

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Continuation of Recessed Meeting

5 December 2017, 4:00 p.m.

there is sentiment from the Senate to amend the Bylaws. Senator Allison asked what Senator Hironimus-Wendt means by “share.” Senator Hironimus-Wendt responded that the Chairs’ Council would have access to the Senate’s survey in case they wanted to create their own survey of the President and Provost.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt reminded senators that CPPP’s primary goal was to shorten the surveys to increase faculty participation. The new version of the Provost survey would have 27 informational questions, rather than 40, along with a few other questions about gender, reporting college, etc. CPPP will add “Other” as a choice of response for the gender question, in addition to “Man” and “Woman.” Senator Allison asked if it would not be better for the choices to be “Male,” “Female,” and “Other.” Senator Hironimus-Wendt replied that this could be debated, but as a sociologist he thinks in terms of gender categories rather than sex categories. He stated that the issue is one of gender identity, which is Man, Woman, Transgender Man, Transgender Woman, and Other, while Male/Female is a sex identity. He thinks most respondents will know if they are Man, Woman, or Other. He added that the Interim Provost has approved the current version of the survey.

Senator Boynton observed that Question #10, “Overall, the Interim Provost fosters an academic environment that is rewarding for 1) faculty to work, and 2) students to learn” is being eliminated. She asked if the reason is because there is a similar question that appears elsewhere in the survey. Senator Hironimus-Wendt responded that CPPP thought this was similar to new Question #9, “Overall, the Interim Provost fosters the academic mission of Western Illinois University.” He added that CPPP is not opposed to adding or deleting questions upon the recommendation of the Senate. Senator Allison thinks the word “rewarding” in Question #10 is an important one. Senator Bellott suggested that perhaps the two questions can be merged so that Question #9 states that the Interim Provost “fosters the academic mission and a rewarding academic environment.” Senator Boynton thinks that both questions belong in the survey. Senator Hironimus-Wendt pointed out that Question #3 states that “The Interim Provost effectively promotes an environment for excellence in 1) scholarship, and 2) teaching and learning.” Senator Rahman remarked that, if she had to choose between the two questions, she prefers Question #10 that was to be cut, but she is okay with including both. Senator Boynton thinks it is good to separate out the faculty and the students, as is done in Question #10.

Senator Boynton observed that Question #18, “The Interim Provost works effectively with the President and Deans to allocate resources for your department or academic unit to achieve Western Illinois University’s mission,” is also being cut. She asked if that question is repeated elsewhere in the survey. Senator Hironimus-Wendt pointed out-5

are to find the academic mission. Senator Hironimus-Wendt responded that in the President's survey, CPPP added a response choice for "Do not know the mission." Senator Czechowski observed that the academic mission is not easy to find on the University website. She thinks if the survey is going to ask questions about the academic mission, it should be stated in the body of the survey. Senator Hironimus-Wendt suggested that there could be a hyperlink to it. Senator Czechowski remarked that the mission seems to change so often that she cannot keep up with it. Senator Hironimus-Wendt stated that it was last changed in 2015 and prior to that in 2011. Senator Roberts suggested that CPPP ask the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR), who administers the survey, to have the definition pop up when respondents hover over the words "academic mission." Senator Boynton added that the academic mission can be found in the undergraduate catalog. Senator Allison stated that if the intention is to see how many faculty know the University's mission, that does not seem to be a question for the Provost survey unless CPPP thinks that if faculty do not know the mission that says something about the Interim Provost. Senator Hironimus-Wendt related that some members of CPPP did not know the academic mission, so an extra response choice of "Do not know the mission" was added to the President's survey on a similar question. He added that whatever way the academic mission question is worded, it will be done similarly with both the President and Provost surveys. Senator Czechowski said she would rather not spend a lot of time looking for the mission so would like to see the link included in some way.

Chairperson Rock asked if there are any objections to the survey if there is a link to the academic mission on Question #9 and if Question #10 is added back in.

NO OBJECTIONS

C. Ad Hoc Budget Transparency Committee
(Susan Czechowski, Chair)

1. Report and Recommendation

Senator Czechowski told senators the ad hoc committee met a few times and thinks there is a need for a permanent Budget Transparency Committee to be established. She related the ad hoc committee members gathered a lot of information; when Vice President for Administrative Services and Interim Budget Director Matt Bierman came to Faculty Senate earlier this semester, a lot of the discussion was guided by questions developed by the ad hoc committee Budget Transparency Committee.

The ad hoc committee recommends that the permanent Budget Transparency Committee be composed of one member of the Senate Executive Committee plus one senator from each college who would serve two-year staggered terms. Senator Czechowski said the ad hoc committee would we. -

Senate. He raised the question because the proposal requires a member of the Executive Committee, and he thinks ExCo is

Dr. Pynes noted that p. 6 of the CCPI

Chairperson Rock suggested that the discussion focus on whether the minor should have a core. CCPI Chair Anita Hardeman related that, in reviewing the idea of a core, CCPI felt that if the minor represented some kind of concentrated body of knowledge, albeit at less depth, there should be some core of component knowledge that can be identified. CCPI asked Linda Prosis from the Provost's office to provide information on current minors, and there were only 12 that do not already have a core. She pointed out that this means the practice has already been to designate some group of one or more required courses which, in effect, become a core, or to explicitly state that certain courses within a minor are a core, so CCPI felt that they were just solidifying a

the University has divorced itself from what it is trying to do as a collective and has siloed departments itself rather than students siloing themselves.

Parliamentarian Kaul asserted that it is a mischaracterization to indicate that a student can major and minor in the same discipline because that is already prohibited. He pointed out that Computer Science majors cannot minor in Computer Science, Economics majors cannot minor in

– two disciplines that, while they do coincide in certain aspects, are very far apart from one another – he values the idea of making sure that students have depth and breadth in their educations and experience different things. He believes, however, that student choice is also important and should not be discounted at this institution. Mr. Reed thinks it is unfair to hold students as the movable body to solve departmental or staffing problems because students do not have a stake in those issues. He said that students are voting with their wallets and with the decisions about what classes they choose to take. He asserted that academic advisors are not telling students they must minor in certain areas because they are not.

that is why there are chairs. Senator Boynton stated that Gen Ed is the breadth of a program, the major provides the depth, and the minor is the squishy part in the middle. She stated that for some students minors provide additional breadth, for some they provide additional depth, and Senator Boynton tends to err on the side of flexibility. She also pointed out that this issue does not appear anywhere on the Terms of Academic Programs grid.

Senator Allison takes exception to the idea that the Senate at large is about increasing hours, making students stay longer at the University, and taking away student choice. She said that while she is hearing this echoed repeatedly, she does not see this in the CCPI report. She also does not see any evidence that departments are trying to solve enrollment issues through this report, and she takes exception to that as well. Chairperson Rock asked Senator Allison if she has any other issues she wanted to bring up about the report. Senator Allison responded that she does have other issues, but she is not sure there is time to raise them because it seems there is an effort to wrap up the discussion. Senator Boynton asked if there is any reason the discussion could not be continued in the spring since any recommendations from the report would not go into effect until Fall 2018 anyway.

Senator Bellott asked to raise the issue that was discussed at the last meeting about the change proposed for the definition of a comprehensive minor, from “Does not require completion of a Minor as part of the degree program” to “Cannot require completion of a Minor as part of the degree program.” He pointed out that if a comprehensive major included enough hours to complete a minor as part of the major, that comprehensive major, under the proposed wording, could not be approved. He does not like to see concrete wording that cannot be changed in the future. Dr. Hardeman replied that if that was the case, she could see no reason why the department would be proposing a comprehensive major rather than a non-comprehensive major. She explained the purpose of the comprehensive major is that it is specifically restrictive to programs where the concentration of non-major courses does not correspond to an existing minor. She said that if a comprehensive major that included a group of courses corresponding to an existing minor came before CCPI, the Council would send it back to the department with a recommendation that it be proposed as a non-comprehensive major rather than as comprehensive. She added that the point of the comprehensive major when that term was created was to identify programs where the “squishy part in the middle,” as Senator Boynton called it, did not match up to an existing minor. She said that if a department said that they wanted a comprehensive major but they also have an existing minor that they want their students to complete, they may as well create a non-comprehensive major. Senator Bellott asked what would happen if a student fortuitously got all of the classes that they would need for a minor as part of that comprehensive major; Dr. Hardeman responded that in this case the program should be designated as non-comprehensive. Senator Boynton pointed out that students can still take a minor when enrolled in a comprehensive major; they just cannot be forced to take one. Dr. Hardeman agreed that many students taking comprehensive majors do voluntarily complete a minor as well. Senator Bellott asked what would happen if there was a major in “Widgets” but as part of that major students would complete a Hospitality minor because some of the classes for the major fall into the Hospitality category; the Hospitality minor would not be required of the “Widgets” major, but there are enough Hospitality classes to complete that minor as part of the comprehensive major. He pointed out that with the proposed language, that could never happen. Dr. Hardeman r-

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report. He added that someone needs to explain to him what a comprehensive major is and how this could not happen.

Motion: To table (Allison/Czechowski)

NO OBJECTIONS TO MOTION TO TABLE

V. New Business

A. Election of Senator to Serve on Provost's Advisory Council

Senator Bellott volunteered for the position to replace Senator Delany-Barmann on the Council during her Spring 2018 sabbatical and was elected by acclamation.

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Susan Czechowski, Faculty Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary