
3. Senator Boynton announced that a presentation on “The Significance of Betty Friedan” will be held at 7:00 p.m. March 9 on the first floor of the Multicultural Center. Presenter Barbara Mantz Drake is a retired *Peoria Journal Star* editor and member of the Betty Friedan Hometown Tribute Committee, which seeks to honor Friedan in and around her hometown of Peoria. A reception will follow the presentation, which is co-sponsored by the Departments of History, Women’s Studies, Broadcasting and Journalism, and Political Science; the College of Arts and Sciences; and the WIU Women’s Center.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI)
(Lora Wolff, Chair)

Motion: To move requests from the School of Agriculture to the end of the CCPI report (after III.A.4.) in order to allow the School’s faculty representative to arrive at the meeting following her lab (DeVolder/Pawelko)

MOTION APPROVED 21 YES – 0 NO – 0 AB

1. Curricular Requests from the Department of Management and Marketing

a) Request for Change of Major

(1) Marketing

Senator Boynton asked why the department must convert its existing undergraduate certificates into options. Associate Provost Parsons answered that the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) will not approve certificates that are under 30 s.h., and WIU was in violation with certificates of 9-15 s.h. She added that this is also true at the graduate level, where some WIU graduate certificates were 12-15 s.h. but have now been increased to 18 s.h. to meet the IBHE guidelines. Associate Provost Parsons added that the existing Fire Science undergraduate certificates for Bachelor of General Studies students are already 30 s.h.

CHANGE OF MAJOR APPROVED

3. Curricular Requests from the Department of Biological Sciences

a) Requests for New Courses

- (1) BIOL 476, Special Topics, 3 s.h., repeatable for different topics to 9 s.h.
- (2) MICR 476, Special Topics, 3 s.h., repeatable for different topics to 9 s.h.

NEW COURSES APPROVED

4. Curricular Requests from the Department of Theatre and Dance

a) Requests for New Courses

- (1) THEA 145, Fundamentals of Lighting and Sound, 3 s.h.
- (2) THEA 165, Fundamentals of Costume Creation, 3 s.h.

Senator Boynton asked what the distinction is between this course and apparel courses in the Department of Dietetics, Fashion Merchandising, and Hospitality. Senator Keist, who teaches ATM 171, Basic Clothing Construction Techniques, asserted that the courses represent two totally distinct ways to make clothing. She explained that costume construction, which is specific to a short-term event, is very different from apparel construction, in which the clothing is intended to be worn over a long period of time. She stressed there is no overlap.

- (3) THEA 350, Technical Theatre Practicum III, 1 s.h.

Senator Boynton asked why THEA 350 and 450 are apparently taught outside of ACE loads; the Redistribution of Teaching Load section states “Since the Technical Director manages the practicum courses outside of ace loads there will not need to be redistribution of teaching loads to accommodate the new course.” Theatre and Dance professor Jeannie Woods explained that the Technical Director is staff rather than faculty.

- (4) THEA 450, Technical Theatre Practicum IV, 1 s.h.

NEW COURSES APPROVED

b) Requests for Changes of Options

- (1) Performance (B.A. in Theatre)

Senator Hironimus-Wendt commended the Department of Theatre and Dance for adding THEA 145, Fundamentals of Lighting and Sound, to its Performance option. He believes this is an important skill that can provide a lot of jobs for graduates.

- (2) Production/Design (B.A. in Theatre)

CHANGES OF OPTIONS APPROVED

2. Curricular Requests from the School of Agriculture (Reordered)

a) Requests for New Courses

- (1) HORT 370, Plants in the Human Context, 3 s.h.

SENATOR HIRONIMUS-WENDT OBJECTED TO THE COURSE

Senator Hironimus-Wendt explained that he suspects HORT 370 overlaps with existing courses in History and Anthropology, and he would like the Chair of the School of Agriculture to consult with the Chair of Sociology and Anthropology to make sure there is not significant overlap with three Anthropology courses. He added that his department's anthropologist was unaware of the course proposal until he brought it to her attention.

Sociology and Anthropology professor Heather McIlvaine-Newsad stated that it is good to have faculty interested in issues of sustainability and environmentalism, which are inherently collaborative. Dr. McIlvaine-Newsad stated that Anthropology is the only major in the state of Illinois with a focus on environmental issues and, as such, environmentalism runs through virtually all Anthropology courses. She read aloud the descriptions for three courses which she believes may present potential overlap with HORT 370: ANTH 415, Environmental Anthropology; ANTH 420, Cultural Feast: The Anthropology of Food; and ANTH/BOT 463, Ethnobotany.

Parliamentarian Deitz asked the CCPI Chair if there is Arts and Sciences representation on the Council. Dr. Wolff replied that there are three faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences currently serving on CCPI: one from the Department of History, one from Sociology/Anthropology, and one from English. Dr. Wolff informed senators that at the meeting at which HORT 370 was considered, however, all three Arts and Sciences representatives were absent. CCPI members who were present suspected possible overlap between HORT 370 and courses in Biological Sciences and asked the School of Agriculture to obtain a letter of support from the Chair of Biology, which was received. Dr. Wolff explained that the absence of the Arts and Sciences representatives might help explain why CCPI did not immediately realize that the Horticulture course might also overlap with History and Sociology/Anthropology.

Senator Boynton remarked that the Department of History offers Environmental History courses (HIST 316 and 421). She is not sure the proposed course description for HORT 370 accurately indicates what areas will be covered in the course. Senator Boynton believes it would be best if representatives from the School of Agriculture sit down with representatives from History and Sociology/Anthropology to discuss their respective courses. She remarked that it is good that so many departments think that history and the environment are important, but these are areas of expertise for the Departments of History and Sociology/Anthropology.

Vice Chair Myers asked if the Department of History provided a letter of support for the course; Senator Boynton confirmed that they did.

Sociology and Anthropology Chair John Wozniak pointed out that the Relationship to Courses in Other Departments section of the request states, "Although courses in the Department of Biological Sciences cover plants and plant ecology, none focus on the role of plants in a human context." He stressed that ANTH/BOT 463, Ethnobotany, does exactly this, so this inaccurate statement should not be allowed to move forward.

Motion: To return HORT 370 to CCPI and that it not return to Faculty Senate until the issues are resolved between Agriculture, Sociology and Anthropology, and History (DeVolder/Brown)

Senator Hironimus-Wendt asked if there is a pressing need for the School of Agriculture to have HORT 370 approved today. Agriculture professor Margaret Hoffman replied that she has no objections to the proposal being returned to CCPI. She explained that the School of Agriculture was not trying to exclude anyone; rather, the inadvertent omission of some departments comes from the narrow lens that individuals view things that relate to their own specialties. Dr. Hoffman stated that, as a plant scientist, she didn't think to look for similar courses in Anthropology. She stressed that the intention was not to try to put anything over on anyone; she merely thought such a course would provide a good opportunity to expand the horizons of students taking Agriculture courses, who oftentimes come mostly from central Illinois. Dr. Hoffman thought these students could benefit from seeing that the way they manage horticultural crops is based on much more than they might suspect, and she wanted to enlarge their perspectives on crop production techniques. Senator Hironimus-Wendt stated that Faculty Senate welcomes the new course; his concern is in regards to the context.

**MOTION TO SEND BACK TO CCPI APPROVED
20 YES – 0 NO – 1 AB**

(2) HORT 386, Sustainable Landscape Construction, 3 s.h.

HORT 386 APPROVED

B. Senate Nominating Committee
(Ginny Boynton, Chair)

SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:

Council on General Education

Gary Daytner, Educ Studies replacing Joann Sellen Spr 16 only At-large

Senator Boynton explained that the at-large position on CGE must come from a department that does not offer General Education courses in the other categories. There were no further nominations, and the nominee was declared elected.

IV. Old Business – None

V. New Business

Senator Keist remarked that she hopes the new faculty member from the School of Agriculture did not feel ambushed. She wants to make sure that if issues with a piece of curriculum are discovered prior to future Senate meetings, that the person coming before Faculty Senate is aware of those concerns prior to the meeting. She would like to see departments contacted before these sorts of discussions occur on the Senate floor so that requests can be pulled from the agenda.

