

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

Regular Meeting, 26 September 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: J. Albarracin, D. Atherton, D. Barr, G. Cabedo-Timmons, C. Chadwell, H. Elbe, D. Gravitt, E. Hamner, D. Hunter, S. Ko, J. Land, K. Perone, B. Petrocovicci, S. Turkelli, K. Wiseley, L. Wipperling

Ex-officio: Jeremy Robinett, Parliamentarian; Provost Manoochehr Zoghi

SENATORS ABSENT: S. Bailey, B. Bellott, D. Brown, L. Ebert Wallace, A. Lewis, J. Sarra, M. Shamsuddoha, Y. Tang

GUESTS: Andrea Alveshere, Lee Brice, Amy Burke, Amy Carr, Craig Conrad, Katrina Daytner, Dennis DeVolder, Patricia Eathington, Greg Kain, Jessica Lin, Patrick McGinty, Rebel Mickelson, Russ Morgan, Lorette Oden, Renee Polubinsky, Linda Prosis, Eric Sheffield, Emily Shupe

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. September 12, 2023

APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Provost's Report

Provost Zoghi announced that the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting scheduled for this week has been postponed to October 12/13. The Provost's office was waiting for Board approval before announcing the Provost's Travel Awards applications process, but with the postponement the decision has been made to upload that information tomorrow. He asked Associate Provost Russ Morgan to elaborate.

Associate Provost Morgan apologized for how long the information has taken to be announced; he had hoped to get the information out earlier, but the BOT has not yet voted on changes to the UPI contract; now that their meeting is delayed the decision was made to go ahead and move the information out. He noted that the process will not be much different than last year for Unit A tenure and tenure-track faculty, who will be eligible to receive up to \$600. He added that in order to be eligible, faculty must be working on some sort of presentation or presenting at a conference as opposed to just attending a conference. Associate Provost Morgan stated that the guidelines from last year will continue, with the biggest difference being that there will be \$60,000 in travel awards guaranteed to be available this year. He said this was agreed to in the new UPI contract and is an increase from \$30,000-\$35,000 in past years. The Provost's office anticipates that it should be able to cover all travel requests this year with the additional funding.

Associate Provost Morgan told senators that the biggest change to the Provost's Travel Awards this year is that they will be available to employees in Bargaining Unit B -- associate faculty and ASPs (admissions counselors, advisors, and mental health counselors). Unit B employees are eligible to receive \$300, but they will be able to receive the funding for simply attending a conference or participating in a workshop.

Associate Provost Morgan stated that the CITR/ODES webpage remains available for now, and applications for the travel awards can be accessed there. There are some changes to past forms, but it is basically similar to previous forms. Associate Provost Morgan said the forms will eventually migrate to the Provost's website, but for now it is a seamless process comparable to past years. Individuals with questions about the process should call Russ Morgan or Amy Hodges in the Provost's office.

Chair Albarracin asked Associate Provost Morgan if he can share any more information about the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR). Provost Zoghi stated that Alisha Looney, Interim Associate Vice President for Communications, Marketing, and Media Relations, is finalizing an announcement to be circulated campuswide tomorrow. Associate Provost Morgan added that the Provost's office is still working on changes to CITR, which will continue over the semester. They are trying to make the changes as seamless as possible and to make sure things that faculty are used to are still available.

Associate Provost Morgan announced that salary increases agreed to in the new UPI contract will also be postponed in light of the postponement of the BOT meeting, but they will be retroactive to the beginning of the contract (July 1 or August 17). He said everything was on track for increases to be reflected in November 1 paychecks (since the payroll for October 1 was run two weeks ago), but they will now be delayed until December 1.

Senator Gravitt asked if review and approval for potential positions being advertised or approved will also be delayed until October; Provost Zoghi replied affirmatively because this must wait on the BOT. He added that Vice President for Finance and Administration Paul Edwards will make a presentation to the BOT at their meeting, and post-meeting there will be a better idea of where everything stands.

B. Student Government Association (SGA) Report – None

C. Other Announcements

1. Greg Kain, CIO, University Technology

Mr. Kain told senators he would first address specific questions raised by faculty members and then open the floor to additional questions from senators.

- A faculty member asked about the progress on the differentiated email addresses that University Technology had previously said would be rolled out. Mr. Kain explained that last year uTEC said they would assign different email extensions for various groups of people, such as alumni (@alumni.wiu.edu) and emeriti (@emeritus.wiu.edu), but that idea has now been dropped. Mr. Kain said the email policy has been updated and this clause removed. He explained that previously this change was to be made to address the large number of email addresses and there was a push to reduce the number of accounts managed by University Technology, with the biggest target being alumni. He explained that while it is important to stay in touch with alumni, University Technology does not want to maintain active accounts for students once they leave the university. He thinks at some point there may be a need, from a cybersecurity standpoint, to reduce the number of accounts associated with the university, but that would be taken down the road and not in the near future.
- A faculty member asked whether University Technology offers any assistance to students who cannot afford a laptop or have a laptop that is temporarily out of service. Mr. Kain responded there is currently no laptop loan program. There was an ad hoc laptop loan program during Covid but it was not continued once the pandemic was over. Mr. Kain stated that Chromebooks were previously loaned to students, but the only thing available to students right now is that they might be able to get laptop

support of some kind by bringing them into the University Technology Support Center in Stipes Hall. Mr. Kain said the Library may have a short-term laptop loan program for a day or a week, but he is not certain.

- The Faculty Senate Council for Instructional Technology was asked last year to determine how much the university saved by having students pay for their printing, and Mr. Kain told the council that he would report his findings to the Faculty Senate. Mr. Kain related the program to have students pay for printing started in September 2021 in order to bring awareness to and address the costs of printing on campus. In FY19, the last big year before Covid, students printed 2,500,000 pieces of paper on campus at a cost of \$45,000. During the last fiscal year, students printed 657,000 sheets at a cost of \$16,000.

Mr. Kain noted that students are currently allowed to print 250 copies for free per academic year. For this academic year so far, students have an average of 242 copies remaining in their accounts; only seven students have already gone over their allotment. He noted that WIU's allotment is more than that allowed by other institutions, but the policy is not intended to be a revenue generator. Mr. Kain stated that as part of the agreement with SGA, the money saved was to be reallocated to benefit students. A decision was made with SGA to use the savings to invest in wireless capabilities for the University Union; this project is not yet complete but is moving forward.

Senator Wipperling remarked that her Musical Theatre students are required to print out a lot of music over the semester as part of what would be considered their textbooks and will surely go over their allotments. She asked if it would be possible to allot different amounts of sheets depending on the majors and needs of the students. Mr. Kain replied this is something University Technology can look into because they want to serve the students and the faculty the best way they can. He noted that decisions like these have costs, but he does not think a handful of students will break the budget. Mr. Kain promised to look into this and provide feedback to Senator Wipperling because he needs to find out more about the complexity of the program first.

Senator Gravitt asked if University Technology has looked into the usage by department or unit and not just by students. Mr. Kain responded that he has those statistics but did not bring those numbers. He added that Ian Szechowycz, Digital and Learning Spaces Director, runs this program and has noted how much printing has changed over the past three to four years. Mr. Szechowycz had observed that Covid changed people's perspectives and led to much more digital adoption, so printing is much less expensive than past years and is not needed as much as before. Mr. Kain added that WIU has less students on campus since 2018, which has also reduced the cost.

Senator Gravitt remarked that faculty have been pushed to not print as much paper for classes as in the past or use handouts, which really constrains her. She asked if the size of paper is factored into the cost; since 11x17 paper costs more than 8½ x 11, she wonders if it counts as two sheets. Mr. Kain responded that even though it is a little more, it is not a material difference in overall cost. He stated that the practice of digital adoption rather than printing handbooks has been very helpful and a big difference. Senator Gravitt noted that while students are being charged against their accounts when printing in computer labs within departments or schools, she does not know if there are other costs associated with this, such as toner and paper, which is being charged back to these units. Mr. Kain responded that a lot of the labs are covered by the Konica contract, which absorbs the cost of paper and toner. He does

not know if all units are covered by this and does not have a break down of this currently.

Provost Zoghi remarked that it makes a big difference if printing is done in color. Mr. Kain responded that color printing costs almost twice as much as black and white. Provost Zoghi stated that students should be urged to think twice before they print. Mr. Kain considers the pay to print program to be extremely successful, adding that the reduction from \$45,000 to \$16,000 exceeded expectations. He added that reducing printing from 2.5 million to 657,000 is a big improvement. He thinks everyone should be very happy with the program so far, and the extra money to help students in the Union is great, so he is encouraged by what the university has accomplished in this area.

Senator Gravitt asked if students have been surveyed to see what they think about the change to print to pay. Mr. Kain responded that students have been surveyed about technology in the past. Parliamentarian Robinett added that there was a lengthy discussion in SGA when this was first proposed about the number of pages that students would be allowed.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Ad Hoc Bullying/Mobbing Committee (Cassandra Standberry, Chair)

1. Proposed Revision to Charge

Chair Albarracin met with both ad hoc committees for their initial meetings. The Committee Anti-Bullying Policies asked that its deadline for a preliminary report be extended from September 1 to October 15 and that its final report be due on January 23, 2024 rather than October 15.

NO OBJECTIONS

Senator Wipperling, who serves on this committee, related that the members discussed whether they are to consider bullying among students at all. Chair Albarracin responded that although some of the examples of her research into this topic that she provided to the committee dealt with students, the charge to the ad hoc committee is specific to employees because Faculty Senate deals with faculty issues. The charge is “to devise a policy that will define and forbid the practice of bullying and mobbing among university employees at all levels and ranks.”

B. Ad Hoc Artificial Intelligence Committee (Michael Lorenzen, Chair)

1. Proposed Revision to Charge

The Committee on Artificial Intelligence at their first meeting asked that their deadline for a final report be revised from December 1 to January 23, 2024. They would also like to add two student members – one from SGA and one international student member. Chair Albarracin explained that international students sometimes have their work flagged by detectors because it seems too formal, especially if they do not speak and write in the American style of English.

NO OBJECTIONS

C. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI) (Amy Burke, Chair)

1. Proposed Changes to Policies and Procedures

CCPI revised its policies and procedures document to make it more closely match current practices. The biggest policy change is the addition of a statement that “It is expected that departments will have a representative present at the meeting when their proposals are considered; failure to have a representative present will lead to the proposals being tabled until the next meeting. In extraordinary situations, exceptions to this practice may be made by an approved motion of the Council. If the motion is approved, the proposal will be considered according to CCPI procedures.”

NO OBJECTIONS

IV. Old Business – None

V. New Business

A. For the Good of the Body

Chair Albarracin remarked that the postponement of the Board of Trustees meeting seems a little scary. She hopes that Trustees just need more time to look at the proposed budget. Associate Provost Morgan responded that is what the Provost’s office has been told.

Senator Gravitt asked about the word “immiserate” in the Committee on Anti-Bullying Policies charge document: “No one has the right to target and immiserate another person for any reason, even if they don’t intend to make them miserable” Chair Albarracin responded the charge was written by former Senate Chair Bill Thompson. Senator Chadwell added that immiserate is defined as “to cause to become poor or impoverished; to make miserable.”

Parliamentarian Robinett, who serves as the NCAA faculty athletics representative for WIU, announced that October 28 is faculty/staff appreciation day at for WIU Football. Faculty and staff will receive two free tickets to the game. This is also Dad’s Weekend, and Hall of Fame recognition will occur at the afternoon game.

Chair Alberracin announced that Thursday, September 28, is the International Day of Peace celebration, hosted by the Department of Political Science, the Latin American Student Organization, the African Students Association, and supported by the College of Arts and Sciences. The event will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the Union Lamoine Room.

Motion: To adjourn (Hunter)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary