

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Regular Meeting, 1 September 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom and Union Capitol Rooms

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT IN PERSON: D. Allwardt, E. Asare, A. Baker, M. Blankenship, S. Chakravorti, P. Cole, R. DiCarmine, A. Frederick, N. Gillotti, M. Hoge, H. Mason, J. McKenzie, A. Melkumian, R. Sharma, J. Walker

SENATORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: R. Kelly, F. Tasdan

SENATORS ABSENT: None

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

GUESTS: Tawnya Adkins-Covert, Andrea Alveshere, Lori Baker-Sperry, David Banash, Victoria Baramidze, Keith Boeckelman, Mary Bourell, Amy Carr, Glenn Daugherty, Denise Gravitt, Bob Intrieri, Jamie Johnson, Kristy Keefe, Tahir Khan, Everett Hamner, Jim LaPrad, Sarah Lawson, Kyle Mayborn, Hector Maymi-Sugranes, Jim McQuillan, Nathan Miczo, Lorette Oden, Jennifer Plos, Renee Polubinsky, Jackie Price, Christie Reynolds, Jeremy Robinett, Dan Schmidt, Sophia Tedesco

Chair McKenzie explained that Faculty Senate is the faculty governance council for Western Illinois University, similar to other administrative bodies such as the Council for Administrative Personnel, the Civil Service Employees' Council, and the Student Government Association. She explained that deference regarding requests to speak will be given to senators, faculty, and guests, in that order. She stated that in order to acknowledge those wishing to speak, those guests attending via Zoom are requested to turn their cameras on, and those choosing not to do so in future meetings will not appear on the screen. She asked those attending via Zoom not to use the chat feature in the course of the meeting, which is reserved in case the Senate needs to do something quickly; that they use the react feature if they wish to speak; and that they use their full name when joining the meeting rather than any acronym or ecom username.

I. Motion Regarding Remote Attendance

***Whereas** the Western Illinois University Faculty Senate is subject to the requirements of the Illinois Open Meetings Act; and,*

***Whereas** Section 5 ILCS 120/7 outlines the procedures for attendance by means other than physical presence; and,*

***Whereas**, once a quorum of the members is physically present a majority of the body may allow members of the body to attend by other means if they cannot physically attend because of personal illness or disability, employment purposes or the business of the public body, a family or other emergency or unexpected childcare obligations,*

***Be it resolved** that for the 2026-2027 academic year, once a quorum of the members is physically present, senators who have notified the Acting Secretary or Parliamentarian of their wish to attend by other means shall be allowed to attend remotely.*

Chair McKenzie explained that before the meeting begins, senators need to consider a Motion Regarding Zoom Attendance, which was made and seconded by the Executive Committee so that senators can go straight into discussion. She noted that while most motions appear in New Business, this one needs to be considered immediately because it allows senators who join the meeting remotely to be allowed to vote. She

added that rather than make a motion at the beginning of every meeting to allow for remote attendance, this motion will allow for members to attend remotely throughout the year.

MOTION APPROVED 16 YES (14 in person, 2 zoom) – 0 NO – 0 ABSTENTIONS

II. Consideration of Minutes

A. April 28, 2026

MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

III. Announcements

A. Approvals from the President and Provost

1. Approvals from the President

- a. Changes to the Course Syllabus Policy
- b. Revised admission requirements for the School of Nursing

2. Approvals from the Provost

- a. Requests for New Courses
 - i. ARTS 360, Printmaking I, 3 s.h.
 - ii. ARTS 361, Printmaking II and III, 3 s.h., repeatable to 6 s.h.
 - iii. ARTS 460, Studio Problems in Printmaking, 3 s.h., repeatable to 9 s.h.
 - iv. CS 467, Computer Vision, 3 s.h.
 - v. CSEC 326, Cybersecurity Infrastructure Administration, 1 s.h., repeatable to 3
 - vi. HIST 395, Professional Development in History, 1 s.h.
 - vii. THEA 452, Period Styles II, 3 s.h.
 - viii. THEA 485, Professional Preparation, 3 s.h.
- b. Request for Change of Minor
 - i. Educational Studies
- c. Requests for Changes of Options
 - i. History (Option A)
 - ii. Standard Physics
- d. Requests for Changes of Majors
 - i. Educational Studies
 - ii. Theatre

B. Provost's Report

Provost Mossman welcomed Senator McKenzie as the new Chair of the Senate and expressed thanks to former Senate Chair Jeremy Robinett, adding that he and Dr. Robinett had a great collaborative relationship, and he looks forward to continued collaborations with Faculty Senate going forward.

Provost Mossman recently sent an email regarding the enrollment verification process. He recognizes that the process requires faculty to resubmit when a new student joins the class, which has led to faculty tending to wait until their class is set before sending in their verifications, but there needs to be verification as early as possible because of the importance of adhering to federal

guidelines regarding Title IV funding as well as providing the ability to reach out to students who might need an intervention.

