

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Regular Meeting, 29 March 2016, 4:00 p.m.
Capitol Rooms - University Union

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: S. Bennett, V. Boynton, J. Brown, A. Burke, G. Cabedo-Timmons, D. DeVolder, D. Halverson, R. Hironimus-Wendt, S. Holt, K. Kapale, C. Keist, N. Lino, B. Locke, J. Myers, K. Pawelko, C. Pynes, T. Roberts, B. Siever, A. Silberer, T. Solomonson, T. Westerhold
Ex-officio: Kathy Neumann, Interim Provost; Janna Deitz, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: K. Dodson, T. Sadler

GUESTS: Dan Atherton, Andy Baker, Mark Bernards, Andy Borst, Simon Cordery, Katrina Daytner, Ray Diez, Anita Hardeman, Margaret Hoffman, Bob Intrieri, Charles Lydeard, Angela Lynn, Stacey Macch002 Tc LSS -0.00 Tdue [(R)T

- a. Fire Administration
- b. Fire Science

B. Provost's Report

Interim Provost Neumann congratulated History professor Febe Pamonag, who was awarded a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities summer stipend for her work on Patients' Activism in the Culion Leper Colony in the Phillipines.

Hannah Drake, senior Forensic Chemistry major, has been awarded an Honorable Mention in the 2016 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Fellowship Award competition. NSF began recognizing and awarding outstanding graduate students in 1952. Interim Provost Neumann stated that while Ms. Drake did not receive the full stipend to pay for her doctoral program at Texas A&M in Chemistry, she will have access to many other resources because of her honorable mention.

Engineering Technology Chair Ray Diez has been appointed the first Senior Fellow for History for the Association for Technology Management and Applied Engineering. The Senior Fellow program was developed by ATMAE to recognize leaders in the field and help them to further their specific skills within the Association.

WIU was recently recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as outperforming peer institutions in enrolling and graduating Pell grant recipients. WIU is one of only two Illinois public universities recognized in the report. Interim Provost Neumann stated that Pell grants give qualified students the opportunity to graduate, and those students comprise at least 40 percent of the populations for the schools that were recognized. She believes that this recognition highlights that everyone at WIU is doing a good job helping these students meet their educational goals.

Interim Provost Neumann encouraged those present to attend one of the upcoming Distinguished Faculty Lecturer presentations. Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Sandra McFaddon, Psychology, will present "More Than Meets the Eye: The Ear" at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 30 in the COFAC Recital Hall and at 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 12 at WIUQC Riverfront, Rooms 103-104.

C. Student Government Association (SGA) Report
(Dovile Svirupskaite, SGA Representative to Faculty Senate)

SGA elections began last week; students can vote on STARS from April 11-15. Two groups are running for the President/Vice President positions: Matthew Alwood (Pres)/Lucas Urbane (VP) and Dovile Svirupskaite (Pres)/Garrett Covington (VP). Ms. Svirupskaite stated that three students are running for five open at-large seats. She asked faculty to encourage students to run for the at-large seats as write-in candidates.

D. Other Announcements

1. Budget Context and University Plans
(Joe Rives, Vice President for Quad Cities and Planning)

Vice President Rives told senators that President Thomas asked him to provide a statewide budget overview to various constituent groups; he has presented to the Board of Trustees and will be presenting to SGA this evening. Feedback from the presentations will be provided to the leadership team, who are meeting tomorrow. The PowerPoint presentation outlined variables being considered by the leadership team as they prepare plans to meet the budgetary challenges facing WIU.

