

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Regular Meeting, 13 September 2016, 4:00 p.m.
Capitol Rooms - University Union

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

SENATORS PRESENT: M. Allison, V. Boynton, J. Brown, G. Delany-Barmann, D. DeVolder, D. Halverson, R. Hironimus-Wendt, K. Kapale, C. Keist, N. Lino, B. Locke, S. Macchi, H. McIlvaine-Newsad, J. McNabb, J. Plos, C. Pynes, T. Roberts, T. Sadler, M. Sajewski, D. Sandage, C. Tarrant
Ex-officio: Kathy Neumann, Interim Associate Provost; Janna Deitz, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: S. Szyjka

GUESTS: Amy Carr, Katrina Daytner, Anita Hardeman, Angela Lynn, George Mangalaraj, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Kyle Mayborn, Russ Morgan, Jill Myers, Nancy Parsons, Betsy Perabo, Darcy Plymire, Aimee Shouse, Joi Wells, Ron Williams

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. 30 August, 2016

MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Provost's Report

Interim Provost Neumann asked Registrar Angela Lynn to provide a final update on enrollments following the tenth day of classes. Total enrollment is 10,373 students, down 721 students from fall 2015 enrollment. Freshmen enrollment is officially 1,527; last year's fall freshman enrollment was 1,535. There were 967 new transfer students in fall 2016, compared to 1,105 in fall 2015. International student enrollment this fall is 491, down 14 overall. Graduate student enrollment is 572 for fall 2016, down from 628 the previous year. Dr. Lynn reported that the last two years of decreased fall

3:30 p.m. in Horrabin Hall 44. And Sociology and Anthropology professor Heather McIlvaine-Newsad will interview on September 16 in Horrabin Hall 83, with the open session to begin at 1:00 p.m. All interviews will be teleconferenced to the Quad Cities campus.

- B. Student Government Association (SGA) Report
(Joi Wells, SGA Representative to Faculty Senate)

SGA is currently

Motion: To approve the bylaws amendment (Boynton/Kapale)

MOTION APPROVED 21 YES – 0 NO – 0 ABSTENTIONS

V. New Business

A. Request to Create a New Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Chairperson Pynes explained that in 2005 the Executive Committee wrote a letter to the Board of Trustees complaining that the administration had created three new departments without coming through Faculty Senate: African American Studies in 1995, Social Work in 1997, and Women's Studies in 2005. The School of Nursing was approved in 2008 after going through both the Faculty Senate and Provost approval processes; Nursing provided their IBHE form as documentation to Senate. Chairperson Pynes stated that there was extensive discussion about the Nursing request, which can be found in the Senate minutes of September 16, 2008.

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Sue Martinelli-Fernandez stated that she worked closely with professor Aimee Shouse on the request for a new Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Senator Boynton asked if there was any consideration given to folding the Bachelor of General Studies degree into the new department since it will be interdisciplinary. Dean Martinelli-Fernandez responded that there have been discussions for a number of years as to how the University should handle its various interdisciplinary programs. She pointed out that the Bachelor of General Studies crosses the entire University, whereas the Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Sciences does not. She said that while folding General Studies into a Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences could happen in the future, it would be difficult to do so at present in terms of the goals of each particular program; there have been discussions in the past about housing them in the same unit, but each unit presents its own special issues. Senator Boynton asked if the University still has an Interdisciplinary Studies major; Dean Martinelli-Fernandez responded that this still exists and is housed with General Studies.

Senator Allison remarked that the name of the department being the same as the name of the major seems confusing since both are to be housed within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She believes this seems to imply that almost any department within the College could be folded into the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dean Martinelli-Fernandez corrected that the College name is simply Arts and Sciences, not Liberal Arts and Sciences, although this is a commonly made mistake. Senator Allison stated that if she made that mistake, others may do so as well. Dr. Shouse stated that the Liberal Arts and Sciences program was created ten years ago, and the similarity with the College name was considered at that time. Senator Allison suggested that a Department of Interdisciplinary and Area Studies, for example, might make more sense and be less confusing. Dr. Shouse responded that at this point a Liberal Arts and Sciences program already exists which incorporates all of the parts that will be included in the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences, even though distinct disciplines will be added to it if the proposal is approved. She added that, once approved, department faculty can consider more closely how to create something relevant to its members and disciplines, so it might be modified at some point. Senator Allison asked if the department name might change. Dr. Shouse responded that the department name could change, but she does not want to go that far right now since there will be new people moving into the unit and working together for the first time. Dean Martinelli-Fernandez added that she and Dr. Shouse want members of the unit to have the opportunity to more significantly weigh on that decision; the name may change, but not at this moment.

Senator Allison pointed out that there are faculty across the College of Arts and Sciences who have taught Liberal Arts and Sciences classes but will not be part of the new department. She asked if these faculty members will no longer have access to the classes they have taught previously for the Liberal Arts and Sciences program once the department is created. She also wonders if creation of the department will reduce the exposure Liberal Arts and Sciences students will have to faculty across the College since now the primary faculty in the Liberal Arts and

Sciences Department will be those 11 that were displaced by elimination of their majors. Dr. Shouse believes it is too early to say if this will be the case. She is not opposed to having faculty who previously taught courses within Liberal Arts and Sciences continue to do so, but she agrees that the new department would have faculty across the Social Science and Humanities areas that could teach some of those courses. She specified, however, that none of those faculty will teach LAS 501, which focuses on the history and philosophy of the sciences, so the department will continue to rely on others to teach some courses. Dr. Shouse does believe, though, that since there will now be faculty assigned to the department, they should probably “get first dibs” at Liberal Arts and Sciences courses. Senator Allison observed that this would seem to restrict access, both from faculty to students and from students to interdisciplinary faculty that are not part of the new department. Dean Martinelli-Fernandez stated this would be truer in the LAS core courses. Dean Martinelli-Fernandez noted that faculty in the Department of English have always rotated teaching LAS 195, so it doesn’t “belong” to any one faculty member; other humanists, such as Gary Schmidt, former Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, have offered to teach this course in the past but were unable to do so. She pointed out that the Liberal Arts and Sciences program is constructed to take courses from other areas, so this discussion is really about the unique core courses for the program, which are only LAS 195 and 495. Dean Martinelli-Fernandez stated that although she sees the point that Senator Allison is making, there are other ways to facilitate student exposure.

Senator Brown admitted to similar confusion about the title as Senator Allison. He stated that because Liberal Arts and Sciences encompasses so many disciplines, it is usually the title of a college in a university structure rather than of a department. He observed that many disciplines that will be part of Liberal Arts and Sciences will not have representation in the department even though Liberal Arts and Sciences students will be taking courses in those disciplines. Dr. Shouse stated that the structure of liberal arts and sciences varies from university to university. Dr. Shouse related that once she became Acting Director last year, one of the first things she did was to research how liberal arts and sciences programs are structured in other places because she was not part of the original group that helped create the LAS major and graduate program. She related that they are very mixed, with some housing faculty in a department of liberal studies, which does not encompass the entire college but which tends to be area studies or interdisciplinary types of programs that do not necessarily fit in one department. She added that

can know which office to go to is also important. She stated there is a physical place for LAS students to go to in the Quad Cities, and Dr. Shouse communicates with Quad Cities LAS faculty a lot. She added that those faculty members also serve as mentors to the LAS students.

Senator Macchi asked if faculty who will be folded into the department will be required to travel more to the Quad Cities since that is where most of the LAS majors are located and the intention is for the program is to grow on both campuses. Dean Martinelli-Fernandez responded that she sees increased growth occurring mostly on the Macomb campus rather than in the Quad Cities, particularly with the addition of faculty from the various new disciplines being housed in Macomb. She stated that currently College of Arts and Sciences Assistant Dean Jim Rabchuk in the Quad Cities is sort of functioning as a “father hen” of the LAS students and works with the LAS student group on that campus. Dean Martinelli-Fernandez stated it has been very hard for LAS students on the Macomb campus to find one place, metaphysical or otherwise, that they can view as a presence for the major, and she thinks that is partly why LAS enrollment is lower in Macomb than at WIUQC. Chairperson Pynes remarked that Senator Macchi’s question touches on some confusion regarding the program. He pointed out that students do not have to take one of the minors that will be included in the proposed department; students can obtain an LAS degree without minoring in any of the disciplines that are being folded into the new department.

Chairperson Pynes related that Interim Provost Neumann has asked Faculty Senate to create a committee to review General Education. He added that during a lengthy discussion, the Executive Committee asked the Provost about her desires for the committee and put together a proposal:

Charge:

The committee will conduct:

- 1) an examination of the purpose and necessity of each individual General Education category, to include discussions of:
 - x Multicultural versus other graduation requirements, such as Foreign Language/Global Issues
 - x Human Well Being and UNIV 100 in light of recent changes to the First Year Experience Program
- 2) an examination of the number of hours required within each category
- 3) an examination of the overall number of hours required for the Gen Ed requirement, to include discussions of whether Gen Ed is too big and whether it is sufficiently focused
- 4) a review of the structure of General Education assessment
- 5) an examination into how WIU's Gen Ed identifies itself relevant to peer institutions in the state, to include discussions of:
 - x what peer institutions include in their General Education cores
 - x how other institutions craft a more palatable selling point for General Education
- 6) a discussion of and examination into any relevant issues that arise from the review process

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Senator Macchi asked if #1 refers to the Human Well-Being category or to UNIV 100 or both; Chairperson Pynes confirmed that it refers to both. Associate Provost Parsons pointed out that other categories/courses have encountered issues through the years; for instance, the inclusions of Financial Health in the Human Well-Being category and CS 114 and 214 in the Math/Natural Sciences category have generated much discussion. Chairperson Pynes clarified that the UNIV 100 reference was included as an “e.g.” for #1, and other issues can be considered.

Motion: To create the General Education Review Committee (McNabb/Boynton)

MOTION APPROVED 19 YES – 0 NO – 1 ABSTENTION

Senator Boynton asked if the current Chair of CGE will also be the Chair of the General Education Review Committee
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majors were first created. He suggested that perhaps “tightened” in #6 should be changed to “focused.” Senator Roberts stated that #6 represents a substantial issue that sends a mixed message regarding whether majors will remain comprehensive or become more specialized folding