

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Meeting
January 25, 2016

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 10:11 A.M. in the Grand Ballroom of the University Union, WIU – Macomb Campus. Chair Roger Clawson presided.

Chair Roger Clawson stated, Good Morning, if we can call the meeting to order.

The following trustees were present and available to answer roll call:

Trustee Roger D. Clawson
Trustee Lyneir R. Cole
Trustee Cathy E. Early
Trustee Carolyn J. Ehlert Fuller
Trustee Phil G. Hare
Trustee Todd Lester
Trustee Michael W. Quigley
Trustee Yvonne S. Savala

Also present for the open meeting of the Board of Trustees:

President Jack Thomas
Legal Counsel Representative Rica Calhoun
Administrative Assistant to the Board Kerry McBride
Interim Provost and Academic Vice President Kathy Neumann
Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter
Interim Vice President for Administrative Services Matt Bierman
Vice President for Quad Cities and Planning Joseph Rives
Interim Vice President for Student Services Ronald Williams

law and the contract. He added that there was a failure of the Administration to be transparent and went further to state that they acted in “secret.”

Professor Thompson said that the President and the Administration did not inform the public and the campus community of what factors would guide the formation of the layoff list. He said that the public

Professor Hironimus-Wendt stated that the University community must make changes and try a different approach in order to survive the budget crisis that is going on in Illinois. He added that this is just a moment in history that will end and stated that he has faith that the economic crisis will not persist. He stated that he believes that there will be a Jubilee. Professor Hironimus-Wendt stated that McDonough county and the surrounding areas will have \$10M less next year even less when Rauner runs for re-election.

Western Illinois University is a community, and we must do everything necessary to ease and share the burden that has been force upon us by the State of Illinois for the collective. Professor Hironimus-Wendt stated that it is time to reason together. He added on a day that we should be celebrating the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, we have not done so. His words were about love not hate. He spoke of sacrifice not advantage. The University is being violated by forces beyond our control and a state government who does not even know who we are. Economic violence has befallen our shared community—this includes McDonough County and the neighboring counties. “If 50% of my brothers and sisters will agree to join me, and if our union will allow us to vote, I am willing to return 10% of my paycheck each month for the next three years in order to assist my brother and sisters in this community we share.”

Professor Hironimus-Wendt mentioned 10% because he said that not many of his junior colleagues can afford to do so, and they should not be asked to do so. Those in that circumstance are on the edge of poverty already and should not be asked to suffer more. \$5K is deposited in his bank account each month.

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technical college. It is a university, and a university has to protect and preserve the liberal arts. The students, faculty, and staff should represent the diversity of a global society. This resolution will result in the loss of a faculty member who is the only specialist on campus in Latin American History, the only specialist in Asian History, the only specialist in Nazi and Holocaust History, and the only specialist in American History in a global context. This does not make sense. There are long-term consequences if the History Department is diminished in terms of eliminating the diverse group of professionals who are on the layoff list. This will turn enrollment decline into a self-fulfilling prophecy. Academic freedom only flourishes in an atmosphere of mutual good will and trust among the faculty, the students, the administrative staff, and the governing board.

The resolution is a manner in which to destroy the balance of good will and trust. “Once tenure has been assaulted once, when is it going to happen again?” Professor Chamberlin said what scholar teacher is going to consider employment at Western Illinois University when there is not guarantee that the University will honor tenure. What message does this give to prospective students? Will parents want to send their children to an institution willing to get rid of experienced teachers?

By voting for this resolution, the Board may be fixing an immediate budget crisis, but the long-term consequences will be dire. Just because the measures of the resolution can be done, it does not mean they are the right thing to do.

President Jack Thomas said Higher Education in the State of Illinois has changed dramatically over the last decade. We are now in the 7th month of not receiving state appropriations for Illinois Public Higher Education. Compared to Fiscal Year 2015, the State of Illinois has reduced appropriations by 8.2% since Fiscal Year 2011 and by \$295M or 19.7% since Fiscal Year 2002.

In January 2016, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission reported to the “Kankakee Daily Journal” that Illinois colleges and universities provided \$168M of institutional funds to support the Illinois Monetary Assistance Program (MAP) which provides financial aid to students and was previously funded by the state.

A January 2016 article in the Champaign News Gazette demonstrates how this is not a sustainable practice for many institutions. CBS Money Watch reported that in May 2015 that national college enrollment in the spring semester fell nearly 2% from a year ago, to 18.6 million, according to data provided by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.

Enrollment at Illinois public universities is down 10,653 students or 5.2%, from 203,649 students in fall 2011 to 192,996 students in fall 2015. Competition for Students will continue to intensify. CBS Money Watch provided data from the U.S. Census Bureau to show that the number of 18-to-24 year-olds in the

President Thomas said that he

Trustee Savala stated that we (the Board) is removing tenured professors off of the layoff list as of today and confirming that discussions can continue after today.

Legal Counsel Rica Calhoun stated that this is to authorize the use of articles 24 and 40. By mutual agreement, both UPI and the administration may continue to negotiate.