Vice President Rives pointed out that Illinois public universities did not create and could not have foreseen the current budget stalemate. He noted that this is the first time Illinois public universities have not had a budget for nine months in the 159-year history of higher

Vice President Rives reminded senators that the recently-completed Price Sensitivity and Elasticity Study resulted in the three percent reduction for incoming FY16 undergraduate students, instate tuition for all domestic undergraduate and graduate students, and no fee increases. The University eliminated 72 undergraduate courses in FY15, but class sizes remained, on average, at 20.2, nearly identical to FY14. The University reduced 22 graduate classes in FY15; the average class size was 11 in FY14 and 12.6 in fall 2015. Vice President Rives explained that if programs are eliminated under the Academic Program Elimination Review Committee process, they would be phased out, with savings realized in FY18 and beyond. The Committee makes recommendations based upon trends in enrollment, majors, course offerings, and program costs.

Voluntary pay reduction or equivalent donations began in January 2016 for the President, Vice Presidents, and senior administrators. Furloughs were announced in spring 2016 for all non-negotiated personnel earning more than \$40,000 annually, as well as a voluntary pay reduction program. The number of furlough days ranges from six to 15, depending upon salary. The furlough and voluntary pay reduction plan affects 479 of the 1,101 non-

7. The Faculty Senate Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI) will sponsor a panel discussion on the curriculum approval process at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5 in Horrabin Hall 1, with a connection to the Quad Cities Complex Room 2203. Chairs, curriculum committee members, and faculty who prepare curriculum are encouraged to attend.
8. Senator Brown will perform in a piano recital of the works of Beethoven at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 2 in the COFAC Recital Hall.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

- A. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)
(Ginny Boynton, Chair)

SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:

Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Selection Committee

Hal Marchand, Hlth Sci/Soc Wrk replacing Dennis Bowman 2017 E&HS

There were no further nominations.

- B. Council on Admissions, Graduation, a(s)]TJ1(B4j EMC E()T [(E)-4()-4()-41.239 0 Td (i2(g)1.-0 0 11.9

Faculty were asked to rank the nine initiatives the President set for the current year in order of

NO OBJECTIONS TO THE REPORT

IV. Old Business

B. Proposed Addition of FYE Language to Course Syllabus Policy

FYE Faculty Associate Stacey Macchi, Associate Provost Nancy Parsons, and Arts and Sciences Dean Sue Martinelli-Fernandez provided senators with a revised proposal for inclusion of FYE language in course syllabi:

“This course has been designated a First Year Experience (FYE) course. As a graduation requirement, the two FYE courses you take (UNIV 100 and an FYE ‘Y’ course) are intended to help you transition to college effectively, as well as learn to think critically, understand multiple perspectives on issues, and improve your skills in research and problem solving. Your FYE ‘Y’ course also provides an environment in which to apply the academic skills you learn in UNIV 100 and help prepare you to transfer those skills to your other courses.”

Chairperson Pynes observed that UNIV 100 has a common syllabus, which was required to satisfy the University Course Syllabus Policy. He informed senators that Senator Boynton proposed a shorter statement be used only for “Y” courses, separate from the statement for UNIV 100 courses:

“This course has been designated a First Year Experience ‘Y’ course and is intended to help you to learn to think critically, understand multiple perspectives on issues, and improve your skills in research and problem solving. It will also provide an environment in which to apply the academic skills you learn in UNIV 100 and help prepare you to transfer those skills to your other courses.”

Chairperson Pynes stated that FYE leadership would prefer to see both UNIV 100 and “Y” courses covered in the same statement. Parliamentarian Deitz asked why FYE leadership thinks this would be a better path than that recommended by Senator Boynton. Associate Provost Parsons responded that the FYE classes component of the First Year Experience includes both UNIV 100 and “Y” courses; the idea is that these should be seen as working together. She explained that UNIV 100 does not fall under a separate category, nor do the “Y” Gen Ed or pre-professional courses; FYE is one category. She added that UNIV 100 helps provide transitional tools for college, while students learn specific content in a “Y” section where they can apply some of those tools in a 3 s.h. class. She stressed that the idea is for UNIV 100 and FYE “Y” to come together as a total package for the student.

Senator Boynton likes the revised statement provided by FYE leadership much better than the first one they provided to Senate, but her concern is that course syllabi should reflect what students can expect from one specific course. She believes references to other courses could be confusing to students, particularly freshmen, and she would not like to see mandates about including information regarding other courses on everyone’s syllabi. Senator Boynton concluded that she does not strongly object to the revised FYE statement, but she does not think it is appropriate to be talking about other courses on one’s syllabus because that is not where that language belongs.

Associate Provost Parsons related that in an article by Parks and Harris discussing the purpose of syllabi, one purpose, as Senator Boynton points out, is to address the contract of that content and what takes place between instructor and student, while another purpose is as a permanent record of what takes place in the class. A third purpose for syllabi is as a teaching tool that helps provide a context for courses and how they relate to one another. She said that FYE leadership is looking at the proposed language within this third context; while FYE is not a new concept, the relationship between the two courses is an essential building block to help students be successful at WIU. She believes the combined syllabus statement provides a learning concept and context to help students see how the two courses fit in relationship to each other.

Chairperson Pynes observed that it has been useful in other parts of the Course Syllabus Policy to reference a website for students to go to for more information. The policy includes links to student rights and responsibilities, plagiarism, and disability support services. He suggested that perhaps an FYE website link would be helpful to add, which would enable FYE leadership to address the relationship between the two courses and include more resources to address the teaching aspect while still having a shorter syllabus statement. Associate Provost Parsons replied that FYE leadership followed the example of the WID and BGS-Writing statements in #9 and #10 of the Course Syllabus Policy, neither of which include links. She stated that students will not absorb everything about their syllabus while in class and will hopefully look it over more carefully at home. Associate Provost Parsons added that the SGA representative to Faculty Senate at the last meeting said that she would have liked to have seen the relationship between the two classes when she was going through the First Year Experience. Senator Boynton remarked that the WID statement does not mention ENG 180 and 280, although all three comprise the writing requirement for the University, so she does not see the parallel to #9 on the Course Syllabus Policy.

Senator Roberts pointed out that the FYE syllabus language includes the statement that the two courses “are intended to help you transition to college effectively.” He asked if this implies that students in “Y” courses will be evaluated on their success in transitioning to college. Associate Provost Parsons replied that when the First Year Experience program was reviewed, it was found that the transition materials that were intended to be part of the “Y” sections were not consistently applied, which led to UNIV 100 being pulled out as a separate content area. She stated that “Y” courses are not being evaluated at this point; that is a departmental issue, under the UPI contract. FYE leadership would like at some time to gather information as to how FYE is assisting students to obtain the skills to be successful and transition to college, but faculty are not being evaluated on this aspect. She believes that this transition should not fall entirely on the back of UNIV 100 but should also be a component of the smaller “Y” courses. Associate Provost Parsons added that the

objectives of UNIV 100 are not made explicit. Associate Provost Parsons responded that if “Y” is removed from the first sentence of Senator Boynton’s statement it would work fine, noting that FYE is not just “Y” classes. Senator Boynton pointed out that “in UNIV 100” would also need to be removed from the last sentence of the statement in order for it to be generalized for both courses. Associate Provost Parsons stated that if both “Y” and “in UNIV 100” were removed from Senator Boynton’s statement, it would be acceptable to FYE leadership.

Ms. Macchi pointed out that there are few individuals at WIU who teach both UNIV 100 and a “Y” course. She believes the course syllabus statement will help all FYE professors to see that these two courses are fundamentally a graduation requirement and 100 percent connected to one another, and that UNIV 100 learning should also be applied to “Y” courses. She stressed that the intention of the syllabus statement is to be transparent about that connection because it is very important to first year students. Dean Martinelli-Fernandez remarked that because of the discussion over two meetings at Faculty Senate, she believes a much better FYE course syllabus statement has been developed.

Motion: To approve Senator Boynton’s revised FYE course syllabus statement (Silberer/DeVolder)

MOTION APPROVED 18 YES – 1 NO – 0 AB

V. New Business