

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 5, 2023  
Western Illinois University  
Macomb, Illinois  
**Open Meeting Minutes**

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 8:30am on December 5, 2023 in the Macomb Union, Capital Room. Chair, Carin Stutz presided.

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Trustee moved to convene to open session at 8:30am.

Motion: Trustee Lang

Second: Trustee Cornell

## Roll Call

Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes

Motion approved.

## **Roll Call**

The following Trustees w17 T592 re1 72.024 259.37 TnBT/F2 12 Tf1 0 0 1 72.024 12 Tf1 0 0 1 1807 A21 0.Q2



I have had the opportunity to go in people's homes and meet many great people and wonderful Alums  
Many people want to see us succeed  
All across the country we are working with our successful graduates

Several Trustees thanked Brad Bainter for his years of service. Presentation of the Proclamation and gift to Brad from Chair Stutz and President Huang.

Ms. Carin Stutz

Thank you to Brad and the public comments  
I am optimistic and see good things happening  
All parties are aligned and WIU must evolve  
We are asking for WIU to be bold and decisive  
Make changes to be a strong regional University for years to come  
The deficit will require action  
Look for the right long-term solutions  
2 consulting firms have been engaged to offer potential solutions  
For the Retreat we ask for positive actions, outcomes and timelines  
WIU's placement in the Wall Street ranking was very impressive  
Our social mobility ranking was 35<sup>th</sup> nationally, this is the top 10% of the 400 institutions reviewed, 2<sup>nd</sup> in IL institutions and 4<sup>th</sup> among all Colleges and Universities

Many individuals have reviewed the diversity plan and working with Thriving IL, IBHE has given us a template and Carl Ervin and the JIDE Office will continue to update and work that plan, we will be action-oriented

There will be a new ERP and our current system is over 40 years old, this is a big investment

Claire Thompson and the development officers in the colleges are working hard and we are at 50% of our fundraising goal

The QC Early Childhood Learning Center will open this spring

Student affairs is working hard on recruitment and retention plans with measurable outcomes

Commencement on December 16th will have over 600 graduates, congratulations to those students

Thank you to the faculty and staff during this holiday season, stay safe and warm

### **Reports and Discussion Items**

Report No. 23.12/1

Finance Committee Report -- Budget and Financial Data for Quarter ending September 30, 2023 (Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards)

Edwards – The ERP team, including Stacie Hunt and Ketra Roselieb, have worked hard and without them we couldn't have gotten this done.

Thank you to our recent retirees of WIU

Please thank Troy Rhodes for his years of service as he retires.

There will be raises for non-negotiated groups

Salary survey results will be completed soon

President Huang – Everybody will receive a raise. We are doing all we can to make sure that happens.

Question presented to Paul in regards to the discount rate

Looking to make the right decision to grow more revenue and cut less

Report No. 23.12/2

Purchases of \$100,000 -- \$499,999.99

(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards)

Cornell – EAB excited to hear new ideas and solutions it will bring.

Excited about the new ERP and the changes it will bring

Please take the time to look into the School of AG and the good work they are doing

Stutz – The Board does not make the decision to bring in groups like EAB

Report No. 23.12/3

Report on Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts for the 1st Quarter

(Director of Sponsored Projects, Shannon Sutton)

Sutton – We have engaged faculty and staff looking into fun and exciting grants. We are right on track to increasing our grant funding.

Dillard – We have amazing faculty that work hard to bring in those grants. How do we let the community know what we are doing to bring money to the area?

Sutton – Yes, we work close with our community partners to make these grants happen.

Report No. 23.12/4

Undergraduate Admissions and Student Success

(Interim Vice President for Student Success, John Smith and Admissions Director, Doug Freed)

Shaw –

Mindrup – Review and highlights of report

Career focused while working with students and employers

JIDE office has included the QC campus in their goals and objectives

Report No. 23.12/9

University Marketing and Communications

(Interim Assistant Vice President of Communications, Marketing, and Media Relations,

Alisha Looney)

Looney – Review of report, highlights and data.

Review of acknowledgments and awards that have been reported on

Carnegie contract started driving applications and inquiries to WIU

### **Verbal Reports and Updates**

Athletics Director, Paul Bubb

Three new sports could bring 60 new students

Updates on the changes in football staffing and the current search

Review of hires for the department

Report on fundraising and the Leatherneck Club

26k raised on giving Tuesday

Review of athletic awards

Academic Improvement plan has been sent into the NCAA

Our motto-Many teams / One goal / Student success

Request to move the Council of Administrative Personnel report up in the agenda to be presented by President, Paul Bubb – Approved

COAP has not been communicated with during the contract process

Concerned voice in regards to non-represented groups and a possible raise for them

Director of Governmental Relations, Zach Messersmith

Review of bills from the veto session

Senate Bill 1699, hope to see the governor's office sign this bill to promote agreement for solar energy

No supplemental funding granted

IBHE Executive Director Ostro visited WIU. Deferred maintenance was reviewed and the group toured the construction of the CPA building

January 16th back in session

### **General & Advisory Group Reports and Comments**

Student Government Association, Kyle Ramlow (Macomb)

Three Goals:

1. Build a bridge between students and administration

2. Have a structured SGA

3. More collaboration

Help to make Western as inclusive as possible

Campus safety walk completed  
Several student concerns being addressed this spring  
The sensory room is a result of several people's work and Phi Kappa Phi matched the funding raised. We will be one of 14 universities in the United States with this very important inclusive project  
Patience and teamwork can make the Dream Work

Faculty Senate Chair, Julia Albarracin

90% of Faculty are expecting their students to attend classes  
Not everyone made a connection between attendance and performance  
Review of changes to the president's evaluation  
Concerned voice with a possible change in GPA standards. A requirement for a higher GPA will limit our diverse population  
Faculty are concerned with the financial problems  
There is a committee reviewing the legitimate uses of AI in the classroom  
Review of the grant received related to immigration and advocating for fair immigration policies. We have many students with family members that are dreamers or undocumented  
Our students met with legislators from both political parties in regards to these concerns

Faculty Council Co-Chair, WIU-Quad Cities, Everett Hamner

A plea to support our admissions people. The morale is low and they need to feel our support  
AI recent developments in this area being reviewed  
American Academy of religion conference focused on AI and environmental problems  
Review of the "Good News" newsletter  
China is investing in solar panels the size of 20 Central Parks, this is a very positive development  
Good news for the QC is VP Edwards is thinking strategically about our budgets. During our meeting we felt like our concerns were heard and being addressed  
The QC based faculty, staff and administration want to be partners to make Western go and not just be part of the ride

(Break for lunch)

Stutz - The board has agreed to work on scheduling a special meeting of the board when we are here for graduation.

McGinty - The contract is not yet ratified so we will work on getting that done.

Civil Service Employees Council, Ted Renner

We are continuing to lose employees  
Review of the employees of the month award winners  
300 civil service members thank you for reviewing a raise for those non-negotiated groups  
Civil service appreciation luncheon will be held in the spring

**Resolutions and Action Items**

**Action**

Resolution No. 23.12/1

**Action**

Disposition of Closed Session Written Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Audio Recordings  
(Interim General Counsel, Torrey Smith)

Motion: Trustee Cornell

Second: Trustee Lang

**Roll Call**

Trustee Polly Radosh            Yes

Trustee Doug Shaw            Yes

Trustee Kirk Dillard            Yes

Trustee Carin Stutz            Yes

Trustee Kisha Lang            Yes

Trustee Cody Cornell            Yes

Trustee Derek Wise            Yes

Motion approved.



Motion: Trustee Cornell  
Second: Trustee Lang

Roll Call

Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 23.12/4

**Action**

Resolution Authorizing the Financing of Technology Improvements  
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards)

Motion: Trustee Lang  
Second: Trustee Shaw

Roll Call

Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 23.12/5

**Action**

Amendment to the Regulations of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University  
Section II Subsection (B)(7) Distinguished Service Professorship  
(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Group discussion

Request made to move the first reading to the March meeting.

Motion: Trustee Lang  
Second: Trustee Shaw

Roll Call

Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes

