

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Regular Meeting, 7 November 2017, 4:00 p.m.

- President Thomas and Interim Provost Neumann held a Town Hall meeting yesterday (November 6) with University Libraries and the School of Distance Learning, International Studies, and Outreach.

C. Student Government Association Report
(Madison Lynn, SGA representative to Faculty Senate)

Ms. Lynn and Student Trustee Wil Gradle have been working over the past month on a bill seeking an online writing style guide comparable to the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL). Ms. Lynn told senators this would offer an easily accessible resource for quick questions, such as citing interviews in MLA format. Ms. Lynn acknowledged the excellent resources available to students through the English Department and the Writing Center and stated that this bill seeks to capitalize on those resources by making them available to more students. She believes an online writing style guide for WIU could also help with recruitment and would increase traffic to the WIU website. Local high school English teachers have told Ms. Lynn that they would refer their students to such a resource if offered. Ms. Lynn told senators the bill was brought to SGA two weeks ago and passed unanimously. She and Trustee Gradle will meet with the Chair of the Department of English and the Director of the Writing Center on Thursday, November 9. Senator Allison asked if this week's meeting will be the first contact with the English Department or if this idea has previously been discussed with them. Ms. Lynn responded that Trustee Gradle has been in communication with the department, and they have emailed over the past several days. She added that, based on their emails, the department had already been moving in this direction.

D. Other Announcements

1. Chairperson Rock told senators that they are invited to participate in the Admissions "Calling All Leathernecks" Phonathon on November 15. He introduced Admissions Director Seth Miner, who informed senators of changes in the Admissions communications plan. Historically the communications plan has begun in February, March, or April, but the Office of Admissions is moving that d

4. Senator Hironimus-Wendt received a text message from President Thomas stating that he will be hosting the Marching Leathernecks at his residence from 5:00-6:00 today and inviting anyone who wants to join them.
5. Chairperson Rock invited Senators McIlvaine-Newsad and Delany-Barmann to discuss their recent humanitarian aid trip to Puerto Rico. Senator McIlvaine-Newsad related that she and Senator Delany-Barmann spent most of their time in Ponce, on the south side of the island. Senator McIlvaine-Newsad told senators that she has worked with areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina and Mississippi River flooding, but she has never seen anything like the devastation in Puerto Rico. She stated that what has occurred there is not only a natural disaster but also a social disaster; it is geographically framed because its location is away from the coast of the United States and because the hurricane sat on Puerto Rico about 24 hours. The university that the two senators worked with was one of the most highly impacted. Senator McIlvaine-Newsad related that about 100,000 people have left the island for the United States mainland, but those that remain are looking at different ways to do things, which she thinks is really exciting. She stated that Puerto Ricans “are thinking outside the box because the box is no longer there,” so they are exploring new ways to envision their communities.

Senator Delany-Barmann related that driving in Puerto Rico was stressful with trees and downed power lines everywhere and street lights not functioning due to lack of electricity on the island. She was constantly driving over power lines in the middle of the road, but it did not matter because there was no electricity going through them. Senator Delany-Barmann felt she was surrounded by kind, generous, and resilient people, and it was an amazing trip. The senators were at the University of Puerto Rico in Utuado for its first day of classes; most of the road to the university was out, and school officials were focused on developing clean water filtration systems for their freshmen and sophomore students. Senator Delany-Barmann related that people were filling up water jugs on the sides of the road where clean water was coming out of broken pipes.

Senator McIlvaine-Newsad related that *60 Minutes* on Sunday featured about a 15-minute segment on w-eaill(0.002 Tc -0.002 Tw 0 -120.728d [(m)17(n)2(m)-3p)11(c())TJ t)-,w 713(he13

Vice President Bierman showed senators that the state appropriation was \$64.3 million in FY 02, \$59.9 million in FY 10, \$51.4 million in FY 15, \$14.9 million in FY 16 – a drastic reduction – \$59.8 million in FY 17 (not yet all received), and \$46.3 million for FY 18. He stated that FY 15 and 17 were level funding for all state universities except WIU, Eastern Illinois University, and Chicago State, which received emergency funding from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). Vice President Bierman suspects that \$43.6 million is “the new normal.”

Vice President Bierman showed that WIU’s appropriated funds ebbed and flowed during the recent budget crisis. The appropriated account is helped by tuition incoming in January and August, but Vice President Bierman stated that other months were sometimes a struggle – particularly (u)11(l)-d ()\$, (o)11(n i)-5(nxst)8(at -2(e)9(h(g)11(e)-2(nc)- b(e)-2(F)13(e)9(n

students' accounts based on how they fall into the Western Commitment grid. Senator Perabo asked if it is correct that the \$7 million does not include tuition waivers. Vice President Bierman confirms that is correct; it is revenue that the institution has taken in and accounted for which is then being allocated back out based on certain criteria and which can be used by students to reduce the cost of attendance.

Senator Macchi asked what areas, besides Athletics, are included under the President's category. Vice President Bierman responded that Institutional Research and Planning, the Budget Office, Alumni Programs, Equal Opportunity and Access, Internal Auditing, and Legal Services are included. He explained that WIU formerly used outside legal services, so the switch to an in-house counsel made the President's expenses increase. Senator Macchi asked what falls under the category called Central. Vice President Bierman responded that this includes such things as insurance paid as an institution, unemployment, and group health insurance. He reminded senators that the chart only shows appropriated expenses, so auxiliary functions and the Center for the Application of Instructional Technology (CAIT), for example, would not be reflected.

Senator Rahman observed that the President's area shows a 10 percent increase in expenses and asked why the University now employs an in-house legal counsel. Vice President Bierman responded that moving from outsourcing legal services to an in-house counsel was made as a strategic decision because it was thought to have value for the institution. Senator Allison observed that the University outsources its legal counsel for the negotiations mediation process and asked if that is also reflected under the President's area; Vice President Bierman responded affirmatively. He added that the University outsources legal services related to labor, immigration, and Title IX, where specific expertise is needed. Senator Roberts asked if the decision to use an in-house counsel was made to save money, but Vice President Bierman said that was not the reason. He explained that this decision was made because certain things were not getting done or were being done by individuals who were not necessarily qualified to do the work that they were doing. He added that WIU still retains a contract with the same local attorney that they have used for many years, but his services are used less than they formerly were. Interim Provost Neumann stated that until four or five years ago, for example, the University did its own legal filings for international faculty and staff. She explained that this got much more complicated over that time period, and the administration felt that the institution was not sufficiently keeping up on immigration laws and regulations and needed someone with expertise in this area.

Vice President Bierman explained that the University budget on the Budget Office website shows only a piece of the Athletics budget because only part of Athletics is paid from the appropriated a

Athletics, many of which are very small and practically budget themselves. Senator Hironimus-Wendt asked if the coaches' salaries posted on the Budget Office page are

make sure the institution is going after those students who can be helped to succeed and to graduate. The faculty-student ratio stands currently at 14:1 and was 15:1 in Fall 2016. The UPI peer institutions had an average ratio of 18:1 in Fall 2016. Vice President Bierman stated that the reduction in personnel from Fall 2015 to Fall 2016 increased the faculty-student ratio from 14.8:1 to 15.3:1. There was not as much of a reduction in Fall 2017 because student enrollment also dropped overall. Most Illinois public institutions have ratios of 16:1. Vice President Bierman related that this ratio is something WIU wrestles with because it is an efficiency factor as enrollments continue to decline.

Vice President Bierman went over some legislative changes that might affect the University in the future. SB 42, the Pension Cost Shift legislation, has passed but is still being analyzed by the State Universities Retirement System (-2(v)11(eP)-2(r)-4(s)-2(v)13(S)23.88 0 Td

beyond 120 hours. She was surprised to see that 11 of the comprehensive majors are within the College of Business and Technology; she is unsure if that is due to accreditation and licensing needs or to some other factor. Dr. Hardeman confirmed that majors within the College of Business and Technology are all accredited.

Senator Allison observed that the comprehensive major currently states that it “does not require completion of a Minor as part of the degree program,” but CCPI is recommending that “does not” be changed to “cannot.” Senator Allison believes these have the same meaning, but Dr. Hardeman explained that in the opinion of CCPI these are not the same. Senator Rahman believes that “does not” implies that someone could have a minor if one is desired but “cannot” sends the message “please don’t have a minor.” Senator Boynton believes that “does not” says that students can have a minor but they are not required to have one. College of Arts and Sciences Dean Sue Martinelli-Fernandez stated that “does not” is descriptive, while “cannot” is normative and is prohibitive. Senator Allison asserted the two seem to equal the same thing; “does not require completion of a minor” means that students do not have to have a minor, and “cannot require completion of a minor” means that a student cannot have a minor, but both ways indicate that a minor is not required. Senator Boynton stated that “does not” means that some might have a minor and some may not; “cannot” says that nobody can do this. Dean Martinelli-Fernandez asked if there is a word count restriction or if there is a way that this can be explained a little more so that everyone knows the meaning. Senator Locke

attached to them. Interim Provost Neumann warned senators to be a little careful because the University now has faculty teaching in multiple areas and departments. Senator Hironimus-Wendt stated that last year concerns were expressed because a student could get a major and minor from the exact same faculty; a core of five to six professors could deliver up to 60 hours of coursework, which could be problematic. He explained that with a 45-hour major and a 15-hour minor, half of a student's education could be delivered by a small core of faculty. He asked if there is any way to