

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Regular Meeting, 23 October 2018, 4:00 p.m.
Capitol Rooms - University Union

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: M. Allison, B. Bellott, V. Boynton, S. Czechowski, G. Delany-Barmann, R. Dimitrov, J. Franken, M. Maskarinec, H. McIlvaine-Newsad, B. Perabo, J. Plos, C. Pynes, S. Rahman, M. Sajewski, C. Tarrant, F. Tasdan, K. Zbeeb (via teleconference)

Ex-officio: Kathy Neumann, Interim Provost; Ilon Lauer, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: S. Cordes, A. Hyde, S. Macchi

GUESTS: Steven Barnum, Tom Blackford, Amy Carr, Brian Davies, Katrina Daytner, Jack Elfrink, Christopher Ginn, Anita Hardeman, Keith Holz, Buzz Hoon, Sharon Keeling, Michael Lorenzin, Jeanette Malafa (via conference call), Colton Markey, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Patrick McGinty, Kristi Mindrup (via teleconference), Greg Montalvo, Russ Morgan, Mark Mossman, Jill Myers, Lorette Oden, Luciano Picanço Renee Polubinsky, Ron Williams

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. October 9, 2018

- On page 5, the second sentence of the first full paragraph states, “She related that she attended a meeting at the University of Illinois a couple of weeks ago of history teachers from across the state ...” Senator Boynton clarified that instead of “history teachers” this should specify “public university history teacher education coordinators and department chairs.”

MINUTES APPROVED AS CORRECTED

II. Announcements

A. Approvals from the President and Provost

1. Approvals from the President

- a. Policy on Articulating Credit for Advanced Placement and External Examinations

2. Approvals from the Provost

- a. Request for New Course
 - i. LEJA 333, Terrorism Investigations, 3 s.h.
- b. Request for Change of Minor
 - i. Homeland Security

B. Provost's Report

Interim Provost Neumann announced that the ethics exam needs to be completed by 4:30 p.m.

2. An election will be held to fill a spring semester vacancy on the University Personnel Committee. The one-semester vacancy is open only to tenured full professors in the College of Fine Arts and Communication. An election notice and petition form can be found at http://www.wiu.edu/faculty_senate/elections.php or by contacting the Faculty Senate Office.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI) (Anita Hardeman, Chair)

1. Requests for Changes of Minors
 - a. French
 - b. Spanish

NO OBJECTIONS

2. Request for Change of Major
 - a. Foreign Languages and Cultures

Senator Boynton questioned a major having a core of only 3 s.h. Dr. Hardeman related that this was discussed at the CCPI meeting. CCPI determined that the department is rolling together teacher education and language options; because two languages are being merged into one major, the department cannot list the core conventionally because the languages are different. Dr. Hardeman pointed out that the course content will be the same; 324, 325, and 326 will have to be taken in whichever language is appropriate to the area of study. CCPI understood these courses to be included in

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| Samit Chakravorti, Management/Marketing | replacing | Mandeep Singh | 2020 | B&T |
| <u>Summer School Committee</u> Jeannie Galiotto, Theatre & Dance | replacing | Rick Kurasz | Spr 2019 | FA&C |
| <u>(Ad Hoc) Textbook Affordability Committee</u> John McMurtery, Music | | | | FA&C |

UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:

senators this would mean that WIU would have to partner with school districts to create pathways from high school to teaching. He stated that this recommendation aims to create “communities of practice” for developing partnerships with P12 schools and to “identify common postsecondary teacher preparation foundations courses and facilitate additional dual-credit certification paths so these opportunities can be expended statewide for interested students.” Dr. Montalvo pointed out that right now, however, not all institutions have the same foundational courses; for instance, WIU does not have the same educational foundational courses as Northern Illinois (NIU) or Southern Illinois University (SIU), but the intention of this recommendation is to get everyone to require the same sequence. Dr. Montalvo stated that this affects the ability for WIU to govern its own curriculum, and individuals have lots of opinions on whether this is good or bad. He added that the ISBE recommendations came about because Illinois is undergoing a crisis situation for teachers, and the Board is trying to come up with ideas to make the process of becoming a teacher easier.

ISBE Recommendation #4 on p. 16 says that the Board will work with partners to “support collaboration by encouraging educator preparation programs (EPPs) and local education agencies (LEAs) to co-design, deve(ag)1 Tc 0 Tw 5()TJ 0 (o)TJ 0.002 Tc s chplatucatairsn pror(n)TJ 0.0(N)5(o

Dr. Montalvo explained that the basic skills gateway of a 22 ACT means that teacher education students must be in the top 36 percent of their high school graduating classes, and the required score of 1110 on the SAT means students must be in the top 31 percent. Dr. Montalvo pointed out that students in the top 36 or 31 percent of their classes may also want to study political science, social science, engineering, or medicine, so there may not be a lot of students left in that select group that want to go into the teaching field. He believes this standard represents an arbitrary decision that everyone has to live with right now. He does not see the shortage going away in the next five or six years since there would need to be a review before a decision is made to remove it.

Chairperson Pynes clarified that the basic skills requirement means that a student who is studying to be a math teacher, for example, still has to show basic skills proficiency in English, and vice versa, which is where students are struggling. Chairperson Pynes asked if one solution would be to lower the threshold. Dr. Montalvo responded that the state could decide to bring the threshold down to 50 percent, which would be about a 20 ACT score; he noted that it would probably be easier to get teacher education candidates with a 20 score than with a 22. He added that the University Committee on Educator Preparation (UCEP) is developing a course to help potential teacher education students so that there will be a mechanism in place to help a student that has a 19 ACT but wants to be a teacher.

Senator Boynton remarked that UCEP had an extensive discussion about this yesterday. She pointed out that students who want to be licensed have to take multiple state required tests that cost over \$100, as well as the edTPA, which costs over \$300. She pointed out that after these expenses, teachers go into a profession that is underappreciated and underpaid. She recognizes there is nothing that Faculty Senate can do about this, but she wants everyone to know about this basic reality. She stressed that the reason there is a teacher shortage is because teachers are not appreciated or paid appropriately, so they move into other careers. Dr. Montalvo related that the Great River Teacher Corp began a scholarship program this year, and WIU had three recipients; there is enough money to give out ten scholarships next year. He told senators that WIU's teacher education program is trying to get more money for scholarships, and there are some proactive things that they are doing. He believes that although the University cannot get teachers to be paid better after graduation, it can try to make it so that they do not work at a \$25,000 a year job and have to pay back student loans. He believes that these types of programs are good for the economy of west central Illinois and good for WIU.

Senator Czechowski asked if there is currently a mechanism in place to provide extra tutoring or extra help if teacher ed students need it for English or math. Dr. Montalvo responded that there is tutoring available, but it has not been a good, organized effort. He related that at the beginning of this academic year, Governor Rauner passed a bill saying that universities could not use the basic skills requirement as an entrance requirement for teacher ed; this meant that WIU had to accept students into the teacher education program with ACT scores of 18-19 ACT. Dr. Montalvo added that the teacher education program did let these students know that they would have to meet the basic skills requirements and has been trying to provide support for them. Chairperson Pynes remarked that Mathematics and Philosophy professor Jim Olsen and others have created an experimental 275 course to try to alleviate the problem. Senator Czechowski observed that the Department of Art has a number of teacher education students who struggle with the math component of the basic skills test and tell her that, every time they retake it, the cost is several

the necessary competencies. He stated that if the result instead is a pure partnership with Chicago Public Schools or schools in Moline, Peoria, or Rock Island, then WIU will be able to work with these changes since the University is currently approved to offer alternative licensing programs that the teacher education program is working to get off the ground. He said that graduate programs in math and special education will be developed sometime in the near future. Dr. Montalvo talks with superintendents on a regular basis and spoke to the Superintendent of Stark County schools recently about potential partnerships. He related that the Superintendent asked how some seniors in Stark County schools and ROVA can take classes that will easily transfer to WIU. Dr. Montalvo responded that it takes money; there needs to be enough students to enroll in such courses and a faculty member who is willing to teach them, probably through distance education. Dr. Montalvo gets a lot of recommendations from superintendents, community members, and others, but the question always comes down to resources – not enough money and not enough people to teach the courses. He said that WIU has the technology but does not have faculty willing to teach a class of high school students, and the issues that go along with that, when they are already teaching other courses in overload. Dr. Montalvo told senators there are a lot of things that WIU *could* do, but the University needs to focus on what it *can* do to try to turn things around.

B. For the Good of the Body – None

IV. Old Business

A. Realignment Discussion

Senator Boynton remarked that the list of schools that the Interim Provost looked at when considering realignment, as detailed on p. 4 of the Executive Committee minutes, seems to be an idiosyncratic list; George Mason and Columbia are major research universities, while most of the rest are branch campuses. She asked, since WIU is neither a research university nor a branch campus, why schools that are more similar to Western were not chosen. Interim Provost Neumann replied that the list represents a subset of schools that were found to have combinations of Humanities and Social Sciences, which is part of the current plan that has been put out for consideration and feedback. Senator Boynton asked if there were no institutions similar to WIU that had those combinations; Interim Provost Neumann responded that this depends upon the definition of “like us,” which could refer to regional comprehensive or some other definition. She added that the schools on the list had some interesting combinations of programs or programs configured in interesting ways that were different than what WIU has been doing. Senator Allison stated that “interesting” does not define anything for her. Interim Provost Neumann recalled that she has said for the last several years that WIU in many cases has narrow pathways for degree completion; WIU has both traditional pathways and traditional degrees. She said the administration has asked departments for several years to find combinations, interdisciplinary approaches, collaborations, or new degrees, and this list of institutions has some of those things. Interim Provost Neumann said that these schools are “interesting” because they are examples of lots of schools that

departments should investigate these kinds of combinations to see if they will resonate with WIU students, and the administration has been encouraging that for the last two years. She thinks departments should assess what they have and see if they can package things differently without using additional resources. Senator Perabo asked where the focus was for Interim Provost Neumann: whether students have told her that these sorts of combinations would be awesome or whether she was looking for ways to combine Humanities and Social Sciences. Interim Provost Neumann responded that she is trying to find more pathways to get students to WIU, but no particular student has spoken to her about this.

Senator Boynton related that the Department of History offered a minor in Contemporary United States Studies, but no students enrolled in it so it was dropped. Interim Provost Neumann asked why the program was developed as a minor rather than an option within a major. Senator Boynton responded that former History Department Chair Simon Cordery created and promoted it as an interdisciplinary minor, but one student enrolled in the four to five years it existed. Chairperson Pynes related that he has complained over the years that the administration's desire for interdisciplinary programs at the undergraduate level does not make sense. He pointed out that interdisciplinary programs require that students be steeped in the discipline first, so he thinks these happen best at the graduate level after getting a major in one discipline at the undergraduate level. He added that if a program cannot survive as a minor, it probably would not be able to survive as a major. Interim Provost Neumann wonders if the Contemporary United States Studies minor would have survived as a concentration or an option, but Chairperson Pynes responded that it appears no students were interested. wonders woga prog()11(f)-4((f)-4x)-5(e)-2(p)6(e)D 2(t)-snterd(ud0s()Tjsw)D(e)u

that the Interim Provost's list of schools seems to be grasping at straws to see what somebody else has done, but he wonders what WIU's alumni say.

Senator Boynton remarked that when the President and Interim Provost met with the College of Arts and Sciences, they were asked again about silos versus money, and the President was clear that most of the reorganization was about saving money. She said that senators can come up with wonderful programs, but if the reorganization is about who will be laid off, senators should be informed about that, and the administration should not hide behind interdisciplinary language. She noted that the change to the Foreign Languages and Cultures major approved today was prompted by low enrollment and believes that if departments are repackaging things with the same number of students and courses, nothing is really changed. Senator Boynton understands that WIU just does not have enough students, which is why the administration wants to save money, but she is not sure how much the interdisciplinary discussion is relevant to what the President wants to do, which is to cut costs.

Senator Maskarinec stated that in response to the question about what students can do with a certain degree, the answer is that they can get a job in a certain field. He agrees that WIU cannot create a minor in Caribbean Studies, but if departments can answer the question of what students can do with their degrees they have a plan to go by. Senator Maskarinec related that the School of Computer Sciences is working with Mathematics, who approached the School about a joint degree. He stated that, after some discussion, Computer Sciences decided they could not offer a joint

committee to look for majors that WIU is missing and could develop with available resources. Chairperson Pynes agrees that programs are not secret at other universities. Senator Bellott believes that if students have a need, WIU should identify it and develop programs for it; if there is no need, he does not see why a major should be developed for it. Chairperson Pynes stated that this is a zero-sum game; the students already at WIU will major in something before graduating, so the problem is not about the students already at WIU but about how to get more students. Senator Bellott stressed that the University needs to find programs that will fill in order to increase enrollment. Senator Allison suggested that maybe this is a place that SGA could step in to ask students that did not come to WIU if there is a program they wanted that the University did not offer and whether that is the reason they did not come here.

Senator Czechowski related that students are leaving WIU because the Department of Art does not offer animation and motion graphics; students can get a degree in Graphic Design, which will be combining with Graphic Communication, but they cannot pursue animation here. She pointed out that Louisiana State University-Shreveport, one of the Interim Provost's comparison schools, has a BFA in Digital Arts, which is one of the hottest fields for graduates. Senator Czechowski pointed out that WIU's BFA in Art is on the APER list because it cannot attract 40 students; someone in graphic design retired a year ago, but that position cannot be filled. She stressed that good students, who are juniors, are transferring to other schools to study this field. Interim Provost Neumann observed that part of the feasibility study asks about resource needs, such as if another faculty member is needed and what expertise that

Motion: To adjourn (Maskarinec)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Susan Czechowski, Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary