

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 15 October 2024
4:00 p.m. – Via Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeremy Robinett, Chair; Ben Brewer, Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Mossman, Interim Provost; Krista Bowers Sharpe, Parliamentarian; Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Office Manager

GUESTS:

Web Services, University Technology, and Bob Emmert, Director of Business Applications and User Support Services, University Technology

1. Guests: University Technology CIO Group

Jeremy Merritt related that he, Bob Emmert, and Stacie Hunt, Director of Administrative Information Management Services (AIMS), were assigned to take on the responsibilities of CIO after the former University Technology CIO left recently. He said one key initiative the three have been working on is implementing several technology policy changes.

someone not to have a personal email account. Mr. Merritt noted that email accounts for retirees and alumni are increasingly left inactive for 90 days or more; 25 percent of retirees and a little over 50 percent of alumni accounts are currently inactive, so they are not being utilized to their full potential as they were in years or decades past.

Mr. Merritt told ExCo that University Technology has decided that current retirees with a WIU email account who retired prior to late June 2024 will be grandfathered into the new policy provided they follow two practices: they must login to their email accounts every 90 days and take the same mandatory security training as employees so that they understand the importance of protecting data they may have access to, how to identify and respond to phishing attacks, and be aware of the university's general technology policies. He noted that if an employee were to retire today but has an ongoing professional relationship with WIU, even if informal, this relationship can be formalized so that the retiree can keep their WIU email account. He said that a faculty member who is still doing research for the institution, for example, can obtain sponsorship from a department or current employee in order to retain their email account. He added that standard practice would be that uTech would wipe all the data from the email account before returning it to the retiree, but there could be exceptions granted based on the former employee's need or the particular situation. Mr. Merritt assured ExCo that these changes are not intended to prohibit access to University Libraries by former employees because the loss of an email account will not necessarily result in the loss of an Ecom account.

Mr. Merritt acknowledged that uTech realizes some clarification may be needed in the portion of the policy discussing downloading emails. He explained the intent is to prevent downloading sensitive or otherwise protected data to personal devices; this is not intended to prevent people from forwarding personal information, like sending photos to grandma. He added all the policies were reviewed regularly and ambiguities addressed during the next review process.

Mr. Merritt told ExCo the State University Annuitants Association

which delayed the response to handling that phishing outbreak by a couple of days because of the lack of staff available to respond to such breaches. He assumes that institutions have more resources than WIU or a dedicated cybersecurity person, which WIU does not; the CIO Group is learning about a lot of cybersecurity tools and relies on cybersecurity auditors to identify gaps that the institution might have. He said that Tech is not staffed to the degree that makes the risk of allowing every alum and every retiree to retain email accounts possible.

Interim Provost Mossman asked if emeriti faculty with professional affiliations who continue to maintain an active research agenda, attend professional conferences, etc. will be able to maintain their WIU email. Mr. Merritt confirmed this is correct, as long as they have somebody who can vouch for that. Interim Provost Mossman remarked he has numerous mentors of emeriti status that email him frequently from their institutions. He wants to make sure this is an option because emeritus faculty often continue their professional obligations after retirement. Mr. Merritt confirmed that University Technology has identified a mechanism they can leverage to make this happen, and this will be explained in an email to retirees. Chair Robinett remarked that emeritus faculty members Lee Brice, Steve Rock, Gene Callison, Ginny

meeting with the current CIO Group in August, they have been interested in learning about this and respectful of the contributions of WIU's retirees.

Parliamentarian Bowers Sharpe asked if University Technology envisions the sponsorship process for retirees to be a one-time submission or whether the sponsor would last a certain amount of time, such as for the

implemented for fall. He noted that usually the ~~at~~ to four Y courses offered in the spring included an online course and were available to transfer students or students who failed a fall Y course.

Chair Robinett asked if the request to be sent to CAGAS is to eliminate the Y graduation requirement beginning fall semester; Interim Provost Mossman confirmed that is correct. Chair Robinett asked if the Provost's office intends to issue

Chair Robinett observed that the contract specifies that the Union be notified of the intent to form such a

lack of representation from females and marginalized populations. He shared this concern with several faculty members who asked Chair ~~Robt~~ to make sure that he reaches out directly to some of those

Dr. Filipink remarked the Board telegraphed they planned to do this when they postponed the search for a president until March. He noted that an offer has been made to the Board for them to visit WIU to see what is actually done at the university but none of them have accepted the offer. Interim Provost Mossman confirmed this was a recommendation from the HLC; they suggested Trustees learn different aspects of the university by spending time in the Financial Aid office, visiting a dean's office, attending a Senate meeting, or other aspects of the university, but that has not materialized.

Interim Provost Mossman remarked that the Provost's office is severely understaffed, even compared to when he arrived in 2018. He acknowledged that civil service, faculty, and staff are all doing about eight more jobs than they normally would, and everybody feels that. He added that the two associate provosts work non-stop and do not get much praise for it.

Chair Robinett told ExCo he will ask senators to help create a survey instrument. He hopes to move quickly to have a survey distributed by October 28 and due back on November 8. He will report back to Faculty Senate on November 12 about the results of the survey because faculty should know the results before they are given to the Board sometime between November 5 and noon on November 15.

8. Finalize agenda for Senate meeting of October 22 - guest Paul Bubb

Chair Robinett pointed out that election of a Faculty Senate Vice Chair is on the agenda under Old Business.

The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Office Manager
and Recording Secretary