

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Regular Meeting, 27 January 2015, 4:00 p.m.
Capitol Rooms - University Union

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: J. Baylor, S. Bennett, L. Brice, J. Brown, A. Burke, G. Cabedo-Timmons, M. Carnecross, R. Chaves, J. Choi, S. Cordes, D. DeVolder, A. Hyde, G. Jorgensen, C. Keist, J. Myers, T. Roberts, S. Romano, T. Sadler, M. Singh, S. Szyjka, T. Westerhold
Ex-officio: Ken Hawkinson, Provost; Steve Rock, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: M. Siddiqi, A. Silberer

GUESTS: Dale Adkins, Mark Bernards, Andy Borst, Ray Diez, Scott Harris, Angela Lynn, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Patrick McGinty, Mary Mhango, Esmeralda Moreno, Kathy Neumann, Nancy Parsons, Russ Morgan, Roger Runquist, Diane Sandage, Gary Schmidt, Erskine Smith, Bill Thompson, Ron Williams, John Wozniak

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. 2 December 2014

MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Provost's Report

Provost Hawkinson announced that President Thomas sent a spring semester welcome letter and budget update to the campus community late this afternoon via TeleSTARS. The President recently attended a number of receptions in Springfield to congratulate newly-appointed Governor Rauner and other state officials, who offered their support for Western and for higher education in the state. President Thomas was on stage with Governor Rauner in Chicago recently for an event honoring Martin Luther King Day. President Thomas joined Chicago Mayor Raun Emmanuel as one of the main speakers for the event.

Provost Hawkinson informed senators that the current fiscal year state budget was approved under the assumption that the temporary tax increase would be made permanent; that did not occur, and the state now faces a \$1.5 billion shortfall, which is 10 percent of the revenue of the state. President Thomas, Vice Presidents, and Western's Budget Director have been in contact with the Governor's office, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and leaders from other universities to discuss these issues and challenges. Provost Hawkinson related that Governor Rauner's office has asked state universities to look at various scenarios for this year's and next year's budgets. He related that two days ago the Governor's office asked WIU to hold back one percent (\$520,000) of the University's \$52.6 million appropriation for this year. Provost Hawkinson stated that the administration is waiting to see if there will be additional hold-backs or cuts for this year. Financial information will be provided to the University community in the coming weeks detailing how WIU will move forward in light of these reductions.

Provost Hawkinson released preliminary results for enrollments after the fifth day of classes. Graduate student enrollment is up by 60, which is very good news because WIU had seen a downward trend for graduate classes. The Provost stated that Associate Provost Parsons, who oversees Graduate Studies, has been working with chairs, graduate directors, and faculty to promote WIU's graduate programs. The Provost stated that undergraduate enrollment from spring 2014 to spring 2015 is down about two percent (200) as of the fifth day. He added that vast numbers of those failing to return are due to financial difficulties.

Chief Harris has nominated WIU to compete for a grant for up to \$150,000 from Stanley Security. Chief Harris related that with the current budget crisis requiring WIU employees to do more with less, he felt that such a grant could be a potential windfall for the University and could also unify WIU in voting for something that will benefit the University. WIU is currently ranked second in the grant competition among Tier 2 schools with enrollments of 8,000-19,999 students. The competition began on January 19 and continues until February 12. First place schools will be awarded a \$150,000 grant while second place finishers will receive \$50,000.

Chief Harris explained that individuals can vote once per day in three ways: by tweeting #wiuedu to #STANLEYSecurity, by texting “wiuedu” to 334455, or online at stanleysaferschools.com utilizing an email address. Chief Harris is voting five times a day utilizing various emails and other methods, and has even joined Twitter in order to vote. He believes WIU students need to get engaged and encouraged senators to talk about the competition in their classes daily. He suggested that professors could ask students to quickly vote while they are taking role and before students put away their cell phones. Chief Harris said the competition gets people talking about safety and put a positive light on WIU and the Office of Public Safety.

2. Chairperson Singh announced that Steve Rock will be filling in for Tej Kaul as Parliamentarian while Dr. Kaul is on leave.

3. Proposed Academic Calendars for 2016-2020

An Academic Calendar Committee, chaired by the Provost and the Registrar, is convened every four years. Provost Hawkinson explained that the Calendar Committee determines future calendars which assure that a sufficient length of time is established between semesters to allow for necessary work to be accomplished and that the appropriate number of days in class and weeks in a semester are adhered to, and establishes various sessions for summer school. He stated that constituency representatives were asked to take the information about the proposed calendars back to their various groups, discuss the possibilities, and come back with recommendations for the Committee; the proposed calendars are also intended to be shared with various governance and constituent groups in order for them to make suggestions. The calendars for 2016-20 will then be given to President Thomas for final approval. Provost Hawkinson promised to carry forward any comments, concerns or suggestions from senators.

Senator Bennett pointed out that the discussion in the Academic Calendar Committee minutes from their December 15, 2014 meeting addresses the desire for some members to recognize President’s Day rather than Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday. But he noted the list of pros for the change does not include the fact that Lincoln’s Birthday disproportionately affects lab classes held on Tuesdays or Thursdays. He strongly believes that rather than

a) Requests for New Emphases

(1)

- D. Senate Nominating Committee
(Dennis DeVolder, Chair)

SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:

Council on Admission, Graduation and Academic Standards

Mike Romano, Biology replacing Susan Meiers Fall 2015 A&S

UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:

University Technology Advisory Group

Brian Locke, Music replacing Charles Wright Fall 2015 FA&C

Motion: To nominate Rich Filipink for the CAGAS vacancy (Roberts)

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