

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

Regular Meeting, 7 March 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: J. Albarracin, D. Atherton, S. Bailey, D. Banash, B. Bellott, M. Bernards, D. Brown, G. Cabedo-Timmons, A. Carr, C. Chadwell, P. Eathington, L. Ebert Wallace, D. Hunter, J. Land, T. Lough, S. Macchi, K. Perone, B. Petrocovi, M. Shamsuddoha, E. Shupe, Y. Tang, B. Thompson J. Wroblewski

Ex-officio: Craig Whetten, Parliamentarian; Provost Manoochehr Zoghi

SENATORS ABSENT: D. Barr

GUESTS: Mari Aanenson, Julie Cox, Dennis DeVolder, Doug Freed, Niall Hartnett, Guiyou Huong, Angela Kline, Sarah Lawson, Tonya Little, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Patty Mason, Kristi Mindrup, Russ Morgan, Mark Mossman, Lorette Oden, Renee Polubinsky, Linda Prosis, Jim Sarra, Rashmi Sharma, Sebastian Szjyka

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. February 21, 2023

APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Provost's Report – None

B. Student Government Association (SGA) Report
(Joe Cantu, SGA Director of Academic Affairs)

Mr. Cantu prior to the meeting provided a copy of SGA's Bill of Resolution regarding mental health days and similar legislation from Illinois State and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, but he was unable to be present to discuss the bill with senators. Chair Thompson noted that the document which SGA will be sending to the President and the Board of Trustees is slightly different than what he saw earlier, and he thinks SGA listened to some of Faculty Senate's concerns.

C. Other Announcements

1. What Advisors Want Faculty To Know
(Niall Hartnett, Academic Advisor, Psychology/Sociology/Anthropology)

Mr. Hartnett said that when he was approached by Chair Thompson and Senator Carr about speaking to Faculty Senate, he reached out to all of his constituent groups. Mr. Hartnett is the Chair of the Council of Academic Advisors (COAA), the first time an advisor has actually chaired this council. He said that historically the chair has always been the Director for Undergraduate Advising, but many advisors had requested a change to an elected system to

Tim Johnson), and the secretary will ideally be an advisor from the Quad Cities campus (currently Kim Moreno). Mr. Hartnett said the council includes an Advisory Relationship Team, which talks about ideas for guests, the summer workshop, and what should be on the agenda.

Mr. Hartnett related that COAA also now has a Supervisor Group, which was established because of changes made to the reporting lines. Every department advisor formerly reported to a department chair but now reports to a dean or director. He said the supervisor group fields questions and provides information to advisors. A Life Cycle Group was formed under the Provost; it looks at swim lanes, the life cycle, and how everyone can work together, such as those advisors who are primarily freshmen advisors and those who are primarily departmental. Mr. Hartnett stated that academic coaches and others impacted by COAA can also attend the meetings. He reached out to each of these groups to see what they would like for him to highlight in today's presentation and came away with a huge amount of information.

Mr. Hartnett informed senators that advisors are currently in the middle of a registration period, and this is when they typically encounter technical issues. He said registration begins before advisors have entirely recovered from the previous registration, and they have found that there is some confusion about who does what – in particular, who adds students to courses or loads permissions. He said that, ideally, advisors would like for students to add themselves to classes, although advisors will add them if students encounter problems because even though advisors find the STAR system elementary, students sometimes do not. Departmental advisors typically load the permissions for classes in their departments. Mr. Hartnett noted that if a professor gives a student special permission to take their course and tells the student to inform the advisor of this, a departmental advisor cannot give permission for a student to register for a course in another department that they do not advise. He said this situation occurs a lot during restricted registration periods or the first two weeks of classes and can cause a lot of confusion about who students are supposed to talk to in order to get into a course. He noted that if a professor tells a student to “Talk to your advisor to get the permission,” that may not be correct because it must always be the advisor for the department offering the course, who may not be the student's advisor. He added that sometimes a department chair or office manager can also load permissions, which can occur in parallel and can also be confusing. He thinks faculty should try to make a point to know who in their departments can load permissions for students.

Mr. Hartnett noted that students can add themselves to classes during open registration, assuming

Mr. Hartnett noted that students can be added late to a 16-week class by appealing to CAGAS. He said this is commonly seen by students who may have missed the registration deadline by just one day, by athletes arriving late, or by students who pay their bill late and must wait until that clears before registering. Mr. Hartnett related that if the faculty member believes the student can catch up in the class, the student can write an appeal to CAGAS, which is generally approved. Mr. Hartnett noted that second 8-week classes are few and are usually Gen Ed; registration for them continues until the first day of classes. He stated that these courses usually fill up before that point and often go into overload.

Mr. Hartnett related that advisors want faculty to be aware that students who are added on MVS or STARS will not appear on Western Online for 24-48 hours after they have been registered. For this reason, advisors ask faculty to use the rosters on WIUP rather than those on Western Online. Mr. Hartnett pointed out that many faculty are unaware that they can add students manually to Western Online so that students can begin interacting faster with that system. Similarly, if a student drops a class through STARS, the SAS system will update automatically but Western Online will not; faculty should type RSTR in WIUP to get the real-time roster. Mr. Hartnett has had instructors contact him to ask where a student is who is registered for their class but not interacting with it on Western Online only to find that the student dropped the course, but it did not show up on that platform. Mr. Hartnett said that in some extreme cases a student can go through an entire semester without showing up.

Senator Tang asked if it is possible for Western Online to have real-time numbers just like WIUP or if that is something inherent to Western Online. Mr. Hartnett replied that ever since he has worked here there is a lag, and Western Online had to update the information at least overnight, probably just due to the age of the system in general. He hopes that when WIU gets its new ERP system, this lag may no longer be an issue. He added that the lag has been discussed for years among advisors but no solution is possible with the university's current technological resources.

Senator Carr noted that senators will be asked to consider today a proposal to accept AA and AS degrees from other states, as the university is already forced to do through the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI). She asked what the challenges are for advisors in regard to 2+2 agreements with community colleges. She has heard that there can be issues when a student must complete a sequence of courses and an advisor puts that student into two of those courses in the same semester because of the

Associate Provost Mossman stated that departments have the opportunity to essentially write their portion of the undergraduate catalog, and it is the responsibility of the Provost's office to edit those submissions and get them into printable or online format. Mr. Hartnett asked if he

also include uploading only 75 percent of unit budgets in an effort to conserve dollars. He said some employees have asked

Athletics and interviews will be scheduled soon. A search is also underway for a Director for

He said this can cause transfer students to fail to graduate, which does not help the institution's graduation numbers, so Admissions thinks WIU would have more students graduate if this proposal is adopted.

Chair Thompson asked how Mr. Freed determined this information. Mr. Freed replied that it is derived not just from this chart, which was specifically requested, but also from other information Admissions has looked at. He said Admissions has been looking at a lot of different factors and having conversations with students, advisors, community college personnel, WIU's recruitment office, and others. He said these issues are raised by students when discussing why

of these policies. He added that there is nothing illegal about bullying, and WIU has rather a high tolerance for it; people can make others miserable, and there's nothing that really covers that. He added that if it is done explicitly it might fall under one of the protected categories, but it is often difficult to make that case.

Senator Tang asked how the term "bully" is defined. Chair Thompson replied he defines it as purposely singling someone out and making their life so bad that they are crying and cannot come to work. He stated that this discussion would continue in the next Executive Committee meeting, and if anyone wants to share their experiences,