

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Regular Meeting, 24 January 2023, 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: J. Albarracin, D. Atherton, D. Banash, D. Barber, Bellott, M. Bernards, D. Brown, G. Cabedo-Timmons, A. Carc, Chadwell, P. Eathington, L. Ebert Wallade, Hunter, J. Land, T. Lough, S. Macchi, K. Perone, B. Petrocovici, E. Shupe, Y. Tang, B. Thompson, J. Wroblewski
Ex-officio: Craig WhettenParliamentaria; Provost Manoochehr Zoghi

SENATORS ABSENT: S. Bailey, B. Polley

GUESTS: Tom Blackford, Joe Cantu, Ranessa Cooper, Dennis DeVolder, Paige Goodwin, Robert Hironimus-Wendt, Keith Holz, Kishor Kapale, Angela Klink, Rick Kurasz, Ilon Lauer, Sarah Lawson, Sue Martinelli Fernandez, Rose McConnell, Leslie Melim, Russ Morgan, Mark Mossman, Loren Ose Pavez, Linda Prosise, Jim Schmidt, Bobbi Smith

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. December 6 2022

APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Approvals from the Provost

1. Requests for New Courses

- a. ANSC 280, Pre-Veterinary Science, 3 s.h.
- b. HM 200, Food Service Principles and Application, 3 s.h.

2. Request for Change of Major

- a. Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration

B. Provost's Report

Provost Zoghi reported that the academic colleges, University Libraries, the Honors College, and the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs worked diligently throughout the fall semester on their retention plans. The Provost expressed his thanks for everyone's contributions toward this effort and expressed special thanks to the leadership – deans, chairs, and directors – for bringing together the notion of the student life cycle flow standard process model, which provided the framework for preparation of the retention plans. A day-long summit was held on December 9 for retention plans to be presented; feedback was provided by those in attendance and the plans were then finalized and given to the Provost, Vice President for Enrollment Management Amber Schultz, and Executive Director for Retention Initiatives Justin Schuch for review. Finalized plans with recommendations from these three administrators – over 200 pages in total – were given to the President, whose recommendations will be forthcoming.

Provost Zoghi announced that a core group has been created to develop a strategic plan for the Division of Academic Affairs. He stated that a SWOT analysis will be conducted before asking for input from the campus community. He added that student success will be the top priority for the strategic plan process.

Senator Carr asked Provost Zoghi if he has a timeline for getting working scanners for Malpass Library. She noted that scanners there have not worked for some time and are important for the use of faculty as well as students, particularly international students. Provost Zoghi responded that he was not aware of this. Chair Thompson remarked that computer support personnel in the Library have been keeping the two current scanners on life support, but the problem has been ongoing for three years. He thinks Malpass Library could really use four working scanners because they get a lot of usage by faculty and students scanning materials that are on reserve or interlibrary loan. He agrees that international students use the scanners, such as in scanning documents for visa applications. Chair Thompson added that the Music Library in Sallee Hall does have a working scanner and is open most days until 8:00 or 9:00 in the evening.

Provost Zoghi asked if University Technology Chief Craig Kain is aware of the problem. Chair Thompson replied he does not know if the scanners are part of the University Technology budget or the Library budget. Provost Zoghi said he will look into getting this issue addressed in a timely manner and report back to Senator Carr.

Senator Petrocovi observed that many of the newer printers have scanning capabilities; the Department of Mathematics and Philosophy has two high-end printers that can also scan. Chair Thompson responded that Malpass Library does not have this, but that flatbed scanners are very useful for large format items.

Senator Banash has heard anecdotally, that freshmen, particularly those going through the first experience (FYE) program, really struggled this past fall. He asked if there is a sense yet of these numbers and whether the administration is worried about this. He wonders if these rumors are true and are part of a larger problem or whether Fall 2023 was exceptional in the number of students struggling in their classes. Provost Zoghi responded that Covid did not help this situation; first students coming to WIU are not as well prepared due to this factor. He has heard from various faculty that some freshmen did not show up for class, so it was a big struggle.

