

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
Regular Meeting, 29 November 2016, 4:00 p.m.  
Capitol Rooms -University Union

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: M. Allison, V. Boynton, J. Brown, G. Delany, Barmann, D. DeVolder, D. Halverson

Interim Provost Neumann observed that there are a number of WIU students who have not yet registered for the spring 2017 semester. Some of these students have no encumbrances, and there is no apparent reason why they have not yet registered. She asked senators to encourage their students to register if they have not done so and make sure that they know they can register as soon as their encumbrances are cleared.

UPI President Bill Thompson said he would like for the Interim Provost to dispel a rumor he has heard that departments are allotted a certain amount of money to offer summer courses and cannot go beyond that amount. Dr. Thompson heard in recent years that if courses can “make,” then they can be offered, but that is not what is generally believed. Interim Provost Neumann responded that as long as she has been Provost, her office receives a set amount of money to budget for the June and July summer sessions. The initial amount given to colleges is based upon past student enrollments; deans work with department chairs to determine the first round of course offerings. Interim Provost Neumann stated that there is no reason additional classes cannot be offered beyond that first round if the numbers are available to meet the threshold for enrollment. She related that when she was department chair, she was sometimes asked to add another summer section if the first one filled and there was a substantial waiting list that has been on notice for a long time. Dr. Thompson remarked that money is a negative feedback loop because those departments with the least money will continue to get the least every year. Provost Neumann responded that this is not necessarily so because departments can offer courses that will “make,” then this affects that factor. Dr. Thompson agreed that this is a way that departments can get out of that rut.

C. Student Government Association (SGA) Report None

D. Other Announcements

1. Budget Update  
(Matt Bierman, Budget Director and Interim Vice President of Administrative Services)

Chairperson Pynes explained that a faculty member requested that Faculty Senate invite Mr. Bierman to a meeting to discuss the current budget situation and answer questions that senators may have gathered from colleagues in their departments. Mr. Bierman told senators the University received the authorization from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) on Wednesday, November 23 indicating that WIU is to receive a disbursement of approximately \$8.4 million. He explained that on June 30, when the second stopgap measure was passed, there was \$20 million set aside for the IBHE to disburse to institutions of higher education for essential operations. Mr. Bierman believes the reason the additional money was not disbursed immediately was because the legislature did not want to give any university a great deal more than others. He related that over the past several months the money has been caught up in some legal issues, and WIU representatives have been working with the IBHE and inquiring about its status. Mr. Bierman stated the authorization came together quickly in the last ten days; the amount to be allocated was based on payroll needs and student enrollment. Along with WIU, Chicago State and Eastern Illinois University will also receive disbursements, and \$3 million will be distributed to community colleges based on feedback from the Illinois Community College Board. Mr. Bierman does not know when WIU will receive the funds; the voucher has been sent to the State Comptroller but there is no word on when it will be distributed. He hopes that WIU will receive at least part of the funding in December.

Mr. Bierman told senators that as of October 30, WIU had about \$20 million in unrestricted funds. The University has received five of its six appropriations that were passed, and he expects the final appropriation will be received in December.



notes. He stated that the plan was well received because the people who shared their thoughts with him really understood the University. Mr. Frazier has tried to do the same thing with the 2017-2022 update and has gotten input from individuals throughout the University.

Mr. Frazier related that the original plan was from 2003 and was to be reviewed every year. About two years ago, the University Technology Advisory Group began looking at the existing plan and removing things that had already been accomplished. About six months ago, Mr. Frazier began searching the internet to read all the IT plans he could find from colleges and universities and considering what he offered in technology in 2017-2020, which involved reading hundreds of pages of material. He told senators that University Technology on their website a blog post that discusses the revolutionary future of technology. Mr. Frazier began adding to the current plan and then shared it with University Technology directors, staff, the Senate Council for Instructional Technology (CIT), and other groups. He said he appreciates their thoughtful input into the updated plan. The IT Strategic Plan is to be shared on social media

that he or she uses at home and at work, and University Technology will have a mechanism in place to access those devices. He noted that p. 29 says that in case a personal device is lost or stolen, University Technology wants to be able to scrub the information on it. Senator Hironimus/Wendt stated that University Technology having total access to personal devices is a privacy issue that will likely concern a lot of faculty, so this needs to be better spelled out to include what University Technology will be able to access and what they cannot. He stated that while he appreciates the need to protect sensitive information, he would like to see the privacy rights of the owner spelled out in the IT Strategic Plan. Mr. Frazier stated that while this is a guideline, a lot of work needs to be done in this area so that if devices are being used for both business and personal usage, only the business side can be scrubbed.

Dr. Thompson asked if WIU is moving to the cloud for the mainframe. Mr. Frazier responded that an enterprise task force has been meeting for the past year and a half, and they are now at the point where it looks like WIU will be moving to the cloud. Dr. Thompson asked how this will affect all of the COBOL programmers in Administration now8s-5(

a result of changes to the FAFSA filing dates Admissions is mailing award letters on November 3 with the next batch going out in late December, but most schools send their



working with Interim Vice President for Student Services Ron Williams to take snapshots of the past three and five years to see how enrollment might be able to be increased given Western's specific circumstances.

Chairperson Pynes stated that he likes Mr. Miner's enthusiasm regarding sending letters out early to prospective students because WIU is the only institution that is ahead of the curve with the earlier FAFSA date, but warned that WIU probably has only about one year before other schools quickly catch up. He hopes that WIU's advantage this year results in a high yield. He encouraged Mr. Miner if he has particular ideas about how faculty can be involved to bring them to Faculty Senate. Chairperson Pynes suggested that perhaps departments should follow Admissions on Twitter and Instagram, and vice versa, for example. He also thinks departments should provide more dynamic faculty content on their webpages since there is a focus on web-based material. He observed that sometimes it is difficult to find information about faculty, and this could be improved University wide.

Senator Allison agrees that average faculty are not generally involved in Discover Western but only chairs or their designees. She stated that prospective students used to be brought to her classroom to observe but that never occurs anymore; now potential students follow a tour guide down the sidewalk. She does not feel that her talents are used for student recruitment.

Senator Roberts does not think the Admissions Office completely sees faculty as allies or as collaborators in the recruitment process. He suspects there is the impression that faculty would be too intimidating or that high school students would not understand or be interested in faculty research, but perhaps those impressions can be changed. He suggested that perhaps faculty could have meetings with Admissions representatives or create a working committee. Senator Roberts would suggest that faculty interested in meeting high school students could be put on retainer with the Admissions Office and be contacted to talk to potential students for 15 minutes in Sherman Hall, for example, so that students wouldn't have to walk to the other end of campus. Senator Roberts would be glad to do that and believes he could get students excited about applying to WIU. He would like to invite Admissions to think more strategically about how faculty can really be more partners in this process rather than outsiders. Mr. Miner said he has been impressed with WIU's Admissions Office so far and related that he left his interview feeling that recruitment is a campuswide priority, which is not the case at all institutions. He wants to provide the means for faculty to become more involved and will be scheduling meetings to that effect to determine how faculty can become a greater part of the process. He worked









Senator DeVolder asked what would be sufficient time for the Senate to receive the agenda if two weeks in advance is not sufficient. He does not think the BOT should have to check the meeting schedules of every governance body and make sure that each receives the BOT agenda two weeks in advance of their final meetings for the semester. He believes that if Faculty Senate gets the BOT agenda two weeks in advance of their meeting, the agenda can be circulated among senators or Faculty Senate can meet if necessary. Senator DeVolder stated that for the three years he was Senate Chair, the most exciting thing on the BOT agenda were whether to put up or tear down a building or items of deferred maintenance, mainly common sense issues, but that has not been the case recently. Senator DeVolder stated that as he thought about this issue today, based on his past experience, he wondered why the Senate Executive Committee could not take the BOT agenda when it comes out and determine if it is an innocuous list of maintenance items or if there is something that warrants a Senate meeting. He added that, relative to the motion to send because the Senate did not receive the agenda it wanted to, if senators or ExCo have two weeks to look at the agenda that should be enough time.

Senator Allison stated that when reading Chairperson Pynes's email exchange requesting the BOT agenda, the request seemed to be reasonable. Senator Allison said she is not in favor of kicking the decision just to the Executive Committee. She pointed out that Faculty Senate is a representative

Senator Allison asked if she could rescind her motion; Chairperson Pynes responded that she can. Senator Allison asked if it is more effective to rescind the motion and not draw that line in the sand or to draw the line. Senator McNabb responded that the motion may be a little more aggressive than Faculty Senate needs to be at this point. She believes the issue is one of scheduling more than anything else. Senator McNabb stated it is good that Faculty Senate is having the discussion and she would not want to perpetuate the idea that Faculty Senate is not taking seriously its rights and privileges, but Senator Roberts's suggestion regarding scheduling or the potential for a contingent meeting might be used to address the issue in future. She pointed out that, now that senators are aware of the problem, it can be addressed without breaking trust or causing more of a ruckus than may be needed.

Chairperson Pynes stressed that his new view of making sure the body of the Senate has an opportunity to review the BOT agenda is not a criticism of former Senate Chairs. He stated it really is about taking ownership of the Senate's own processes and governances so that individuals know what is going on. He likes the idea of continuing to have these discussions and perhaps scheduling Senate meetings so that they can be within the week BOT publication window because the BOT schedules their meetings well in advance and the public is notified of those dates.

#### SENATOR ALLISON RESCINDED THE MOTION

Motion: That the Executive Committee look at the BOT agenda, and if they think there is something exciting that they call a special meeting of the Senate (Allison/DeVolder)

Chairperson Pynes promised that if ExCo deems it necessary to call a special meeting of the Senate, they will do it. Senator DeVolder suggested that the BOT agenda be distributed to senators when it is received by Chairperson Pynes on Friday, December 2. Chairperson Pynes responded that it will be posted on the University website. Senator DeVolder stated that he thinks it would be better to send it out than to have senators have to look for it. Chairperson Pynes replied that he will have Annette send it out.

MOTION APPROVED 19 YES – 0 NO – 0 AB

Senator McNabb announced that Wednesday, December 7 will be the final installment of #Shakespeare400, hosted by the Departments of History and English. A viewing and discussion of "Hamlet" will be featured, starring Dave Tennant in the title role.

Motion: To adjourn (McNabb)

The Faculty Senate adjourned 5:32 p.m.

Heather McIlvaine, News & Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary