

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

FACULTY SENATE

Regular Meeting, 11 April 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: J. Albarracin, D. Atherton, S. Bailey, D. Banash, D. Barr, B. Bellott, M. Bernards, D. Brown, G. Cabedo-Timmons, A. Carr, C. Chadwell, L. Ebert Wallace, D. Hunter, J. Land, T. Lough, S. Macchi, K. Perone, B. Petrocovi, M. Shamsuddoha, E. Shupe, Y. Tang, J. Wroblewski

Ex-officio: Craig Whetten, Parliamentarian; Provost Manoochehr Zoghi

SENATORS ABSENT: P. Eathington, B. Thompson

GUESTS: Andy Baker, Tom Blackford, Joe Cantu, Sean Cordes, Dennis DeVolder, Ritchie Gabbei, Paige Goodwin, Denise Gravitt, Shelby Henning, Sarah Lawson, Michael Lorenzen, Jim McQuillan, Russ Morgan, Mark Mossman, Renee Polubinsky, Ilda Prosise, Jeremy Robinett, Jim Sarra, Sebastian Szjyka, Seyfi Turkelli, Baofu Wang, Lisa Wipperling

Senate Secretary Julia Albarracin chaired the meeting in Chairperson Bill Thompson's absence.

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. March 28, 2023

APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Approvals from the President

1. Expansion of Recognition for Retired Faculty and Administrators Policy so that Unit B faculty are eligible for faculty emeriti designation. Senator Albarracin noted that Unit B faculty will be able to achieve the designation of Associate Faculty Emeriti.

B. Provost's Report – temporarily postponed until Provost's arrival after the conclusion of another meeting

C.

Provost Zoghi related he had a wonderful visit with Senator Mike Halpin today, and WIU's representatives gave a good presentation to him.

Provost Zoghi related he discussed with the Executive Committee the need for capturing the student attendance policy in the syllabus. He thinks this is a conversation that might benefit from input by those in attendance at the Senate meeting. Senator Albarracin explained that the Executive Committee discussed the relationship between class attendance and retention. She noted that WIU does not have a mandatory attendance policy, but if faculty have a policy, they must include it in their syllabi. She said Provost Zoghi expressed an interest in reviewing that policy.

Provost Zoghi related that the university has experienced a lot of challenges this past year with students not attending classes, and he thought that this might be addressed with inclusion of attendance information in the course syllabus. He pointed out that #8 of the policy specifies faculty syllabi must include "attendance requirements and penalties, if any." He wonders if it might be possible in the future to include a statement in the Course Syllabus Policy indicating that students need to attend classes and that if they do not there are certain measures that will be taken. He asked if those in attendance at the meeting have any suggestions or experiences to share.

Senator Carr asked if the Provost thinks this would be applicable for asynchronous online courses because she does not take attendance in those but students engage in weekly participation. Provost Zoghi responded this is a good question.

Senator Wroblewski said he would be slightly worried about creating a university-wide attendance policy. He noted that every professor teaches in their own way; some are stricter than others, as the class needs are figured out. Senator Wroblewski thinks that class attendance is very important, but if students are not coming to class now, even when professors build attendance policy into their syllabi, he is not sure that making a university-wide policy, which might not fit the individual needs of the students or of the particular class it is applied to, would be the best answer.

Senator Ebert Wallace noted that the university is coming out of the pandemic, during which attendance was upended for many reasons, so she thinks this is a good time to think about this topic again. She related that faculty have struggled to get students to culturally transition back to attending classes in person reliably. Senator Ebert Wallace added a large banner at the top of her syllabi to reiterate that this is not an online class, and nothing can be completed without coming to class. She recalled that last year felt very transitional with students continuing to operate somewhat outside the norms; students still expected to be able to do some things online if they needed to, for instance if they were ill. Senator Ebert Wallace thinks the university needs to move clearly beyond pandemic norms but also thinks it is impractical to create a university-wide attendance policy. She did not, however, think a university-wide attendance policy was what the Provost was suggesting; she thinks the Provost is just asking faculty to pay special attention to attendance. Senator Ebert Wallace has taken down things that were on WesternOnline to make it perfectly clear that her class is held in person. She is trying to shift the norms back with her students and is open to anything that would help do that.