Associate Provost Mark Mossman, who oversees FYE, said this has been a worry for a number of years; it was a chronic problem that became acute during Covid in terms of attendance and fall spring retention. He noted that

Chair Thompson observed that there are a lot of universities in Illinois that received federal earmark dollars of some kind – not simply from congressional higher education committees but also from agriculture and other committees. He hopes that the university is strongly encouraging faculty, staff, and directors of different programs to apply for earmarks because there is a variety of institutions in Illinois that got money, and some of them got quite a lot. Provost Zoghi said this is an excellent suggestion. He related that there have been discussions about going after some large federal grants to enable the university to better implement some great initiatives which could be game changers for WIU in regard to student retention.

B.

Student Government Association (SGA) Reports
nns dire (o)12.9 (r)-2 (sA)2 (n)ca152 TD ean, st(t)8.3 ()1 w

WesternOnline and to textbooks because ~~the~~ in many cases indicated that was why

faculty multiple times requesting information on the last day of academic activity it is because of this deadline to avoid noncompliance.

Ms. Smith provided senators with demographics of the student body because she thinks it is very important for everyone to understand the importance of federal student aid. Forty-two percent of WIU students receive federal Pell grants, and 86 percent show Expected Family Contribution, which is the high level of need. Ms. Smith added that these students may also not understand payment plans or even what college is really about. Fifty percent of both undergraduate and graduate students attending WIU currently receive some form of federal aid in the form of PELL, the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), TEACH, FWS, or Federal Direct Loans. The current maximum PELL grant, \$6,495, covers 67 percent of WIU tuition and fees. Ms. Smith pointed out that for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, federal aid generated \$49,751,310 in revenue for the university, which equates to 50 percent of all other funding sources (federal, state, institution, or private/3 party). She stated that the loss of this revenue would definitely close WIU down, which is why it is critically important that Financial Aid receive the information they request in a timely manner. She added that much of her office's work depends on collegiality and cooperation across divisions.

- a. Requests for Changes of Options
 - i. Chemistry: Biochemistry Option
 - ii. Chemistry: Chemistry Option
 - iii. Chemistry: Pharmacy Option
- b. Request for Change of Major
 - i. Forensic Chemistry

CHANGES OF OPTIONS AND MAJOR APPROVED

3. Curricular Requests from the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Geographic Information Sciences

- a. Requests for Changes of Options
 - i. Geology: Geology Option
 - ii. Geology: Paleontology Option

CHANGES OF OPTIONS APPROVED

B. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)
(Dave Hunter, Chair)

1. Faculty Nominations

SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES :

Council for Instructional Technology
Rashmi Sharma, Education replacing Minsun Doh 23 E&HS

UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES :

Honors Council
Pam Rockwood, Education replacing Sebastian Szjka 24 E&HS

Senator Hunter asked if there were other nominations from the floor or for any of the other vacancies on the SNC report. There were none, and the slate of candidates was elected.

IV. Old Business – None

V. New Business

A. Proposed Resolution to Add Faculty Representation to the Policy Review Committee

Whereas the faculty senate is a longstanding forum for communicating opinions and viewpoints of the faculty to the administration of the University and serves as an agency through which the faculty participate in the formation of basic university policy; and

Whereas, one of the functions of Faculty Senate is to participate in the selection of faculty members to universitywide committees; and

online essay questions they may assign their students. The Executive Committee has asked CAGAS to consider whether language regarding AI should be added to the Academic Integrity Policy.

Chair Thompson stated that the Executive Committee wanted to give senators and other faculty the opportunity to express their concerns or describe how they are dealing with ChatGPT. Chair Thompson related that he assigns a lot of writing in his English course and has started requiring that students do their first draft in class on Google Docs so that he can have a basic idea of what they are writing about. Chair Thompson thinks the response across the country has been to have students do more class writing.

Senator Banash said the Department of English is very concerned about ChatGPT. There have been a lot of articles recently in The New York Times, The Atlantic, and The Chronicle of Higher Education about this. Senator Banash stated that while ChatGPT could fool an instructor reading a short essay response, it has more difficulty crafting longer essays, especially if they involve research or sourcing. He added that ChatGPT has a hard time citing in LA or APA style. Senator Banash thinks Turnitin should be all over this issue. He noted that computer science programmers have developed an algorithm that they claim can predict if text is written with ChatGPT because it has specific quirks; human writers are a little "burstier" than ChatGPT. Senator Banash noted that WIU has a contractual subscription to Turnitin and thinks they should be very concerned about solving this problem.

Dean Martinelli-Fernandez stated that while she does not know what office at WIU oversees the

