

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Regular Meeting, 29 September 2015, 4:00 p.m.
Capitol Rooms -University Union

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: M. Bean, S. Bennett, V. Boynton, Brown, G. Cabed, Tommons, M. Carncross, DeVolder, K. Dodson, D. Halverson, R. Hironima, Wendt, K. Kapala, C. Keist, J. McNabb, J. Myers, C. Pynes, T. Roberts, B. Siever, A. Silberer, S. Szyjka, T. Westerhold
Ex-officio: Kathy Neumann, Interim Provost, Anna Deitz, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: A. Burke, N. Lino, J. Sadler

GUESTS: Dale Adkins, Andy Borst, Heidi Clemmens, Tammy Killian, Lara Little, Angela Lynn, Stacey Macchi, Sue Martinez, Hernandez, Marty Maskari, Kyle Mayborrr, Esmeralda Moreno, Russ Morgan, Nancy Parsons, Steve Rock, Gary Schmidt, Jack Thomas, Carol Webb, Lora Wolff

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. 15 September 2015

MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

Motion: To move the President's report to the next item on the agenda (McNabb/Roberts)

MOTION APPROVED 17 YES – 0 NO – 0 AB

C. Other Announcements (Reordered)

aggressive plan will be developed in terms of extending the territory for recruitment efforts. A kickoff for the new St. Louis recruitment office will be held on October 8 with St. Louis area alumni and friends of the University in attendance. President Thomas stressed that WIU must do more recruitment in order to compete with other Illinois institutions that are doing the same. He has been meeting with community college presidents to talk about various articulation agreements and why enrollments are decreasing.

President Thomas provided senators with an overview of his Presidential Initiatives for 2015-16. They include keeping the Honors College at the forefront of Western, as it is one of the other institutions by encouraging participation in Undergraduate Research Day and the Quad Cities Student Research Conference; nominating students for prestigious scholarship programs; and increasing participation in the Honors program to 800 students. The University is studying the feasibility of cutting edge graduate and undergraduate programs, and continues to plan for future Ph.D. programs in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration and in Instructional Technology. Enrollment management goals include increasing funding for tuition and to attract high-achieving students; increasing the number of international agreements and international student admissions to the Western Commitment Scholarship Program occurred earlier this year. President Thomas observed that WIU was the first state school to offer such a scholarship program, but other state universities

to institution and from year to year. WIU has to be prepared and ready to somehow offset budget reductions, such as through greater fundraising.

Senator McNabb asked, regarding feasibility studies of graduate and undergraduate programs, if the intention is to repurpose resources the University already has. She said that promoting and launching new programs could be costly when existing resources are already being taxed. She asked if the purpose of the feasibility studies is to find some hidden gem of which the administration is currently unaware. President Thomas believes that the University needs to look at budget programs that will generate more revenue and bring in more students. He used the example of the Nursing program which, when created, brought students of a different kind to the University and even filled the point where qualified students were waiting to be admitted and it was necessary to hire an additional faculty member to meet the need. President added that a similar case occurred with the College Student Personnel program, which helped graduate enrollment increase when this program was extended to target individuals already working in this area who want to get a field degree. President Thomas stressed that the University be creative in similar ways and look for those types of new and existing programs where resources can be invested to encourage growth, bringing in more students and offsetting costs. Interim Provost Neumann added that an outside consultant will do a market analysis in the Quad Cities to try to hone in on what student demographic the University should be targeting and whether programs should be shifted or enhanced to attract those students to the

Senator Boynton asked if the feasibility study will look at a cost-benefit analysis of faculty and resources versus what students will pay and determine if programs should continue to be offered or expanded; Interim Provost Neumann responded affirmatively. She stated, for example, the new MBA hybrid program underwent a feasibility study to determine if it is a program that is not costing the University a lot but is providing an attractive alternative for students.

Senator Dodson asked if, in addition to looking at WIUOC, there are plans to lead by example on the Macomb campus. She recalled that former Provost Hawkinson completed a review last year to identify underperforming programs but did not plan to eliminate faculty lines or positions, preferring instead to reposition through attrition. She added there was some discussion at that time about retraining faculty in other areas to teach in other departments and asked if the University is still considering that. President Thomas responded that the established task forces are looking at underperforming programs as well as a full range of other issues on both campuses because WIU at this time cannot afford not to look at everything the institution does in terms of academic programs. The IBHE has also provided WIU with a list of low performing programs that it would like for the University to review. Chairperson Pynes added that if programs and faculty are eliminated, Faculty Senate has a role to play in that process and will have a voice in the discussion. Associate Provost Parsons stated that a number of programs have been identified as low performing; self-studies from those programs must be submitted to their deans by October 1. Deans will review the self-studies and meet with Associate Provost Parsons on October 15. Meetings will be held with these programs to determine courses of action. Associate Provost Parsons added that it takes awhile to explore the individual situations and practical

Senator Roberts related that he asked the Senate

different than the previous approach to FYE. A survey was sent to approximately 80 Y instructors; however, only five responses were received.

Last year it was decided to change the training for FYE instructors to divide out those who were new to teaching Y or U100 classes; more seasoned instructors were allowed to teach different kinds of sessions. There were also some sessions that both new and established

session and more CTR sessions were offered than before, but most of the attendees were U100 instructors.

Senator Boynton observed that in order to take a G course a faculty member must be approved by the Graduate Council, and faculty are required to undergo training in order to teach online courses, so she does not see why something similar could not be implemented for Y courses. Arts and Sciences Dean Sue Martindale stated that if Faculty Senate is interested in this idea, an endorsement from the Senate would go a long way toward encouraging a proposal to be developed and a procedure to be developed, however, how many faculty would be willing to undergo mandatory training in order to teach a Y course. Senator McNabb pointed out that faculty must take and pass ethical and sexual harassment training, so that type of platform that faculty can complete on their own time and which provides clear examples of what will be discussed in U100 at designated times throughout the semester might be useful if faculty could participate in the training prior to finalizing their own syllabi in August. She stated that after Y faculty have developed their syllabi it becomes more challenging to incorporate that integration piece, but a quick, 50-minute training session might put this on their radar, and the experience

2. Open Educational Resources

been in place for four years, Dr. Rock believes it is time to take a close look at whether it is in the best interests of the University to continue the requirement as is, whether to change it, or whether to eliminate it altogether. He wonders whether, given declining enrollment, the requirement is not a barrier to recruitment, retention, and graduation. Rock suspects that by changing the FLGI requirement so that one foreign language course is equivalent to one global issues course, the foreign language part of FLGI will become irrelevant. He believes that, since many of the original proposers of the requirement are no longer at the University, the Faculty Senate should consider whether it is something that they want to continue going forward.

CIE Chair Gary Schmidt said that he believes international awareness, whether met through a GI or through a foreign language course, is an essential component of education. Dr. Schmidt strongly urged senators not to consider dropping FLGI entirely. He believes that course of action is inappropriate in the 21st century where the world has become smaller with increasing interaction between people from different cultures and who speak different languages.

Dr. Schmidt informed senators that he was a guest at all of the ad hoc committee meetings and the committee insisted on keeping the goals and outcomes of a foreign language course distinct. He related that the goals and objectives for a foreign language were enumerated by faculty in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures based upon what they do in foreign language courses. He stressed that the goals and objectives are unique, so it is not the case that foreign language is directly

Senator DeVolder stated that the first thing the ad hoc committee discovered when they started the proficiency discussion is that proficiency is not the word they should have been using because people outside the foreign languages discipline do not use this term the same way. He observed that right now the University has a foreign language requirement built on the expectation of acquisition of skills in a foreign language, such as speaking and writing, and what is being proposed is significantly different than this model.

Senator Hironimus Wendt stated that the proficiency element is premised on exposure to certain knowledge, but to argue that students will be proficient after taking three foreign language courses makes little sense because a student could take three history, computer science, or sociology courses, for example, and not be proficient. He believes that proficiency arguments are misleading if the alternative is to take one GI course and understand the world. Senator Hironimus Wendt has seen a GI course that met the criteria and was approved by the Senate but was only going to expose students to one week of Kabuki theatre and one week of Chinese theatre, so he thinks that proficiency is a silly term. Senator Hironimus Wendt observed

compromising them. He suspects that many of the GI courses passed by the Senate no function in regard to the philosophy of why the University has global issues in the place.

Motion: To table further discussion until the next Faculty Senate meeting (Boynton/Hironimus/Wendt)

MOTION APPROVED 15 Y ES – 2 NO –0 AB

IV. Old Business None

V. New Business None

Motion: To adjourn (Robert)