Senator Banash has taught a lot in the the First Experience (FYE) program and a lot of General Education and freshmen/sophomore courses. He believes attendance can predict how well students will do in a class and noted that WIU is bringing in students that are extraordinarily vulnerable. He would be in favor of a university policy that says that professors who are teaching freshmen and sophomore courses should, at a minimum, be required to report attendance. He would hope this information would be available to advisors so they can coordinate and be on the same page as professors. Senator Banash recognizes academic freedom considerations, but when he thinks about freshmen and sophomore Gen Ed classes and the challenges the university faces, he would be strongly in favor of the university getting together to think about this as a team.

Associate Provost Mossman concurs with Senator Banash. He thinks it is important to know there is a direct correlation between attendance and student failure in classes. Associate Provost Mossman arrived at WIU in 2001 and has heard discussions about a university-wide attendance policy since he

Banash can drive students to class. He thinks the university needs to have a larger conversation about how pedagogy may have to change a little bit, particularly in freshmen and sophomore classes. Senator Banash is not indicating that one size fits all by any means, but he does think the issue is bigger than an attendance policy. He agrees that attendance is a part of this and hopes that Faculty Senate spends time with the administration working on what can be done because if students who are so at risk are going to be brought to WIU, it is incumbent also to support them. Provost Zoghi agrees with Senator Banash and looks forward to the opportunity to develop some sort of summer bridge

wondered what happens to all of the data that is being collected. Engineering and Technology professor Denise Gravitt noted that attendance must be collected for financial aid so that students do not receive federal funding for classes they are not attending. She added that, by law, the university is supposed to be collecting this data, no matter what. Senator Barr said that he has never been asked for it. Dr. Gravitt said she is asked every time a student drops or flunks her class if the student had been attending or when they stopped attending because the student may have to pay back financial

c. Secretary

Motion: To nominate Guada Cabedo Timmons for Secretary (Albarracin)
Senator Cabedo Timmons turned down the nomination.

Motion: To nominate Denise Gravitt for Secretary (Gravitt)

There were no further nominations, and Dr. Gravitt was elected as Secretary.

2. Election of Senate Nominating Committee Representatives

a. College of Arts and Sciences

Parliamentarian Whetten asked if there is any reason why he could not volunteer to serve on the Senate Nominating Committee if he is also to be on the Executive Committee. Ms. Hamm responded she could not think of any prohibition against this.

Motion: To nominate Craig Whetten (Whetten)

b. College of Business and Technology

Motion: To nominate Dave Hunter (Hunter)

c. College of Education and Human Services

Motion: To nominate Katherine Perone (Perone)

d. College of Fine Arts and Communication

Motion: To nominate James Land (Land)

There were no further nominations, and the nominees were elected.

e. Senate Nominating Committee Chair

Motion: To nominate Katherine Perone (Hunter)

There were no other nominations, and Senator Perone was elected SNC Chair.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI)
(Paige Goodwin, Chair)

1. Curricular Requests from the School of Agriculture

a. Request for Change of Minor

i. Cannabis Production

Dr. Goodwin noted that the request asks to restructure the minor to allow students to pursue pathways to genetics and cultivation. Agriculture professor Shelby Henning said the changes are intended to strengthen the minor to make it more appropriate for the current industry. He noted that the current title, Cannabis Production, refers to extraction after the hemp has been grown, but WIU does not do that; the School of Agriculture only

grows the plant. Dr. Shelly ~~sa~~the name of the minor was wrong when it was created, but the school was unaware of this. The title of the minor would be changed to Cannabis Cultivation if approved, and it would be strengthened by adding a breeding track and a cultivation track so that students can specialize further. He added that the industry has changed, so Agriculture's program is changing with the times.

CHANGE OF MINOR APPROVED

2. Curricular Requests from the School of Computer Sciences

a Requests for New Courses

- i. IS 335, Introduction to Cloud Computing, 3 s.h.

IS 335 APPROVED

- ii. IS 425, Artificial Intelligence Applications and Management, 3 s.h.

