

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Special Meeting, 3 May 2016, 4:00 p.m.
Capitol Rooms - University Union

f. Request for Discipline-Specific Global Issues Designation

- (1) EIS 428, English Language Learners and Bilingualism: Theory, Policy and Practice, 3 s.h.

B. Provost's Report

Interim Provost Neumann announced that WIU has received the recently-announced stop-gap funds and partial MAP funding for FY16. She reported that the amount was a little higher than anticipated at \$20.8 million.

President Thomas, Interim Provost Neumann, and Budget Director/Interim Vice President for Administrative Services Matt Bierman travel to Springfield tomorrow to testify before the legislature. WIU representatives were previously scheduled to testify at an earlier date which was rescheduled due to the negotiations over the stop-gap funding.

Interim Provost Neumann asked Admissions Director Andy Borst to provide an update on projected fall enrollment figures. Dr. Borst told senators that the freshman 2016 class is projected to be about 1,350 to 1,400 students, down 150 to 200 from the fall 2015 enrollment of 1,530. He said this is still better than some of Western's peer institutions. Dr. Borst is optimistic because that number includes several Linkages students, who primarily attend Spoon River College but take one WIU course and live in the residence halls, which helps WIU's headcount enrollment.

Dr. Borst is seeing increases in undecided, Management, Music, and Kinesiology majors in the incoming freshman class. He reported that Psychology, Biology, and Chemistry are on track with last year's enrollment figures. Dr. Borst stated that he is optimistic about new transfers, which are maintaining their numbers from last year overall; although numbers are down about 15 percent from the Chicago area, they are up about 12 percent from local community colleges (John Wood, Carl Sandburg, Spoon River, Blackhawk, and others).

Numbers for returning students are down about 14 percent across the board, both for undergraduates/graduates and by class; returning juniors are down about ten percent and returning sophomores are down about 18 percent. Admissions counselors asked students why they are not returning to WIU and were surprised that the reason is apparently not because of a lack of MAP or state funding. Instead, students think that classes are not going to fill so there is no rush to register early, which is frustrating for everyone.

Dr. Borst reported that the number of potential freshmen who are "on the fence" about whether or not to attend WIU is down about 15 percent from last year. Dr. Borst stated that he is optimistic about new transfers, which are maintaining their numbers from last year overall; although numbers are down about 15 percent from the Chicago area, they are up about 12 percent from local community colleges (John Wood, Carl Sandburg, Spoon River, Blackhawk, and others).

Dr. Wolff told senators that representatives from CCPI, the College of Business and Technology, and the College of Arts and Sciences met after last week's Faculty Senate meeting and came to the CCPI meeting last week, and she believes that previous issues regarding the Engineering curricula are resolved.

A. Curricular Requests from the School of Engineering

1. Requests for New Courses

- a) ENGR 322, Mechanical Design II, 3 s.h.

ENGR 322 APPROVED

- b) ENGR 452, Geotechnical Engineering, 3 s.h.

Senator Bennett remarked that he does not object to the proposal, but some of the things done in ENGR 452 are also done in Geology. Engineering Director Bill Pratt stated that he believes an Engineering faculty member contacted the Chair of Geology, but Senator Bennett remarked that there was no letter from the chair included in the materials.

ENGR 452 APPROVED

2. Request for Change in Major

- a) Engineering

Dr. Wolff pointed out that new symbols have been added to indicate additional language pertaining to the request, and emphases that were removed by CCPI prior to the last Faculty Senate meeting because the included courses had not yet been approved have been added back in without those courses.

CHANGE IN MAJOR APPROVED

3. Request for New Major

- a) Mechanical Engineering

Senator Hironimus-Wendt observed that the Other Courses section of the proposal specifies 15 s.h. of required math (MATH 133, 134, 231, 333) and 15 s.h. of physics and chemistry (PHYS 211, 213, CHEM 201), with PHYS 212 and MATH 311 noted as "highly recommended." He observed that there are 27 hours recommended of a total of 30 required hours, but another six hours of coursework is listed as "highly recommended," which seems awkward. Dr. Pratt explained that PHYS 212 is highly recommended to fulfill the "one additional Physics or Chemistry course" requirement. Senator Hironimus-Wendt asked if MATH 311, Linear Algebra, would replace MATH 133 if it was chosen; Dr. Wolff replied that this was part of the compromise between the two colleges. Dr. Pratt added that the

B. Proposed Changes to English Proficiency for International Student Admissions

something that many schools use for determining entrance, but she does not think it is the most accurate measure of English proficiency; the best measure of English proficiency is to interview a potential student face-to-face. She added that there are ways to cheat the TOEFL test by analyzing certain essay responses so that students can spit them back out on test day. She stressed that the difference between a score of 73 and 79 is not great enough to affect the academic standards of the students admitted with the lower score.

Senator Roberts expressed his support for the proposal. He asked what ways or forms of measurement will be used to determine if this is a successful experiment and having the desired effect. Dr. Carter responded that one of the key things to determine the success of international students is to keep an eye on their grades, academic ability, and graduation rates. He stated that international student success must be tracked for many reasons, ranging from homeland security to “because it’s the right thing to do.” There are currently less than 500 international students at WIU, but Dr. Carter would like to see that number grow to 1,000. He noted that international students spend a lot of money and time to come to the United States for college, so their investment is huge; they do not come to WIU with the intention to just visit or try it out but with the intention of succeeding and graduating. Dr. Carter promised to continue to monitor the success of internationa

from international students at recruitment events is what the TOEFL score requirement is, and when they see that WIU's requirement is a 79, they move on and shop elsewhere. Dr. Carter wants to be able to pull in students with TOEFL scores of 75, but he is unable to do so currently. He