

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY
SENATE Regular Meeting, 12 April 2022, 4:00 p.m.
Union Capitol Rooms/Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: D. Atherton, S. Bailey, D. Banash, L. Brice, G. Cabedo-Timmons, A. Carr, J. Choi, L. Ebert Wallace, R. Filipink, J. Land, I. Lauer, T. Lough, S. Macchi, D. Oursler, B. Polley, J. Robinett, E. Shupe, Y. Tang, E. Taylor, B. Thompson, K. Trennepohl, J. Wroblewski

Ex-officio: Billy Clow, Interim Provost; Betsy Perabo, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: R. Sawhney, S. Szyjka

GUESTS: Audrey Adamson, Julia Albarracin, Denny Barr, Brian Bellott, Steve Bennett, Mark Bernards, Tom Blackford, Angela Bonifas, Dan Brown, Charlie Chadwell, Craig Conrad, Cody Cornell, Dennis DeVolder, Francis Godwyll, Everett Hamner, Buzz Hoon, Dave Hunter, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Kristi Mindrup, Russ Morgan, Lorette Oden, Boris Petrocovici, Renee Polubinsky, Christopher Pynes, Jim Schmidt

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. March 8, 2022

APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Approvals from the Provost

1. Requests for New Courses
 - a. PHYS 464, Introduction to Materials Science, 3 s.h.
 - b. PHYS 472, Experimental Techniques in Materials Science, 3 s.h.
2. Request for New Option
 - a. Materials Science
3. Request for Change of Major
 - a. Health Services Management
4. Request for New Minor
 - a. Sustainable Business
5. Request for WID Designation
 - a. HS/NUTR 408, Community Nutrition and Health Program, 3 s.h.

B. Provost's Report

Interim Provost Clow apologized for the late notice on the WIU homepage announcing that a candidate for the position of University Technology CIO will interview on Friday, April 15. The public session will be at 2:00 p.m. He explained that technology positions are very fluid and candidates often need to interview fairly quickly so that the university does not lose candidates. He encourages the university community to attend the interview because technology is an integral part of what everyone does.

Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton will visit the WIU-Macomb campus on Monday, April 18. The Lt. Governor will meet with representatives of the School of Education to talk about teacher education opportunities in the state. She will meet with representatives of the Illinois Institute for Rural

Affairs and the School of Agriculture to discuss projects they have been working on to address agricultural equity and food insecurity across the state. Her visit will also include meeting with student constituents. Interim Provost Clow told senators the Lt. Governor will spend almost the entire day at WIU, arriving at 11 a.m. and staying through the afternoon.

United States Representative Cheri Bustos will visit the Quad Cities campus on Wednesday, April 20. WIU recently received \$2 million in federal money earmarked for grants and an emergency operations center and a separate \$400,000 Department of Economics Security grant that will go toward the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs and the Small Business Association at WIUQC.

Senator Thompson asked Interim Provost Clow if he could talk about the extra funding WIU might be receiving from Senator Durbin's office because Senator Thompson has heard there might be quite a bit of money flowing WIU's way. Interim Provost Clow responded there were a number of things included in the budget proposal at the last minute, and WIU's governmental liaison is still trying to parse them out. Funding has been included for a number of initiatives, including a retroactive salary increase for this year, but Interim Provost Clow is unsure of the criteria; some of the funds are earmarked for nursing and include funds to support salaries for nursing instructors and scholarships for nursing students. Other funding is designated for additional Monetary Assistance Program (MAP) funding for summer and a number of other one-time specific line items. Interim Provost Clow told senators the administration is trying to make sure that WIU has a handle on all of these opportunities. Senator Thompson has heard there might be additional federal funding coming WIU's way. Interim Provost Clow responded there is a proposal for additional conditional funding but nothing concrete yet.

Senator Thompson asked about the new policy that emails be limited to WIU business. Interim Provost Clow responded that a security audit of the university's IT structure resulted in a number of findings regarding websites and email accounts. As a result of this audit, a number of technology policies have been revised. Interim Provost Clow reminded senators that some security updates were completed a number of years ago, and random phishing exercises were conducted to see if employees were susceptible to phishing attacks; those experiments, which are now required, will be conducted again sometime next year along with phishing training. Additionally, annual computer security training will now be required. The password policy will now require users to establish a 12-character password rather than the current 8-character password; at some point, multi-factor identification will also be added with required security questions, particularly for off-campus use. Interim Provost Clow noted that with approximately 140,000 alumni in addition to past and current employees, there were thousands of email addresses being unused. Former University Technology CIO Rebecca Slater found 40,000 emails being accessed on the dark web by nefarious means; Interim Provost Clow stated that, although nothing serious resulted in this misuse and the accounts were all shut down, the audit requires that this be cleaned up. Interim Provost Clow related that University Technology has created a new three-tiered system for email addresses; current employees and students will be able to keep the wiu.edu suffix, but email addresses for graduates will change to alumni.wiu.edu, and emeriti and retired employees will add similar extensions. He explained that this will create control groups rather than lumping all emails together into one place. If an email account is not used within 180 days, it will be turned off, but not deleted, and can be turned back on upon request. Interim Provost Clow explained the last policy, a data handler policy, clarifies that use of university-provided technology provided through the state are only to be used for university business; anything beyond that, such as politicking, is prohibited. He added that University Technology has put together a sheet with links that will be available soon to address these questions. University Technology will also be reaching out soon with specific information about changing passwords to the new system.

B. Student Government Association Report
(Cody Cornell, SGA representative to Faculty Senate)

Mr. Cornell related that SGA held its elections for next year's President, Board of Trustees Representative and Speaker.

SGA representatives recently held a campus safety walk with Office of Public Safety Director Derek Watts. Earlier, SGA had expressed concerns about some lights being out around the campus and that there were not enough security cameras in certain spots.

SGA recently passed a land acknowledgement act, which acknowledges WIU's debt to all those who in the past inhabited lands on the university's campuses. Anyone wanting a copy of the bill can request it from Mr. Cornell.

Mr. Cornell told senators that SGA has been very involved in plans for the university's upcoming spring commencement ceremony. He expressed SGA's appreciation that the event will be returning to its normal tradition of being held in Western Hall.

SGA has been discussing how to use the approximately \$50,000 in technology funding in a way that will benefit students. Mr. Cornell related that there have been several suggestions for using the money in the Student Organization Center in the Union basement. A bill determining where to use the funding must be passed within the next couple of weeks.

SGA representatives met with the Director of the Go West bus service to discuss changes and possible improvements to the bus app and routes. As a follow-up, SGA reps met with the Macomb Mayor at the Go West facility to discuss those possible changes.

D. Other Announcements

1. Chair Lauer announced that President Huang will attend the next Faculty Senate meeting on April 26.
2. The dates for the visits of the remaining two provost candidates have been changed. Scott McKay will visit WIU from April 20-22 and Manoochehr Zogli's visit has been rescheduled to May 1-3. The faculty sessions for the candidates will be at 2:00 p.m. on April 21 and May 2 in the Capitol Rooms.

3. Election of Senate Officers

1. Chair

Motion: To nominate Bill Thompson for Senate Chair (Thompson). There were no further nominations, and Senator Thompson was declared elected.

2. Vice Chair

Motion: To nominate Lee Brice for Vice Chair (Carr).

Motion: To nominate Julia Albarracin for Vice Chair (Albarracin).

Motion: To nominate David Banash for Vice Chair (Tang). Senator Banash respectfully declined the nomination.

There were no further nominations. Chair Lauer asked the two candidates to make a brief statement about themselves and their candidacy. Senators whose terms continue into 2022-23 as well as senators whose terms begin in Fall 2022 voted electronically with the assistance of Parliamentarian Perabo, who developed the form. Senator Brice won the election with 21 senators voting.

3. Secretary

Motion: To nominate Julia Albarracin for Senate Secretary (Brice). There were no further nominations, and Dr. Albarracin was declared elected.

4. Election of Senate Nominating Committee Representatives

1. College of Arts and Science
Motion: To nominate Amy Car (Thompson)
2. College of Business and Technology
Motion: To nominate Dave Hunter (Hunter)
3. College of Education and Human Services
Motion: To nominate Denny Barr (Barr)
4. College of Fine Arts and Communication
Motion: To nominate James Land (Land)

There were no further nominations, and the slate of candidates was declared elected.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

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

1. Curricular Requests from the School of Music

- a. Request for New Course
 - i. MUS 197, American Country Music, 3 s.h.

Chair Lauer asked if the course would teach both country and western styles of music. Music professor and Senator Land responded that the course would cover anything in the genre that is post-1920.

NO OBJECTIONS

2. Curricular Requests from the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- a. Request for New Course
 - i. LAS 395, Evidence, Truth and Action, 3 s.h.

Senator Thompson asked for a description of the vision for the course. Parliamentarian Perabo, who oversees the Liberal Arts and Sciences program, responded that this course will be part of the new core, which currently only has two core courses, LAS 195 and 495. She said the department has long wanted an intermediate research course for Liberal Arts and Science students with an interdisciplinary focus.

NO OBJECTIONS

- b. Requests for New Options

- i. Paired Minors

Dr. Bennett explained that since the existing Paired Minors emphasis is being changed to a new Paired Minors option, it was decided that a feasibility study was not required.

NO OBJECTIONS

ii. African American Studies

Senator Thompson asked if the African American Studies option will remain if an African American Studies major is created. Parliamentarian Perabo responded that will be up to whatever faculty are hired to support the African American Studies program in the department. She explained the department's plan is to create an option, which in terms of credit hours is as large as a small major – 33 s.h. in African American Studies and 12 s.h. in Liberal Arts and Sciences – so it is a very substantial start. She added that faculty can decide over the next few years if they want to pursue a major, but the department is not committing to that at this point.

Senator Banash remarked he is very happy to see this proposal. Senator Banash said he was on the original Academic Program Elimination Review (APER) Committee that determined that elimination of the African American Studies major would be a terrible move that did not serve students particularly well and should be rethought before taking that drastic step. He thinks it is incredible that the program is being put back together but also thinks it is a shame that it must be done in this way.

Parliamentarian Perabo related she reread the APER report as part of this process and expressed her appreciation to Senator Banash for the committee's hard work. Chair Lauer reminded senators that the Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Women's Studies majors were also eliminated at the same time as the African American Studies major, and that Faculty Senate at that time strongly voiced its opposition to this step and said that it in some ways violated labor laws.

NO OBJECTIONS

c. Request for Change of Major

i. Liberal Arts and Sciences

NO OBJECTIONS

Parliamentarian Perabo expressed her appreciation to the people who supported these changes, especially the students who pushed very hard for them. She noted that Shakyra Bailey, an intern in the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences, worked a lot on the proposal both inside and out of the office. She noted that a committee on racial and gender studies has been meeting for the past year and a half, so many people have put in a lot of work to bring this program forward. Parliamentarian Perabo noted that this was work that had to be done because the program was previously undone, and a lot of the people who put in this work are people of color. She said this work was asked of those involved because the university did not do what it should have done originally, which was to hang on to its previous African American Studies major. She appreciates the support for the program up to this point and hopes that there will continue to be support as the department begins to hire faculty to support the new option.

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

SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Council on Admission, Graduation, and Academic Standards (CAGAS)
J. Jobu Babin (AFEDS) replacing Dave Hunter

2024 At-Large

Richard Filipink	(HIST)	replacing	Samson Adeleke	2025	A&S
Jongnam Choi	(EAGIS)	replacing	Denny Barr	2023	At-Large
Angela McClanahan-Simmons	(MUSE)	replacing	Tim Waldrop	2025	FA&C

Council on Campus Planning and Usage (CCPU)

Ian Shelly	(ART)	replacing	Amy Ekanayake	2025	At-Large
Craig Whetten	(LIB)	replacing	Anita Hardeman	2025	At-Large

Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI)

Amy Burke	(SPA)	replacing	Hadley Kamminga-Peck	2025	FA&C
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Council on General Education (CGE)

Elgin Mannion	(SOC/ANTH)	replacing	Andrea Alveshere	2025	SOC SCI
Alisha White	(ENG)	replacing	Adam Lewis	2025	HUMANITIES
Mari Aanenson	(BIO)	replacing	Syfi Turkelli	2025	MATH/NS
Barry Birnbaum	(EDUC)	replacing	Wanmo Koo	2025	At-Large

Council for Instructional Technology (CIT)

Tammy Werner	(SOC/ANTH)	replacing	Steven Dworkin	2025	A&S
Leaunda Hemphill	(ENGI)	replacing	George Mangalaraj	2025	B&T
Debra Allwardt	(HS/SW)	replacing	Minsun Doh	2025	E&HS
Rebel Mickelson	(THEA/DAN)	replacing	Brisa De Paula	2025	FA&C

Council on Intercollegiate Athletics (CIA)

Kenny Lee	(MUS)	replacing	Charlie Chadwell	2025	FA&C
Jeff Hancks	(LIB)	replacing	Davison Bideshi	2025	A&S

Council for International Education (CIE)

Qinqing Zhu	(PSYC)	replacing	Ute Chamberlin	2025	A&S
Gloria Delany-Barmann	(EDUC)	replacing	Bridget Sheng	2025	E&HS

Council on Writing Instruction in the Disciplines (WID)

Roberta Di Carmine	(ENG)	replacing	Doug LaFountain	2025	A&S
Anna Valeva	(AFEDS)	replacing	Joel Gruver	2025	B&T

UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:

Bureau of Cultural Affairs

Qinqing Zhu	(PSYC)	replacing	George Turner	2025	At-Large
Rebel Mickelson	(THEA/DAN)	replacing	Minsun Doh	2025	At-Large

Office of Distance Education and Support Advisory Committee

Katja Sonkeng	(KIN)	replacing	Chris Bitner	2025	E&HS
Ian Shelly	(ART)	replacing	Ian Shelly	2025	FA&C
Tammy Werner	(SOC/ANTH)	replacing	Lia Petrocovic	2025	A&S

Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Selection Committee

Leaunda Hemphill	(ENGI)	replacing	Rajeev Sawhney	2025	B&T
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Committee on Honorary Degrees

Monica Rouse	(EDUC)	replacing	Richard Filipink	2025	At-Large
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Honors Council

Scott Hemenover	(PSYC)	replacing	Mark Boley	2025	A&S
Mark Bernards	(AGR)	replacing	Yeongkwun Kim	2025	B&T
Kaycee Peterman	(HS/SW)	replacing	Boh Young Lee	2025	E&HS

Tammy Werner	(SOC/ANTH)	replacing	Jennifer McGarry	2025	WIUQC
<u>Intellectual Property Oversight Committee</u>					
George Mangalaraj	(CS)	replacing	Dave Hunter	2025	B&T
<u>University Conduct Board</u>					
C. Suzanne Bailey	(LEJA)	replacing	J. Jobu Babin	2025	At-Large
Dave Hunter	(ENGI)	replacing	Brian Clark	2025	At-Large
<u>Parking Appeals Committee</u>					
Seongchan Kim	(ENGI)	replacing	Chris Bitner	2025	Member
<u>Provost's Advisory Council</u>					
Heather McIlvaine-Newsad	(SOC/AN)	replacing	Patrick McGinty	2025	At-Large
<u>Radiation Safety Committee</u>					
Mark S. Boley	(PHYS)	replacing	Meshack Afithile	2025	At-Large
Casey Lafrance	(POLA)	replacing	Sebastian Szyjka	2025	At-Large
<u>Committee on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression</u>					
Jade Kastel	(LIB)	replacing	Liguo Song	2025	At-Large
<u>Student Laureate Selection Committee</u>					
Thomas Sadler	(AFEDS)	replacing	Shankar Ghimire	2025	B&T
<u>University Benefits Committee</u>					
Jonathan Hammersley	(PSYC)	replacing	Phil Entzminger	2025	At-Large
<u>University Technology Advisory Group</u>					
Liguo Song	(CHEM)	replacing	Andrea Alvashere	2025	A&S
George Mangalaraj	(CS)	replacing	Wanmo Koo	2025	B&T
Charles Chadwell	(MUS)	replacing	Jenny Knavel	2025	FA&C

SEARCH COMMITTEES:

College of Business and Technology Dean

Rajeev Sawhney (MGT/MKTG)

VP of Finance and Administration

Merrill Cole (ENG)

There were no other nominations, and the slate of candidates was declared elected.

C. Ad Hoc Peer Institution Committee

The Director for Institutional Research and Planning, Angela Bonifas, who served ex-officio on the ad hoc committee, explained that the committee started their work with a list of 31 institutions, and their goal was to narrow this list down to 12-17 peer institutions that could be used for retention and graduation comparisons and general university benchmarking. She said the goal was also to identify a process which could be replicated in future and to do so in a way that was transparent, systematic, and made sense.

Ms. Bonifas told senators the list of 31 institutions was identified by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) as being similar to WIU based on Carnegie classifications of public institutions of similar size. The committee discussed and determined variables that characterize WIU and used five of those to narrow down the list of 31. Those variables included

retention; graduation; number of degrees awarded by level (undergraduate/graduate); degree of urbanization (which Ms. Bonifas said was not actually used to narrow the pool); and amount of distance education by student level (specifically, whether students are taking one course, multiple courses, exclusively online, or no online courses). Ms. Bonifas related that from this list the committee eliminated institutions that were outlier based on a threshold of ten percent; if the institutions were in the top or bottom ten percent of the peer groups, they were removed. She told senators that this process first eliminated the Colorado State University Global Campus and Pennsylvania State University's World Campus because their mission or intent is exclusively distance education or online. By continuing this process, the committee reduced the list to a final 15 peer institutions.

Audrey Adamson, Director of the Center for Career Preparation and Employer Engagement, related that while looking closely at the initial list it became obvious which institutions had outlier characteristics; institutions were eliminated if they had a certain number of outlier characteristics, so there is some differentiation within the list of 15. Ms. Adamson observed that some of the institutions seem really core while others, although not as close, do not range too far from the specific criteria the committee chose. She related that each committee member did quite a bit of research online on each of the institutions – really digging into these schools' websites and looking at their data, rather than just relying on the IPEDS data, in order to see if they felt like true peer institutions. School of Education faculty member Denny Barr, who served on the ad hoc committee, related that the process he used was to put all of WIU's scores on a chart and compared the other institutions to them, identifying all those that were within 15 percent. He found it amazing how much overlap there was between his method and that used by Ms. Bonifas; only two institutions were eliminated because they were on Dr. Barr's list but not on the other.

Senator Thompson remarked it seems that with this set of peer groups the university might be "asking ourselves to be more like ourselves." He suspects the proposed list may not function as aspirational if everyone is the same. Ms. Bonifas does not think that is the case; she thinks there is room to grow in several of the metrics used to determine the proposed list. She noted that, for example, in terms of the six-year graduation rate, the publicly available IPEDS data shows WIU's graduation rate at 46 percent. She noted that the range for the top 25 percent of the peer groups is 57-65 percent. Ms. Bonifas observed that WIU has a very specific graduation plan to increase retention by one percent per year. She noted that there is room within this metric to make specific action items to reach the goal of increasing WIU's graduation rate to the top 25 percent of its peer groups. This year, WIU's graduation rate is 77 percent, which Ms. Bonifas says is an anomaly; the university's graduation rate is usually 68-69 percent, and the peer group range for the top 25 percent is 77-81 percent. She thinks this example shows that WIU can still have aspirational goals within the proposed peer groups.

Senator Polley observed that the filtering of the data by IPEDS was based on Carnegie classifications and size of four-year public institutions, which resulted in the initial list of 31. He asked how large the original range of size was that WIU fit into because that determines a lot. Senator Polley thinks that if a larger size was allowed, it would result in a number of additional institutions to which WIU could be compared – institutions which might be close in a number of dimensions although they are just a little bigger or smaller in size. He wants to know how big the size range was and how much that influenced the choice of the 31 institutions. Ms. Bonifas related that the current ad hoc committee is the second one to try to determine an updated list of peer groups for WIU; the first committee, from a year and a half ago, used a different methodology. She recalled that rather than use the initial peer groups identified by IPEDS, the previous committee, co-chaired by Mathematics and Philosophy professor Beth Hansen, used a statistical measurement methodology with which Ms. Bonifas was not familiar. She related that this methodology created a similarity between WIU and all other four-year institutions; based on that, the initial group they started with included 300 institutions, gathered from all possible Carnegie institutions reporting to IPEDS.

Senator Polley asked if the methodology used to reach 31 was the methodology used by Professor Hansen or the IPEDS list. Ms. Bonifas responded that IPEDS identified these institutions as those

that were most like WIU. Senator Polley asked if Professor Hansen's methodology started with 300 institutions; Ms. Bonifas responded this is correct, adding that she used a Euclidian norm. Senator Polley remarked that he is familiar with various methodologies: there are Euclidian norm, nearest neighbors, and hierarchical, and the committee could use all three and see how different they are in terms of the results. He asked how many institutions Professor Hansen ended up with using her method; Ms. Bonifas responded Professor Hansen had over 100 institutions which was narrowed down to 21. Ms. Bonifas checked to see if any of the institutions identified by the current ad hoc committee were included in the list presented by the previous ad hoc committee. She noted that all the institutions on Professor Hansen's list were similar to WIU; the question was the degree of closeness, which Professor Hansen broke out into quarters (25 percent). Ms. Bonifas stated that five of the institutions currently being proposed overlapped with Professor Hansen's closest group of 22 schools; another five overlapped with Professor Hansen's second closest group; four institutions in the current proposal were in Professor Hansen's farthest possible group; and two institutions – including Texas A&M International – were not in her list at all.

Senator Polley remarked he has a criticism of reaching 31 by relying on IPEDS data when WIU faculty had previously worked on and narrowed down a similar list that is actually more inclusive of different measures. Ms. Bonifas expressed her agreement. Chair Lauer remarked that this method was recommended by the Faculty Senate in their charge to the ad hoc committee. He thinks the criticism may be fair but should have been leveled when the Senate voted to approve the charge. Senator Polley said he was on sabbatical at that time. Chair Lauer stated that while there might be some slippage or decline in accuracy, the idea was to establish a process that could be repeated in future in some kind of tidy way. He said he wants Senator Polley to understand the rationale. Senator Polley responded that he does understand and read the minutes from this discussion, but he disagrees with it. He thinks the method of choosing the outliers from the top ten and bottom ten percent is not what a data scientist would recommend.

SENATOR POLLEY OBJECTED TO THE REPORT

Motion: To restore the report to the agenda (Filipink/Brice)

MOTION TO RESTORE APPROVED 21 YES – 0 NO – 0 ABSTENTIONS

Dr. Barr observed that the charge to the committee actually defined the 31 institutions and the definitional criteria that the committee was to use. Senator Thompson asked how often it is anticipated that the list will need to be revised. He asked if there is a time frame for future revisions and if they will be done regularly. Ms. Adamson responded the charge was for the committee to determine this, and they discussed potentially revisiting the list every five years unless there is a major change in the metrics of the university that would cause a committee to undertake this process earlier. She added that future committees would use the repeatable process that the current ad hoc committee determined.

Senator Carr asked what the significance is of not having conducted the analysis in the way that Senator Polley suggested. Ms. Bonifas responded that Senator Polley asked some great questions and made a good point, which is why she looked back at the 2020 committee process and the institutions that were selected through that methodology. She told senators that all 15 of the institutions recommended by the current committee except for one were also on the previous list identified through Professor Hansen's method. Ms. Bonifas said she feels good about proposing the 15 peer institutions knowing that there was overlap even if the current committee used a simplified methodology that anyone can replicate. She thinks these institutions are valid ones whether there are 15, 31, or the 21 that the previous committee identified as being like WIU. She feels comfortable saying that the 15 institutions the current committee recommends were very similar with a different methodology than what was used the first time.

Senator Polley said his response to Senator Carr's question is a little more abstract and goes to Senator Thompson's question during the Executive Committee meeting as to why other metrics were not considered and why other peer institution lists were not compiled. He noted that several

lists could have been made for different purposes: internal lists for benchmarking, lists for faculty salaries, ones for academic comparisons, student demographic lists, and others. He thinks that the general methodology used by Professor Hansen to arrive at a much larger list and then boiling that down according to specific metrics that one could choose differently to create those specific lists is a more robust way of generating the different lists that might be needed for different purposes. He thinks this method would be more consistent and accurate overall in terms of focusing on specific kinds of lists. Senator Polley observed that if all that is wanted is a general list of 15 institutions, it probably does not matter, but if one is talking about having different lists for different purposes, he thinks the current methodology does not really move sensibly in that direction. He noted that Senator Thompson asked about this at ExCo, and Senator Polley thinks that probably all of the senators around the table as well as the administration think that multiple lists are a good idea. He reiterated that if senators just want a list of 15, they can approve this list, but if they want something better and more robust, they might want to revisit the methodology used for those other purposes.

Ms. Bonifas remarked that the previous committee had narrowed institutions down to 122 that went into the model that identified the distance education variable. Senator Polley thinks this is a good way to proceed because there is a larger number to start with so that when the committee starts applying specific criteria, such as faculty salaries and student demographics, it can create different lists for different purposes. He thinks there can still be one overall list that can be published on a website, but if there is a need for specific, targeted, direct lists then limiting oneself to 31 institutions is not a good idea. Ms. Bonifas expressed her agreement with Senator Polley and promised to keep this in mind. She stressed, though, that she feels comfortable with publishing these 15 peer institutions on the website for general purposes. She stated that if there was a need to look for something very specific, such as a financial analysis, then it would make sense to revisit this list and consider using a methodology such as that used by Professor Hansen. Ms. Bonifas thought the process used by Professor Hansen was brilliant, but it was not approved by Faculty Senate. She thanked Senator Polley for his comments and suggestions.

Dr. Barr asked if Senator Polley is saying that the current committee should redo its work or if he is just recommending that a different methodology be used for the lists that are to come in future. Senator Polley replied he does not have a particular position on that question. He explained that if the purpose is to get 15 peer institutions to put on the website, the current list works; but there were sensible questions raised at the Executive Committee meeting, and it would be useful to have additional lists internally. He noted that Faculty Senate could consider giving a new committee a separate charge to create those additional lists, but he is not asking Faculty Senate to do that right now or ever. Senator Polley thinks that if these questions persist, and if there is the desire to have peer institution lists that might be better for financial, for salaries, or for other issues, starting from the IPEDS list of 31 institutions is going to leave out institutions that are much more like WIU in financial and other dimensions that were not used to determine the original 31. He suggested that in this case a future committee might want to start with the 120 that were identified by the original methodology and use a different methodology to get down to a list of 15 financial peer groups. Dr. Barr said he does not disagree with Senator Polley because it is common sense that starting with 120 is more representative than starting with 31. He also agrees with the questions raised during the Executive Committee meeting because the ad hoc committee raised the same questions. Dr. Barr said the committee's answer to those questions was that they had to respond to the charge given to them by the Faculty Senate, but he does understand the concept of using the previous data to determine specific lists.

Chair Lauer remarked that the more inputs one has, the more granular one can get, but it can also open opportunities for other kinds of distortions by overemphasizing different kinds of variables. He thinks that having fewer inputs or fewer variables in the beginning brought out some different aspects of the lists. Senator Polley remarked that the methods that Professor Hansen used, and similar methods that could be used as well, make it very transparent what those weights and criteria for clustering the data actually are and allow the users to test how robust the list is by making small changes in those criteria, which is not something that would be very difficult to do.

Senator Carr asked why the earlier report with the larger list was not accepted by Faculty Senate. Chair Lauer replied there was not a formal report but rather some information that was submitted to the Executive Committee. Former Faculty Senate Chair Christopher Pynes explained that the original peer institution list that is currently on the WIU website was created by former Vice President for Quad Cities and Planning Joe Rives with information from the Higher Learning Commission. He related that a few years ago the Executive Committee wanted to have a better process for creating a peer institution list. He said the problem with the list that the prior ad hoc committee created was not about the process that generated the list of 400 and reduced it to 122; rather, at the end of the Spring 2020 semester there were a lot of complications with Covid, and the committee did not have the opportunity to come together to whittle the list down using sound academic judgment. He recalled the list came to ExCo, but the Executive Committee did not think the report had enough full committee input to bring it forward to the floor of the Senate. Dr. Pynes added that after his term on Faculty Senate ended, this year's Senate created a new charge for a new ad hoc committee. He summarized that the former list never got out of the Executive Committee so was never voted on, which was not a criticism of that prior report. He added that once the prior list was reduced to 120, the former committee struggled to reduce it further in a way the Executive Committee at that time thought was appropriate. Dr. Pynes thinks Senator Polley has a point that the previous process was good, but the Executive Committee at that time thought the process the previous committee used to reduce 122 institutions down to 25 did not have enough academic judgment: it happened very quickly via email and not with committee members meeting in a room. Dr. Pynes agrees with Senator Polley that there should be multiple lists; he noted that there are currently four lists, but the general list is supposed to be specifically for academics. He added that the reason the list created by the previous ad hoc committee was not formally objected to at a meeting of the full Senate was because there was no time to endorse it by the end of the semester, but it was not because the prior process was objected to whole cloth.

Senator Tang asked why Eastern Illinois University or any other Illinois institutions are not included on the proposed peer group list and why there were only 15 institutions listed. Chair Lauer replied that the Office of Institutional Research and Planning keeps a separate list of state schools for certain types of comparisons. He added that the charge from Faculty Senate asked the committee to develop a list of 12-17 schools, and the committee decided 15 was the most workable number.

Senator Brice asked what happens if Faculty Senate votes to reject the proposed list. Chair Lauer replied that in that case the current list prepared by former Vice President Rives in 2005 will be maintained until a new process comes forward.

Motion: To approve the peer institution list (Thompson/Robinett)

MOTION APPROVED 15 YES – 3 NO – 1 ABSTENTION

IV. Old Business – None

V. New Business

A. For the Good of the Body

Chair Lauer encouraged everyone to attend interview sessions for the last two provost candidates.

Senator Carr asked if it would be possible to determine what percentage of courses, particularly for distance ed students, are asynchronous versus synchronous and whether there is a difference in the drop and pass rates for those two modalities. Chair Lauer thinks the Registrar would have that data, and he would be happy to ask her.

Motion: To adjourn (Brice)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Jeremy Robinett, Senate Secretary