Dr. Hoffman replied that she did not feel ambushed and was copied on emails that occurred prior to the Senate meeting discussing concerns with the course. Dr. McIlvaine-Newsad added that she was also copied on emails, in one of which the Senate Recording Secretary asked the School of Agriculture Chair if he wished to pull the request before it came before Senate and he responded that he did not. Senator Boynton added that she sent out many emails on Saturday, March 5 when she noticed the possible overlap.

Senator Roberts is not comfortable calling the discussion at Senate an “ambush.” He pointed out that Faculty Senate is the last sanctioned place for these types of discussions to occur. He does not think there was a cabal to undermine this course and believes that the Senate is a legitimate place to flesh out these issues.

Senator Keist understands that Faculty Senate is the place for these types of discussions, but also wants department representatives to be aware of issues so that they have the opportunity to address them prior to coming to the meeting rather than be caught in conversations for which they may not be prepared. Senator Keist added that this happened to her once when bringing a curricular request to Faculty Senate.

Senator Silberer noted that it is important to attend those meetings prior to Senate at which these concerns can be raised. Associate Provost Parsons agreed, stating that communication is vital for a well-oiled machine. She stressed that those who receive curriculum packages as representatives of groups such as Faculty Senate and CCPI should be bringing items of interest to the attention of those in their departments and colleges. She stated that this oversight should occur as early as possible so that these types of conversations do not need to happen in future. She added that the department chair is not the only one that can raise concerns; it helps to have a unified effort to involve everyone in the process.

Senator Boynton stated that Faculty Senate is intended to be a deliberative body, not a rubber stamp, and it provides one last chance to question items of curriculum before they go on to the Provost for approval. Associate Provost Parsons stated that, likewise, at the college curriculum level it is important to think globally and consider potential overlap in areas beyond one’s own discipline or college.

A. Proposed Addition of FYE Language to Course Syllabus Policy

The proposal asks that this statement be required for all FYE course syllabi:

First Year Experience students will learn how to successfully transition to the university and discuss how to live well as a student (physically, intellectually, socially/civically and emotionally) in UNIV 100. FYE Y courses will connect the material being learned in UNIV 100 to the topics covered in their department specific or pre-professional Y classes so that students are not only learning the material regarding how to transition (UNIV 100) but also have an environment where they can apply these tools for success (Y course). If students can learn to live well as a student and be successful in their first semester, they should be able to transfer those skills to their other academic courses in their first semester and beyond.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt stated that he is not in favor of the additional language. He stated that when he thinks of information that should be on syllabi, he would like to see directives to the student, such as the faculty member’s contact information and how to get help with disability support. He noted that the FYE proposal does not include anything like a directive. He stated that while he likes the sentiment, he does not think it would be appropriate to include in syllabi and will vote against the proposal.

Senator Boynton agreed that the statement does not seem to be appropriate for syllabi. She thinks it looks more like a statement of FYE philosophy, while the syllabus is a contract outlining what faculty expect from students and what students can expect from faculty. She does not think the FYE language looks like other required language in the Course Syllabus Policy.

Associate Provost Parsons explained the intent of the proposal was to unify Y and UNIV 100 courses in order to help students understand that there is a campuswide FYE program that includes not only classes but also University Housing and Dining and other aspects that play a part in the First Year Experience. She said the proposal language is informational because students do not understand why they have to take one section of UNIV100 and one Y section during their freshman year.

Senator DeVolder believes the first part of the paragraph reflects general objectives for FYE courses rather than a philosophy of FYE. He pointed out that the Course Syllabus Policy includes precedent for this type of general statement under #9 and #10, which are specific to Writing Instruction in the Disciplines courses and Bachelors of General Studies online writing courses.

