

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Special Meeting, 13 May 2025, 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom and in Union Capitol Rooms

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT IN PERSON: D. Allwardt, E. Asare, D. Gravitt, D. Hunter, H. Mason, J. McKenzie, A. Melkumian, B. Petracovici, J. Robinett, R. Sharma, S. Turkelli, J. Walker, L. Wipperling, E. Woell

SENATORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: J. Albarracin, B. Bellott, E. Hamner, D. McArthur, B. McDonald

SENATORS ABSENT: B. Brewer, D. Brown, C. Chadwell, H. Elbe

EX-OFFICIO: Krista Bowers Sharpe, Parliamentarian; Mark Mossman, Interim Provost

GUESTS: Julie Brines, Tara Feld, Rich Filipink, Rick Kurasz, Sarah Lawson, Pat McGinty, Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Jim McQuillan, Holly Nikels, Betsy Perabo, Renee Polubinsky, Tim Roberts, Sebastian Szyjka

Chair Robinett expressed his appreciation to senators who will not be continuing on Faculty Senate in the fall, noting that they have made a difference in the lives of students, to their campuses, and in their communities. He also thanked those senators who were willing to give their time, talents, and energies to serve on the Senate Executive Committee.

Chair Robinett expressed his appreciation to Parliamentarian Bowers Sharpe, whose wit and wisdom have made working with her a pleasure, adding that her generosity in serving as parliamentarian with everything else that is going on has demonstrated her commitment to making things better. He also expressed thanks to Senate Office Manager and Recording Secretary Annette Hamm for always going above and beyond for Faculty Senate and whose commitment to shared governance is inspiring.

Chair Robinett reminded those present that Faculty Senate is the established government organization for faculty at WIU; Board of Trustees procedures outline procedures for staff and students to establish their own governing bodies. He noted that each of these governing organizations is delegated the authority to promote shared participation in wise decision making. Chair Robinett reminded everyone that while guests may ask questions during Faculty Senate meetings, senators and faculty will take precedence in order to be recognized. He asked those attending via Zoom not to post in the chat because that feature is only used in case information needs to be quickly shared with senators. He also reminded everyone to keep their comments, questions, and statements relevant to the issues being discussed.

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. April 29, 2025

- On page 2, “ever-changing” is misspelled in the Faculty Senate Chair report. (Asare)
- On page 8, “in” should be corrected to “is” in the seventh line of the second full paragraph. (Asare)

MINUTES APPROVED AS CORRECTED

B. April 8, 2025 – Closed Meeting Minutes (shared only with senators)

CLOSED MEETING MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Approvals from the Provost

1. Requests for New Courses

- a. ACCT 430, CPA License Preparation, 3 s.h.
- b. NUTR 413, Public Health Nutrition, 3 s.h.
- c. PH 430, Health Disparities, 3 s.h.

2. Requests for Changes of Majors

- a. Accountancy
- b. Business Analytics
- c. Chemistry
- d. Economics
- e. English
- f. Foreign Languages and Cultures
- g. Forensic Chemistry
- h. Nutrition and Dietetics
- i. Nutrition and Foodservice Management
- j. Public Health
- k. Theatre

3. Requests for Additional Emphases

- a. Public Health Nutrition
- b. Public Health Preparedness
- c. Public Health Services Management

4. Requests for Additional Options

- a. Business Analytics
- b. Economics
- c. Finance
- d. Human Resource Management
- e. Management
- f. Marketing
- g. Supply Chain Management

5. Request for Change of Minor

- a. Professional Writing

6. Requests for Changes of Options

- a. Agricultural Business
- b. Biochemistry
- c. Chemistry
- d. Chemistry – Teacher Education
- e. Creative Writing
- f. English – Teacher Education
- g. French
- h. Literature and Language
- i. Pharmacy
- j. Professional Writing
- k. Spanish

7. Requests for Inclusion in General Education

- a. MUS 196, Music in the Rock Era, 3 s.h.
- b. MUS 197, American Country Music, 3 s.h.