Provost Mossman expressed thanks to faculty for helping to provide students with an exciting first week of classes. He noted there are a lot of great things happening on campus, including new, bright turf on Hanson Field, which can be seen from a distance, and a win for the football team against Sorenson last week. He noted that the formal opening of the Goldfarb Center for the Performing Arts which is coming up soon, as well as the Emergency Operations Center opening are among the positive things happening on the campus.

One of Provost Mossman's larger initiatives for this year is to work closer with the public relations and marketing team. He has noticed that the university is often very successful at the local level, with a department determining something that succeeds for their area, but this does not seem to scale up to an institution-wide supported initiative. He thinks this is certainly true with the way that public relations has been done in the Division of Academic Affairs. His office has developed a form for deans to submit so that they can get media attendance at events and support successful faculty, staff, and students. He would ideally like to see a positive story about what is being done at the university sent out every day. Provost Mossman recognized that the university has seen success with the "Just Hired" campaign, but he does not want to just have a single initiative but to have several, including talking to alumni, current students, and prospective students. He stated there will be a push toward this in Academic Affairs, as well as a push to get as many people as possible to various events. He pointed out that WIU is vital in economic terms to the community but is also vital culturally in the things that are offered on campus. He noted that everyone present participates in a lot of things in the community, but that needs to be made more intentional and more people made aware of it.

Provost Mossman announced that five dealers are still needed for Casino Night, an event for students held tomorrow night (September 2); volunteers should contact Vice President Schuch. He noted that there were more attendees at Rocky After Dark this year than the past five years and close to record numbers, so a lot of students are engaging in activities. He said that research consistently shows that getting students engaged with the institution from the start in ways like this is a big step toward retention.

Provost Mossman told senators the university is now in Phase III of the Rebuild, which will include getting into the details of putting together schedules for Fall 2027 and Spring 2028 as well as big picture issues, such as fostering community engagement and recognizing how the university engages with the community. He stated that while there is not a planning document at this point, he hopes there will be shortly, and he will share that with Faculty Senate.

C. Student Government Association Report – None

D. Faculty Senate Chair's Report

Chair McKenzie welcomed new and returning senators and the guests present for the meeting. She recognizes and appreciates that giving of one's time is really valuable for the institution. Chair McKenzie also thanked everyone for what has seemed like herculean efforts during the last two years of the Rebuild. She noted that a majority of the things that weighed on the campus community so heavily over the past couple of years have now been implemented, and the university is not only still standing but may be even stronger than it was before. She thanked everyone for the work they put into this effort and for their continued service to the institution because it is very important.

1. Highlighting Good News

Chair McKenzie noted that Provost Mossman said the university will be working this year on being forward-facing with public relations, imaging, and sharing of really good news. As part of Chair McKenzie's regular report to the Senate, she would like to share good news happening at WIU. She started this initiative with something near and dear to her heart called Project Flight. Chair McKenzie explained that Project Flight is a post-secondary

transition program intended for Macomb students with disabilities who have graduated and aged out of K-12 services but need additional support. She noted that this partnership between WIU's School of Education and Macomb High School is housed in Horrabin Hall; it features a classroom and a mock apartment with plans to add a student-run coffee shop. Chair McKenzie thinks this is a brilliant example of utilizing university resources to serve community needs. She noted that the School of Education had some space available, and their students are able to get hands-on experience with young adults with disabilities through this program. She added that while the space is very bare right now, that allows the young adults in this program to build their own classroom space.

Chair McKenzie plans in the future to ask senators for items of good news. She would like for it to be not only campuswide but something that ties directly to faculty, such as grants, publications, or faculty doing something really cool in their classes. Chair McKenzie would love to be able to highlight some of these things in her report and plans to reach out with a way for senators to be able to share these things with her. She hopes that when things come up in department or school meetings that senators will email her with a suggestion that she check with a faculty member to learn more about these things. She thinks focusing on some wins would be a great way to start every Faculty Senate meeting.

2. Transitional Report from Previous Faculty Senate Chair, Jeremy Robinett

Chair McKenzie told senators that she wants to hand some of her time during the Chair's Report to former Senate Chair Jeremy Robinett, who will give a transitional report and talk a little bit about some of his new roles. Dr. Robinett thanked Chair McKenzie for stepping into her new role this summer at a time when, realistically, it was impossible for Dr. Robinett to do everything that needed to happen. He related that she met with him several times over the summer to transition the knowledge about Faculty Senate in a way that had not been able to be accomplished in recent years. He said this involved going through shared folders and documents, including those of the Budget Transparency Committee and other groups, and discussing other work moving forward.

Dr. Robinett plans to continue to be involved with the Academic Use of Space Committee and may visit Faculty Senate on occasion this year to discuss that process. He said the committee gathered a massive amount of data last year that will allow them to dig into what the university can and cannot do with the available space.

Dr. Robinett related that Chair McKenzie joined him at the recent Board of Trustees meeting in order to begin forming that relationship, and he has connected her to the Council for Illinois University Senates (CIUS).

Dr. Robinett clarified some things he has heard are being said around campus regarding his new roles. He explained that in June the decision was made not to continue the contract of the former Athletics Director and to move in a new direction in the way that Athletics did some things. He said that at that time, Associate Athletics Director Shelby Borchardt was named Interim Athletics Director, but she was about eight and one-half months pregnant, so it was not ideal for her to step into that role. Dr. Robinett related that after a meeting with President Mindrup and Vice President Schuch, President Mindrup added onto his NCAA Faculty Advisory Representative (FAR) responsibilities to enable him to also be the Acting Administrator in charge of Athletics. Dr. Robinett pointed out that this is not a unique situation; Illinois State University allowed their FAR to operate similarly in order to get some specific things accomplished. Dr. Robinett will continue in that role until mid-October. He is grateful to the faculty and staff in the School of Communication, Media, and Experience Industries, where he serves as Director, who have shown him a great deal of patience as he prioritizes every day what things need to be done in which spaces.

Dr. Robinett informed senators that the new turf referenced by Provost Mossman was paid for entirely by revenue from "guaranteed money games." He explained this means WIU's

team played games that it was expected they would lose in order to make money to improve the Athletics program. He added that they will head to Wisconsin in a few weeks for much the same purpose.

Dr. Robinett introduced Sophia Tedesco, the Director of the Student-Athlete Success and Support Center. He observed that as faculty continue to support student-athletes and work with individuals in the various Student Success areas, such as the Student Learning Center, Counseling Center, and Student Development and Success Center, this helps not only student-athletes to be successful but everyone across the campus.

Chair McKenzie announced that communications from Disability Resources are changing this year; faculty will not receive accommodation notifications from the Disability Resource Center this year but directly from the affected students and should be on the look out for those. She said students are asked to copy the Disability Resource Center on their email to faculty, which makes the accommodation request official. Chair McKenzie thinks one benefit of having students reach out to faculty directly is that faculty can then reply directly to these students and perhaps discuss whether the accommodations in place will meet their needs. She suspects this type of direct communication with students felt odd in the past when the accommodation letter was sent by Disability Services, but with the student reaching out directly that barrier is gone, and faculty can have those good conversations early with their students.

Chair McKenzie told senators there has also been a shift in testing accommodations; due to staffing constraints, the Student Development and Success Center cannot proctor quizzes and exams for students needing testing accommodations. She explained that faculty are now responsible for providing these accommodations, such as extended time or alternate testing spaces. She said that if faculty need guidance on this, they should start with the Disability Resources website or reach out to the Student Development and Success Center for help with those accommodation choices.

Chair McKenzie reminded senators that last year Faculty Senate amended the Course Syllabus Policy, and as part of that discussion the Senate Council for Instructional Technology (CIT) presented a syllabus template that is accessible. She said although discussion occurred at that time, the only action that Faculty Senate took was to amend the Syllabus Policy. She noted the minutes for that meeting state that the revisions were intended to keep the institution in compliance with federal mandates, including RSI and accessibility and that using CIT's accessible template would be strongly encouraged but not required. She encouraged senators to pass this information on to their colleagues so that they know they should have an accessible syllabus, but using the template is not required. She added that the review of syllabus templates being undertaken by the Provost's Office will take this into account as well.

Regarding strategic initiatives, Chair McKenzie thinks this year Faculty Senate will have the ability to focus on some things they may not have had time to before because this year the Senate will not have to consider as many curricular requests. She pointed out that there are two requests for consideration at the current meeting, but these were left over from last spring, and after these she does not know how long it will be before another comes through. She thinks this will give Faculty Senate the opportunity to focus on some different things, and an issue that is close to her heart and vital to the university's mission is making sure the campus is welcoming to all students. She thinks this includes making sure that all online courses and any digital content provided to students meets accessibility requirements. She noted that this will be a priority since the university has a compliance deadline of April 26, 2027. She recognizes that there was some question about this deadline date, and the way the guidance and extension are written specify that if a university has a primary audience of 50,000 or less, they have until 2028 to accomplish this requirement, but WIU's primary audience is the state of Illinois, so the April 2027 deadline stands.

Chair McKenzie stated that the goal for WIU has been set at 100 percent, so some sort of actionable plan needs to be created so that the university can try to get at least close to that. She told senators this will be considered in more detail at the next Senate meeting, but she would like them to be thinking about this and talking to people in their areas about what they might need and the barriers

they may have already encountered regarding accessibility. She plans to gather ideas from senators and their constituent groups on what else Faculty Senate should focus on and discuss, such as perhaps create or amend some policies, or examine the way things are done. She will send out some mechanisms to gather this information.

Senator Melkumian asked if the accessibility requirements refer to physical campus materials or only online. She also would like to know what would be required of faculty to meet the 100 percent goal, particularly if their syllabi are already accessible. Chair McKenzie replied that having syllabi accessible is a great start. She explained that what she is mostly talking about in order to be considered accessible is online instruction, but it also extends to anything that faculty might put into WesternOnline or provide in a digital format to students for learning purposes. She said this means that .pdfs, PowerPoints, or anything that faculty provide to students in a digital format and expect them to use for learning must be made accessible. Senator Melkumian asked if this means that everything faculty upload to WesternOnline must be 100 percent accessible by April 2027; Chair McKenzie confirmed this is correct.

Provost Mossman expressed his concern with accessibility for individuals with orthopedic disabilities. He acknowledged that WIU is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant without a doubt, but he thinks there is a difference between compliance and offering a welcoming environment. He noted that some buildings have elevator issues, for instance, and he believes it should be a focus of the Provost's Office to create more accessible spaces for students with disabilities. He stated that there was over \$1 million dedicated to addressing accessibility issues on the campus over the summer, which is excellent, but it needs to be made a priority.

Senator Chakravorti asked if this will include adoption of UCNI, the WesternOnline template. Chair McKenzie replied that this discussion is ongoing. Senator Chakravorti asked if the university will adopt it at some time; Chair McKenzie replied this may perhaps happen.

E. Other Announcements

1. Jackie Price, Director, Student Development and Success Center

Ms. Price began by clarifying that the Testing Center has not been expunged in any way; it is just in the process of being physically transferred out of Disability Resources and into a different space. She stated that while there is no Testing Center right now, faculty will definitely hear about it once the move is complete.

Ms. Price explained that the student development part of the Student Development and Success Center (SDSC) includes student advocacy and navigation; care reporting and referrals; emergency and crisis follow-ups; student absences, including military activations; late withdrawals and appeals; and COVE. She stated that faculty can know that the student absence email that they receive from the SDSC is legitimate if it includes the words "extenuating circumstances"; this terminology will be included whether the student has a broken foot or something more or less serious because SDSC cannot share their personal information with the faculty member. She said when faculty receive this letter, they can be confident that SDSC staff have put a lot of work into verifying that there is an absolute need for that student to miss class.

Ms. Price announced that any late withdrawal appeal from any semester now goes to the SDSC first. She explained that previously the first and second appeal body was CAGAS, but now the student appeals to SDSC first, and if they wish to appeal further it will go forward to CAGAS second so that there are two different bodies considering these appeals.

Ms. Price explained that in the area of student advocacy and navigation, the SDSC office helps students who are trying to acclimate to the university with on- and off-campus resources. Ms. Price works with the university's threat assessment team, which includes Director of Public Safety Derek Watts and Assistant Vice President for Student Success and

Wellness Samantha Klingler. She stated that the SDSC responds to any kind of threat on campus that would affect a student, faculty member, or member of the staff. She added that the SDSC also conducts follow-ups with students regarding military activations and handles student absences associated with these.

Ms. Price told senators that her piece of good news is the SDSC's COVE pantry, similar to the university's food pantry but focused on basic necessities other than food. She said while this service is state mandated it is not state funded. She noted that in the past students with basic needs sometimes resorted to stealing to get those necessities because they cannot afford them, but now they can work with Ms. Price through the "benefits navigator" to allow them to shop for what they need.

Ms. Price stated that another state mandate which is not funded by the state is the position of Housing Liaison, which she fills as part of her SDSC duties. In this position, Ms. Price works with students who have a DCFS history or are at risk of homelessness. She added this falls under the student advocacy and navigation responsibilities of the SDSC.

Another responsibility of the SDSC is care reporting and referrals, referred to as the Leatherneck Care Referral, which can be found at <wiu.edu/wecare> or <wiu.edu/report> (<https://www.wiu.edu/fye/care.php>). She explained that once a student care referral is submitted, whether it is a report regarding a social, emotional, or any other kind of concern, the SDSC begins working on it immediately, unless it is a Saturday. Ms. Price added that she does read the referrals over the weekends, and if the situation is something that needs to be addressed immediately, she will do so, but in general the only time care referrals are not addressed is from 4:30 p.m. on Friday until 7:30 Monday morning. She noted that those submitting Leatherneck Care Referrals will not receive direct follow-up that the issue is being addressed; she asks that those submitting the referrals trust that SDSC does address these very quickly to the best of their ability. The SDSC tries to contact the student in a variety of ways (email, phone, personal check-ins) and may communicate with academic staff or meet with other professionals to clarify or provide more information about a submitted report. Ms. Price said that her office works closely with community resources and partners across campus; this can include University Housing, because she may need to go to a student's room to check on the student if the situation appears to be urgent or there is a history of concerns about the student. She stressed that each situation and student is different, so responses are determined on a case-by-case basis. Ms. Price said she probably works closest with the University Counseling Center (UCC), and often Leatherneck Care Referrals will state that the person submitting referred the student to the UCC. When Ms. Price recognizes while talking to a student that they need counseling, which she is unable to do, she will oftentimes physically walk the student to Beu Health Center or call the UCC to see if they have an appointment available.

Ms. Price said SDSC is the official office for emergency and crisis follow-up, acting as a liaison between students and the university for all kinds of communications. This can involve serving as an emergency contact for students experiencing immediate health, emergency, or personal situations that may affect academic outcomes and acting as a liaison between students, family members, faculty, University personnel, and community agencies to provide academic and moral support. She stated, for example, that if a student misses all of their finals, the SDSC can help the student navigate that situation.

Ms. Price related that the SDSC also provides outreach to students through RockyBot, an AI chatbot which has helped the office address and track students' academic, other engagement, financial, and wellness needs over the past few years. Ms. Price stated that although RockyBot will transition to a different office, she will remain the emergency outreach person for the system. She said another aspect of SDSC outreach is the Oasis Room, which includes a couple of spaces that were intentionally designed for relaxation. She said the space includes a 4K massage chair; an FDA-approved full-body light therapy apparatus for

seasonal affective disorder (which can also just be used on the face if preferred); a tatami mat; journaling projects and other relaxing activities.

Senator Chakravorti asked if donations can be made to the pantry. Ms. Price responded that the SDSC cannot accept food donations since there is a food pantry already on campus; their pantry stocks items such as hair care, oral care, and feminine hygiene products. She would love to have a food pantry in the same area so that it could be one-stop shopping, but that is not currently possible.

2. Christie Reynolds, Counselor and Interim Supervisor, University Counseling Center

Ms. Reynolds told senators the Counseling Center was moved to the second floor of Beu Health Center last year, but it is in no way associated with Beu and they remain two separate entities. She stated that while the two do work together at times, there is strict confidentiality between them, and a student would have to sign a release for them to communicate about the student. She added that Beu and the Counseling Center have different receptionists and telephone numbers.

Ms. Reynolds explained the Counseling Center provides free, personal, and confidential counseling to WIU students. She stated that while it is great when faculty refer a student, students have to make their own appointments; they can be sitting with the faculty member when they make the appointment, but the Counseling Center will need to speak to the student directly. She noted that the Counseling Center also cannot do any follow-up with the faculty member unless the student signs a release form allowing this; students must also sign a release if the UCC is to be allowed to work with SDSC.

Ms. Reynolds noted that the Counseling Center has a free six-session limit per semester; the student's first (intake) appointment does not count as one of the six. She noted, though, that there are some other ways to address student needs if needed beyond the six free sessions. She stated that graduate students in Psychology and other departments related to the field of counseling are available to work one-on-one with students with skills training, relaxation, self-esteem, time management, or whatever the student is looking for. She said this does not count toward the student's six sessions, nor does group counseling, which is also offered through the UCC. She added that students can pause their six-week sessions or come every other week in order to stretch them out and use the other options at the same time.

Ms. Reynolds told senators that the Counseling Center also offers a relaxation room, although it is not as nice as the SDSC's Oasis Room. She said the UCC's Joy Room includes a massage chair and some relaxation activities students can engage with. She thinks the facilities were easier for students to access when the UCC was located in Memorial Hall because there was better flow, but the Counseling Center has seen some students occasionally sit in the massage chair for an hour since their move to Beu, such as if the student received a bad grade or is just having a bad day. Students must check in with the receptionist before accessing the Joy Room.

Ms. Reynolds related that the UCC partners with another agency to allow them to offer 24/7 crisis work. She explained that since the Counseling Center is short on staff already, and two staff members will be retiring at the end of the year, they are only able to offer two hours of crisis counseling per day, at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. She said students can make an appointment online or call for an appointment, but the two spots are filled on a first-come-first-served basis. She noted that if these two appointments are filled, however, students can be connected to a licensed therapist outside of the UCC; they would still call the Counseling Center number (309-298-2453) and wait for the prompt where they can be connected with a licensed therapist with an outside agency with which the Counseling Center has contracted. Ms. Reynolds explained this is different from Hotline or peer counseling, and the UCC will receive a report the next day on the conversation so that they can follow up. She added that if students have a certain diagnosis or need a special kind of counseling, the UCC has "flex

credits” that students can use to connect them to other therapists in this program where they can receive free counseling. She said this program, which can be signed up for through the UCC or the SDSC, is intended for students who have a need that the Counseling Center cannot fulfill.

Ms. Reynolds told senators that the Well Track Boost app is available for all WIU students to sign up for with their username and password. She said the app includes mood trackers, informational videos, coping skills information, and other ways for students to work on their own mental health.

Ms. Reynolds stated that a crisis appointment can be scheduled online, as can an intake appointment, but, thereafter, for personal counseling the appointment must be made by a phone call to the UCC office or through the student’s own therapist. She asked senators to encourage students to participate in Leatherneck Lift Up Day on September 10 on the Multicultural Center lawn from 1:30-4:30. She said the UCC will have about eight to ten tables with a lot of different activities, mental health information, and giveaways. She added that there are usually pretty good numbers that attend this yearly peer-driven event.

3. Amy Carr, WIU Representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council

Dr. Carr explained that the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) includes representatives from each of the 12 public universities and a rotation of representatives from community colleges and independent institutions. She said they meet one full day per month; with the exception of December and February meetings, which are held via Zoom, the events are held at different host institutions and will be held at WIU on September 18. Dr. Carr will serve as the FAC Chair this year so will attend some of the IBHE Board meetings as well.

Dr. Carr explained the IBHE has six statutory responsibilities: master planning (their strategic plan is called Thriving Illinois); budget; program approvals, institution approvals; grants; administration; and an information system. She said the IBHE has a lot of information on their website (<https://www.ibhe.org/>) and encourages people to look at their dashboard. She explained the FAC advises the IBHE and delivers a report to them in June; the June minutes will not be available until September, but they held a short morning meeting followed by a lunch with some of the IBHE Board members, then last year’s FAC Chair gave a report, followed by presentations of various kinds. She said normally the FAC divides up into caucuses by type of institution (public, private/independents). Dr. Carr thinks one of the best things about serving on the FAC is the opportunity to speak across the different institutional spaces.

Dr. Carr noted that last year the FAC had working groups on technology, including AI; equity; faculty and student health; early college, which is sometimes referred to as dual credit; student basic needs, which is a working group the IBHE asked the FAC to create; and credit for prior learning. She thinks there may be a working group created this year on literacy as well, and the faculty and student health working group plans to send out a survey this year.

Dr. Carr related that the April FAC meeting was held at Morton Community College in Cicero, which is 83 percent Hispanic. She pointed out that the FAC working group on prior learning would really like to see a statewide task force created in order to follow 12 other states in getting more credit for prior learning. She related that HVAC instructor Mike Jonas, who led a tour of some of the CTE areas of the college, said he does not always support prior learning credit, at least in his field, because students might find out once working in the field that they have learned the wrong thing. She said he found out once he transitioned into his field of refrigeration that he wanted to learn a lot more from his instructors. Dr. Carr noted that the April meeting also included a presentation from Linnea Stenson from the

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) on accreditation; what stood out to Dr. Carr from this discussion was that the HLC has to work with states that pass limits on academic freedom and cannot necessarily override those things.

Dr. Carr told senators the FAC passed a resolution at its April meeting that was initiated by the public caucus and is featured on the opening page of the IBHE website:

“Whereas the Illinois Board of Higher Education’s proposed budget falls short of adequately meeting the needs of our higher education institutions, the Faculty Advisory Council of the IBHE recommends that the IBHE in its annual budget proposals each year include a model-based funding estimate of the state expenditures that would be adequate for meeting the needs of higher education, including student financial aid, community colleges, and public universities. This is a vital contribution that the IBHE can make to higher ed funding conversations.”

Dr. Carr stated that this resolution follows from conversations about asking the IBHE to communicate in its annual budget where the adequacy gaps are, which, of course, presupposes a higher ed funding formula. Dr. Carr spoke with IBHE Executive Director Ginger Ostro last week; Dr. Carr does not think the resolution will necessarily get picked up on, but the FAC was trying to communicate that hope.

Dr. Carr said the May FAC meeting was held at the Illinois Association of School Boards in Springfield, but it was held on a day some members had final exams, and she was only able to attend part of the meeting. She said the group met with legislators, and any senators can reach out to her if they want to see the two-page handout from the working groups that legislators are given. She stated that, in addition to describing what they have done, it explains that the FAC does not claim to be speaking for institutions or for the IBHE but just provides an opportunity for faculty to share perspectives that they have been considering in their working groups.

Dr. Carr found it interesting to hear from a faculty member at the June FAC meeting that Iowa now has a shorter 90-95 credit hour Bachelor of Applied Professional Studies. She noted that they are not calling it a BS or BA. Dr. Carr said the IBHE has developed an ad hoc strategy committee that is meeting meet with stakeholders about three areas: pathways to completion, affordability, and talent workforce development. She said they are discussing things like three-year baccalaureates and bachelor's degrees at community colleges and plan to meet with the FAC in October.

Chair McKenzie thanked Dr. Carr for attending all of the IBHE FAC meetings and taking such an interest in these discussions.

4. Elections

Senator Hoge asked if senators can serve on multiple committees; Chair McKenzie confirmed that they can.

- a. Committee on Provost and Presidential Performance (two senators from each college, each representing a different administrative school, plus an Executive Committee member, for one-year terms)

Senator Allwardt will represent the Executive Committee. Chair McKenzie asked last year’s committee chair, Senator Gillotti, to speak about this service. Senator Gillotti said the committee last year administered the survey similar to previous years; the committee drafted a survey to evaluate the President and the Provost, distributed it to faculty, and, upon completion, met to analyze the results. She said their result highlighted some of the strongest positives about both administrators and some of the things that faculty felt needed to be addressed to improve the

relationship between administrators and faculty. Senator Gillotti said her job as committee chair was to share this information directly with the President and Provost, and the Faculty Senate advised upon completion of the process that future committee chairs should be tenured faculty members. She added that the committee only met for a few times, so it was not a huge time commitment.

Senator Mason nominated Senator Gillotti, who accepted the nomination. She and Senator Blankenship, who self-nominated, will represent the College of Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Education (CHASE). Senators Melkumian and Hoge self-nominated to represent the College of Business, Health, and Community Programs (CBHCP). There were no further nominations. Senator Blankenship volunteered to serve as chair.

- b. Budget Transparency Committee (one senator from each college, each representing a different administrative school, plus an Executive Committee member, for one-year terms)

Chair McKenzie will represent the Executive Committee. She served on this committee last year and found the experience incredibly enlightening. She learned a lot about how budgeting and spending are done by the institution and ways that perhaps they should be done in future.

Senator Melkumian nominated Senator Walker, but he declined, stating that he has chaired the committee for the past two years and needs a break. He added that the committee does not meet often, perhaps three times a semester, mostly on an as needed basis, and the meetings vary in length.

Senator Di Carmine self-nominated to represent CHASE, and Senator Frederick self-nominated to represent CBHCP on the committee. There were no further nominations.

- c. Provost's Advisory Council (three senators for one-year terms)

Volunteers were Senators Melkumian, Walker, and Baker. There were no further nominations, and they were elected.

- d. Student Learning Assessment Committee (one senator to serve a one-year term; should have assessment experience or be interested in learning more about assessment)

Senator Chakravorti asked how frequently the committee meets. Senator Allwardt served on the committee last year but said it did not meet. Associate Provost Lori Baker-Sperry explained that last year was a transitional year, and she was in a different role within the Provost's Office. She stated that what happens in a normal year, and what will occur this year, is that the committee meets once in the fall and once in the spring. She noted that this is a university-wide committee which includes a representative from the Provost's Office, a representative from each dean's office, a couple of faculty reps from different areas, and representatives from Student Success. She explained the group talks through what is happening regarding requirements for both academic and co-curricular assessment. She added that Damon McArthur, Faculty Associate in the Provost's Office, can walk anyone through the expectations.

Senator Chakravorti self-nominated, and there were no other nominations.

- e. First Four Subcommittee (formerly Committee on First-Year Experience) (one senator for one-year term)

Senator Hoge asked what this committee will do. Associate Provost Baker-Sperry reiterated that last year was a transitional period, and this year there are a lot of new course pieces in place and there will be a widening of what was a much smaller committee last year. She related that last year a lot of hours went into this committee, but she expects that this year the service will be easier and a little less intense. She stated that a lot of new things are being implemented, so there is a real need for faculty voices, and this is one way that faculty can really have an impact on the kinds of programming that are being planned, decisions regarding UNIV 100, and everything from the newsletter to tutoring.

Senator Hoge said this committee really sparked his interest, and he would like to self-nominate. There were no other nominations, and he was elected to represent the Senate. Chair Melkumian thanked the senators for volunteering for these service opportunities.

IV. Reports of Committees and Councils

Senators received the annual reports in their shared Google Drive and reviewed them before the meeting. There were no questions or objections about any of the annual reports. The full annual reports of the councils for last year and previous years can be read at https://www.wiu.edu/faculty_senate/committees/index.php.

A. Budget Transparency Committee
(TBD, Chair, 2026-2027)

1. Annual Report (Jett Walker, Chair, 2025-2026)

NO OBJECTIONS

B. Council on Admission, Graduation and Academic Standards
(Dan Malachuk, Chair, 2026-2027)

1. Annual Report (Dan Malachuk, Chair, 2025-2026)

NO OBJECTIONS

C. Council on Campus Planning and Usage
(TBD, Chair, 2026-2027)

1. Annual Report (Dan Schmidt, Chair, 2025-2026)

NO OBJECTIONS

D. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction
(TBD, Chair, 2026-2027)

1. Annual Report (Bob Intrieri, 2025-2026)

NO OBJECTIONS

2. Curricular Requests from the School of Education

a. Request for New Minor

i. Special Education

NO OBJECTIONS

3. Curricular Requests from the School of Computing, Data, and Mathematical Sciences

a. Request for New Course

i. CSEC 493, Topics in Cybercriminology, 3 s.h.

Senator Melkumian asked if Fall 2026 will be the first time the course is offered. Computing, Data, and Mathematical Sciences professor Jim McQuillan replied that the school had hoped to have the class approved last semester but were unable to get it through. He noted that it will be cross-listed with LEJA, and they had hoped to have it listed in the undergraduate catalog so both of the schools could offer it, but it is not currently being offered.

NO OBJECTIONS

E. Council on General Education

(David Banash, Chair, 2026-2027)

1. Annual Report (David Banash, for Josh Averbek, Chair, 2025-2026)

NO OBJECTIONS

F. Council for Instructional Technology

(Kristy Keefe, Chair, 2026-2027)

1. Annual Report (Andrea Alveshere, Chair, 2025-2026)

NO OBJECTIONS

G. Council on Intercollegiate Athletics

(TBD, Chair, 2026-2027)

1. Annual Report (Todd Lough, Chair, 2025-2026)

NO OBJECTIONS

H. Council for International Education and Multicultural Perspectives

(TBD, Chair, 2026-2027)

1. Annual Report (Tahir Khan, Chair, 2025-2026)

NO OBJECTIONS

I. Writing Instruction in the Disciplines (WID) Committee

(TBD, Chair, 2026-2027)

1. Annual Report (Nathan Miczo, Chair, 2025-2026)

NO OBJECTIONS

J. Senate Nominating Committee

(Peter Cole, Chair, 2026-2027)

1. Annual Report (Denise Gravitt, Chair, 2025-2026)

NO OBJECTIONS

2. Faculty Nominations

SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

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

Rich Filipink, Humanities	replacing	Monica Rouse	Fall 2026 only	CHASE
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Council on Campus Planning and Usage (CCPU)

Elgin Mannion, Social Sciences			2027	CHASE
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Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI)

Luciano Picanco, Humanities			2029	CHASE
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Oscar Perez-Hernandez, Agriculture			2029	CBHCP
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Council for Instructional Technology (CIT)

Damon McArthur, Visual and Performing Arts			2029	CHASE
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Binto George, Computing, Data, and Mathematical Sciences			2027	CBHCP
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Council on Intercollegiate Athletics (CIA)

Gary Baum, Law Enforcement and Justice Administration			2027	CBHCP
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Council on Writing Instruction in the Disciplines (WID)

Ute Chamberlin, Humanities	replacing	Paul Chinen	2029	CHASE
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UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:

Intellectual Property Oversight Committee

Brian Bellott, Natural Sciences	replacing	Paul Chinen	2029	AT-LARGE
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Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council

Leesa Thompson, Nurs/Hlth/Hum Perf	replacing	Jen McKenzie	2029	ALTERNATE
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Policy Review Committee

Rich Filipink, Humanities	replacing	Gordon Pettit	2029	AT-LARGE
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Provost's Advisory Council

Emily Shupe, Nurs/App Hlth/Hum Per	replacing	Amanda Silberer	2028	AT-LARGE
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Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (Committee on)

Terry Chasteen, Visual and Performing Arts			2028	CHASE
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University Technology Advisory Group (UTAG)

Christie Davis, Social Sciences			2029	CHASE
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Josh Wroblewski, Visual and Performing Arts			2029	CHASE
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There were no further nominations, and the slate of candidates was declared elected.

V. Old Business – None

VI. New Business

A. Resolution to Continue Ad Hoc Committee on Federal Transitions

Whereas, the Ad Hoc Committee on Responses to Federal Transitions was established by the Faculty Senate in 2024 for the following purposes:

- *To assess potential and probable issues and opportunities resulting from the new US presidential administration;*
- *To consult with appropriate state, local, and campus authorities to understand impacts of potential changes;*
- *To facilitate educational programming to inform campus constituencies about legislative and policy changes that may affect university operations;*
- *To explore and develop student-centered policies and practices as needed in response to administrative actions.*

Whereas, the committee's work has not yet been completed and continuation is necessary to fulfill its charge;

Be it resolved, that the Faculty Senate continue the Ad Hoc Committee on Responses to Federal Transitions for the 2026-2027 academic year, with the same membership unless vacancies occur, and with the same charge as originally adopted; and

Be it further resolved, that the committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Faculty Senate when available or upon request.

Chair McKenzie explained that senators need to decide whether to continue this committee this year; it was established in 2024 and continued through last year. Senator Frederick asked who the members are who are already on this committee. Senator Mason responded that in addition to her, the members include Jeremy Robinett; Zach Messersmith; Benjamin Brewer; Julia Albarracin; Jonathan Hammersley; Ketra Roselieb; Mark Mossman; Anna Valeva; Athena Brooks; Justin Schuch; Andrea Baker; Amy Carr; Everett Hamner; Ashley Frederick; Jeff Hancks; Kristi Mindrup; Kaitlynn Crisantos; and Tim Roberts.

Dr. Robinett offered to add context regarding this committee. He recalled the task force was originally created in order to advise President Mindrup and provide input as to how faculty and others felt about things happening at that time, such as immigration, international students, and the stances that universities were taking regarding all of this. He said that President Mindrup asked for others to be invited to attend after the original task force was created, and some individuals were added after they reached out to indicate they were passionate about certain topics, but the original group was much smaller. Senator Baker added that the original task force included herself, Senators Mason and Frederick, and Drs. Robinett, Hamner, Hammersley, Albarracin, and Valeva. Dr. Robinett added that representatives at that time were selected on the college model.

Motion: To approve continuing the ad hoc committee (Melkumian/Asare)

MOTION APPROVED 14 YES (in-person) – 0 NO – 0 ABSTENTIONS

B. For the Good of the Body

Senator Hoge told senators he has been at the WIU Livestock Farm all day having animal science labs working with beef cattle. He attended a meeting last week in the Office of Student Engagement in the University Union basement, and he encourages everyone to visit this space. He thinks Nick Katz, Director of Student Engagement, would be a good person to speak to Faculty Senate. He said this space has conference rooms that look like they came from a Netflix movie, relaxation chairs, group spaces for meetings, and a pool table. He was a little sad to see that the bowling alley has been taken offline, but thinks the Office of Student Engagement has done an incredible job with the basement space and has made it the nicest place he has seen on campus.

Motion: To adjourn (Allwardt)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Hamm

Faculty Senate Office Manager and Recording Secretary