

**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Regular Meeting, 26 January 2016, 4:00 p.m.
Capitol Rooms - University Union**

ACTION MINUTES

B. Provost's Report

1. President Thomas

In light of the fact that there is still no budget for the state, President Thomas spent the day in conversations with state legislators about his concerns and about the State of the State address by Governor Rauner scheduled for Wednesday, January 27. State university presidents and chancellors sent a letter to the Governor recently when they learned that the budget that they had expected to be approved by January may not now be approved until April or beyond. President Thomas recently heard that the state may not have a budget until November, which he stressed is unacceptable.

President Thomas told senators that if the budget is not approved before November, WIU will "have to do a lot of things to make it through the summer." He explained that once August arrives, tuition money should help the University through part of the fall semester. He reminded senators that while the state is undergoing very tough times, other institutions are facing the same challenges as WIU. State university presidents and chancellors now meet weekly to discuss their shared concerns. President Thomas reiterated that while the situation is unacceptable, WIU has been dealt a hand that the institution must work through, and it will take everyone to do that.

President Thomas announced that a bill has been proposed in Springfield to provide universities with Monetary Assistance Program (MAP) funding. He has heard that while the bill proposes full 2015-16 MAP reimbursements, universities may only receive one semester. The President stated that any little bit would help. President Thomas predicted that WIU's spr

The College of Arts and Sciences is developing living-learning communities for residence halls beginning fall 2016. These will include specific floors dedicated to Women in Science, Biolife, and Humanities/Liberal Arts majors.

WIU will host the Ag Mech Show on February 6 and 7 in Western Hall. This is the largest student-run agricultural show in the nation. Interim Provost Neumann encouraged those who are not involved in agriculture to come visit this wonderful event which offers somethin

be enhanced with additional resources, and whose impact could also spread and affect all areas of the University. Interim Provost Neumann stated that this reinvestment part of the plan has been discussed in all the college town hall meetings and at Faculty Senate. She stressed that WIU cannot continue on its current path of higher costs and excess capacity; staffing needs to be realigned to meet student demand. She acknowledged that many employees have brought forth great suggestions, and stated the administration is continuing to act on some of those. She encouraged faculty to continue to suggest ideas with high impact which will help the University to move forward.

Chairperson Pynes pointed out that Interim Provost Neumann provided the Staff Reduction Analysis Process document to senators as partial response to the Faculty Senate's resolution of December 15, which stated that "the challenges of difficult budgetary circumstances prompted the announcement of faculty layoffs on December 8, 2015 *without the concurrent publication of the rubric by which faculty reduction decisions were reached* or the sufficient evaluation of contributions made by academic departments, programs, and faculty in the creation of said rubric."

Senator Sadler asked how long WIU could continue into the fall semester with tuition revenue if the budget is not passed until November 2016. President Thomas responded that Western's budget each month totals approximately \$10 million. He stressed that the administration will do everything it can to make sure that payroll continues to be met. President Thomas hopes that a budget is signed before the summer, but, if not, reductions can be made that would keep the University open through the summer months.

Budget Director Matt Bierman reiterated that WIU will exhaust all of its financial resources in order to maintain payroll. He stated that conservation measures would need to be taken to get the University through the summer and part of the fall. Mr. Biermann informed senators that, if enrollment remains fairly steady, the University usually takes in \$70 to \$73 million in tuition alone per year, an estimated \$36 million for fall 2016. He noted, however, that this does not all arrive in August; a "chunk" arrives in August and

that when looking at history, the numbers reflect staffing concerns. He added that the recently established APER Committee will be making additional recommendations concerning programs. Interim Provost Neumann added that if there is a “silver lining,” it is that these actions have already generated some great discussions about other ways and areas in which some faculty might be able to contribute. She stated that Senator Roberts, for example, provided a list with good examples of other place

that does not occur. He added that he looks forward to hearing what the Governor says in

showed that WIU is in danger of pricing itself out of the educational market. This led to the three percent tuition reduction by the BOT, allowing all domestic students to attend at in-state rates, and payment of MAP funds in advance of state reimbursement. Vice President Rives stated that 2,700 WIU students receive MAP funds, and WIU would have experienced irrevocable enrollment challenges if resources had not been reallocated to those students.

Vice President Rives chairs the final task force on social responsibility. It examines how WIU can be at the forefront of the regional landscape. As part of this process, Admissions Director Andy Borst has worked with Spoon River College on a dual enrollment initiative, while Vice President Rives is working with many other community colleges in Illinois,

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some cases IRP disaggregates Macomb versus Quad Cities students. He believes this is important because everyone is concerned about SCH production. He has determined that approximately 90 percent of online classes are offered by faculty whose primary appointment is on the Macomb campus. Dr. Palmer stated that when Vice President Rives was asked about this reporting procedure at the December BOT meeting by the student member and Chairperson Pynes, he responded that he has been “doing this for 25 years” and has talked to IBHE representatives who indicate that the way WIU is determining these figures represents an IBHE best practice. Dr. Palmer is surprised that IBHE believes that disaggregating data for a university with one main and one satellite campus is a best practice. He asked what Vice President Rives means by an IBHE best practice and how the IBHE determines what constitutes a best practice.

Vice President Rives replied that if Dr. Palmer wonders how enrollment is coded, he would be happy to meet with him and the Registrar to go over that process. He stated that it is standard practice in Illinois and across the nation to provide both main campus and branch campus reporting, based upon the semester and where the student takes the majority of his/her classes. Dr. Palmer asked if this is the way campuses such as Southern Illinois University, with Edwardsville and Carbondale campuses and separate budgetary lines, report their enrollments and SCH production. Vice President Rives responded that every university in Illinois reports on-campus and off-campus data. He added that this topic seems to be out of order for the agenda. Chairperson Pynes suggested that IRP representatives may need to be involved in this discussion. Interim Provost Neumann added that some of this speaks to IRP reporting guidelines, so they would be the best resource to answer these types of questions. Dr. Palmer asked what division at IBHE Vice President Rives contacted regarding this reporting question; Vice President Rives responded that he contacted the Department of Planning and Budget. Dr. Palmer stated that when he contacted the IBHE, he was sent to the Office of Information Management and Research who indicated that IBHE does not disaggregate. Vice President Rives reiterated that this discussion seems to be out of order.

2. Chairperson Pynes announced that David Banash, English, won the tie-breaker vote to represent the College of Arts and Sciences on the Academic Program Elimination Review (APER) Committee. Previously-elected members of the Committee include: Barton Jennings, Management and Marketing (B&T), Cindy Piletic, Kinesiology (E&HS),

Motion: To approve the proposed addition to the Course Syllabus Policy (Boynton/Hironimus-Wendt)

MOTION APPROVED 18 YES – 2 NO – 0 AB

Senator Boynton asked about the process for disseminating the required changes to faculty before they begin work on next year's syllabus. Chairperson Pynes responded that normally this information is disseminated by the associate deans who remind faculty of their duty to include

introduced Dr. Cole's referendum, and a majority of senators approved it, then Faculty Senate would be bound to distribute the no confidence ballots to faculty and abide by the results of the