

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Meeting
May 18, 2018

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 8:00 a.m. at the University Union Capitol Rooms – WIU Macomb. Chair Cathy Early presided. Trustee Ehlert Fuller moved to convene to open session. Trustee Gradle seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Clawson	Absent
Trustee Cole	Present (via teleconference)

Motion carried.

Trustee Clawson arrived at 8:05 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Alton spoke. He believed he had been blackmailed into retirement by the administration. He said the full consequences of retirement were not disclosed to him and had they been disclosed he would not have signed the retirement papers. He discussed all of his achievements as a scientist and the fact that he taught an honors course for a long time, but once he left the college the course was not offered any longer. He asked that he be reinstated. He also made the point that student evaluations kill the university.

Jim La Prad, Professor of Educational Studies, addressed the Board next. La Prad discussed the fourth publishing and reading of sit-rep, Veteran's Voices. Highlighted one of the graduation speakers discussing how poverty can disrupt education. Also talked about how they put on a "Dealing with Differences" Institute the previous week. They brought back a graduate who is a first generation college student out of Chillicothe. He gave a presentation on proletizing innocence and how white people contribute to racial hostility on campus. La Prad wanted to highlight what the faculty are doing, emphasizing "We are the curriculum and we are the institution."

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Chair Cathy Early spoke about last weekend's events, exclaiming it was one of the best weekends of the year. She said that the whole point is to graduate the students and liked that Jim discussed a first generation college student during his comments. She said that they are there to give all students opportunities to have education and helping someone that is the first in their family to go to college is a pretty remarkable thing. She thanked everyone in the room because they have all done something to help students.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The President's Remarks were as follows:

Thank you Chair Early, and good morning to all. Thank you so much for being here this morning. I too want to thank those individuals for all that you did on the graduation weekend and it was a very long weekend. We had some distinguished alums as well as three honorary doctorates that we awarded and we are pleased that we had some outstanding individuals that have been very generous to the institution. We appreciate the support that we get from our alums and friends of the university.

As Jim La Prad and Chair Early stated, we have some great things going on at Western Illinois University and I think those things need to be highlighted. We had a successful graduation. We had about 324

Admissions Director Seth Miner began his presentation on incoming projections for freshman transfer as well as total enrollment projection for fall 2018. The first item he discussed was the new initiatives that were ruled out for this recruitment cycle. In 2017, we partnered with Stewart U 360 for perspective student communication.

We rolled out Ad

When looking at everything we have been challenged with this year, Seth Miner says his projection is 815 new freshman, which is down about 32%.

Transfer projection looks very similar. There is a dip right around Christmas break which was very concerning, but was actually due to students not sending their transcripts until the end of the semester so they wouldn't have to send them twice. The admissions office increased communications with these students and they sprung back up and were very similar to where they were at last year. The preregistration numbers dropped off the last three years due to transfer students indicating that they are signed up for a registration appointment and once they are registered they come out of that bucket and go into the registered bucket and it drops drastically. We did not drop as far as we had last year. That is a result of transfer students registering and having more transfer students signing up for registration appointments than previously.

When looking at transfer projections, 823 new transfers were brought in last year. The preregistration projection is actually up 83% because we had more transfer students signing up for registration. That projection is much higher than the 823 but that is conservative in that breakdown projection. When looking at transfer students, the acceptance projection has been historically more accurate. Transfer students are not required to live on campus if they have so many credit hours and when looking at where the transfer class will come in, the number is 725 which is down about 12%. Last year the transfer class was projected at 750 coming into the fall and we ended at 823. The state budget was passed in July and it couldn't help the freshman class but it did impact the transfer students and brought in a class of 823.

Next was enrollment projection for the total enrollment. Miner showed a model for a three year average. There should be roughly 6,032 current students return for fall of 2018. The three year average for new freshman is 1,421, transfer is 941, and graduate is 590. That would be 2,952 new students to the institution which would produce a total enrollment of 8,984. Looking at our goals, 1300 freshman, 1100 transfers, 600 graduate students, which would be 3000 new students for fall '18. It would equate to 9032 total enrollment. The projection is 815 freshman, 725 transfer, and 516 graduates. That would be 2,056 new students to the institution, which is a projected enrollment of 8,088 students which would be roughly 14% down.

Questions on Seth Miner's presentation:

Chair Early commented that Katie Gorsuch has ramped up productivity and communication. Many events that Katie has attended she has been active with recruiting. Commended faculty for bringing high school students to campus and Admissions for reacting quickly to their presence. Requested increased communication between Admissions and Faculty so they can work together to touch students and ask them about attending WIU. Miner noted an increase in the number of high school students on campus.

Motion carried.

ADJOURN ACTION

Chair Early called for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Board at 12:06 p.m. A motion was made by Trustee Lester and seconded by Trustee Savala. All were in favor and none opposed.

Cathy Early, Chair
Kerry McBrice, Business Administrative Associate to the Board

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