

**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
**VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**  
**MARCH 20, 2025**

**Financial Affairs**

- Went live January 2nd with the accounts payable and purchasing modules of Colleague Finance.
- Wrapping up the FY24 compliance, financial, and single audit and waiting on release of these audits through the Office of the Auditor General.
- Implementing the fixed asset module in the Colleague System.
- Working on implementing Cobblestone, a contract management software that will stream line the recording and management of all University contracts.

**Budget Office**

- Recently completed the annual spring reporting to the State of Illinois.
- Preparing for legislative hearings and attended the House appropriations hearing on Thursday, March 13, 2025.
- Beginning FY26 budget cycle and meeting with all campus leaders.
- Collaborating with various campus constituents on the new ERP implementation.
- Continued work with multiple State partners, which yielded notification on March 10, 2025, the Capital Development Board, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, as well as the Illinois Board of Higher Education would be providing funds to WIU of over \$2.2M in reimbursement of deferred maintenance expenditures.

**Human Resources**

- **AFSME Negotiations:** We were unable to reach an agreement with AFSCME Clerical and AFSCME BSW during previous negotiations. We remain hopeful to reach an agreement during our next meeting scheduled for April 15, 2025. If an agreement is reached, we will present a resolution to the Board of Trustees in June.
- **Employee Recognition:** The Employee Recognition Program is scheduled for April 21, 2025. This year, we are preparing to recognize employees with 5 - 40 years of service.

**Facilities Management**

- Diligently evaluating campus buildings in order to change the campus footprint in order to maximize efficiency and best serve students, faculty, and staff.
- Deferred maintenance issues and breakages continue to pose challenges; currently, we have been able to respond in a timely manner to keep spaces open and functioning. We are planning an

electrical shutdown to coincide with the steam shutdown to perform some much-needed maintenance for safety and stability of services

- Working with other state universities to be part of a community solar program that would yield approximately \$90,000 a year in savings. We are also continuing to meet with vendors looking for additional opportunities to engage in solar savings

### **University Technology**

- Went live on January 2 with the Colleague Financial Accounts Payable system. Accounts payable and procurement processing is now happening in the Colleague system with integrations from the MVS system.
- Phishing awareness training is in its fourth month, with employee interactions with simulated phishing emails dropping from ~14% to ~9%, below the 18% industry benchmark for our maturity level.
- Online Teaching and Learning, in collaboration with the Council for Instructional Technology and administrators, is implementing standardized navigation, Regular Substantive Interaction (RSI), and uniform course layouts to enhance online course quality in WesternOnline.

### **Financial Aid Office**

- Corresponded with over 400 students during the month of February alone via 1:1 appointments, walk-ins, phone and email inquiries as we continue to navigate system implementation challenges, as well as day to day State and Federal changes in financial aid.
- On December 19, 2024, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission issued a release noting an 8% decrease in the Monetary Award Program (MAP) for the Spring semester, applicable to all recipients. The Financial Aid team programmed for this change to maintain compliance and partnered with the University Foundation to assist students who were negatively impacted by this State change.
- Continued implementation of 2024-25 Regent Financial Aid Software complete with year 2 (2025-26) in development. Expected to go live mid-March. Implementation of Colleague (Ellucian) in process for 2026-27.