

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 22 August 2023
4:00 p.m. – Via Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Julia Albarracin, Chair; Denise Gravitt, Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Manoochehr Zoghi, Provost; Jeremy Robinett, Parliamentarian; Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Office Manager

GUESTS: President Guiyou Huang; Registrar Sarah Lawson; Associate Provost Mark Mossman, Executive Director of Retention Initiatives Justin Schuch

1. President Huang welcomed everyone back and thanked Parliamentarian Robinett and Mr. Schuch for being part of many events to welcome the faculty and the students. He said the past week has been very busy but was very productive. Friday, August 18 kicked off with the University Assembly, which was presided over by Provost Zoghi. The focus of the President’s speech was financial sustainability and recruitment/retention/enrollment.

The President noted that faculty will be starting the semester with smaller enrollment than last year, but there are pro-active efforts underway to increase enrollments. President Huang related the Cabinet today discussed looking at enrollment markets beyond the traditional ones and focusing particularly on transfer students from community colleges and dual enrollment students from high schools. He also thinks the online market has a lot of potential.

President Huang noted that there is now a new structure at the university for retention work, but Mr. Schuch will continue to head up the Retention Initiatives Office. Advising has been moved under the Provost’s division in order to create more synergy between first-year and college advising efforts.

The President stated that although the current university leadership inherited some issues affecting financial sustainability, they are taking a full leadership role in addressing these issues. He noted that while growing enrollment is one way to address these issues, cost savings is another; this includes hiring practices as well as new revenue. The administration is working on a plan to present to the Board of Trustees in September that promises long-term action to pull WIU back to more solid financial ground.

President Huang feels confident in the ability of the administration, faculty, and staff to work together to address these issues. He noted that faculty and staff already worked on one proposal this summer – the 0.0 GPA proposal being brought forward by CAGAS at the first Senate meeting – and the President would like to follow this up with a deeper conversation about attendance policies. President Huang thinks attendance policies are important for student accountability and retention. He understands the issues surrounding academic

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Senator Gravitt ask...
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think they can work closely with and start there. Parliamentarian Robinett suggested that departments work with Kassie Daly in Admissions. His department has already developed four agreements. He stated that there is a difference between developing a transfer pathway, which is the current initiative, and the former transfer articulations.