

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. January 25, 2022

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II. Announcements

A. Provost's Report

Interim Provost Clow told senators there was a small ceremony for the winners of the Provost Awards for Excellence. He also told them that the Provost Travel Awards are progressing well with no issues. He observed that applications show a pretty good breakdown of tenured and tenure-track faculty.

Interim Provost Clow acknowledged that a recent press release on changes to transfer admissions caused confusion. He said the press release went out on a Friday, and the Provost's office did not have a chance to see it before it was published. He noted that the press release did not specify that it is only the characters. This will begin Summer 2022 and is important for the University's cybersecurity insurance. Senator Szyjka asked if someone can reuse their current password if it is already longer than eight characters. He also asked if passwords will not have to be updated again for a long time, similar to the current policy, or if they will be required to be changed again after a certain number of months. Interim Provost Clow responded that once the University starts requiring 12 characters, the passwords will stay as they are, but he does not know if persons who already have passwords of 12 characters or more will have to change theirs. He recognizes that WIUP passwords do require that they be changed on a regular basis, but the 12-character passwords will apply only to Ecom passwords.

Senator Thompson asked if there is a departmental reorganization going on in the School of Education. Interim Provost Clow replied that there have been internal discussions about some possible changes. He has meetings coming up to talk to representatives from Education about what is being discussed internally, but nothing has been submitted to his office. Senator Thompson asked if the Interim Provost could provide more clarity, but Interim Provost Clow said he does not have more clarity at this time. He added that it is a faculty-driven process and has to be voted on.

SGA will discuss student fees and present their ideas regarding this topic at their general assembly meeting tomorrow. Mr. Cornell noted that student fees are expected to increase about \$2.50, and SGA is going to weigh in on where they think that money should go.

Mr. Cornell would like to hear what senators think about the early warning grade process. Students have told him they would like to see an actual grade given rather than just an asterisk showing that their grade is above a C-. He would like to see if any senators are opposed to such a change and ask why early warning grades are not currently set up like this. He thinks it would be better for students to see what grade they are actually getting mid-semester so that they can fix any problems if needed. Chair Lauer suggested that there may have been some programmatic reason at some point that necessitated using an asterisk rather than a grade, but it makes sense to him to enter a grade. Senator Banash observed that it is hard to determine what grade a student is getting in some classes, such as those where students are working on long projects that are not due until later in the semester. He said in some cases faculty members might only be providing their best guess because students may have only turned in a few things for the semester by that point, which may be why the system was set up this way. He noted that generally anyone getting above a C is doing all right, but the consensus about what a C means has changed over the years, and there might need to be some distinctions made. Senator Banash thinks overall faculty might be amenable to what Mr. Cornell is proposing and that he would find some support for it. Senator Wroblewski also does not think that faculty would object to entering the actual grades. Senator Wroblewski keeps track of students' grades and they can ask him for them at any time, which he thinks is true of a lot of faculty, but he does not see it being a big issue with faculty if this was changed to entering a letter grade rather than just those grades below a C.

D. Other Announcements

1. Status of Faculty Senate Elections

Chair Lauer announced that the deadline for remaining vacant seats on Faculty Senate was extended two days, to Monday, February 7, because of the University weather-related closure, but two seats remain vacant, so the deadline for those seats will be extended another week. He announced the results of the unopposed elections:

- College of Arts and Sciences: Boris Petrocovi, Mathematics and Philosophy, and Daniel Brown, Foreign Languages and Literature, with one vacancy remaining;
- College of Business and Technology: Dave Hunter, Engineering and Technology for the three-year term, and the one-semester term remains vacant;
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Dr. Bennett told senators that it was pointed out to him just prior to the meeting that he forgot to provide two new course requests that are included in the request for new option. He has added those two new course requests to the shared drive. He said the two were approved with no problems by CCPI.

Senator Carr said she has a question about eliminating all the upper-level Gen Ed courses from the proposed new option. She noted that the list of other schools offering similar programs, included with the proposal, all seemed to include upper-level Gen Ed courses. She observed that some have foreign language requirements; the University of New Hampshire has to take six upper-level Gen Eds; and the University of California-San Diego, while they do it in a different way, seems to include upper-level Gen Ed courses as well. Senator Carr wonders if it would be possible to get a rationale for eliminating the upper-level Gen Ed courses. Physics Chair Kishor Kapale pointed out that the proposal was approved by the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council as well as by CCPI. He is not familiar with all of the programs at the other universities, but Materials Science at WIU is kind of a unique idea for the Physics Department. He noted that there are not many examples similar to WIU's proposed program, which would be a combination of materials science with engineering; it will use physics as well as chemistry in order to use the knowledge of WIU's faculty. He noted that the necessity of including advanced course requirements for both physics and chemistry means there is just no room to include additional upper-level Gen Ed courses. Senator Carr asked if all of the examples provided in the request materials were programs that were physics-centered without as much chemistry required. She thinks it would have been helpful to spell out the rationale because it is pretty significant to not have any upper-level Gen Ed courses in an Arts and Sciences-centered program. Dr. Kapale stated that most of the applied aspects of Material Science involve looking at materials from an engineering point of view, and students that complete the option would automatically get a Chemistry minor. He stated that the total hours for the program would have to be increased if the college-level Gen Ed were to be included. Senator Carr reiterated that it would have been helpful to see a more detailed rationale. She remarked that what Dr. Kapale seems to be saying is that there is no other program like this in the United States. She thinks it sounds more like something one might more often see at an engineering school, where there are

