

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
Regular Meeting, 1 December 2015, 4:00 p.m.  
Capitol Rooms -University Union

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT: M. Bean, S. Bennett, V. Boynton, J. Brown, A. Burke, G. Cabedo-Fimmons, D. DeVolder, K. Dodson, R. Hironimus-Wendt, K. Kapale, C. Keist, N. Lino, J. McNabb, J. Myers, C. Pynes, T. Roberts, T. Sadler, B. Siever, A. Silberer, S. Szyjka, Westerhold  
Ex-officio: Kathy Neumann, Interim Provost; Janna Deitz, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: M. Carncross, D. Halverson

GUESTS: Dale Adkins, Wil Gradle, Sue Martine-Hernandez, Kyle Mayborn, Russ Morgan, Nancy Parsons, Gary Schmidt, Sam Thompson, Lora Wolff

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. November 10 2015

MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Approvals from the President

1. To make recent changes to the Foreign Language/Global Issues requirement effective immediately for all currently enrolled students

B. Provost's Report

Interim Provost Neumann told senators that the town hall meetings that she has been attending with President G.A. President Wil Gradle

Mr. Gradle reported that SGA recommends that criteria by which signature programs are selected be changed to one based upon program's uniqueness in the state of Illinois recognized because the program is ranked or widely acknowledged for its quality. SGA has suggested that certain programs be considered for inclusion: Physics, Political Science, Emergency Management, Paleontology, Fire Science, Interdisciplinary Studies Renewable Energy, and Communication Sciences and Disorders

SGA also observed that transfer students are not offered a one year graduation guarantee two years at a community college and two years at WIU as are incoming freshmen and is looking at other state universities to see how they approach this issue. SGA also discussed the fact that there is a disparity between the levels of Western Commitment scholarships offered to transfer students and those for incoming freshmen.

D. Other Announcements

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1. Higher Learning Commission Quality Improvement (QI) Project and Update on Task Forces

(Joe Rives, Vice President for Quad Cities and Planning)

Chairperson Pynes announced that Vice President Rives's visit has had to be postponed to January 26 due to a delay in his incoming flight.

2. Biennial Reapportionment

Eligible faculty, as defined in the Senate Constitution, are counted every other year, with one senator assigned for every 40 faculty members in a college. Chairperson Pynes explained that even though the numbers of faculty in the colleges changed this year, it did not affect the assignment of senators per college (six for Arts and Sciences, three for Business and Technology, four for Education and Human Services, and three for Fine Arts and Communication).

3. Ballots have been mailed to eligible faculty to fill a spring semester vacancy on Faculty Senate to represent the College of Arts and Sciences to replace Senator McNabb during

(Lora Wolff, Chair)

1. Curricular Requests from the Department of Geography

a) Request for Change of Minor

(1) Meteorology

CHANGE OF MINOR APPROVED

b) Request for Change of Major

(1) Meteorology

CHANGE OF MAJOR APPROVED

B. Committee for International Education (CIE)  
(Gary Schmidt, Chair)

1. Global Issues Review Process

Dr. Schmidt told senators that the Council for International Education (CIE) has been entrusted with two tasks: the review of courses for initial Global Issues (GI) designation, and the review of previously-approved GI courses to ensure that they continue to fulfill their goals and objectives. CIE started finalizing the review procedure a few years ago. The Council proposes a five-year rotation; once a new GI course is approved, it would not come up for review for five years. He added that 30 GI courses were approved prior to August 2010.

Dr. Schmidt hopes to send a memo to chairs in January 4

teaching the courses and how those philosophies were being put into practice. Senator McNabb does not think that syllabi can really communicate what is happening in classrooms and how students are responding to the material. She stated that a review process such as she described does represent a massive time commitment, but she found it worthwhile completing those types of exercises while the WID Committee.

Senator Hironimus/Vendt asked how a GI designation can be removed from a class once it is approved. Interim Provost Neumann responded that an email from the department chair to the Provost's office is all that is necessary to remove a designation for a GI, Gen Ed, or WID course.

Senator Myers asked if CIE has developed any type of scale so that departments can indicate what percentage of time will be devoted to addressing goals 1, 2, or 3 of a GI Issues course. She recalled that previous conversations had mentioned that some GI courses, such as those in Music and Theatre, seem not to devote much time to the GI part of the course, so she wonders if CIE will try to determine how integral GI is to the entire course. Dr. Schmidt responded that, based on his participation in CIE, the courses that have been approved devote more than two lectures to Global Issues topics; Global Issues are an integral and majority part of the course. He thinks it would be difficult to put together a successful application for GI designation if that were not the case. He has never heard CIE discuss this, however, in terms of a specific numerical percentage. Senator Bean stated that he surmises that GI courses in Music and Theatre only devote about two percent of their content to GI topics and 98 percent to the actual focus of the courses. He believes that whoever fills out the form may paint a skewed vision of what the course is accomplishing. He asked where the teeth will be in the CIE review process. Dr. Schmidt responded this is a good question. He pointed out that since CIE is requesting copies of syllabi for GI courses, a comparison between the current syllabus and what was originally submitted for the GI course should make it clear if a



and making more hoops for departments and faculty to jump through may not be a best practice. He added that a review process, such as is proposed, can help courses to stay on track, which is also

questions efficiently in a 15-minute timeframe. Senator Dodson stated that when asking someone to take a survey, it is in the interest of full disclosure to tell them what is expected and how much time will be involved. She does not think stating 15 to 20 minutes would discourage anyone from taking the survey, and they may be more inclined to take it if they think it is not overly laborious. Senator DeVolder believes 15 minutes is probably optimistic, and suggested CPPP consider extending that time estimate.

Senator Boynton suggested that in the email accompanying the survey faculty be informed that they have the option to choose "Decline to Respond" or "No Basis for Response" for each question, as well as mentioning the confidentiality reminder. Senator Boynton also asked if there should be a "Decline to Respond" option appended to the demographic section. She noted that the number of faculty who have been at WIU 20 years or more may be few in some colleges, which, taken in addition to gender and other responses, could narrow down the identity of the respondent. Chairperson Pynes stated that he does not think the Committee receives the demographic information, and he is not sure why it is included in the survey. Senator Hironimus-Vendt remarked that if faculty choose not to answer any part of the survey, it shows as "missing data" and does not recall seeing information from the demographic section in previous reports except for a percentage of responses by college; he has not seen the number of responses broken down by male/female or age, but he is not sure if the information is relevant or irrelevant. Senator Keist asked why CPPP is collecting information on sex or age if it is not being used.

Senator Hironimus Wendt stated that this is his third time serving as a senator, and he has always run at-large because he perceives himself as representing the entire faculty rather than his college. He thinks there are good arguments for and against changing the representation is determined but stressed that at-large senators must recognize that they serve the faculty as a whole.

Senator Hironimus Wendt asked if there is any reason why the Faculty Senate agenda does not include an item "For the Good of the Order," which is included in *Robert's Rules of Order*. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that the Faculty Senate follows the *Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure*. Parliamentarian Deitz confirmed that Faculty Senate has never used the agenda item "For the Good of the Order" to her knowledge. Senator Hironimus Wendt pointed out that many parliamentary bodies use "For the Good of the Order" at the end of the meeting.



what a score of “3” means. Senator McNabb responded that scores of “4” and “5” represent truly excellent exams that are parallel with the college level. Chairperson Pynes asked if accepting a score of “3” concerns Senator McNabb, and she responded that it does. Senator Bennett stated that there was a physical sciences panel just prior to the giving break, and it is his understanding that the decision has already been made to allow scores of “3” on AP tests. He said word from the panel was that departments need to realign their course descriptions to explain how this change will be implemented. He added that the University of Illinois convinced the panel to allow universities to give elective credit for “3” scores, not equal to the course credit that would be achieved by a score of “4” or “5.” Associate Provost Parsons related that this was also discussed at the Illinois Board of Higher Education Academic Leadership meeting; some there stated that scores of “4” and “5” would count toward majors while “3” scores would only count for general education or electives. Senator Roberts observed that he involved last summer with an interdisciplinary AP seminar course that is hard to fit into any one department. He believes it is a very good prep course for all kinds of critical thinking and writing. He added that if WIU were to offer credit for this course and encourage students to apply for it, it would position the University on the cutting edge since this is very new. Chairperson Pynes asked senators to keep in mind that faculty may need to determine ways to deal with the issue of allowing “3” for AP tests.

Motion: To adjourn (McNabb)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Jeff Brown, Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary