

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
Regular Meeting, 27 November 2018, 4:00 p.m.  
Capitol Rooms -University Union

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: M. Allison, B. Bellott, V. Boynton, S. Cordes, S. Czechowski, G. DeBarymann, R. Dimitrov, J. Frankena, A. Hyde (via zoom), S. Macchi, M. Maskarinec, H. McIlvaine, Newsad, B. Perabd, Plos, C. Pynes, S. Rahman, M. Sajewski, F. Tasdan, K. Zbeeb (via teleconference)  
Ex-officio: Kathy Neumann, Interim Provost; Ilon Lauer, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: C. Tarrant

GUESTS: David Banash, Victoria Baramidze, Emily Boyer, Amy Carr, Jack Elfrink, Tara Feld, Rich Filipink, Christopher Ginn, Anita Hardeman, Keith Holtz, Buzz Hoon, Ruth Kelly, Peppi Kenly, Knox, Jeff Laurent, Angela Lynn, Colton Markey, Sue Martinez, Fernandez, Kyle Mayborn, Rose McConnell, Nathan Miczo, Deb Miretzky, Russ Morgan, Mark Mossman, Sandy Nelson, Lorette Oden, Boris Petrocovici, Lia Petrocovici, Luciano Picanço, Tim Roberts, Bill Thompson, Ron Williams

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. November 6, 2018

Correction: On p. 10, the minutes state that "Senator Allison asked what Faculty Senate can possibly do to respond to or talk with some of the BOT because she feels dehumanized when Trustees are laughing about getting out of the closed session so that they do not have to answer questions about firing people." "Firing people" in this sentence should be changed to "layoffs."  
(Allison)

MINUTES APPROVED AS CORRECTED

II.



different things on behalf of the University, but this is something that faculty have asked for and would like to grow. She thought that Faculty Senate had assurances that this position was going forward. Interim Provost Neumann said she has no doubt that the job ad will move forward in the near future, but right now positions that were not far enough down the process or that could be paused have been. She added that once the University is through budget discussions, some will be advanced, and she thinks the institutional grant writer position will be advanced very quickly after that happens.

Senator Allison remarked she thought that Faculty Senate was going to have a budget discussion today. She asked when the appropriate time would be to ask for this discussion to occur. Chairperson Pynes recommended that Senator Allison wait until Announcements when more discussion can occur on this topic.

Senator Czechowski asked what Interim Provost Neumann's title will be next semester; Interim Provost Neumann responded that has not yet been determined. Senator Czechowski remarked that Faculty Senate does not know if Interim Provost Neumann will be faculty or administration next semester; Interim Provost Neumann responded that has not been finalized yet.

C. Student Government Association Report  
(Colton Markey, SGA Director of Academic Affairs)

Mr. Markey reported that Sociology and Anthropology professor Robert Hironaka attended the November 13 SGA meeting to discuss possible reactions to the visit of Westboro Baptist Church to campus to protest an Indiana football game. Since there were already different positions on campus regarding the visit, a 10 A 7 6 8 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000

Chairperson Pynes also sent the Budget Director an email asking for clarification about the



- i. MATH 103, Technical Mathematics, 3 s.h.

Senator Boynton asked if this class is only for Construction Management majors. Mathematics and Philosophy professor Boris Petrocovič responded that it is restricted to Construction Management majors right now and was designed for them, but the department hopes in future to attract other majors to the class.

#### NEW COURSE APPROVED

- B. Council on General Education  
(Keith Holz, Chair)

- 1. Request for Gen Ed Designation

- a. CHEM 114, Chemistry of Health, 3 s.h.

Senator Boynton remarked this looks like a great Gen Ed course, and she likes the way it references philosophy, anthropology, and cultural beliefs. She thinks it is a very well-rounded course. She asked if the course will address climate change. Chemistry Chair Rose McConnell responded that she is sure there will be some



of Trustees would go to Governor Rauner, has not been elected, so Chairperson Pynes thinks such a vote at this time would be ineffective. He has been told that Governor Rauner is appointing members to boards of trustees right now, but whether they will be confirmed is unknown. He stated that part of his issue with a vote of no confidence is about timing, as well as the question of how many times faculty want to take such an action. He thinks a resolution asking the BOT to do something is a more positive course of action rather than expressing no confidence in the Board.

Mr. Markey pointed out that the student trustee on the BOT is state appointed; every state institution is required to have a student appointee. Chairperson Pynes confirmed that the law mandates seven board members plus a student representative elected by the students for each public institution. He added that trustees cannot be state employees, and since all faculty are state employees they cannot be trustees. Chairperson Pynes told senators that the Faculty Senate represents faculty and senators at Board of Trustees meetings, and past Senate Chairs have tried to be good representatives and stewards for the faculty. He does not think the law prohibiting state employees from serving on boards of trustees of state institutions will be changed.

Senator Boynton asked if emeritus faculty could serve on the BOT; Interim Provost Neumann responded that they can. She pointed out that retirees, such as former Trustee Bill Griffin, have served on the BOT in the past. Senator Boynton asked if there would be any value in recommending to the new governor that an emeritus faculty member with experience in the business of higher education be appointed to the Board. Chairperson Pynes said that would be a fantastic resolution; since it is a resolution that asks someone to do it, he would be a fan of it. CAGAS Chair Rich Filipink recalled that the original request from Faculty Senate was for a faculty member to be appointed as an officio member of the Board of Trustees since the President is an officio member.

Senator Allison stated that, in response to Senator Maskarinec's question, she would not expect anything to happen if Faculty Senate passed a vote of no confidence in the current Board, but that does not mean she should give up her voice to protest their actions. Senator Allison believes it is a form of protest to say that the Board of Trustees did a lot of things that she does not understand, that their actions have not been explained, and that trustees do not seem to care to explain their actions to the faculty. Senator Allison admitted that not consenting to anything proposed by the BOT may not be practical or get the results that Faculty Senate wants, but she suspects the majority of senators would prefer to





Chairperson Pynes observed that most senators take the fact that they represent faculty very seriously; when faculty bring their concerns to Chairperson Pynes, he brings those concerns to the Faculty Senate, which is his responsibility as the Chairperson. He said that sometimes he wishes he did not have to bring some of those concerns forward, but that is part of his responsibility, and senators cannot ignore the people they represent. He said that what Senator Maskarinec might be irritated about stems from faculty in other parts of the campus than Stipes Hall asking senators to do things. Senator Maskarinec stated that he represents faculty in Stipes Hall, and they are irritated that there is so much negativity. Chairperson Pynes agreed that faculty in Morgan Hall and the College of Arts and Sciences are also irritated by the negativity on campus because every time the University loses 100 students, it also loses faculty, and phone banks are not the fix.

Motion: To hold an additional Faculty Senate meeting on Tuesday, December 4 when the BOT agenda will be available (Bellott/Allison)

Senator Czechowski told senators that on the other side of campus the press that students are hearing is that departments are being cut, and students are asking her about other universities that they should consider transferring to because they hear their programs will be cut. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that Faculty Senate did not put out an APER list that included programs Anthropology, which are not in danger of being cut.

MOTION APPROVED 16 YES – 1 NO – 1 ABSTENTION

Chairperson Pynes told senators that he will have the Recording Secretary send an agenda to senators on Monday. He promised that it would at least include Business agenda item A. as well as any other business that comes up before that time.

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million before WIU tore down some of its buildings that it now no longer has to fix, which reduces the deferred maintenance. Senator Dimitrov remarked that it would seem to support keeping WIU's real estate in shape while at the same time firing its faculty. Chairperson Pynes stated that the BOT has a list of deferred maintenance projects in priority order; deferred maintenance is listed above capital improvement projects, such as the Center for the Performing Arts or a new science building. Senator Dimitrov suspects that all of the discussions about deferred maintenance, the \$21 reduction in next year's budgets, and building reserves could be interpreted as bad publicity that would perhaps give the impression that the university is basically broken. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that most state universities are run as profit. Senator Dimitrov thinks this is the worst possible publicity; it justifies staff reduction procedures but sends a bad message to parents who are wondering if WIU is going to make it. He believes the University should consider putting a different kind of message out. Senator Perabo stated that it is interesting to think about how messages such as deferred maintenance are presented publicly because they can make it sound like WIU's buildings are falling apart completely; parents may have concerns that the roof is going to start caving in or that the University is not replacing its carpets often enough. She thinks it is important to think and talk about the deferred maintenance figure to present it and how that number breaks down. She thinks people may be confused. Senator Perabo stated that Western wants a Center for the Performing Arts that would require the University to spend several times the amount of its deferred maintenance; additionally, deferred maintenance is not as appealing to students. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that it is also not as appealing to politicians as getting credit for funding a new building. Senator Bellott stated that he also attended the open budget meeting with Senator Dimitrov at which the \$400 million figure for deferred maintenance was explained. He related that at the meeting it was stated that deferred maintenance could be anywhere from \$350 to \$450 million, so \$400 million was selected as the estimate, determined by campus size, number of

administration to make a public announcement about the realignment that sounded like a done deal. Senator Maskarinec asked if Faculty Senate could see a report from the Arts and Sciences chairs about their ideas. College of Arts and Sciences Dean Sue Marshall Perabo replied that the chairs submitted their report to the Interim Provost a couple of weeks ago; it was shared with the President's Leadership Team as well.

Senator Allison recognizes that she is coming from a place where she lacks trust and is risk averse and recognizes that her department is at risk averse as well. She believes it is difficult for a department that loses one-third to one-fourth of its faculty, as English has, to find the energy to think about asking their colleagues what they should do to make things better. She said it is difficult for her colleagues to scrape themselves off the floor and move forward when they still do not fully understand what has happened, and she thinks other departments in Arts and Sciences probably feel similarly. Chairperson Pynes sympathized, pointing out that neither he nor Senator Perabo have a department or major anymore. He suggested that Senator Allison focus on her discipline and do something with it that she thinks would be good for the University, adding that only those that have lost their departments and majors understand the dispiriting nature of having their curriculum removed by the administration. He recommended that Senator Allison do something exciting that will reinvigorate her.

Senator Perabo pointed out that her and Chairperson Pynes's department was eliminated, along with the Departments of Women's Studies and African American Studies, in 2016, and her current Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences was told in June 2018 that three of their eight employees were to be laid off despite having tenure. Senator Perabo told senators she has been engaged in a required Liberal Arts and Sciences review which has involved researching liberal arts and sciences

session recording was really damaging. She related that she invests in her class and her curriculum all the time, but it is hard to continue to do that when she feels like she has been gaslighted. Chairperson Pynes observed that some of the bad publicity happens the University just tactically makes mistakes. He recalled that former BOT member Mike Houston said that having a big reserve will just get a university's budget cut, and Chairperson Pynes thinks that if WIU's reserve had not been large and used as a buffer for payments from the state that were delayed the University would not have been cut as bad as it was. His advice to the administration would be to run out of money. Senator Dimitrov recalled that building reserves began in 2009 during the hype of the financial crisis when it grew to \$20 million and has now fallen to \$5 million. He related that the faculty felt pain during the process of building the reserves and had a lot of pain during the process of depleting the reserves; they have brought a lot of stress over these years, and he does not think they can think about publicity any more.