

**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY SENATE**  
**Regular Meeting, 27 September 2022, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Via Zoom**

**A C T I O N   M I N U T E S**

**SENATORS PRESENT:** J. Albarracin, D. Atherton, S. Bailey, D. Banash, B. Bellott, M. Bernards, L. Brice, D. Brown, G. Cabedo-Timmons, A. Carr, C. Chadwell, D. Hunter, J. Land, T. Lough, S. Macchi, K. Perone, B. Polley, E. Shupe, B. Thompson, J. Wroblewski, Y. Tang  
**Ex-officio:** Jeremy Robinett, Acting Parliamentarian

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

**GUESTS:** Tom Blackford, Munia Cabal-Jimenez, Craig Conrad, Julie Cox, Katrina Daytner, Guiyou Huang, Rich Filipink, Rick Kurasz, Ray Lawson, Sarah Lawson, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Patrick McGinty, Christopher Merrett, Kristi Midrup, Russ Morgan, Mark Mossman, Lorette Oden, Renee Polubinsky, Linda Pros (r)-3.9 (i)-4em70.01102 Tw









was 72 percent, and retention ended up at 71.9 percent, while this year the algorithm predicted 66 percent retention, and retention from spring to fall was 66.9 percent. Retention for the coming year (the class that arrived this fall) is predicted to be even worse, so if Enrollment Management can beat that algorithmic prediction by a couple of percentage points, Vice President Schultz will be very excited.

Chair Thompson asked if the predicted “even worse” rate is because the Reach Program will not be available to these students. Vice President Schultz responded that there is a larger population in the 2.75 to 2.99 bucket who will not be eligible for Reach this year, compounded by the impacts of Covid learning loss, both of which contribute to that algorithm. Senator Bernards observed that Reach student retention of 68 percent is better than the overall university retention rate of 66.7 percent. He asked if retention is being lost in the group that is 3.0 and above because normally the retention rate would be better than these rates show. Vice President Schultz replied that, generally, the higher the GPA, the better the retention, but the university does lose a few with GPAs at 3.0 and above because GPA is not the only reason students leave; there are also personal issues, homesickness, financial considerations, and belonging mindset. She observed that the students coming in with GPAs of 2.74 and below have retained stronger than those with GPAs of 2.75 to 2.99 because those with 2.75 and below get an extra level of wraparound Reach services, which is why Enrollment Management and Admissions wanted to propose this change for next year. Senator Bernards asked if the fall retention of 72 percent for 2020-21 was just for this population or for the whole campus. Vice President Schultz responded that the 72 percent reflected the Fall 2020 cohort, and the Fall 2021 cohort retention rate was 66.7 percent. Senator Bernards asked if these figures were just for students within the lower GPA range or for the whole student body. Rich Filipink, who serves on CAGAS, replied that the overall retention for the student body from 2020-2021 was 72 percent – 70 percent for the cohort below 2.75 and 68 percent for the cohort entering with GPAs of 2.75 to 2.95.

## **NO OBJECTIONS**

### **II. D. Other Announcements (Continued)**

#### **1. President Guiyou Huang**

President Huang arrived at the Faculty Senate meeting following his zoom meeting with state chancellors and university presidents. He observed the semester started on a strong note with good enrollment numbers thanks to the efforts of faculty and staff, Vice President Schultz’s team, and Associate Vice President for Global Studies Randy Glean’s team. The President noted that enrollment stands at 200 more than last year at this time, which gives him confidence that WIU is doing the right things. He added that this is the first time in five years that enrollment has shown a significant increase.

President Huang informed senators that the comprehensive campaign was kicked 9 (oyf)-2 6 (r)-2 (o12.9

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President Huang has not heard anything new about the Center for the Performing Arts. He related that the Governor's Office took over coordination and announcement of the project, and the President is waiting for a date when they will announce the groundbreaking. He noted that the area was demarcated by a fence about a week ago so that everyone can know the exact location of the construction, and President Huang saw it for the first time a couple of hours ago. President Huang feels





- The data for FY 2022, 2020, and 2019 were computed from the budget transfers spreadsheets received from the Budget Office.
- The data for FY 2018 were computed from CITR Budget 2017-2018 spreadsheets.

Chair Thompson remarked on the significant decrease in travel dollars and expressed his hopes that this trend can be reversed. Dr. Lawson remarked that \$25,000 has already been received for Fall 2022, and he hopes the university has enough money so that more can be put toward the travel awards. He said the announcement went out this morning, and already a number of applications have been received. Senator Brice said he did not receive today's announcement and asked if the information is available on a website. Dr. Lawson replied that priority is being given to tenure track faculty, so the email went out only to these faculty, who have until October 4 to submit their applications; after that date, an email will go out to the rest of the faculty. Senator Hunter remarked that if the number of applicants and the number of awardees stay equal this year as they were in past years, he would support Provost Zoghi's proposal to increase the amount of the awards from \$500 to \$600. Dr. Lawson responded that the email sent out around noon today informed tenure track faculty that the award has been increased to \$600 for this fall and next spring.

### III. Reports of Committees and Councils (*Continued*)

#### C. Council on Admission, Graduation, and Academic Standards (CAGAS)



because there is already an “Introduction to Disciplines” model of General Education in place that is connected through Transferology in the state in order to allow students to have ease of access through public state institutions. Associate Provost Mossman said his point, however, is that this is not the subject of this proposal; the proposal is intended to expand what the university is currently doing so that there is more access for transfer students because 1) students should have this access and 2) the state of Illinois is running out of potential transfer students.

Senator Banash remarked that transfer students are generally short three to six classes, and he wonders what those classes are. He said certain programs are really important but are being choked off of students and majors because of these types of decisions. He said the Humanities are top of the list for this, and he wonders if this proposal would disproportionately affect them in particular. Senator Banash thinks that the response to this question could affect how senators feel about the proposal. Associate Provost Mossman responded that his sense is that most of these transfer students are getting their AS degree, so that would not necessarily impact the Humanities. He explained the student market is very variable and hard to predict exactly; there are many variables affecting what a student’s schedule would look like when transferring in and how that affects their decision about whether to transfer to WIU, EIU, or Northern. Vice President Schultz asserted that the current policy is costing WIU students in general, so they are just not going to come here if WIU continues to not accept the AS degree as meeting Gen Ed requirements. She stated that this is not disproportionately impacting the Humanities; the current policy is just costing WIU students in general because they can go to competitor institutions much more easily. Vice President Schugew 36.12 00 Tc 0 Tw 0 (I)1910.5 (t)6aed(nd )TJ -0.0

is the problem preventing that. Dr. Filipink asked if taking two additional classes really prevents students from transferring to WIU. Vice President Schultz responded that it does because that is money these students do not have to spend elsewhere. Dr. Filipink stated he does not think the proposal is very clearly articulated and the evidence is not provided. He noted that it appears that most other universities, with the exception of EIU, do not accept the AA but accept the AS; Vice President Schultz clarified that every institution accepts the AA. Associate Provost Mossman added that the AS degree is more easily articulated because more students coming from community colleges have achieved an AS degree, and it fits some disciplines, such as Engineering, in better ways. He noted that disciplines such as Engineer w

that. He is concerned with the language in the policy that states transfer students “will be

