

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Regular Meeting, 12 October, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

Union Capitol Rooms/Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: D. Atherton, S. Bailey, D. Banash, M. Bernards, L. Brice, G. Cabedo-Timmons, J. Choi, S. Cordes, L. Ebert Wallace/L., orrG0Lauer, T Lough, SMMacC00D. Ourler, J. Robinett, R. Sawhney, E. Shupe, S. Szyjka, Y. Tang, E. Taylor, B. Thompson, J. Wroblewski

Ex-officio: Billy Clow, Interim Provost

SENATORS ABSENT: None

Ex-officio Absent: Betsy Perabo, Parliamentarian

GUESTS: Steve Bennett, Tom Blackford, Cody Cornell, Dennis DeVolder, Guiyou Huang, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Patrick McGinty, Russ Morgan, Jill Myers, Lorette Oden, Renee Polubinsky, Joani Wilson

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. August 31, 2021

B. September 14, 2021

BOTH MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

(Cody Cornell, SGA representative to Faculty Senate)

SGA has received complaints from some students about new restrictions on printing. Students are now only allowed to print 250 pages free on campus, so SGA is asking faculty to limit the amount of printing they ask students to do. Mr. Cornell said that many students have told SGA representatives that professors are asking them to print slides, papers, lab reports, and music sheets, so SGA wanted to remind faculty of the limits.

Mr. Cornell related that some students have expressed concerns about security in parking lots. A number of students have told SGA they are worried about security around Lincoln and Washington

Halls since the pathway is not well lit and there are no security cameras. Chair Lauer pointed out that if anyone feels insecure, they can call the Office of Public Safety for an escort.

Senator Bernards asked if there has been any discussion about revisiting the policy of limiting student printing to 250 pages since it is apparently inadequate for many students. Mr. Connell responded that SGA discussed the pros and cons of removing the limit or adding to it because as professors have students print more it makes them worry about the limit and having to pay out of pocket. He noted that the concerns are not coming from all students, but a few have approached SGA. Senator Filipink recalled that Faculty Senate discussed some of the pitfalls of approving this change when it was proposed by University Technology last year. He would suggest that SGA talk to uTech again because this was a foreseeable outcome of instituting these limits. He also suggested that SGA determine which classes seem to be generating the most concern from students. He thinks this could be an especially serious problem for the increasing number of international students at WIU. Senator Szyjka related that he assigns students a course packet that does not cost them as much as a textbook and can be purchased through the Union Bookstore. He would suggest this for faculty who assign a lot of handouts because it only costs students about \$10-\$15 compared to the cost of printing off themselves.

D. Other Announcements

1.

Senator Banash observed that the *Western Courier* is a major institution on campus; it has been one of the most important and well-respected institutions for students and has been historically independent of – and has even engaged in tussles with – WIU’s administration over the years. He recalled that the *Courier* was even banned from campus in the 1970s and operated off campus before it was allowed to come back. Senator Banash thinks it would be helpful for a representative from Broadcasting and Journalism to come to Faculty Senate to provide an update on plans for the newspaper and discuss the importance of keeping it editorially independent. He noted that with this change, student editors will no longer be paid. Senator Banash understands there are other issues to be considered – newspapers are struggling nationwide – but he hates to see these kinds of things happening to WIU’s student newspaper, and he hopes the Senate Executive Committee can get someone from Broadcasting and Journalism to talk to the Senate about their plans.

Chair Lauer remarked that ExCo just found out about the change less than a week ago and promised that he would reach out to the department. Senator Tang, who works in Broadcasting and Communication, agrees that there should be a statement issued about what is going on with the *Courier*. He offered to speak with *Courier* advisor Will Buss. He stated that the *Courier* offices have been moved from the Heating Plant Annex to Sallee Hall, and it is now only available in a digital format. He thinks it is currently in a transitional period but thinks they will sooner or later publish the paper again.

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Senator Tang remarked that WIU is seeing a record number of international students this year, and he wonders why the university is seeing such a large jump and how the administration plans to take advantage of this momentum to attract more international students in the future. President Huang responded that WIU has a very effective recruiter in Dr. Randy Glean, Executive Director of the Center for Global Studies. He said that office has been particularly effective in recruiting in India,