

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. Franken, A. Hyde (via zoom), S. Macchi, M. Maskarinec, H. McIlvaine, Newsad, B. Perab, Plos, C. Pynes, S. Rahman, M. Sajewski, F. Tasdan, K. Zbeeb (via teleconference)
Ex-officio: Kathy Neumann, Interim Provost; Ilon Lauer

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 protests organized in response to the visit, an SGA resolution was adopted to send a letter to the church and the football team. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 11-2 (no) 11 (t)-5 (k) 11 (now) 5

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 stated that the 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.

B. onda sen C/ BT q3(d)2(ces)11(t)-3ecre BT ease-3(h)13(ef-5(ha)9(tV11(t)-3(sien)2b3())TJ -21.8i)2

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 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.