President Thomas stated that he believes that the confusion is that the Administration offered to remove the tenured faculty from the list. You would move forward with what is written in the resolution and the Administration would move forward with what was stated after the vote.

Trustee Cole stated that he was lost and asked for clarification if the vote went forth to reduce staff, so are we removing tenured faculty from the list as this is not in the original resolution? Is this something that we need to amend?

Trustee Early explained that we should finish discussion before we move on to the question?

Chair Clawson asked was there any further discussion on the amendment. There was none. The roll was called to add the amendment to the end of the resolution by adding June 30, 2017 to end the resolution.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes
Trustee Cole	Yes
Trustee Early	Yes
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes
Trustee Hare	Yes
Trustee Lester	(Abstain, due to newness to the Board)
Trustee Quigley	

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Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes
Trustee Cole	Yes
Trustee Early	Yes
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes
Trustee Hare	No
Trustee Lester	(Abstain, due to newness to the Board)
Trustee Quigley	(State statute does not allow a student to vote)
Trustee Savala	Yes

Chair Clawson stated that the Aye's have it, and the resolution is adopted as amended. The motion carried.

Chair Clawson stated that as members of the University Board of Trustees the Board has a statutory responsibility to operate, manage, and control the University. In keeping with that responsibility, the Board has charged the Administration with ensuring the long-term solvency of the University. The members of the Board support the Administration in carrying out its duty. The University's fiscal condition is not unlike all of the other Illinois' public institutions in fact one of the institutions has gone on record as not having the funds necessary to make its payroll, as referenced by Trustee Cole. A few months from now there will be other institutions that are heading toward closure. All of the institutions have had to cover MAP funding to students as this funding has not been released by the State of Illinois.

WHEREAS Pursuant to Article 7 of the Agreement 2010-2015 (extended to 2017) between Western Illinois University's Board of Trustees and University Professionals of Illinois Local 4100, the Board retains the decisional authority regarding personnel matters (except as provided for by the Agreement); and,

WHEREAS Western Illinois University must adjust to a reduction in enrollment and program demand, making it necessary to lay off employees; and,

WHEREAS Western Illinois University seeks to implement staff reductions as outlined in Article 24, Article 40 and all additional articles referenced therein; and,

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University approves the execution of Staff Reduction Procedures.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Yes
Trustee Cole	Yes
Trustee Early	Yes
Trustee Ehlert Fuller	Yes
Trustee Hare	No
Trustee Lester	(Abstain)
Trustee Quigley	(State Statute does not allow a student to vote)
Trustee Savala	Yes

The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business reported.

NEW BUSINESS

As Jeanette Malafa began to speak, the microphone at the podium had been turned off. This is what she read to those in attendance.

When I spoke to you at the December Board meeting, I told you that there had been little legislation moving these past few months in the Illinois General Assembly and that we were still without a FY16 State Budget. It is not necessary to tell you that that statement remains true today.

However, January brings with it the start of the second year of the 99th legislative session. The State of the State will be delivered this Wednesday, January 27th, and then only 6 legislative session days later, on February 17th, the Budget Address will be given.

Currently, there is no report on new substantive legislation as deadlines for bill introduction are set for February. You will tte r br vln(h)11(at)-5 tua Ear meeati en.

do not expect the appropriations process to be “business as usual” for the public universities and expect our funding to be tied to spending reduction efforts and cost-saving reforms. Hopefully, however, perhaps we can achieve some relief from current mandates that are burdensome to the University, such as procurement.

Please know that advocacy efforts continue. The public universities are still working together to rally various constituencies to help campaign for adequate public university funding. In addition, the Coalition to Support Higher Education, held its first press conference January 19th in the State House.

Finally, on a sad note, and as Trustee Cole already noted, Chicago State University is the first Illinois public university to announce it will not be able to make payroll in March (per a Tribune article). In a January 20th article (“Chicago’s South Side College May Go Broke Over State Budget War”) in Bloomberg, options that the university is considering include drawing up a financial exigency plan (which is basically declaring bankruptcy), taking out a bank loan (which would require legislation), or not making bond payments. In addition, Northeastern Illinois University’s President Sharon Haas has stated in a January 20th article in the Chicago Tribune that while her university will make it through the Spring semester, “there is potential for her university to shut down” without an “adequate appropriation” soon. And finally, as you know, Eastern Illinois University has already eliminated 160 positions in the first quarter of the fiscal year.

Thank you. I can take any questions you may have.

Trustee Cole asked Chair Clawson whether or not he may make a statement before the meeting adjourned. He stated that he promised not to go long. Chair Clawson gave approval for Trustee Cole to make the statement. He began with as I speak to the faculty the President has said that he is open to negotiations. Do what is necessary for you and the students and to keep the University operating. The responsibility is yours. The Board needs your support and help. The Board is going to do what is necessary, but the Board does need your support and your help as well. He thanked Chair Clawson.

The motion was made to adjourn. Trustee Hare motioned and Trustee Cole seconded the motion to adjourn at 11:23 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Western Illinois University’s Board of Trustees will begin on March 11, 2016 in the University Union Capitol Rooms on the Macomb campus.

Roger D. Clawson, Chair
Kerry McBride, Administrative Assistant to the Board

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