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

8. Request for WID Designation

a. ECON 351, Global Economic Poverty Issues, 3 s.h.

B. Provost's Report

Chair Robinett noted that Interim Provost Mossman has joined the meeting via Zoom, adding that while Interim Provost Mossman will not present a report today, he will be present to answer any questions.

III. New Business

A. Request for Creation of New Colleges and Schools

Chair Robinett related that he had asked the Provost's office for some clarifying numbers regarding Fall 2025. He was told that anticipated faculty numbers for Fall 2025 are 264 Unit A and 30 Unit B, as of this morning. He pointed out that the document under consideration was based on an estimation of 270 faculty in Fall 2025, so he wanted to make those updated estimates clear. Chair Robinett added that the new College of Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Education would go from 190 faculty now to 171, while faculty in the College of Business, Health, and Community Programs would go from 142 faculty to 123.

Chair Robinett related that a survey and accompanying information were distributed to the 332 Faculty Senate-eligible faculty, and 173 of these responded, a 52 percent response rate. He said that of those, a majority in both colleges approved the creation of new colleges; faculty in the Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Education voted 63.5 percent yes to 36.4 percent no, while faculty in Business, Health, and Community Programs voted 79.2 percent yes to 20.7 percent no.

Chair Robinett related that faculty were also asked to vote on creation of the new schools, with the following results from the College of Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Education:

- School of Humanities and Social Sciences: 55.6 percent yes; 44.4 percent no
- School of Natural Sciences: 81 percent yes; 19 percent no
- School of Fine Arts: 50 percent yes; 50 percent no

From the College of Business, Health and Community Programs, the votes were:

- School of Applied Health: 68.8 percent yes; 31.2 percent no
- School of Business: 90.5 percent yes; 9.5 percent no
- School of Public Safety: 100 percent yes
- School of Engineering, Information, and Technology: 52.9 percent yes, 47.1 percent no

Votes were not taken for schools that already exist, such as the School of Nursing.

Chair Robinett related that the Chair of the Council of Chairs, Pete Jorgensen, polled chairs and directors as well, with a response rate of 53 percent with an N. of 16. He said that when asked if they support the creation of the *college* to which their unit would belong based on the reorganized school-based model, 56.3 percent responded yes, 6.2 percent responded no, and 37.5 percent responded maybe. He said that when asked if they support the creation of the *school* to which their unit would belong based on the reorganized school-based model, 50 percent responded yes, 25 percent responded no, and 25 percent responded maybe.

Chair Robinett pointed out that the request for creation of the new colleges and schools has now been submitted, and at some point today a senator will likely make a motion to approve or not to approve the request, or Chair Robinett will make the motion himself, followed by a vote. He opened the floor for discussion.

Senator Hunter asked if senators will be voting on each school at today's meeting. Chair Robinett responded that senators will be asked to vote on the creation of the two new colleges, then will vote on the creation of the new schools in groups. He added that if senators wish to proceed in a different way, such as voting on each individual school, the motion can be worded in that way.

Senator Gravitt asked if senators will vote for every school and college, even if they do not represent or are not in that particular unit. Chair Robinett confirmed that senators will vote for all of them. He added that at this point everyone is in their Senator role rather than in their Faculty role, where they were previously asked only to vote on their own units. He added that now senators are being asked to vote according to the procedures of shared governance in order to provide feedback to the Board of Trustees, who will ultimately make a decision.

Senator Albarracin expressed her objection to the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, which she thinks is out of proportion to the size of the other schools, which are much smaller. She asked if the order of discussion could be reversed to consider the schools first, vote on those, then move on to the rest, because she is concerned about voting to support creation of the colleges when she has concerns about some of the schools. Chair Robinett thinks that because the colleges are the main focal point of how everything will work, Faculty Senate should start with the colleges, then could have discussions about each of the schools within the colleges if desired. He would prefer to see the motions occur in this order.

Senator Albarracin asked if Interim Provost Mossman could explain the rationale behind why the School of Humanities and Social Sciences is so huge compared to other schools. She thinks this represents an uneven distribution of resources and will be a giant job for someone to oversee, almost like being a dean. Interim Provost Mossman thinks there is a misconception: this school would include individual departments, which are not being combined and would have department chairs, so the school directors would be the administrative layer who will work on things like scheduling and coordinating things across the division. Interim Provost Mossman explained there was an effort to get as much efficiency as possible when thinking about the line of school directors in the new organizational structure. He noted that the previous model combined the departments into one School of the Humanities, but the goal in the current proposal is to allow for individual departmental autonomy. He explained that the school directors will be an inward-facing management line that will work with faculty and chairs on scheduling.

Interim Provost Mossman emphasized what Chair Robinett said earlier in that the key thing is the two-college model, and there can be flexibility when developing that model moving forward -- which may include coming back to Faculty Senate for more votes, if necessary. He thinks it would be an unreasonable expectation to say that everything is set in stone, but a structure is needed, then future changes can be made through shared governance.

Senator Albarracin asked if there could be consideration given to splitting Humanities and Social Sciences, noting that the other college (Business, Health, and Community Programs) has more divisions within it. She thinks this might be a way of making the two colleges more even. Interim Provost Mossman responded he does not think the committee aspired to have a symmetrical model as much as to accurately represent the work that is going on in each college and school. He recognizes that the two colleges will be somewhat lopsided right now, but thinks that is what makes sense. He added that there will always be options to change as the plan moves forward.

Senator Hunter observed that the reorganization will affect Faculty Senate considerably. He thinks colleagues need to take into account that this will result in a reshaping of decision making at the faculty level. Chair Robinett pointed out that this is noted in the Request for Creation of New Colleges and Schools document. He agrees that faculty governance and shared governance overall will have to be looked at. He thinks one of the great things about constitutions and bylaws is that they specify procedures for amending, and Senate governance procedures will be part of the policies and procedures looked at in Phase 2. He recognizes that it will be a busy year near year as UPI colleagues

and the Faculty Senate and Executive Committee work to rebuild and reimagine what future workloads will look like. He thanked Senator Hunter for bringing that to everyone's attention.

Senator Hunter related that there has been a lot of concern expressed to him over the title of the College of Business, Health, and Community Programs. He asked if, after voting today, there might be opportunities in future to modify that title to better represent that college. Chair Robinett responded that, building on what Interim Provost Mossman has said, there have been ongoing conversations among the Constituency Committee, and he feels very confident these will continue. He recognizes that as the university moves into the rebuild and reimagining stage, as noted in the request, there will be realities that the committee has not thought of, and some of these things, such as the names of units, may need to be tweaked. He thinks a lot of reimagining will occur, such as reconsidering how ACE sheets are currently looked at by seven different people. He noted that the new ERP coming online will lead to a lot of changes. He added that many of the changes occurring at WIU as the institution moves into the next two years are also happening in higher education overall. He anticipates there will be a lot of collaborative effort moving forward.

Senator Hamner related that he has heard concerns regarding resources and budgetary discretion as much as about representation on Faculty Senate. He asked if Interim Provost Mossman could help clarify whether this is likely to be a kind of defining division or whether it is an unnecessary concern that some of his colleagues share. Interim Provost Mossman thinks this is an unnecessary concern. He explained that in any model that has been considered, the cost savings would not come from any appropriated dollars attached to any department but will primarily come from summer contracts and chairs' and directors' salaries. Interim Provost Mossman noted that, as has been stated all along, the two original models were in the same ballpark in regard to cost savings, but the proposed changes represent more than cost savings; they are intended to reimagine how the Division of Academic Affairs functions. He recognizes that there have had to be many cuts to department budgets in recent years, but he does not think that should be a concern in regard to the proposal, and it is not its underlying purpose.

Senator Hamner related that someone raised a scenario to him where Provost Travel Awards may be divided in availability according to a certain number allotted to each school. He asked, in order to assuage concerns even further, if this is also not something to be concerned about. Interim Provost Mossman responded that is not something to be concerned about and would not make any sense to do.

Senator Gravitt observed that, as a follow up to Senator Albarracin's remarks regarding the sizes of schools, there would be one school with 64 faculty while the School of Agriculture might only have eight, yet each would have one director. She is concerned about trying to level out the workload and representation of different groups. Interim Provost Mossman responded that is an appropriate concern. He noted that when talking about representation, such as Faculty Senate's shared governance model, that will be part of the implementation phase, and currently the committee has not yet gotten into the weeds of things like departmental workloads and supplemental contracts, in addition to representation on Faculty Senate and things like that.

CAGAS Chair Rich Filipink asked to clarify something said earlier by Interim Provost Mossman. He thinks that it is not clearly defined anywhere on the Provost's website or in any of the documentation presented today that this model envisions school directors and then department chairs within the colleges. Interim Provost Mossman confirmed there would be department chairs within the schools. He hopes they can be faculty who would receive release time during the academic year. Dr. Filipink asked if this would include the already amalgamated schools that have existed for awhile or only the newly created schools. Interim Provost Mossman replied it would include anyone who would be considered a chair now, while school directors would be similar to what the School of Music has now. Dr. Filipink observed that what is now the School of Accounting and Business Administration consists of what used to be four departments. He asked if this means there would be just a director and potentially chairs for Accounting and Business Administration and for Recreation, Park, Tourism, and Hospitality. Interim Provost Mossman responded this is an implementation question which will be determined once consideration is given to the workload, the amount of release time required for the position, and those kinds of things.

Dr. Filipink asked what the differentiation is between a school director and a department chair, noting that this is not made clear in any of the documents. Chair Robinett responded that these questions have been brought up and discussed a bit, but part of it will come down to what UPI navigates and negotiates. He stated that UPI President Merrill Cole has brought up some of these questions to the Constituency Committee, on which he serves, throughout its meetings and has talked about what the negotiation process will be as the university moves into a new contract. Chair Robinett understands there will be much discussion about retention, promotion, tenure, and who is delineated in what role as regards chairs and school directors. He said another topic has been how conflict (student/faculty or faculty/faculty) would be handled and which person would navigate and negotiate that process. He added these conversations were discussed in the Constituency Committee with the understanding that UPI and the administration would navigate some of this.

Dr. Filipink indicated his understanding of what Chair Robinett is describing but said the real genesis of his question is that when there were two models, having a chair for each department only existed in in Model 1 but now seems to have transmogrified itself into Model 2, the current model. He remembers hearing the argument that Model 1 was more streamlined because there were only school directors rather than a multiplicity of chairs. Chair Robinett stated that he is unaware that at any point of this process there were not chairs. He recalls that faculty chairs were discussed for both Model 1 and Model 2; the streamlining was that in the current model both colleges would have the same school structure. He observed that Model 1 had fully independent departments, both outwardly and inwardly, while Model 2 moved the university to a point where the scheduling could primarily be centralized at the school level, although each department would still be able to have a level of autonomy in how it operated through the faculty chairs. He added that the Constituency Committee also thought this would make it much easier to adjudicate issues of promotion, tenure, and those types of processes. Dr. Filipink said that this is not quite what he recalls hearing but will see how it goes.

Chair Robinett asked for additional questions; there were none. He believes that this point the most efficient way to move forward would be to entertain a motion to approve creation of the two colleges.

Motion: To approve creation of the two colleges (Robinett/Melkumian)

Senator Wipperling appreciates that shared governance is occurring on this part of the process but noted that Faculty Senate was not part of the discussion when four colleges was reduced to two, and she would have appreciated being part of that conversation. She noted that at one point a three-college model was on the website for discussion, but Faculty Senate was not allowed to provide feedback on that model before it was taken down. She wanted to have this noted for the minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE CREATION OF THE TWO COLLEGES PASSED
14 YES (10 in-person, 4 zoom) – 3 NO (2 in-person, 1 zoom) – 1 ABSTENTION (1 in-person)

Chair Robinett told senators that now that the two colleges have been approved, they can move forward with discussion of the new schools. He asked if senators would prefer to do this by college or by discussion of individual schools. Senators Albarracin and Hunter indicated they would prefer the discussion proceed by school. Chair Robinett indicated that discussion would begin on the schools to be created within the College of Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Education.

Motion: To approve creation of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (Robinett/Melkumian)

Senator Hunter asked who will be voting; Chair Robinett replied that every senator will vote. He added that senators will not be voting as representatives of their units but will be voting as a Senate.

Senator Petracovici asked if senators will be voting for the departments within each school or just for the school. Chair Robinett responded that senators will just be voting on the creation of new schools. Senator Petracovici noted that a lot of departments expressed dissatisfaction with the schools they are in and would like to switch schools, so he wonders if that will be possible afterwards. Chair Robinett clarified that this proposal has been brought to Faculty Senate to review as part of the faculty

governance process; everything that is within the document as well as the Faculty Senate votes will be conveyed to the Board of Trustees, but Faculty Senate is not creating this reorganization as that is a function of the Board. Senator Petracovici asked whether senators supporting Senator Albarracin's suggestion to split the School of Humanities and Social Sciences into two units should vote against the creation of that school. Chair Robinett responded that a senator could vote no to the creation of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. He added that a senator could also propose an amendment to create two separate schools from this one, but Chair Robinett would prefer that senators at this time vote on what has been presented.

Senator Walker suspects what is behind these questions is perhaps a feeling of apprehension by senators and their constituents on voting for something with the hope that it can be changed later versus being able to stand behind their vote. He understands the process and does not have a better solution, but he wonders if that feeling is shared by his colleagues since it has been weighing heavily on his mind. Senator Wipperling thanked Senator Walker for his comments.

Senator Woell remarked this can more broadly be said about the entire proposal because there are so many unknowns that faculty do not know how it will turn out. He noted that many of the key issues – retention, promotion, and tenure in particular – still have to be negotiated with the union, so senators are being asked to decide something where they do not know what the outcome ultimately will be. He added that if senators are being asked to just go on trust, he does not favor that option.

Chair Robinett remarked that while he can appreciate the concerns, the reality that begins to intrude is that decisions will need to be made about how the new ERP will be implemented; in regard to seeking funding from the state as to what WIU will look like and what it will need to do; and when moving forward with new marketing plans and recruitment modeling. Chair Robinett pointed out that with the amount of money WIU has, it cannot be all things to all potential students, and the university cannot keep all buildings up and operating as they have been, particularly when moving from four colleges to two. He added that moving from four academic colleges to two does not include the cost savings from elimination of the Honors College. Chair Robinett would prefer to have every bit of data in front of him, but that is not where things stand at this time and is out of Faculty Senate's hands. He noted that Faculty Senate does not negotiate the UPI contract; UPI will do that based on their understanding of where things are going. He added that, financially, the university cannot stay where it is.

Senator Melkumian noted that senators are doing their best imagining things that will probably still be changed with the new negotiations, but the final decision made by the Board of Trustees may be completely different than what senators are working with now. Chair Robinett said that while he cannot speak for the Provost, he does not think it will be completely different than what senators are looking at now. Senator Melkumian suspects the names of the schools and their structures could be different from what senators are working on now. Chair Robinett stated that both the Provost and the President have communicated that there will likely need to be changes that occur throughout implementation in order to make sure of what is being done. He noted that just within this month the state legislature will vote on things that could greatly impact the financial realities of this institution. Senator Melkumian added that the new contract coming next year might also lead to changes.

Senator Gravitt announced that she will vote no because of the comments indicating that with 64 faculty this would be the biggest school and would be managed by a single director. She reiterated that the School of Agriculture, with eight faculty, would also have a single director. She understands that units with common programs or issues should be grouped together, but she cannot approve this particular one because it is so huge that it would be unfair to a single director to have to oversee all of that compared to what other directors are responsible for. Interim Provost Mossman emphasized that this proposal is not combining all of the departments into one school; it represents an administrative structure that allows for more efficiency in the way everything is done, from ACE sheets to studying the schedule, and will allow for more coordination across the university. He acknowledged that this is a reimagining of the university in the future, with lower enrollments and potentially fewer buildings, since WIU has been 40 percent or more underfunded by the state for 15 years. He noted that the administration is trying to work on this process together as part of shared governance, but it is not realistic to expect to get everything perfect without going through a process. Interim Provost Mossman

believes this is the first step, which will lead to a second and then a third step; there is a three-year outline of how the university will try to implement this which envisions the Division of Academic Affairs through this particular model. Senator Gravitt said that while she agrees with this, Chair Robinett said that senators must vote yes or no, so she is clarifying why she will be voting no at this point based on the information available right now.

Senator Allwardt remarked it seems like Interim Provost Mossman is saying that it may be true that there are very disparate sizes of schools or divisions, but that could be accommodated by having more release time or more staff. She asked if these are possibilities. Interim Provost Mossman responded the committee is against a one-size-fits-all model because that has not worked at Western in the past. He thinks it is important to recognize there are a diversity of disciplines and work, which needs to be better represented in all of the different forms, documents, and practices of institution's administration. Chair Robinett added that while there may be 64 faculty members inside the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, there would also potentially be seven faculty chairs within this school. He noted that while the School of Agriculture would have one director, it would not have faculty chairs because of how it would function. He noted that the faculty chairs will be where the labor is distributed within schools in order for departments to act autonomously within the administrative unit.

Senator Hunter asked if the department chairs would report to the director of the school or to the dean. Chair Robinett responded they would report to the school director for scheduling purposes.

Senator Petracovici asked if in this model the deans and school directors would be considered the administration with no teaching while faculty chairs would take on more responsibilities with release time. Chair Robinett replied this is the way it has been proposed, but UPI is the agent for collective bargaining and will work with the administration on this. Senator Petracovici pointed out that one big difference would be that chairs would no longer be considered administration.

Senator Hunter observed that the new structure would have two deans, associate provosts, and a provost at the executive level making all the major decisions for Academic Affairs. Interim Provost Mossman stated there will also be associate deans as well as an assistant dean for licensure and external accreditation, along with school directors. Senator Hunter asked if school directors will be considered a part of the administrative structure. Interim Provost Mossman confirmed that they would be in this organizational model. He pointed out that, looking at the larger narrative, there are a whole set of offices, such as the Registrar's Office and Office of Sponsored Projects, which are also part of the larger administration.

Senator Albarracin reiterated her point of disagreement with creation of a giant School of Humanities and Social Sciences because it is not a fair distribution of resources compared to other schools with a lot fewer faculty and fewer students. She would like to see this school split. She also noted that the disciplines have completely different perspectives; the English Department, for example, works very differently from the Departments of Psychology, Political Science, or Sociology and Anthropology. She will not vote to approve the creation of this school.

MOTION TO APPROVE CREATION OF THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES FAILED

4 YES (3 in-person, 1 zoom) – 11 NO (7 in-person, 4 zoom) – 4 ABSTENTIONS (3 in-person, 1 zoom)

Motion: To approve creation of the School of Natural Sciences (Robinett/Melkumian)

Senator Albarracin said she would like to hear from senators in the departments involved in this school. No one in the Capitol Rooms or on Zoom raised their hand to speak. Senator Albarracin asked if Senator Bellott would comment. Chair Robinett asked that senators be respectful of putting other senators in situations where they are called on to speak on behalf of large groups. Senator Bellott pointed out that senators have the results of the vote from faculty in this area and their comments to reference.

MOTION TO APPROVE CREATION OF THE SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES PASSED

15 YES (10 in-person, 5 zoom) – 3 NO (1 in-person, 2 zoom) – 1 ABSTENTION (1 in-person)

Motion: To approve creation of the School of Fine Arts (Robinett/Melkumian)

Senator Wipperling observed that in looking at one of the documents for today's meeting, it appears that Fine Arts is losing the only faculty member in Museum Studies, one of its departments. Senator McArthur remarked he thought the layoff for Museum Studies was rescinded. Senator Wipperling remarked that if it was, it is inaccurate in the documentation. Interim Associate Provost Holly Nikels clarified that it was not.

MOTION TO APPROVE CREATION OF THE SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS PASSED

14 YES (11 in-person, 3 zoom) – 2 NO (1 in-person, 1 zoom) – 2 ABSTENTIONS (1 in-person, 1 zoom)

Chair Robinett noted that Faculty Senate will now move into consideration of the schools in the College of Business, Health, and Community Programs.

Motion: To approve creation of the School of Applied Health (Robinett/Allwardt)

MOTION TO APPROVE CREATION OF THE SCHOOL OF APPLIED HEALTH PASSED

15 YES (10 in-person, 5 zoom) – 1 NO (1 zoom) – 3 ABSTENTIONS (3 in-person)

Motion: To approve creation of the School of Business (Robinett/Melkumian)

MOTION TO APPROVE CREATION OF THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS PASSED

16 YES (11 in-person, 5 zoom) – 1 NO (1 zoom) – 2 ABSTENTIONS (2 in-person)

Motion: To approve creation of the School of Public Safety (Robinett/Turkelli)

MOTION TO APPROVE CREATION OF THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SAFETY PASSED

16 YES (11 in-person, 5 zoom) – 1 NO (1 zoom) – 2 ABSTENTIONS (2 in-person)

Motion: To approve creation of the School of Engineering, Information, and Technology (Robinett/Melkumian)

Senator Hunter stated that while he personally is a proponent of this move, his constituents are quite concerned that the missions of Engineering and Technology and Computer Sciences are not aligned at this university and do not really support each other. He related the other concern that has been expressed to him is that currently Engineering and Technology is located on two separate campuses, and with the addition of Computer Sciences the school would be in three different buildings. He concluded that he will have to vote no on this motion.

Senator Wipperling pointed out that Theatre and Dance is on an entirely different side of campus than Fine Arts, but they will be in the same school under this proposal, and their buildings will never be next to one another. She is not sure that buildings need to be in the same place in order to be administered and scheduled together. Senator Hunter remarked that currently the Director of Engineering and Technology drives to the Quad Cities campus twice a week, so this would add another layer to that. He said his constituents are concerned that it would not be workable. Senator Wipperling asked if there are any other suggestions as to where these units could be, not together but in different schools. Senator Hunter responded that currently the School of Computer Sciences is its own administrative unit, and the School of Engineering and Technology is its own administrative unit.

MOTION TO APPROVE CREATION OF THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING, INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY FAILED

8 YES (7 in-person, 1 zoom) – 8 NO (4 in-person, 4 zoom) – 3 ABSTENTIONS (2 in-person, 1 zoom)

Chair Robinett expressed his thanks to senators for agreeing to hold this special meeting and for all the comments and suggestions. He appreciates that Interim Provost Mossman, Interim Associate Provost Nikels, and many members of next year's UPI bargaining team were able to join the meeting so that there can be a wealth of thoughts and ways to move the university forward as everyone faces what may come next for higher education and WIU.

B. For the Good of the Body

Senator Hunter asked for a round of applause for the leadership of the Faculty Senate.

Motion: To adjourn (Wipperling)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary