

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 March 2024
4:00 p.m. – Via Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Julia Albarracin, Chair; Everett Hamner, Vice Chair; Denise Gravitt, Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Mossman, Interim Provost; Jeremy Robinett, Parliamentarian; Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Office Manager

GUEST: Dan Atherton, School of Agriculture

1. *Budget Transparency Committee – Dan Atherton, Chair*

Dr. Atherton presented Executive Committee members with an outline of ideas the Budget Transparency Committee (BTC) has discussed for the remainder of this year and into next year. He said that as his career prior to coming to WIU was as a 6-Sigma black belt for Caterpillar, which involved problem solving and project oversight, he has taken a similar approach to the BTC and thinks it should explore return on

document, but they have delivered a preliminary report on Academic Affairs which he would be happy to share, although he has already had to ask them for a revision due to some faulty data. He thinks EAB will be useful in helping WIU with workforce development, fixing the budget model, and orienting Foundations in a different direction.

Parliamentarian Robinett recalled that President Huang told the Executive Committee not long ago that there have been actions taken already based on the recommendations that have come from EAB so far, such as departments doing things differently from the data they have received. He said that ExCo is being told different things about what is going on, and, since it is getting closer to the end of the semester, the window for reorganization or doing things in a different way is rapidly closing. He is happy to hear there is no concern that an APER committee will be created this year, but thinks that, while the university is not a corporation, there is still the need for budget data to know what is coming. Interim Provost Mossman said he is unaware of any department using data that came out of EAB. He thinks a better way to get information is through multiple meetings because he wants this process to be a collaboration rather than different sides taking positions. Chair Albarracin pointed out the whole idea is collaboration because the Faculty Senate and its committees needs the administration to provide them with

Parliamentarian Robinett said he would support collaborative discussions if the Budget Transparency Committee could obtain the numbers it needs in a positive way. He stated that on February 13, President Huang told ExCo that “if a program is not working out or producing at the same level as in the past, that program will be given time to do some different things,” and that was said during the conversation about EAB. He noted that the minutes indicate that President Huang said the university “is not using EAB to cut programs or lay off employees” but that “the administration wants to see the strengths and weaknesses of WIU’s programs.” Parliamentarian Robinett suggested perhaps there needs to be a conversation about what role priority funding or finance is playing in decisions about programs or whether the focus is on missions, and whether there is a matrix for how well a program is meeting the university’s mission. He reiterated that if the Interim Provost says there will not be an APER committee charged this semester, he feels much better. Interim Provost Mossman stressed that he is deeply concerned about funding issues because the university needs cash. He also stated, however, that there is no way EAB will give a recommendation to cut certain programs because that is not what it is supposed to do; EAB’s job is to consult. Interim Provost Mossman understands what President Huang said at the ExCo meeting as saying that if a program is no longer attracting students, it should be phased out or, perhaps, changed into a new program. He understands, though, why faculty have been very concerned because the university does need more dollars.

Chair Albarracin expressed her appreciation to the Budget Transparency Committee for their efforts. She suggested that they try to t pp no witgla (o)2 (n)2 (f)Ⓣ (f)-1.9 (o)12.9 11.3 (sx-1.9 (o(o)2 (en)2 (cyea h)2 (er.)Ⓣ (n)2 [

Audrey Adamson, Executive Director for Career Preparation and Quad Cities Operations, will speak with Faculty Senate at their last meeting on April 23 about what is happening on the Quad Cities campus.

4. *Changes to set up of Union Capitol Rooms*