

**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY
SENATE Regular Meeting, 25 January 2022, 4:00 p.m.
Union Capitol Rooms/Zoom**

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

SENATORS PRESENT: D. Atherton, D. Banash, L. Brice, G. Cabedo-Timmons, A. Carr, J. Choi, L. Ebert Wallace, R. Filipink, J. Land, I. Lauer, T. Lough, S. Macchi, D. Oursler, B. Polley, J. Robinett, R. Sawhney, E. Shupe, S. Szyjka, Y. Tang, E. Taylor, B. Thompson, J. Wroblewski

Ex-officio: Russ Morgan, Associate Provost; Betsy Perabo, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: S. Bailey

GUESTS: Tom Blackford, Craig Conrad, Cody Cornell, Dennis DeVolder, Francis Godwyll, Buzz Hoon, Sarah Lawson, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Hector Maymi-Sugranes, Kristi Mindrup, Lorette Oden, Renee Polubinsky, Jim Schmidt

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. November 30, 2021

APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Provost's Report

Associate Provost Russ Morgan announced that the ceremony to recognize recipients of the Provost's Award for Excellence will be held tomorrow (January 26). Due to covid protocols, attendance will be limited to the award recipients and their supervisors. Associate Provost Morgan said the Provost's office hopes that the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer presentation, to be held in March, will be able to be held in-person, but a decision will need to be made closer to the date based on the Covid data at that time.

th President of Western Illinois University, will be inaugurated on Thursday, March 31. Associate Provost Morgan stated that alternative plans are being made for a face-to-face inauguration, if possible, and for a virtual inauguration.

Senator Thompson asked what progress has been made toward reinstating an African American Studies major. Associate Provost Morgan replied that he and College of Arts and Sciences Dean Sue Martinelli-Fernandez have met with a couple of the students involved in this effort. He related that a committee made recommendations which are being considered by members of the administration, deans, and representatives of the Provost's office. Senator Thompson asked what the recommendations were. Associate Provost Morgan replied that he has not seen the recommendations or report, but he thinks the recommendation was to move forward, either with an

Sexuality Studies Committee (ERGS), formed in Fall 2020. Following the elimination of the AAS Major in 2016, the AAS Program became part of the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which currently offers a minor in African American Studies. The AAS Subcommittee of ERGS has made a number of recommendations for strengthening the AAS Program. The current plan is to develop an African American Studies option within the Liberal Arts and Sciences major. Some restructuring of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Department will be necessary to facilitate the new option, and Parliamentarian Perabo has been working with a number of people offering resources that would benefit such an option. She hopes to have the feasibility study for the new option ready to move forward to committees by mid-February. She has been working on this initiative with the Black Student Association President, who is interning in the Liberal Arts and Sciences Department and doing research necessary for the feasibility study to create the new option.

Senator Thompson asked when it is anticipated that the African American Studies major will happen because that is the concern that has been expressed in recent meetings. Parliamentarian Perabo hopes that the African American Studies option will act as an intermediate step for the major, which she hopes can be developed in the relatively near future.

Senator Thompson asked if predictive analysis is being used to analyze WIU's enrollment and retention programming and, if so, how. Associate Provost Morgan replied that he is not sure, and Faculty Senate should speak to the Vice President for Enrollment Management for an answer to this question. Chair Lauer added that this information was included in the Vice President's presentation to Faculty Senate, but agrees that it is unclear as to what using predictive analytics entails.

B.

Indigenous Peoples Statement

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At meetings beginning this week, SGA started discussing plans to change the way that elections are

Ss. to reach ot to him via email at ctcornell@wiu.edu.

D. Other AnnounceLents

1. Open Letter to the Mental Health Action on CaLpus Act by the IBHE Faculty Ad(er)-9 (i)-4.6 (s)-2.3 (o)

Senator Carr

January 27, and the Senate Executive Committee will be picking up this conversation next Tuesday, February 1.

2. Chair Lauer related that the Provost Search Committee has completed their zoom interviews and in the next week or two will be selecting candidates to come to campus for interviews.
3. Election notices have been emailed to eligible faculty for at-large and college-specific vacancies on Faculty Senate for Fall 2022. Chair Lauer asked senators to encourage their faculty colleagues to consider running for one of the seats.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

- A. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)
(Josh Wroblewski, Chair)

SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Budget Transparency Committee

Dan Atherton, Agriculture replacing Mark Bernards Spr 22 only B&T

Council on General Education

Katherine Broughton, RPTA replacing Vacamroug

the new task force will attempt to prioritize which of these issues need to be addressed most urgently and come up with ways to address them.

Motion: To nominate Bill Thompson (Thompson)

There were no further nominations, and Senator Thompson was declared elected. Chair Lauer stated that he will pass along the name of the Senate volunteer to the President after today's meeting, but if an additional senator wishes to volunteer, they can reach out to him.

B. Election of CBT Senator to Senate Nominating Committee

Chair Lauer stated that a senator from the College of Business and Technology is needed to replace Senator Bernards while he is on sabbatical this semester. He explained that the Senate Nominating Committee selects senators and faculty to serve on a range of committees. Senator Thompson added that it is a good committee to serve on if senators are interested in getting a feel for how things work at the University. Senator Wroblewski added that there is not a huge time commitment and much of the work is done at the end of the semester.

Motion: To nominate Dan Atherton (Atherton)

There were no further nominations, and Senator Atherton was declared elected.

C. For the Good of the Body

Senator Thompson asked if Faculty Senate will continue to have meetings in this format in light of the continuing number of Covid cases. Chair Lauer replied that he will do whatever is the will of the Senate. Chair Lauer added that this meeting, which he attends in the Capitol Room, is the only face-to-face he does on campus. Senator Thompson thinks that with the high Covid rate in the county, Faculty Senate should continue to zoom its meetings while allowing a limited number of senators to attend in the Union.

Motion: To adjourn (Brice)

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