

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Regular Meeting, 24 October 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: J. Albarracin, S. Bailey, B. Bellott, D. Brown, G. Cabedo-Timmons, L. Ebert Wallace, H. Elbe, D. Gravitt, E. Hamner, D. Hunter, S. Ko, J. Land, A. Lewis, K. Perone, B. Petrocovich, J. Sarra, M. Shamsuddoha, Y. Tang, S. Turkelli, K. Wiseley, L. Wipperling

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

SENATORS ABSENT: D. Atherton, D. Barr, C. Chadwell

GUESTS: Amy Carr, Craig Conrad, Kassie Daly, Triston Eddlemon, Tara Feld, Doug Freed, Jeffrey Keith, Sarah Lawson, Kristi Mindrup, Russ Morgan, Mark Mossman, Lorette Oden, Renee Polubinsky, Linda Prosis, Carlyann Pyles, Eric Sheffield

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. October 10, 2023

APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

Senator Hunter suggested that the chairs of the ad hoc committees have their WIU titles added to their names in the Executive Committee minutes.

II. Announcements

A.

everyone's cooperation and contributions as the university works through the current challenging times, particularly

plans to keep a close eye on the courses being offered and the numbers because that is

. He said the administration wants to make sure there are not multiple sections of

low enrollment and suggested that perhaps enrollment could be increased by offering a

all rather than in the spring. Provost Zoghi noted that oftentimes students do not enroll in

close to the beginning of the semester so it is difficult to tell what will happen until

semester.

ian Robinett observed that when speaking about low-enrolled courses, if a faculty

will within their ACE window and not going into overload, it may not be the low-enrolled

idea. He added that Admissions is always looking at data and reassessing where they should make their connections or visits. Ms. Daly added that sometimes there may have been a WIU faculty member who had a relationship with another faculty member at a certain community college, and when one of them retires or leaves the institution it can change the dynamic of students being fed into WIU because that may not have been a relationship that Admissions was a part of. Mr. Freed stressed that nothing beats the faculty-to-faculty connection between WIU and community colleges. He noted that Admissions typically has relationships with advisors or counselors, but for the academic side it is awesome when faculty can connect with their peers at these institutions.

Senator Hamner offered to help with those kinds of relationships with Black Hawk and Scott Community Colleges in the Quad Cities. He noted, however, that as WIU has developed into an institution that accepts traditional students on its Quad Cities campus, some of these community colleges have begun to think of WIU as a competitor rather than as an institution that can help their students to take the next steps toward obtaining their degree. He thinks it is important to strategize about delivering a positive message to these community colleges that WIU is on the same page as them. Senator Hamner thinks there are good reasons for students to come straight to WIU after high school, and there are also good reasons for students to use the services community colleges have to offer first. He added that he would b (i)-4.6,e7-1.7 (d)7r o use

think that WIU will definitely see some kind of decline. He added that many other factors, such as retention and cost, go into overall enrollment determinations. Chair Albarracin remarked that she thought Vice President Edwards made the statement about 5,000 enrollment as a worst case scenario rather than a prediction. Senator Hamner agreed that the statement was regarding what could happen without expanded investments beyond what WIU currently has.

Senator Hunter observed that Mr. Freed's handout indicated under the heading "Opportunities for academic departments to support recruitment efforts" that departments can "reach out and connect directly" with high schools and community colleges and offer to visit their classrooms with a presentation. He stated that over the years his school has not been clear on whether they are allowed to go into high school classrooms. Mr. Freed responded there has been some change or miscommunication over the years, but at this point departments/schools are encouraged to go into high school and community college classrooms. He explained that Admissions is restricted by its state association on the number of times it can visit, but there is no restriction for departmental faculty. He stated that if a faculty member wants to bring a biology exhibit or something similar into a classroom, they can connect directly with the teacher and go ahead to do so if allowed because that is a great connection. Mr. Freed added that if there are materials that Admissions can provide for the faculty members to take along on their visit they would be able to do so.

Emily Sevcik, Music	new position	FA&C
Haley Wikoff, Counselor Ed/College Stud Per	new position	WIUQC
Bob Intriери, Psychology	new position	At-large
Angi Martin, Speech Pathology & Audiology	new position	At-large
Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Soc/Anth	new position	At-large

There were no further nominations, and the slate of candidates was declared elected.

IV. Old Business – None

V. New Business

A. For the Good of the Body

Chair Albarracin was asked by Carl Ervin, Interim Director of JIDE, to announce that there is a workshop opportunity on Friday, November 3 from 1-3 PM in Horrabin Hall 1 which will provide equity tools and resources for faculty engagement. She noted that, having attended the town hall with the Anti-Racism Task Force last week and heard the comments from students, there is still a lot of room for improvement in terms of diversity and working with diverse students. She thinks the university needs to continue to work on diversity and inclusion because there are a lot of unhappy students who do not feel like they belong, and it is a complex issue.

Motion: To adjourn (Gravitt)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary