

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Regular Meeting, , 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom and in Union Capitol Rooms

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT IN PERSON: J. Albarracin, D. Atherton, B. Bellott, D. Brown, C. Chadwell, H. Elbe, D. Gravitt, D. Hunter, S. Ko, A. Lewis, K. Perone, M. Shamsuddoha, Y. Tang, S. Turkelli, L. Wipperling

SENATORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: S. Bailey, G. Cabedo-Timmons, E. Hamner, J. Land, J. Sarra, K. Wiseley

EX-OFFICIO: Jeremy Robinett, Parliamentarian; Interim Provost Mark Mossman

SENATORS ABSENT: D. Barr, L. Ebert Wallace, B. Petrocovi

GUESTS: Tom Blackford, Amy Burke, Amy Carr, Dennis DeVolder, Kynli Finley,

be processed within a certain time for the Department of Education; the deadline is set by them, and public institutions have to comply. He added that he would be happy to talk to the Director of Financial Aid to confirm that this is the reason and see if there is any possibility of extending the deadline to the tenth day. Registrar Sarah Lawson added that the enrollment verification data is also

cheerleaders involved more that day as well, such as throwing out t-shirts during the event. He thinks Discover Western needs to be more than a big room with people waiting for students and parents to come in for a presentation; people need to become excited about coming to WIU.

Vice President Smith is working hard on his division's component of the Board of Trustees Retreat on February 8. He said most of the decisions coming out of the Division of Student Success are designed to help provide the best experience possible for WIU students,

Ms. Finley said University Communication and Marketing's pay-per-click (PPC) campaign with Google allows them to see which top key words are performing best, and Carnegie optimizes this information

to geofence from WIU's top feeder community colleges and capture that audience. She stated that the bulk of the office's budget is spent on digital media and digital marketing because those are best practices for where marketing is now. Ms. Finley admits there is still a need for traditional marketing, and there is some benefit to putting up a billboard or an ad in the newspaper because it fosters brand awareness, but in terms of return on investment and

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moving toward having 8-week courses, except for courses like biology. Dr. Carr stated that the community college is studying which courses would need to stay 16 week, but there is research that supports the shift to 8-week courses. She said students have indicated they would like this change because they get tired of classes after about week 10 and drop out. Dr. Carr wonders if this trend might end up pressuring four-year institutions to switch to 8-week courses down the road.

- b. An FAC working group on prior learning assessment has asked the IBHE to create a task force that would investigate the possibility of statewide standards for prior learning assessment or credit for prior learning. She said if anyone is interested, she will put them in contact with individuals working on this.
- c. There will be an opening for a public university representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Jen Delaney, who has been serving in this role, is taking a job in California. Dr. Carr said that the IBHE usually puts forward a couple of names, and her name has been put forward along with someone from Chicago State. She stated that if any faculty member wants to serve on the IBHE or knows of someone who would might be interested, she can let them know how to access the portal to apply.
- d. Senate Bill 2606 will soon be coming before the legislature. This is the mental health bill sponsored by Senator Dave Koehler. Dr. Carr has emailed with faculty previously who expressed concerns about this bill, which would mandate five mental health days for students. She said faculty or departments with concerns should email Senator Koehler and let Dr. Carr know if they want more information on the conversations about this bill.
- e. Senate Bill 2838 would amend the Dual Credit Policy Act, which provides assistance from the Illinois State Scholarship Commission. Dr. Carr said the bill would amend the Act to provide state funding for high school teachers to work toward their master's degrees; once their degrees are earned, the teachers would have to agree to serve five years in their high schools. She said there are various perspectives on this bill, which is intended to retain high school teachers.
- f. The Illinois Commission for Equitable Public University Funding is supposed to have their report submitted by March 1; it was previously delayed. Dr. Carr said the report is supposed to propose a funding formula for ten years or more for public universities. Public comments and concerns about this formula can be found in recent minutes of the FAC. Dr. Carr has heard the funding formula model is based on K-12 models and asks what each institution would need to adequately fund various groups of undergraduate students. She said it looks like \$1.4 billion would be needed, which would require the state to double its C3 (i)-4.6 (c).ie i1 Td(m)17.1 (i egd)10.8 (t)- (A)egd dtAff

- i. A Faculty Advisory Council working group is trying to develop a diversity-equity-inclusion (DEI) pedagogy toolkit. Dr. Carr said this group is trying to become a clearinghouse for DEI resources, so if anyone has anything they would like to share with this group she can let them know who to talk to about getting it included.
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it would be good to have just him and Justin Schuch doing this work on this initiative because there is a gravitas to this effort, and Faculty Senate should be represented. He added that it would be better to have Senator Gravitt attend for part of the meeting or for some of the meetings that to have no one there from Faculty Senate; ideally there should be someone at the meetings committed to improving transfer rates at WIU. Senator Gravitt said she has spoken to Admissions Director Doug Freed and Associate Director for Recruitment and Outreach Kassie Daly about transfer pathways.

Chair Albarracin agreed to attend the meetings that Senator Gravitt must miss. Interim Provost Mossman said it will be good to have the Faculty Senate Chair and a senator at the meetings.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI) (Amy Burke, Chair)

1. Curricular Requests from the Department of Broadcasting and Journalism

a. Request for Change of Major

i. Broadcasting and Journalism

Ms. Burke stated that there are a couple of hidden prerequisites in the change of major that will be handled through minor changes to the Provost's office once the request for change of major is approved. Senator Hunter asked how the prereqs will be handled by the students and if there are very many of them. Ms. Burke responded that permission of instructor will be added to the two prerequisites.

Senator Tang remarked the proposed changes look reasonable, make sense, and are very important. He noted that Journalism and Strategic Media is one of the options that will be changed and asked Broadcasting and Journalism Chair Peter Gloviczki to explain what strategic media is since this is a term senators may not be familiar with. Dr. Gloviczki responded that strategic media is a term currently utilized in their field, and updating the title of the Multimedia Journalism Option will allow WIU graduates to be best positioned for the future that awaits them. He said strategic media is a term that carries forward the ways that broadcasting and journalism is increasingly a convergent program, which is to say that it reaches across a variety of broadcasting and journalism fields. He added that the proposed major changes come after the department's most recent IBHE review, and he appreciated the assistance across the campus community with that process.

CHANGE OF MAJOR APPROVED

1. Faculty Nominations

SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Council on Admissions, Graduation, and Academic Standards (CAGAS)

Bret Bogenschneider, AFED replacing Lawrence Leff 2026 B&T

D. Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence
(Michael Lorenzen, Chair)

1. Final Report

Dr. Lorenzen said the task force was a good one and he appreciates everyone who participated. He thinks Senator Hamner did a good job of writing the final 23-page report and making all of the points. Dr. Lorenzen said everyone is aware that AI is here and is making an impact on everyone. He said the task force tried to avoid too much fear-mongering about this but also avoided embracing it as a utopian solution. He believes AI is a reality that everyone has to deal with because employers will expect students to have some AI skills when they graduate from college. He said because of this, AI needs to be incorporated into the curriculum in some way.

Dr. Lorenzen thinks every faculty member will need to decide how AI will be used in their classes, including what will be allowed and approved for their students. The AI Committee came up with some options for different kinds of classes and language that faculty could use on their syllabi. Dr. Lorenzen related the committee also talked about some of the larger issues related to AI detection software. He hopes everyone can find the report helpful.

Senator Hunter asked if the AI report will be sent to all faculty; Dr. Lorenzen responded it already has been. Senator Hamner asked how many senators spent more than one minute with the report prior to today because he is curious about the kind of value it might have had. Many senators raised their hands. Senator Hamner said he was curious about what kind of readership a report of this length might get. He added the committee put real time and effort into the report and hopes it will be a valuable resource for everyone regardless of what point they are coming at AI. Senator Hunter remarked the report was quite concise for everything that was covered and was very complete. He thinks it was a very good read and said he learned a lot.

Senator Hamner reiterated the key recommendation that he would emphasize is that AI is not going away, and faculty need to think strategically about how to move forward with this moving target. He noted that the ad hoc committee recommended that senators consider creating a longer-term Senate committee or that AI be incorporated into an existing Senate committee; it could also be something the university integrates more fully. The ad hoc

Senator Hunter thinks it is important to discuss AI with students and get their ideas and input. He assigned students in his 590 research methods class to report on different AI blocks and discuss the safeguards and dangers of AI, including things they should watch out for as a student and as a professor. Senator Hunter thinks they all learned a lot through the exercise.

Senator Gravitt remarked that when she reviews papers for journals she can tell those that use AI to fill in the references because there is no standard APA format. Chair Albarracin wonders if it would be beneficial to offer AI workshops through the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR). She has not yet had time to explore AI technology to determine how to incorporate it into her classes.

Building off what the ad hoc committee produced, Parliamentarian Robinett developed an AI syllabus statement for his classes. He said that friends of his at the University of Illinois suggested to him a way to talk about academic integrity in the classroom by having students log into ChatGPT and use a prompt from one of his assignments. Students are then asked to work in groups to write a paper as a D student, write a paper that uses XYZ, or other examples. He thinks this allows students to experience what AI can do. Parliamentarian Robinett said his students quickly figured out how old some of the information in ChatGPT is based on its responses to some of the prompts.

Chair Albarracin expressed her thanks to Dr. Lorenzen and the committee and said that what they produced was very impressive.

evidenced in the creation and maintenance of resources and opportunities for all students and community members.

Chair Albarracin read a statement from SGA President Kyle Ramlow, who was unable to attend the meeting: "The sensory room will bring new opportunities and accommodations for students and faculty and set the stage for more accessible projects to make WIU welcoming to all groups, no matter your ability, and continue to strive for an inclusive environment." SGA is a co-sponsor of the resolution.

Kristi Mindrup, Vice President for Quad Cities Campus Operations, said she and Casey LaFrance, Political Science, are part of an interdisciplinary multicampus team who are also bringing the resolution forward for consideration by Faculty Senate. Vice President Mindrup explained the resolution is in response to the Illinois General Assembly's urgency for higher education institutions to include and embrace neurodivergent programs into university environments and culture. She said the resolution is also in line with WIU's commitment to inclusion and social justice.

Vice President Mindrup told senators

Dr. LaFrance recommended that if individuals want to learn more, they should check out the neurodiversity network. He said WIU will be one of only 14 institutions in the world listed on that website as a neurodiversity supportive institution. There will be a logo developed with the assistance of Visual Production Center. Dr. LaFrance believes there is a lot of support for this project, both internally and externally, and expressed his thanks to everyone involved.

Vice President Mindrup expressed her appreciation for Dr. LaFrance's leadership, as well as to Mr. Ramlow and everyone involved. She believes this initiative is more than just a symbolic gesture because there are people who are really active and involved seeking resources that can actually make things happen on both of WIU's campuses. She also expressed gratitude for the collaboration across

individuals to be able to do this more effectively and efficiently, but he thinks it is one of the discussions that WesternOnline has outsourced back to the company, and some of these resources may not be included in that outsourcing. Interim Provost Mossman said he will follow up on this with University Technology CIO Greg Kain.

Chair Albarracin said that while many senators used to attend Faculty Senate meetings via zoom, it is no longer an option for most. She said that the change was not made because of a desire to meet face-to-face but is mandated by the Open Meetings Act. Chair Albarracin said attending virtually is only an option when senators have no choice, such as because they work in the Quad Cities, are sick, or have childcare issues. Other than that, senators are expected to attend in person. She expressed her thanks to senators for their cooperation.

Motion: To adjourn (Gravitt)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary