

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Regular Meeting, 30 November 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: J. Albarracin, D. Atherton, S. Bailey, D. Barr, B. Bellott, D. Brown, G. Cabedo-Timmons, C. Chadwell, D. G10.9 (oG)4.6 v do-10.9 (oG)I17.1 20t15.8.1-F (e)-1.7 (l)lonsloG. GoGloGe7 (. B)3.8 2 (doK1 (bns)o,8 2 (do 3. Turkelli, L. Wipperling, K. Wiseley

Ex-officio: Jeremy Robinett, Parliamentarian; Interim Provost Mark Mossman

SENATORS ABSENT: D. Barr, L. Ebert Wallace, H. Elbe, B. Petrocovic

GUESTS: Tom Blackford, Amy Burke, Amy Carr, Dennis DeVolder, Patricia Eathington, Rich Filipink, Stacie Hunt, Greg Kain, Jeffrey Keith, Sarah Lawson, Tonya Little, Marty Maskarinec, Patrick McGinty, Russ Morgan, Lorette Oden, Luciano Picanco, Renee Polubinsky, Linda Prorise

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. October 24, 2023

APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Provost's Report

Interim Provost Mossman encouraged everyone to attend the President's holiday reception from 4-6 pm on Tuesday, December 12 in the Grand Ballroom. He told senators it is an honor to serve as interim provost, and he will do his best to be effective. Interim Provost Mossman said he really wants to increase communication across the institution. He is not sure yet how that will be achieved but thinks most peo Affairs)

The SGA report was postponed until Mr. Keith arrived.

C. Other Announcements

1. Status of ERP for WIU

(Stacie Hunt, Director, AIMS; Greg Kain, CIO, University Technology; Martin Maskarinec,

Mr. Kain explained that the process of implementing the new ERP will strain all of the

feedback if anyone wants to discuss this bill with him. She thinks some concerns surrounded

of-state or refuses to release the information. More information on this topic can be found in the October minutes.

Chair Albarracin remarked that Dr. Carr mentioned some challenges of the proposed equitable funding formula, but she wonders if there are some advantages to highlight as well. Dr. Carr responded that the general tenor among the FAC and Jen Delany are that it is really complicated, hard to communicate to people, and that while it might seem to advantage schools with more underserved students, it also creates a disincentive to actually close gaps because then the funding would end. Chair Albarracin asked if Dr. Carr could further explain the disincentive to schools serving a large number of first-generation college students, for example. Dr. Carr responded that if these institutions actually improve the data completion rate, they could end up with less money.

Senator Gravitt remarked that Dr. Carr said there was a committee or group of people looking into evaluations of learning from previous institutions. She asked if this refers to high school students so that universities are not just evaluating students by their grades since many schools no longer use SAT or ACT scores. Dr. Carr clarified that prior learning assessment is often applied to nontraditional students who may have a lot of life experiences, such as in the military, as a working musician, or those who worked in child care for a long time but did not get a degree. She said it is quite varied but is geared toward life experience assessment. Senator Gravitt asked if the FAC has discussed trying to evaluate learning from schools in the state that are not graduating students with the skills they ideally should have coming from high school, even though their GPAs indicate that they do have these skills. Dr. Carr responded that the FAC is not looking at this issue in particular but she will share Senator Gravitt's question with them.

B. Student Government Association (SGA) Report (Reordered)
(Jeffrey Keith, SGA Director of Academic Affairs)

Mr. Keith said he was currently attending an SGA Cabinet meeting but stepped out to touch base with Faculty Senate. He does not think there is much going on with SGA at this time.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council on Admission, Graduation, and Academic Standards (CAGAS)
(Rich Filipink, Chair)

1. CAGAS Report on Admissions and Retention

Chair Albarracin explained the CAGAS report had a somewhat unusual origin because a Board of Trustees member came to the Senate Executive Committee asking for information related to retention, which led to the report's creation. Dr. Filipink thanked Sue Thorman and Justin Schuch for providing the data, all of which senators received in the Google Drive for this meeting, with the exception of the individual student exit-4.6 (dua)6.7 (D6 (r A)19.5ud)1088 0 Td(i)

for. He said the highest GPAs belong to those students who identify as Asian. White students' GPAs are hovering in the 3.6 range; black students' GPAs in the 3.2 range; and GPAs for Hispanic students in the 3.375 range.

Dr. Filipink reported that female students show higher graduation rates, regardless of 4-year, 5-year, or 6-year measurements. He said that while the data shows no consistent pattern of persistence from Year 1 to Year 2, from Year 2 to Year 3 more females than males persist. Dr. Filipink reported that, by race, black student persistence was the lowest of any group by more than ten students in each of the years included in the data, with black student retention falling below 50 percent by Year 3. He said that before Covid, Hispanic student retention to Year 3 had been improving steadily and had reached over 60 percent, but post-Covid shows a decline, although persistence to Year 3 does remain over 50 percent. He added that fewer than one-third of WIU students obtained a degree within four years during the data period.

Dr. Filipink reported there was limited data on the reasons students left the university during

Robinett assured Senator Gravitt that this will all be recorded in the minutes. Senator Gravitt added that Faculty Senate has not been seeing good results in terms of participation in the survey, and she wonders if additional rephrasing might reduce or increase the results. Chair Albarracin remarked that survey participation rates are rather low in general, and it does not necessarily mean that people are scared they will be retaliated against for giving their opinion.

NO OBJECTIONS

Senator Hunter thanked CPPP members for their hard work on the survey.

IV. Old Business – None

V. New Business

A. For the Good of the Body

Chair Albarracin observed that when looking at the future academic calendars, spring semester classes start on January 13 in 2025, which she thought is unusually early. She asked if anyone knows why classes are starting earlier next year because the break between semesters is a good opportunity for study abroad. Senator Gravitt responded it depends on when Martin Luther King's Day falls. Chair Albarracin observed that classes start on January 13, 2025, but Martin Luther King Day is the following Monday. Registrar Sarah Lawson explained that every few years the university begins spring semester the week before the Martin Luther King holiday because the start date is based on four weeks after the end of the previous semester. Chair Albarracin reiterated it feels unusually early.

Chair Albarracin said she hopes senators will all try to meet in person for the first spring semester meeting on January 23 in the Union Capitol Rooms and will try to attend the President's reception.

Motion: To adjourn (Hamner)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary