

Interim Provost Neumann announced that a few accreditation visits have been occurring; Counselor Education had a visit last week, Engineering will be visited this week, and more are scheduled in the near future. She is starting to hear a lot of good feedback already.

The Board of Trustees will meet on the Macomb campus on Friday, September 29. Also on Friday, the new statue of Rock Hanson will be unveiled near the north entrance to Hanson Field. Interim Provost Neumann stated that Art professor Duke Oursler has done a fantastic job creating the statue. Homecoming festivities continue on Saturday with the 5K run/1.5 mile walk at 8 a.m. and the parade at 10:30 a.m. Former Vice President for Administrative Services Jackie Thompson and her husband Dave have been named Grand Marshalls for the parade; Mrs. Thompson worked at WIU over 40 years. A cookout will be held in Q Lot from 12:00-3:00 p.m., just prior to the WIU Homecoming game, and Starlifter (the United States Air Force of Mid-America's pop band) will perform during tailgating.

Interim Provost Neumann recognized that many departments are hosting visiting faculty and alumni this week. She encourages departments and faculty to reconnect with alums, encourage them to come back to talk to classes, and discuss with them opportunities they may be able to afford WIU's current students.

C. Student Government Association Report
(Madison Lynn, SGA representative to Faculty Senate)

- Ms. Lynn met with Director of Admissions Seth Miner last week. She related that Mr. Miner hopes SGA members can help with future Discover Western programs.
- SGA President Grant Reed and Ms. Lynn have created a survey on Purple Post regarding dining in the University Union and in academic buildings. The survey will post tomorrow.
- Tonight's SGA meeting was cancelled to allow members to attend Homecoming activities.

D. Other Announcements

1. "Spring for Books" Textbook Award Initiative
(Ron Pettigrew, Academic Advisor, Bachelor of General Studies, and Sara Lytle, Director, College of Business and Technology Advising)

Chairperson Rock stated that the Executive Committee has had discussions recently about a number of students on campus who do not have the funds to buy books or supplies. He related that, in addition to investigating the Spring for Books scholarship, ExCo also plans to follow up on an issue that came up a few years ago of creating an institutional grant writer to for the University.

Ms. Lytle related that the Council of Academic Advisors (COAA) has taken the lead in promoting the Spring for Books scholarship. She stated that advisors frequently interact with students about hardships they might be encountering and know how critical it is for them to obtain textbooks to be successful. This is the second year that textbook scholarships will be awarded.

Students may apply for the scholarships from October 15 through December 1. All full-time students are eligible. Financial need is prioritized, and students must have filed their FAFSA. Applications can be obtained from academic advisors or on the Scholarship Office website. Ms. Lytle stated that COAA completes its selection process in early December so that students can know if they have the additional funds before spring semester. COAA hopes to be able to award \$200 to \$250 per student and will make as many awards as possible with the amount of money raised. Information about the scholarships has been sent out via TeleSTARS inviting the campus to donate via payroll deduction, by texting spring4books to the number 41444, or by filling out a 60-second donation form online at <http://bit.ly/spring4books>.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt expressed his thanks for the Council's efforts. He added that the Department of Sociology and Anthropology also offers a \$250 book award for a senior who has performed community service and is willing to write an essay about that service.

Senator Boynton asked if there is a "spring4books" for the fall semester. Ms. Lytle replied that this is just a spring program, but the COAA hopes that it can grow to be expanded into the fall at some point. She explained that sometimes the cost of college exceeds what students and their families have planned for or students may expend all of their college funds in fall, so the book award money is helpful in spring when available funds to purchase textbooks may be depleted. Senator Perabo asked if reminders could be sent to Building Connections mentors about the scholarship since they will be meeting with their students after midterm grades go out.

Senator Roberts asked if the students receive the money or if it is applied toward credit at

Chairperson Rock told senators that Faculty Senate has been asked to provide some information on the software that students use, such as www.wiu.edu/MyWestern. Dr. Runquist explained that, as part of a persistence and completion initiative by Dean Martinelli-Fernandez, the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR) thought it would be useful to create a way for students to find some of the resources available to them in one place. MyWestern is a mobile website that brings together resources across campus in categories that are quick to understand and access. Dr. Runquist stated that CITR is able to update very quickly if a new link needs to be added, and students can remove navigation links that they do not think they need. If students are logged in, they can use links specific to them, such as seeing who their advisor is or their schedule for the semester. There are also links to take students to tutoring resources, absence reporting, the Counseling Center, the student handbook, scholarships, Parking Services, or Purple Post, among others.

Parliamentarian Kaul asked if a link to MyWestern can be provided on Western Online so that each student can be made aware of it; Dr. Ru

level while DSGI courses are upper level. CIE was advised to spell these acronyms out in

Senator Bellott asked if there is a rubric that will be applied to see if a course meets the criteria. Dr. Amaravadi explained that two evaluators from CIE along with the CIE Chair will form a team to evaluate existing GI courses. Senator Bellott expressed his concern

being followed and provide a justification. Dr. Bideshi added that this is the first time CIE is trying this type of evaluation, and the process will likely be refined as the Council works through it.

Senator Rahman asked what types of international education or experience are sought for

“Students earn credit for a General Education course that is designated as Global Issues.” She listed some of the courses that are approved for both GEGI and Gen Ed Multicultural: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 110), World Regional Geography (GEOG 110), The Holocaust (HIST 337), Music in World Cultures (MUS 394), Introduction to Eastern Religions (REL 110), Islam (REL 365), Women: A Global Perspective (WS 285). Dr. Lynn pointed out that there is nothing specific about North America being excluded. She explained that when the FLGI requirement was created, some departments wanted a foreign language requirement and others did not, and there were a large number of programs that were already at 120 s.h. with no room for electives. She explained this is why it was decided to allow for double dipping between Gen Ed and GI courses, and this has been operationalized so that students do not have to go over 120 hours in order to add the FLGI requirement. Senator Rahman recalled that before the FLGI requirement was established, there were only Gen Ed Multicultural courses, and that category was huge and broad because individuals were trying to include a lot of things into that category. She observed that WIU now has GI courses and wants them to be different than multicultural, but the reason there is so much overlap is because the multicultural courses are older. She suggested that the way to think about these courses now is to think about them together.

SENATOR HIRONIMUS-WENDT OBJECTED TO THE REPORT

Chairperson Rock observed that the Senate does not seem to be ready to approve the CIE report. Senator Hironimus-Wendt would like to see the report sent back to CIE for further modification and for the Council to return a clean copy. Chairperson Rock asked if there were any objections to sending the report back to CIE.

NO OBJECTIONS

A. Committee on Provost and Presidential Performance (CPPP) (Robert Hironimus-Wendt, Chair)

1. Discussion on Shortening the Surveys of the President and the Provost

Senator Hironimus-Wendt related that the CPPP met last week, and the suggestion was raised by two members that it would be helpful to substantially shorten the survey from approximately 30 to 40 minutes to about ten minutes. He stated that this would involve substantial revision and elimination of some questions, but some members thought that if the survey was simpler and shorter it would enhance faculty participation. Senator Hironimus-Wendt stated that the Committee is not making a proposal at this time but wanted to present the idea for discussion on the Senate floor.

Senator Westerhold related that when she served on the CPPP a few years ago, this same discussion was raised. She related that not only did it take a long time to complete the survey, but some questions were not instinctive and many were ones that the average faculty member could not answer. She added that CPPP that year added the different “not applicable” options to address this problem. Senator Westerhold observed that at the end of the process, the CPPP Chair meets with the President and Provost to get feedback on the survey results, and Provost Hawkinson at that time felt that if the survey was shortened quite a bit and the questions made more conceptual in terms of overarching general responsibilities, the Committee would get better feedback. She stated that Provost Hawkinson gave CPPP what he thought would be the top 20 questions that should be included on the survey. She recognizes that redoing the entire survey will take a lot of time and effort. Senator Boynton added that reducing the survey will also potentially affect the year-to-year comparisons and will make it harder to do long-term comparisons.

Senator Roberts, who served as CPPP Chair last year, thinks if CPPP’s intention is to encourage greater faculty participation, then perhaps the survey is too long. But he does not think there is an understanding among faculty of how the survey findings are used,

which may not be addressed by shortening the survey because that may be an unrelated issue. He suspects that faculty skepticism leads them to feel that filling out the survey, no matter what its length, is not a good use of their time. Senator Czechowski expressed agreement with Senator Roberts and said she also feels this way when filling out evaluations for chairs and deans. She stated that faculty spend a lot of time on the written responses but do not see any changes from the results so do not fill them out in future. Senator Hironimus-Wendt stated that Faculty Senate conducts the survey for the Board of Trustees rather than for the University. Senator Czechowski asked if faculty ever get to find out the results. Senator Hironimus-Wendt replied that the results are presented to the President and Provost, then to the Senate, and then forwarded to the BOT; the report is one bit of data for the BOT to use to determine whether to retain, fire, or offer a pay raise to the President and Provost.

Senator Perabo supports the idea of shortening the survey and wonders if it would be possible to retain 25 of the questions. She has taken surveys where the individual is asked to answer five questions and then is given the option to answer an additional 20, for example, if he or she knows a lot about that particular area or interacts frequently with the person being evaluated. She would like to see more participation in the survey and thinks it would help if it took faculty ten minutes to complete the survey rather than 30. Senator McIlvaine-Newsad, who serves on CPPP, explained that it is the Committee's intention to retain the core of the survey, the questions that provide the most information or which the Committee deems are the most meaningful. She believes, however, that the survey in its current format is "a huge mess." Senator McIlvaine-Newsad stated that, although she does not write surveys for a living, she takes a lot of them, and the current evaluation survey frustrates her because it seems to be never-ending. She believes it would be helpful to revise the survey to make it more manageable.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt asked if permission would have to be asked of the BOT if the survey is changed; Chairperson Rock replied that this would not be necessary since Faculty Senate is independent of the BOT. Senator Roberts observed that the survey is used by the Board of Trustees. Interim Provost Neumann stated that the BOT does not tell Faculty Senate how to revise its instruments. Senator Roberts stated that it was his understanding that Faculty Senate is charged by the BOT to conduct the survey; Senator Hironimus-Wendt agreed that was his understanding as well, and at some point the survey was revised to reflect the goals and objectives of the President and Provost. The Recording Secretary, to provide a historical context, related that before the survey was created, the Board of Trustees every year would ask the Faculty Senate Chair to provide input for them to use when evaluating the University President. Approximately 15 years ago, the Senate Chair expressed discomfort with evaluating the President on his own, and Faculty Senate created the CPPP to survey the faculty to provide broader input to the Board. She stated that the BOT did not ask Faculty Senate to conduct a survey; they asked the Senate Chair to provide his personal input on behalf of the entire faculty about whether he thought the President was doing a good job, and the Chair did not feel comfortable speaking on behalf of the entire faculty without their additional input.

Senator Allison agrees with Senator Perabo that it would be nice to have a survey where the individual answers a few questions and, if desired, can then answer more along the same line. She feels beaten down by the current survey when she has to respond "not applicable" to so many questions. She thinks the problem stems from faculty not feeling that they are getting anything out of completing the survey and believing that the survey does not benefit them personally so there is no reason to complete it. Senator Allison knows what the outcome is when someone evaluates her and can respond to it, but she does not know the outcome or see any response from the survey of the President and Provost.

Parliamentarian Kaul pointed out that the Board of Trustees requests a report but do not tell the Faculty Senate how that report is to be generated or what instruments to use in

generating it. Senator Czechowski asked if job descriptions are used in any way for the evaluations. Senator Hironimus-Wendt responded that the survey was originally conceived to reflect the President's job description but was modified six to eight years ago to reflect more of the President's and Provost's goals and objectives for the year rather than their job descriptions.

Senator Perabo added her support to what others have said. She wonders where the peer institutions are that WIU is expected to meet and exceed the mean of and where WIU's salaries currently stand in relation to them; she would like to know what the comparable salaries at peer institutions are and whether WIU meeting or exceeding any of them. Senator Perabo also remarked on the BOT's statement that "Recruiting and retaining high-achieving and diverse faculty and staff are directly related to improving the quality of academic and co-curricular programs and services." She wonders what the impact will be of telling current faculty that they are to make three percent less and what message it sends to faculty being recruited if WIU is the kind of institution that has reduced faculty salaries and would like to reduce them much more. Chairperson R2(a)11(t)-3()h

SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:

Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction

Amy Burke, Comm. Sci. & Disorders replacing Eun Go FA&C Fall 17 only

There were no further nominations, and the candidate was declared elected.

IV. Old Business – None

V. New Business

A. Election of Five Senators to Social Responsibility Task Force for Higher Values in Higher Education Strategic Plan 2017-2027

Chairperson Rock stated that Vice President Rives would like for up to five senators to serve on the Higher Values in Higher Education Social Responsibility Task Force to work on the Strategic Plan for 2017-27. Senator McIlvaine-Newsad had volunteered at the Executive Committee meeting. Senators Hironimus-Wendt, Bellott, Sajewski, and Tasdan also volunteered to serve. [Note: following the meeting, Senator Czechowski also volunteered to serve on this task force, and Vice President Rives approved the six members.]

B. Election of One Senator to Higher Learning Commission Persistence and Completion Academy Steering Team

Senator Hironimus-Wendt asked for Dean Martinelli-Fernandez to explain the purpose of this group. Dean Martinelli-Fernandez explained that the committee talks about various initiatives and tries to determine directions for the University to explore to encourage student persistence toward and completion of their degrees. Associate Provost Parsons asked if this position would replace Christopher Pynes, who is no longer on Senate. Chairperson Rock replied that he was asked but