FYE Faculty Associate Stacey Macchi told senators the proposal comes from the FYE Committee on Classes, whose members include faculty appointments made by Faculty Senate, and the FYE Leadership Team. She related that both groups have worked hard the past year and a half to further the connection between UNIV 100 instructors and Y faculty. Dr. Macchi related that when Senator Roberts expressed concerns in fall 2015 about the connection between Y and the revamped UNIV 100 program, she and others came to a Senate meeting to talk about the expectations for these courses and how they are connected. She related that a lot of First Year Experience research suggests that in order to be successful there needs to be strong collaboration between all partners and parts of FYE – faculty as well as University Housing and Dining, Student Judicial Programs, academic advisors, and Building Connections mentors. Dr. Macchi stressed that the FYE committees want to further these connections. She noted that, as pointed out by Senator DeVolder, there is a precedent for including statements regarding WID and BGS courses on course syllabi, so FYE leadership felt it was appropriate to do the same for FYE courses, particularly since taking and passing two FYE courses is a WIU graduation requirement.

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, who serves on the FYE Leadership Team, agreed with Dr. Macchi. She respects Senator Hironimus-Wendt's observation that the FYE statement is more of a suggestion than a directive, but added that the FYE committees followed the examples of #9 and #10 in the Course Syllabus Policy to try to add some cohesion to all courses within the First Year Experience.

Senator Bennett said that while he has no problem with inclusion of an FYE statement in the Course Syllabus Policy, the current proposal seems to be written more with the FYE instructor in mind than a student. He suggested the statement could be made more student-centered by changing the language from third person to second person directed at the student, such as in the first sentence changing "First Year Experience students will learn how to successfully transition..." to "You will learn how to successfully transition..." He also does not think the section about Y courses is well defined in the proposal: "*FYE Y courses will connect the material being learned in UNIV 100 to the topics covered in their department specific or pre-professional Y classes so that students are not only learning the material regarding how to transition (UNIV 100) but also have an environment where they can apply these tools for success (Y course).*" Senator Bennett believes this sentence is written awkwardly and seems to indicate that Y courses will connect with Y courses. Associate Provost Parsons explained that department specific Y courses refer to Gen Ed courses with department prefixes. Senator Boynton agreed that the current wording is hard to follow that and suggested that simply stating "This course will connect the material..." might make it clearer.

Senator Siever said that he is skeptical that a blurb on a syllabus distributed the first day of class will help students make these connections. He is not sure that adding the FYE statement will make a meaningful impact on students. Associate Provost Parsons explained that the course syllabus statement is not stand-alone but represents one piece of a larger program that begins with S.O.A.R., where students learn about FYE and transition to the University, and continues with different pieces throughout the student's first year. She explained the intention is for Y faculty and U100 instructors to come together and develop an understanding of how these courses interact with other pieces, including Building Connections, academic advisors, and University Housing and Advising, to complete students' transition experience. Senator Siever asked if the experience would be changed at all upon removal of this one piece because he is not sure its inclusion will be meaningful to students. Associate Provost Parsons reiterated that the proposal follows a path paved by the addition of WID and BGS statements to the Course Syllabus Policy.

Senator Dodson believes that sometimes faculty need to be literal because students do not make connections unless they are forced to do so. She thinks the FYE statement will put students on

notice, and then hopefully UNIV 100 instructors and Y faculty will reinforce these points. She approves of putting literal information on syllabi and sees the purpose of this statement as helping students see the connections between Y and U100 classes. Dr. Macchi agreed that sometimes students, particularly first year students, need things explicitly pointed out to them.

Ms. Svirupskaite thinks it is a good idea to include the statement on syllabi. She said that while students hear this information repeatedly, beginning at S.O.A.R., it is sometimes good to see something in writing on a syllabus. She thinks such a statement would have been helpful to her and that it makes a lot of sense.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt withdrew his objection to the statement.

Motion: To rewrite the FYE statement in second person, including specific suggestions by senators, and bring back a statement that is directed more toward the student (Boynton/Locke)

MOTION APPROVED 21 YES – 0 NO – 0 AB

Senator Boynton asked if changes to the Associate of Science degree discussed in the Executive Committee minutes will be coming before Faculty Senate. Associate Provost Parsons responded that these were sent to the Council on General Education last week; however, the Registrar and Director of Admissions could not be present to provide context. She hopes the two can come to the next CGE meeting, after which the Council's recommendation will come to the Senate.

Motion: To adjourn (Kapale)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Jeff Brown, Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary