

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Regular Meeting, 28 April 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom and Union Capitol Rooms

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

SENATORS PRESENT IN PERSON: D. Allwardt, E. Asare, S. Chakravorti, P. Cole, R. DiCarmine, N. Gillotti, D. Gravitt, H. Mason, D. McArthur, J. McKenzie, A. Melkumian, J. Robinett, R. Sharma, F. Tasdan, J. Walker, L. Wipperling, E. Woell

SENATORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: A. Frederick, E. Hamner, R. Kelly, S. Turkelli

SENATORS ABSENT: H. Elbe, M. Hoge

EX-OFFICIO: William Gblerkpor, Parliamentarian; Mark Mossman, Provost

GUESTS: Tawnya Adkins-Covert, Tom Blackford, Matt Blankenship, Keith Boeckelman, Amy Carr, Merrill Cole, Dennis DeVolder, Patty Eathington, Sue Hum, Andrea Hyde, Rick Kurasz, Jim LaPrad, Sarah Lawson, Jessica Lin, Kyle Mayborn, Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Kat Myers, Lorette Oden, Renee Polubinsky, Ketra Roselieb, Sebastian Szyjka, Ripley Zanger

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. April 14, 2026

MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

B. March 31, 2026 – Closed Session

Correction: In the third paragraph of page 4, a reference to 36 percent should specify “an average of 36 percent.”

MINUTES APPROVED AS CORRECTED

II. Announcements

A. Approvals from the Provost

1. Request for New Course

- a. HIST 390, Introduction to Public and Digital History, 3 s.h.

B. Provost's Report

Provost Mossman noted that there was a full house for the Employee Service Recognition Reception last week. He thought it was an excellent event, recognizing faculty and staff members who have been employed at WIU ten, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years.

Provost Mossman announced that all of the associate deans have accepted their offering letters. The new associate deans will be Keith Boeckelman and Tawnya Adkins-Covert for the College of Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Education (CHASE) and Dennis DeVolder and Pete Jorgensen for the College of Business, Health, and Community Programs (CBHCP). He noted that school directors' searches are in progress.

Provost Mossman stated that the Rebuild will move into Phase III on July 1, which will include thinking hard about scheduling and building usage within Academic Affairs and about how the direct reporting units (those reporting directly to the Provost's Office) are organized.

Provost Mossman announced some upcoming events:

- The Performing Arts Center Gala will be held on May 2.
- The Provost's Office will give out dilly bars at their office from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on May 12.
- The Quad Cities graduation and open house will be held on May 13.
- The Multicultural Center graduation celebration will be held from 5:00-8:00 p.m. on May 14.
- Graduate and advanced degrees will be handed out on Friday, May 15 beginning at 5:00 p.m., and two ceremonies for undergraduate degrees will be held on Saturday, May 16 beginning at 9 a.m. Provost Mossman encouraged faculty who wish to participate in graduation ceremonies to contact their department chairpersons.

Senator Cole asked if all 13 school directors are currently being searched for. Provost Mossman confirmed that is correct. Senator Cole is aware that many departments, including his own, may lose a faculty member if one of their current chairs is selected to be a school director. He asked if those areas will have the chance to replace those faculty members who might end up in administration. Provost Mossman pointed out that the overall net effect will be the loss of 20 administrators and going down to a reduced number. He reassured Senator Cole that the administration will figure out a way to cover classes if needed, similar to if someone were to be hired internally to assume a department chair position. Senator Cole asked if departments will be allowed to seek permanent replacements for those faculty who are permanently entering into an administrative role. Provost Mossman responded that if there is an actual need in terms of faculty capacity, as the budget improves, the administration will absolutely try to recognize that the university has to invest resources into the academic departments. Senator Cole asked when this might begin. Provost Mossman replied that first the school directors need to be hired, then there will be an assessment.

Provost Mossman noted that one of the objectives of the Rebuild is to hopefully return to a normal, dependable planning and annual reporting process for the Division of Academic Affairs, which has been completely fraught with problems ever since the state budget did not pass and precipitated the budget impasse crisis. He explained that the former College Annual Reporting Process (CARP) involved a series of budget reporting forms filled out by chairs, submitted to deans, prioritized, then submitted to the Provost and the President. Provost Mossman recalled that this process went out the window first when the state of Illinois began not paying on time, then, when the budget passed and there were still no payments from the state, the process went even further out the window and down the street. He reiterated the goal as the university moves into this part of the Rebuild is to develop a better organized planning document that can be used for reporting and assessment of everything from hires to staffing, course scheduling, and the entire thing.

Chair Robinett related that he and Associate Provost Jessica Lin have discussed that not only will faculty be moving into administrative roles, the university also faces a possible succession issue when looking at the number of faculty that were hired in the early 2000s as part of what Provost Mossman has referred to as the "blocks and reductions" process, and this will have to be addressed fairly early into Phase III. Provost Mossman explained that many state institutions see a wave of hiring followed by completely no hires for a generation, followed by another wave of hires. He recalled that WIU saw a wave of hiring in the early 2000s and even up to 2010, but by the budget impasse of 2015 everything went quiet in regard to hiring. He noted that now all of those people who were just honored with service awards – such as Provost Mossman, who has worked at WIU 25 years – are on the latter end of edging out of the university, so there will have to be rehires. He thinks that this needs to be done responsibly but also that it presents an opportunity to invest resources in academic programs.

Senator Melkumian observed that Provost Mossman's email of April 22 announcing that the ADA online digital compliance is going to be delayed seems to indicate that all of the work that faculty have been feverishly trying to get in place for fall should be stopped. Provost Mossman pointed out

that the second paragraph of his email, beginning with “however,” explained that this is equity work, and the university should not stop working for equity and accessibility; he recognizes there are real problems with the university’s physical spaces and thinks the digital spaces should be addressed as well. He explained that the Department of Justice has determined that ADA compliance will be delayed, and Provost Mossman consulted with the university’s new legal counsel, Anne Burton, this morning on whether that delay is for one or two years. He stated that while that timeline has yet to be determined and can be considered a relief in that the university will not be fined for neglecting to get the work done on time, it does not mean that WIU should stop working toward accessibility. Provost Mossman would not suggest that faculty stop their work in this area but, rather, that they can stop working feverishly.

Senator Tasdan asked if the Provost anticipates that there will be travel funding for next year. Provost Mossman replied that his office will try to maintain travel funding and will, of course, prioritize faculty who are working towards retention and tenure. He reiterated that the objective is to absolutely have travel funding. Provost Mossman added that he wants to make this as effective as possible, so there will be a review, but there will be travel awards, as well as graduate assistantships, even though there has been a rumor they will be eliminated.

Senator Tasdan asked if there are plans for the university to return to teaching regular summer classes or if those will still only be offered on a case-by-case basis. Provost Mossman replied that even though the university came in under budget as regards to overload and summer, there is a continued need to work hard to reduce the cost of summer offerings. He noted that retooling summer has been a project of Academic Affairs since at least 2003, so this is a perennial issue. He said the end goal would be to have robust summer sessions with students on campus, that the university figure out bridge programs, and that when student-athletes are on campus they are enrolled in classes. Provost Mossman experienced this type of summer school when he attended graduate school, and the goal would be to have these kinds of robust summer enrollments. He acknowledged that at this moment the university has sort of drifted into offering everything online, but the bigger problem is how to work on summer enrollments themselves. He noted that the university is not out of the woods yet, so there is the need to continue to be as cost-efficient as possible right now.

Senator Tasdan said the reason he asked this question is because he wonders if the university is losing money by not offering General Education courses over the summer since currently WIU students are being encouraged to take these courses at community colleges. Provost Mossman replied that this is always on the surface of summer school considerations, but they also involve an analysis, student-by-student, of enrollments, financial aid, who will actually pay for tuition, what would be discounted, and these kinds of impacts. He explained that the initial assessment was that the university could no longer continue to pay, for example, for two sections of courses for 20 graduate students who all had assistantships. He said once the administration began digging deeper into summer school, they tried to assess what was most cost effective, how well the courses would enroll, and whether they would be revenue generating. He recognizes that it is difficult to have to think about revenue generation on everything, but since WIU is in a budget deficit the university needs to operate in this kind of mode in order to get out of it.

Senator Gravitt recognizes that the federal government pushed back the ADA accessibility deadline, but she wonders if the goal is still to make syllabi accessible by this fall since Faculty Senate passed this policy change at its last meeting, then faculty can work on their course materials less feverishly. Chair Robinett agrees that the Faculty Senate did adopt the updated Course Syllabus Policy which states that faculty syllabi will be made accessible. He expressed thanks to Council for Instructional Technology Chair Andrea Alveshere and the staff of Online Teaching and Learning for the syllabus templates they are creating for faculty to use, which are not being required but are strongly recommended in order to ease this work. He noted that this template is the first step in helping faculty use the Panorama product that assists with accessibility conversion. Chair Robinett thinks it has become obvious to those faculty who are using Panorama that having a longer window will be beneficial in allowing for course materials to be assembled in a way that will aid that transition.

Chair Robinett noted that Desire2Learn has told the university they may also have an update for WesternOnline, although it keeps getting delayed. He has observed there are a lot of technologies that are trying to react to the delayed federal accessibility requirement. He pointed out that Provost Mossman has already said that he would allow for some level of flexibility in making syllabi accessible for this fall and thinks this should be the goal for everyone for Fall 2026.

Senator Melkumian remarked that a faculty member asked her to remind Faculty Senate that students need to work to earn money, there are no jobs in Macomb, and the few that are present are disappearing. She noted that the majority of WIU students work from home in the summer and take online classes, so she thinks that perhaps the university should not consider such a great variety of face-to-face classes over the summer and should, instead, concentrate on homework-type classes so that students can continue to work while progressing with their degrees. Provost Mossman clarified that when he refers to robust, face-to-face enrollment in the summer, it is more of a vision to where the university could get to, which would involve working with the City of Macomb and employers in the region and determining actual student populations. He noted that there are already students on campus in the summer, including the fledgling bridge program and student-athletes, so this could be used as a foundation and then just build up from there.

Senator Chakravorti asked whether there will be a new format for WesternOnline this fall or whether that has also been pushed back along with the accessibility work. Provost Mossman replied that there is still work being done towards this along with some relief of the timeline. Senator Chakravorti asked if the goal is no longer to finish uploading all courses to the new WesternOnline by fall semester and whether the work will now go beyond that date. Provost Mossman responded that while this is still the goal, there will be flexibility, along with the understanding that certain disciplines will certainly have more issues than others, particularly as regards .pdf documents. He noted that art professors, for example, might find this a hard issue to navigate, so there will now be more time to work on all of this. He also pointed out that the big issue is that WIU needs to continue working hard to make spaces accessible. Senator Chakravorti confirmed that he understands this but wanted to verify that the hard deadline for Fall 2026 is no longer there; Provost Mossman confirmed this is exactly correct.

Chair Robinett reminded senators that the navigation bar will become consistent across all classes this coming fall, so that part of accessibility will be completed. He said that whether faculty would have to move to the UCNI view was originally something that the university was told WesternOnline would not provide a choice for, but that decision has now been extended.

Senator Gravitt asked if student workers or graduate assistants could be used to help with conversion of .pdfs and other materials to accessible formats. Provost Mossman replied the administration is working with Computer Sciences professor Tahir Khan to develop a cohort of students – something between an internship and student employment – to help with this effort. He noted that other universities have employed their tech-savvy students in a similar way, and this would help Computer Sciences students build their CVs. He can foresee something like this happening, but it would not occur until the fall, and he is not sure what student employment rules it would fall under.

C. Student Government Association (SGA)
(Ripley Zanger, SGA Director of Academic Affairs)

Ms. Zanger reported that Associate Provost Lori Baker-Sperry and Senator McArthur spoke to SGA at their last meeting about the First Year Experience program. She said SGA senators were asked to provide input on things they would like to see changed, and Ms. Zanger has heard feedback that the administration is working to enact those changes. She said Amy Briell also spoke to SGA on the topic of civic engagement.

Ms. Ripley reported that the new Speaker of the Senate, Blue Mladenovich, expressed concerns to SGA about the traffic cameras that the Office of Public Safety (OPS) recently installed. She said the company, Flock, collects private information on drivers, and students are particularly concerned with information being gathered about international students, trans students, and students of color, as well

as information being collected in general on any students. She said SGA wonders where the information is going, who can see it, and why students are paying for something that is perhaps not necessary. Ms. Zanger learned from Senator Cole that there are currently five cameras on campus which were installed by OPS, and she was asked to bring this up to Faculty Senate to see if faculty have additional information or even know about this. She does not know if students are generally aware of this or are okay with it, and she also does not know if this is a necessary thing to do. She wants to understand what is happening, whether the cameras are recording, who has access to the footage, and additional clarification regarding these kinds of details.

Ms. Zanger announced that SGA has concluded for the year. She said next year's Director of Academic Affairs has some time conflicts so Ms. Zanger may fill in at some Senate meetings if needed. Ms. Zanger added that she has enjoyed serving in her position this year.

Ketra Roselieb, Vice President for Finance and Administration, advised Ms. Zanger to direct her questions about the traffic cameras to Public Safety, who should be able to answer her questions, including whether the university is paying for this service. Chair Robinett stated that if Ms. Zanger would like to construct those questions together with him, he thinks senators would also be interested in these answers based upon the looks he saw around the table. He would support an initiative of SGA and Faculty Senate working collaboratively on this.

Senator Cole said someone he knows contacted OPS about the cameras and was told by them that SGA had asked them to do this, which was a surprise. He reached out to SGA leaders about this and was told by them that they had not initiated this with OPS. He believes the cameras are very new and are recording the license plate of every vehicle that passes by them, which he does not think is appropriate. Chair Robinett stated that he and Ms. Zanger will prioritize this and try to get something sent out to OPS as soon as possible, then communicate back with senators. Senator Wipperling related that a Macomb resident gave her a two-page document about this last week, which she will scan and forward to Chair Robinett. Chair Robinett thanked Ms. Zanger for bringing this topic to the Senate's attention and for her outstanding service this year.

D. Faculty Senate Chair's Report

Chair Robinett noted that, as he already shared with senators, President Mindrup is unable to join Faculty Senate today due to being called to Springfield for a legislative stakeholder meeting about the equitable funding formula. He thinks it is a positive turn that these discussions are ramping up and that there are so many of them occurring. He said that President Mindrup regretted not being able to join Faculty Senate and pointed out that her State of the University video will come out soon and will include many of the updates that she would have shared with senators. He added that she looks forward to meeting with Faculty Senate early in the fall semester. Chair Robinett will communicate with Faculty Senate and the faculty at-large any information that President Mindrup shares with him regarding meetings or legislative updates that come up this summer.

Chair Robinett recognized Human Resources Benefits Manager Alyssa Eddington for her great work putting together the Employee Service Recognition Ceremony. He provided the program of the event in the shared drive for senators in case there are some colleagues they wish to congratulate for the amount of time they have been at WIU and the commitments they have made to the institution.

Chair Robinett noted that, in order to ease the strain on families and on WIU facilities, there will be three graduation programs this spring: graduate students on Friday night, May 15, followed by two undergraduate ceremonies on Saturday, May 16. He noted that while faculty have signed up for the Saturday afternoon ceremonies in their colleges, additional faculty volunteers are needed for Friday night and Saturday morning ceremonies. He pointed out that one of the groups that graduates on Saturday morning is the Bachelor of General Studies, which often includes students from across the colleges who do not necessarily have one college to which they belong. He stressed that faculty presence matters at these events and represents how faculty show up for students at the culmination of their time at WIU. He added that it contributes very meaningfully not only to students' experiences but to those of their families. He asked faculty, if they have not already committed to

another role, to consider participating in one of these remaining ceremonies. Chair Robinett added that while he does not look forward to hearing the same speeches again and again, he does look forward to seeing different faces and recognizing what faculty members mean to the university. He will distribute a form to senators which will include opportunities to sign up for one of the ceremonies and directed those with questions to reach out to Param Singh in the Provost's Office.

Chair Robinett pointed out that he included in the Faculty Senate shared drive a few updates from the Disability Resource Center that will also be shared with faculty and which will be important for planning next year. He will encourage next year's Senate Chair to invite representatives from the Disability Resource Center, Student Success, and Counseling Center to visit Faculty Senate early in the fall semester. Chair Robinett announced that beginning in Fall 2026 there will be a shift in how accommodations are communicated: instead of faculty turning to MVS or WIUP to look for a student's accommodations, the student will be expected to communicate that directly to the faculty member and copy the Disability Resource Center on what those accommodations do.

Chair Robinett noted that another change will be in regard to absence notification and leniency, which has been a problematic accommodation across the university. Chair Robinett explained these accommodations were never intended to be unlimited; absence leniency needs to be applied in a way that reflects and respects the nature of the course. He stated that if absence leniency accommodations are treated as carte blanche while holding other students to a different standard, it often results in inequities across what students are expected to do. He noted that, at the same time, if a student exceeds what has been outlined as reasonable, faculty members are not expected to handle that in isolation. He clarified that if a student is not following their accommodation, the faculty member should work with the student, their academic advisor, and the Disability Resource Center about what their path should look like moving forward.

Chair Robinett related that Disability Resource Center Director Jackie Price asked that he make sure faculty know they should not request documentation, such as doctor's notes, when discussing accommodations with students. He said that if documentation should become necessary, this should be coordinated through the Disability Resource Center so that it can be communicated to all affected faculty in appropriate ways. He noted that students are expected, if they are part of the absence leniency process, to file their absences through the Online Absence Reporting System (OARS) and any other notification system that faculty have created for their courses. He said the Disability Resource Center is trying to make sure that documentations are current within five years and clearly establish the impact of the disability on the learning environment.

Chair Robinett announced that the only other anticipated change is that beginning Spring 2027 there will be guidance provided related to student teaching, internships, and those types of things because the Disability Resource Center wants to make sure that the appropriate accommodations are being coordinated in those learning environments as well. He stated that, as always, if faculty run into any questions or situations they feel are unclear, the Disability Resource Center is there to help them. He noted their whole purpose is to protect faculty, students, and the institution, and they help faculty to ensure that they are treating their students equitably and are aware of and receiving the support that they need.

Chair Robinett thanked Faculty Senate for the incredible amount of work that has been accomplished this year. He said it has been his honor to serve as Faculty Senate Chair, and he looks forward to supporting those who step into Senate offices later in the meeting. He stated that he cannot express enough his appreciation to Ms. Hamm, who he affectionately refers to as the Jiminy Crickett, or the Conscience, of Faculty Senate; to Parliamentarian Gblerkpor, who has kept Chair Robinett in line; and to Vice Chair Wipperling and Secretary Melkumian, who stepped into their roles with enthusiasm and helped to guide Senate business. He also greatly appreciates the work that has been done by the university's vice presidents and provosts in order to strengthen relationships so that shared governance can work in the way it can and would.

Chair Robinett recognized with thanks those senators whose terms are ending: Senators Elbe, Gravitt, Hamner, McArthur, Turkelli, and Wipperling. He reiterated his thanks to all senators, those

whose terms are expiring and those who will continue to serve, for the incredible amount of work they contributed to faculty and shared governance this year. He asked that everyone join in thanking Ms. Hamm, the Executive Committee members, and all senators with a round of applause. He stated that Parliamentarian Gblerkpor has asked that the senators remain for a few minutes after the meeting for a group photo.

E. Other Announcements

1. Kristi Mindrup, President

President Mindrup was unable to attend due to being called to Springfield for a meeting.

2. Ketra Roselieb, Vice President, Finance and Administration

Vice President Roselieb thanked senators for the opportunity to come speak with them, even without President Mindrup, and expressed the hope that she can answer a few of their questions in the President's absence, provide some clarity, and give an update to the report she has presented to Faculty Senate for the past two years. She said that while senators will see a lot of the same charts they have seen in the past, these will have updated numbers and projections. Vice President Roselieb explained her first chart represents an overview of the university's fund sources. She noted that the income fund is made up primarily of state appropriations (about \$57 million) combined with tuition revenue. She pointed out that a lot of the changes seen in the past few years have occurred in the auxiliaries system fund, which is also referred to as revenue bond or restricted funds. She explained that because of a lack of investment from the state combined with enrollment challenges over the past few years, it has been critical to make adjustments in this area. She noted that the remaining fund source is often referred to as "other," local funds, or unrestricted. She explained that it relates to student fees and commissions that are brought into the university, such as indirect cost recovery dollars that are received by the institution based upon grants. She said it also includes other external operations, such as the university's daycare or functions that receive external revenues.

Vice President Roselieb explained that the auxiliary facilities system (AFS) is a self-sustaining auxiliary entity which can issue debt; they do not receive any appropriations, nor does the university receive any funds from them to run the educational mission of the institution. She noted that this includes University Housing and Dining Services, student fees related to the University Union and Campus Recreation, memberships to the Rec Center or golf course, and sales that occur within these facilities. Vice President Roselieb noted that for the past two years she has really been focused on the university's income fund, and there will continue to need to be adjustments made in that area as considerations of future enrollment and how much WIU will receive in state appropriations are taken into account. She said this is why President Mindrup's work in Springfield today is essentially very critical to the future of higher education in Illinois because it could be a monumental shift for WIU if equitable funding were passed. She informed senators that they can also expect to hear about some changes to the local and auxiliary system funds in the future as decisions will have to be made due to declining enrollment and federal changes that have affected receipt of dollars. She wants to highlight that financial work will be going on within these other funding sources as well as the income fund.

Vice President Roselieb discussed the history of the income fund specifically. She pointed out that assessed tuition in fiscal year 2020 was \$47.6 million, and the projection for FY 2027 is around \$34.5 million. She noted there are a lot of assumptions built into the FY 27 estimate, but as the number of students as well as the amount those students are paying has shifted, those two things together have made WIU fight an uphill battle. She explained that the university has been trying to make fiscal adjustments within a one- or two-year period with an understanding of what all of these indicators might look like in the near future. Vice President Roselieb observed that even though it is April 28, the university still does not

know what the state appropriation will be for next year, so what is built into the assumption for FY 27 is a 1 percent increase based upon the FY 26 appropriation. She recalled that the Governor's budget address last year indicated that universities would see a 3 percent increase in their appropriations, which would have been added to the \$56.8 million that WIU received in fiscal year 2025. She said when that budget was actually passed in May of last year, a 1 percent increase was added to the appropriation, and 2 percent was withheld at the Governor's discretion. Vice President Roselieb stated that WIU did not receive that 2 percent in FY 26 and, although the administration continues to advocate for it, the Governor's Office has not given any indication that it is built into next year's budget or that universities will receive it. She noted that the budget projection for FY 27 is 3 percent more than the budget for FY 26 since in FY 26 the university only received 1 percent of the 3 percent it was promised.

Vice President Roselieb stated that a lot could change between now and when the Governor's budget is actually passed in May, and the administration is watching that closely. She said if the equitable funding formula passes in any way, shape, or form, it could result in a 20 percent increase in the appropriation for WIU. She noted there will be very different conversations if the state can be encouraged to invest in higher education in the way that it should. Vice President Roselieb explained that all of this is intended to highlight the uphill battle that WIU continues to face moving forward by not seeing any significant increases in appropriations or revenues while continuing to see increases in contractual obligations and the results of inflation; while costs continue to go up, revenues are not increasing at the same pace.

Vice President Roselieb explained that when talking about cash balances, it is a different kind of conversation because \$46 million in tuition revenue does not mean that students actually pay \$46 million; it depends on when the money actually comes in, if it is collectible, and when funds are received from the state, so that cash flow is managed differently than financial statements when looking at those side-by-side. Vice President Roselieb showed senators a chart showing cash flow balances for FY 26 and projections through FY 27. She pointed out that a lot of efforts are being focused on the income fund because it has been operating in a deficit since FY 2023. She explained that the line which shows the combination of income fund with unrestricted funds is important to keep from falling into the red, but the chart shows that the unrestricted cash funds have been floating WIU's income fund operations for three or four fiscal years. She noted that to what magnitude this is occurring fluctuates many times throughout the year depending upon how quickly the state reimburses the university for vouchers, when MAP funds are received from the state, and how quickly grants turn their funds around.

Vice President Roselieb thinks this is a moment in time to look at what WIU's cash balances have been and determine what measures to take moving forward. She noted that five of the eight contractual employee bargaining units are open for FY 27, so there is uncertainty there; there is uncertainty in what the Governor's budget will actually include; there is uncertainty in what WIU's enrollment will look like; and there is uncertainty in what retention will look like for the fall. She stated that all of these assumptions are built into this projection, but there is only room for a small margin of error because the combined income/unrestricted cash flow line teeters pretty close to the red line that it cannot fall below. She explained this is why it is important for the university to take the opportunity extended by University Foundations of a \$2 million loan.

Vice President Roselieb told senators the chart does not include the \$2 million loan because that was taken out on April 1, 2026, but what it will do is move the purple income fund line and black income/unrestricted combined line up by \$2 million. She pointed out that it will really just give the university some breathing room during times when it is waiting on state reimbursements, such as when student refunds have to be issued but money has not yet been received from the federal government. She said it will allow for more flexibility since the university is really operating under a very small margin of error when it comes to cash flow.

Senator Gravitt asked if the administration took out the full \$2 million of the loan; Vice President Roselieb replied that they did. Senator Gravitt asked when it must be paid back; Vice President Roselieb replied that it must be repaid in 2032. Senator Gravitt asked what the interest rate is for the loan; Vice President Roselieb replied it is 1 percent, so the university will pay about \$20,000 per year in interest. She added that the Foundation remains a really great partner for the university.

Senator Tasdan asked if the \$2 million will be sufficient to maintain the university or if Vice President Roselieb anticipates the need to dig in more. Vice President Roselieb responded that it is not the administration's intent to dig in any more, but it is important to get the unrestricted and income cash flow lines higher, which hopefully they will be over time. She said that is why the Foundation extended the loan over several years, because they realize that it would be difficult for the university to make significant changes over a one-year period. She stated that continued efforts need to occur beyond this \$2 million loan because it does not help the university enough; the university is not out of the woods yet, although progress is being made, especially compared to what the charts looked like two or three years ago.

Senator Chakravorti observed when looking at the Income Fund Revenue History chart, there is a significant drop in the Other category between Fall 2025 and Fall 2026, from \$1.733 million down to \$1 million. He asked what happened at this time. Vice President Roselieb responded that the most significant change between FY 25 and 26 represents interest income. She said that the previous years that showed \$5 and \$6 million included the receipt of COVID relief dollars. Senator Chakravorti observed that the same projection is made for FY 27 in the Other category as is reflected in the FY 26 budget; Vice President Roselieb confirmed this because it is not expected that rates will increase on the university's interest income at this time.

Senator Tasdan observed that Board of Trustees approval was needed to borrow this money from the Foundation. He asked whether their approval would be necessary if more money needed to be borrowed or if this could just be worked out by the WIU administration. He wonders what the maximum amount is that can be borrowed. Vice President Roselieb thanked Senator Tasdan for his question because it is a really good one with a really solid answer. She explained that the university, as a state entity, does not have authority to enter into any loan agreements without the approval of the state legislature; approval was received last year so that a loan could be taken out from the Foundation on January 1, 2026. She noted that a \$2 million cap was written into this legislation, so the university cannot take out any more; this limit was driven by the Foundation identifying earnings from an unrestricted endowment that they could use to fund a loan and which did not take away from any donor-directed funds, departmental funds, etc. She said there will not be any more loans taken out because 1) it is not allowable, and 2) because this is all that has been identified.

Chair Robinett remarked that earlier Vice President Roselieb had mentioned "commissions" and asked what that is in relation to the university. Vice President Roselieb replied that the university has some contracts that it receives commission income on based on the services that the university provides. She said one example of this is the vending contracts.

Senator Gravitt asked if the administration has identified other possible things that could be reduced in the budget, such as bussing contracts. Vice President Roselieb responded there are constant conversations about this, and she thinks they have identified some, but they are going through analysis and the process to make sure that the decisions made are the correct ones. Senator Gravitt remarked that WIU has a small campus, and students might be healthier if there were not so many buses. Senator Cole remarked that although he chooses to bike to work, he does not want WIU's buses to be cut in any way, shape, or fashion. He thinks it is amazing that Macomb is a small town with a community bus system, which is rare. The last thing Senator Cole would want is to take that away. Ms. Ripley agrees that the

buses are very important for WIU, especially since a lot of students come from the city and suburbs where they may not have cars. She added that there is not a lot to do in Macomb, and students would not want to walk two hours there and back to go to HyVee or Walmart. She thinks the buses are very important and agrees that they should not be cut. Ms. Ripley related that this year the Leatherneck Express bus, which she frequently takes, was cut so that it runs less, which has been an adjustment for her, but she thinks that if there were more cuts, especially for the town buses, it would not be great for students.

Vice President Roselieb stated that, just to follow up on the question a little more and use the bus system as an example, there needs to be a specific analysis done on each of these entities. She noted that, because of the university's partnership with the City of Macomb, funds are available through the Illinois Department of Transportation, so WIU only pays 33 cents for every \$1 of work it gets from the transit system. She thinks it is important to allow the time to go through the due process for each entity and its fiscal operations.

Chair Robinett expressed thanks to Vice President Roselieb for the relationship that has been put in place between the Senate's Budget Transparency Committee and her office; he has appreciated that the committee has been able to get information and explanations when they have been requested.

3. Election of Senate Officers

Chair Robinett stated that if a ballot becomes necessary and a senator wishes to vote via paper rather than online, the parliamentarian can distribute paper in order to facilitate that. He invited incoming Senator Matt Blankenship to come to the table for the voting and noted that senators whose terms are expiring (Elbe, Gravitt, Hamner, McArthur, Turkelli, or Wipplerling) cannot nominate or vote as the Senate moves through this process.

a. Chair

Motion: To nominate Senator Robinett (Tasdan). Senator Robinett declined the nomination.

Motion: To nominate Senator McKenzie (Melkumian).

Senator McKenzie asked for information about the responsibilities before deciding whether to accept or decline the nomination. Chair Robinett promised to help whoever is elected as Senate Chair with advice and guidance. He said the Chair must be available from 4:00-6:00 p.m. every Tuesday for Faculty Senate or Executive Committee meetings and would need prep time for those. He said the Chair also has ongoing meetings with the President and Provost to talk through the issues happening on campus that may need to be resolved, although things may tone down a great deal now that the Senate has moved through all of the governance issues it had to navigate and may see a return to its historical role. He related that the Chair also serves as the representative to the Council on Illinois University Senates, which meets in the fall and the spring. He said the primary labor as Faculty Senate Chair is listening and figuring out where and how to coordinate information. He noted that Ms. Hamm is incredibly helpful in regard to this and guiding these kinds of things, and he has kept copious notes for whoever the next chair is. Senator McKenzie asked about course release time for the Senate Chair; Chair Robinett replied there are three ACEs per semester.

Senator McKenzie accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations, and **Senator McKenzie was elected Senate Chair for 2026-27.**

Chair Robinett thinks that with Senator McKenzie's knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act and some of the ways that courses need to be integrated with it over the next year, she will be very well positioned to help in that regard.

b. Vice Chair

Chair Robinett explained the Vice Chair's role is to serve in the absence of the Chair and to help coordinate some of the committees that require Executive Committee representation. He said the Vice Chair will also have meetings every Tuesday afternoon and may be asked to fulfill additional roles, as Chair Robinett asked Vice Chair Wipperling to Chair the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Governance.

Motion: To nominate Senator Mason (McKenzie). Senator Mason accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations, and **Senator Mason was elected Vice Chair.**

c. Secretary

Chair Robinett explained the Secretary's role is to take minutes if, for any reason, Ms. Hamm were unable to and to proof and review her minutes at other times before they are shared with the Senate.

Motion: To nominate Senator Gillotti (Melkumian). Senator Gillotti declined.

Motion: To nominate Senator Chakravorti (Melkumian). Senator Chakravorti declined.

Motion: To nominate Senator Allwardt (Melkumian). Senator Allwardt accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations, and **Senator Allwardt was elected Secretary.**

4. Election of Senate Nominating Committee Representatives
(two representatives from each college – from different schools)

Chair Robinett said the Senate Nominating Committee meets as often as needed to fill vacancies on committees and councils, but a lot of their work is done electronically. Senator Gravitt remarked that while it can be difficult to ask faculty to volunteer for service, there was a good response to the interest survey this spring, and SNC was able to fill almost all of its positions for fall. She noted that it was harder last year to find people to serve, but it sometimes comes to knowing people and trying to convince them to fill some of the vacancies. She noted that in terms of workload the service is not that bad, but trying to talk to faculty to convince them to volunteer can be like trying to sell candy bars when in grade school.

a. College of Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Education

Motion: To nominate Senator Cole, School of Humanities (McKenzie). Senator Cole accepted.

Motion: To nominate Senator Blankenship, School of Social Sciences (Robinett). Senator Blankenship accepted.

There were no further nominations, so Senators Cole and Blankenship will represent the College of Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Education on SNC next year.

b. College of Business, Health, and Community Programs

Motion: To nominate Senator Robinett (Melkumian). Senator Robinett declined.

Motion: To nominate Senator Melkumian, School of Accounting and Business Administration (Melkumian).

Motion: To nominate Senator Frederick, School of Nursing, Applied Health, and Human Performance (Robinett).

Senator Frederick asked about the time commitment for this service. Senator Gravitt replied that it is roughly one to two hours once or twice per semester, depending upon how many openings there are for the different committees. She said the last meeting of the spring semester involves reviewing the results of the interest survey and trying to fit faculty into the vacancies they are interested in filling. Senator Frederick stated that while she is overwhelmed this semester, she is trying to be thoughtful and think forward, and because she will not have as many ACEs in the fall, she would accept the nomination.

There were no further nominations, so Senators Melkumian and Frederick will represent the College of Business, Health, and Community Programs on SNC.

c. Senate Nominating Committee Chair

Chair Robinett stated that this position works closely with Ms. Hamm to look through the lists of faculty and suggest people to serve on the various councils and committees.

Motion: To nominate Senator Cole (Melkumian). Senator Cole accepted the position of SNC Chair for 2026-27.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council on Admission, Graduation, and Academic Standards (CAGAS)
(Dan Malachuk, Chair)

1. Changes to Nursing Admissions Requirements

The CAGAS report states that the council heard a proposal from Nursing on April 9 “to adjust their admissions policy to be more sensitive to the rigor of students’ prior coursework in the sciences.” CAGAS asked Nursing to make the language more specific and approved it on April 23. The language would specify that “Applicants who have completed advanced, rigor-intensive coursework in science and mathematics may be eligible for holistic review with a cumulative GPA of 2.95 or higher, provided their academic performance in these courses demonstrates readiness for the demands of the nursing curriculum.”

Senator Tasdan asked if there is a limit as to how many students Nursing can accept into their program. Nursing Director Patty Eathington responded there are limits based on the number of classes they offer and the number of clinical sites they have available. She added that there would be no way that the program could accept 100 students. Senator Tasdan clarified that he asked because he knows the program is in high demand and wondered if the program is unable to accept all applicants; Dr. Eathington replied this is correct. She explained, though, that the changes to this policy will put WIU’s program on a level field with junior colleges because up to this point if a student took Microbiology at WIU, for example, they would have to get a C+ to be accepted into the Nursing program, but if they transferred in from Spoon River College they would be allowed in with a C. She said this is not fair to WIU students, and she wants to put them on a level platform, which is why Nursing wants to make this change. She added that Nursing has not had to turn away a student who is fully qualified for a long time, so she feels confident in this change.

NO OBJECTIONS TO THE CAGAS REPORT

B. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI) (Bob Intrieri, Chair)

1. Curricular Request from the Department of Theatre and Dance

a. Request for Change of Major

i. Theatre

Chair Robinett pointed out that this request was pulled from the previous agenda, but the department has addressed previous concerns.

THEATRE CHANGE OF MAJOR APPROVED

2. Curricular Requests from the Department of History

a. Request for New Course

i. HIST 395, Professional Development in History, 1 s.h.

HIST 395 APPROVED

b. Request for Change of Option

i. History (Option A)

HISTORY OPTION CHANGES APPROVED

3. Curricular Requests from the School of Education

a. Request for Change of Minor

i. Educational Studies

EDUCATIONAL STUDIES CHANGE OF MINOR APPROVED

b. Request for Change of Major

i. Educational Studies

EDUCATIONAL STUDIES CHANGE OF MAJOR APPROVED

4. Curricular Requests from the Department of Art and Design

a. Requests for New Courses

i. ARTS 360, Printmaking I, 3 s.h.

ARTS 360 APPROVED

ii. ARTS 361, Printmaking II and III, 3 s.h., repeatable to 6 s.h.

Senator Gravitt remarked that she is unfamiliar with using two numbers for the same course with the same prefix, such as Printmaking II and III, but

then she looked in the catalog and found several like this. She asked how this shows up on students' transcripts – whether the first three hours show up as Printmaking II and the second three hours show up on transcripts as Printmaking III. Registrar Sarah Lawson explained that, like ARTS 331, Ceramics II and III, both numbers would appear on the transcript each time students take the course. She said the title would show up exactly the same because it is repeatable. Senator Gravitt asked if this means the course will show up as Printmaking II and III each time because that is the permanent title; Registrar Lawson confirmed this is correct.

ARTS 361 APPROVED

- iii. ARTS 460, Studio Problems in Printmaking, 3 s.h., repeatable to 9 s.h.

ARTS 460 APPROVED

Chair Robinett thanked CCPI and CAGAS for the incredible amount of work they did this year.

B. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC) (Denise Gravitt, Chair)

1. Faculty Nominations for Fall 2026

Chair Robinett pointed out that some of these nominations fall under the Faculty Senate's new service exception which was approved as a Bylaws amendment early last fall. He explained this amendment allows for exceptions to be made to the traditional service limitations. He stated that, if no senators object, they will be signaling by unanimous assent that in accordance with Article VI, Section III.J. of the Senate Bylaws, exceptions are approved to these specific appointments for: consecutive terms of service, concurrent service on multiple councils, and senators serving on councils. He pointed out that since these terms do not start until next year, they would not fall under the vote taken earlier this year which applied to 2025; because these terms start in 2026, senators would be saying that, for the purpose of these nominations, exceptions are being granted. He added that any nomination with an asterisk indicates that there would be an exception to the Bylaws for this appointment.

Senator Gravitt asked if a senator could object to one nomination or whether there must be a blanket approval. Chair Robinett responded that a senator could do that, but in that case the exceptions would not be approved by unanimous consent and would go through a different process. He asked if there were any objections to the nominations brought forward by the Senate Nominating Committee.

NO OBJECTIONS

SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Council on Admission, Graduation, and Academic Standards (CAGAS)

Julie Brines, School of Applied Clinical, Educational, and Professional Programs
*Josh Wroblewski, School of Visual and Performing Arts

2029 CBHCP
2028 AT-LARGE

Council on Campus Planning and Usage (CCPU)

*Denise Gravitt, School of Engineering and Technology
*George Mangalaraj, School of Computing, Mathematical, and Data Sciences
Gary Baum, School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration
*Dan Schmidt, School of Visual and Performing Arts

2029 CBHCP
2029 CBHCP
2029 CBHCP
2029 CHASE

Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI)

Kat Myers, School of Visual and Performing Arts	2029	CHASE
Doug LaFountain, School of Computing, Mathematical, and Data Sciences	2029	CBHCP
*Denise Gravitt, School of Engineering Technology	2029	CBHCP
Leesa Thompson, School of Nursing, Applied Health, and Human Performance	2029	CBHCP
Chris Bitner, School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration	2029	CBHCP
VACANT HUMANITIES		
VACANT APPLIED CLINICAL, EDUC., & PROF PROGRAMS		
VACANT AGRICULTURE		
<u>Council on General Education (CGE)</u>		
*Donald Laney, School of Visual and Performing Arts	2029	HUMANITIES/ARTS
*Gregory Baramidze, School of Computing, Mathematical, and Data Sciences	2029	MATH/NAT SCI
Peter Gloviczki, School of Communication, Media, and Experience Industries	2029	BAS SKILL/PUB SP
<u>Council for Instructional Technology (CIT)</u>		
*George Mangalaraj, School of Computing, Mathematical, and Data Sciences	2029	CBHCP
*Jen McKenzie, School of Education	2029	CHASE
Rebel Mickelson, School of Visual and Performing Arts	2029	CHASE
Everett Hamner, School of Humanities	2029	CHASE
<u>Council for Instructional Technology AI Subcouncil</u>		
Tahir Khan, School of Computing, Mathematical, and Data Sciences	2029	CBHCP
VACANT	2029	
<u>Council on Intercollegiate Athletics (CIA)</u>		
Pam Peters, School of Communication, Media, and Experience Industries	2029	CBHCP
Damon McArthur, School of Visual and Performing Arts	2029	CHASE
*Brian Bellott, School of Natural Sciences	2029	CHASE
*Charlie Chadwell, School of Visual and Performing Arts	2029	CHASE
*Sebastian Szyjka, School of Education	2029	CHASE
<u>Council for International Education and Multicultural Programs (CIEMP)</u>		
Carla Pacciotto, School of Education	2029	CHASE
<u>Council on Writing Instruction in the Disciplines (WID)</u>		
David Lane, School of Social Sciences	2029	CHASE
Paul Chinen, School of Visual and Performing Arts	2029	CHASE
*Mei Wen, School of Nursing, Applied Health, and Human Performance	2029	CBHCP
*Deb Allwardt, School of Applied Clinical, Educational, and Professional Programs	2029	CBHCP
<u>UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:</u>		
<u>Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) Advisory Committee</u>		
Emily Shupe, School of Nursing, Applied Health, and Human Performance	2028	CBHCP
<u>Bureau of Cultural Affairs</u>		
Rich Cangro, School of Visual and Performing Arts	2029	AT-LARGE
Alice Melkumian, School of Accounting and Business Administration	2029	AT-LARGE
<u>Campus Violence Prevention Committee</u>		
Scott Hemenover, School of Social Sciences	2029	AT-LARGE
<u>Distinguished University Professor Selection Committee</u>		
Alice Melkumian, School of Accounting and Business Administration	2029	CBHCP
Julia Albarracin, School of Social Sciences	2029	CHASE
<u>Committee on Honorary Degrees</u>		

Binto George, School of Computing, Mathematical, and Data Sciences	2029	CBHCP
Scott Hemenover, School of Social Sciences	2029	CHASE
<u>Intellectual Property Oversight Committee</u>		
Paul Chinen, School of Visual and Performing Arts	2029	AT-LARGE
Leigh Ann Fisler, School of Social Sciences	2029	AT-LARGE
<u>Provost's Advisory Council</u>		
Hollie Mason, School of Education	2028	AT-LARGE
Amanda Silberer, School of Applied Clinical, Educational, and Professional Programs	2028	AT-LARGE
<u>Provost's Awards Committee</u>		
Damon McArthur, School of Visual and Performing Arts	2029	CHASE
<u>Radiation Safety Committee</u>		
Lisa Wipperling, School of Visual and Performing Arts	2029	AT-LARGE
<u>Student Laureate Selection Committee</u>		
Ute Chamberlin, School of Humanities	2029	CHASE
Jongnam Choi, School of Natural Sciences	2029	CHASE
<u>University Conduct Board</u>		
Josh Wroblewski, School of Visual and Performing Arts	2029	AT-LARGE
Julie Cox, School of Applied Clinical, Educational, and Professional Programs	2029	AT-LARGE

The slate of candidates was elected. Chair Robinett asked if senators have any suggestions for incoming SNC Chair Cole to reach out to in order to fill remaining vacancies. Senator Gravitt remarked she has already reached out to some people but thinks some of the new schools need to have their school meetings before they can figure out who they want to put forward to represent them.

IV. Old Business – None

V. New Business

A. For the Good of the Body – None

Motion: To adjourn (Gravitt)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Hamm
Faculty Senate Office Manager and Recording Secretary