Senator Tang remarked that it seems as though the proposal overlaps with CS 460. He also noted that legal implications of AI and privacy laws, contract laws, and other laws have been widely discussed in recent years. He wonders if it would be beneficial to add one word to the course description. The course description says the course will "review ethical, business, and organization challenges in developing AI capabilities." Senator Tang asked if "legal" should be added to this list.

Computer Sciences professor Jim McQuillan admitted he does not know the answer; because he is not an Information Systems faculty member, he does not know if those faculty members plan to look at the legal implications of AI in this course. In response to Senator Tang's first question, Dr. McQuillan said there will be some overlap with CS 460, but the CS artificial intelligence courses are more technical while this course will focus more on improving business practices. He noted that Computer Sciences has an IS database course ~~an~~ a CS database course, but they are implemented differently depending on the audience. He added that CS courses will generally always be more technical. Python is the programming language used for both this course and the CS course, but this course will have more of a business focus.

Senator Tang thinks bringing in a couple of the legal aspects of AI would benefit students. Dr. McQuillan promised to ask IS faculty if this makes sense to them; if they wish to add this, it can be done as a minor catalog change. Senator Tang said that would be fine with him.

IS 425 APPROVED

b. Request for Change of Major

- i. Information Systems

Dr. Goodwin said the changes to the major are related to cybersecurity and business intelligence. Dr. McQuillan told ~~stora~~ that IS faculty are very excited about the new Business Intelligence emphasis and think it will be very attractive to students. He noted that the courses just approved by Faculty Senate would be added as directed electives. He added that UNIX would also be added as a directed elective; it is a very useful course and a

NUTR 420 APPROVED

b. Requests for Changes of Majors

i. Nutrition and Food Service Management

Dr. Goodwin noted that many of the changes are related to accreditation.

CHANGE OF NUTRITION AND FOODSERVICE MANAGEMENT
MAJOR APPROVED

ii. Nutrition and Dietetics

CHANGE OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS MAJOR APPROVED

needs and their deficiencies upon entering WIU. Dr. Szyjka said the intent is to make all Education programs look similar in response to the change in legislation, and students will take the Gen Ed courses if they do not have them when they transfer in.

CHANGES OF MAJORS APPROVED

- B. Council for International Education (CIE)
(Sean Cordes, Chair)
 - 1. Request for Discipline Specific Global Issues (DSGI) Designation
 - a. SSED 354, Methods for Teaching Social Studies PreK-2, 3 s.h.

Paul Chinen, Music	replacing	Emily Sevick	2026	FA&C
Sean Cordes, Library	replacing	Brian Clark	2026	LIBRARY

Council for International Education (CIE)

Sanjetta Ghimire, Engineering/Tech	replacing	Sanjetta Ghimire	2026	B&T
Brian Clark, Library	replacing	Sean Cordes	2026	LIBRARY
Jongnam Choi, EAGIS	replacing	Edmund Asare	2026	A&S

Council on Writing Instruction in the Disciplines (WID)

Hollie Mason, Education	replacing	Kaycee Peterman	2026	E&HS
Joel Gruver, Agriculture	replacing	Janice Gates	2026	A&S

UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES :

Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) Advisory Committee

Ute Chamberlin, History	replacing	Casey LaFrance	2025	A&S
Michelle Howe, Mgmt/Mktg	replacing	Michelle Howe	2025	B&T
Minsun Doh, RPTA	replacing	Jeremy Robinett	2025	E&HS

Bureau of Cultural Affairs

Daniel Schmidt, Theatre/Dance	replacing	Brian Clark	2026	AT-LARGE
Jessica Martin, BC&J	replacing	Elgin Mannion	2026	AT-LARGE

Campus Violence Prevention Committee

Pat VandermeuleWalton, LEJA	replacing	Patricia VandermeuleWalton	2026	AT-LARGE
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CITR Advisory Committee

Suzanne Bailey, EJA	replacing	Jennifer McGarry	2024	WIUQC
Janice Gates, Mgmt/Mktg				

quickly into all spheres of life, including academic life; students are using AI to write their papers and term projects. She said the committee would study this situation and suggest some policies.

Motion: