

**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Special Meeting, 4 December 2008, 4:00 p.m.
Capitol Rooms - University Union**

ACTION MINUTES

**SENATORS PRESENT: M. Allison, B. Bellott, V. Boynton, S. Cordes, S. Czechowski, R. Dimitrov, S. Macch
M. Maskarinec, H. McIlvaine, B. Perabo, C. Pyshman, M. Sajewski, K. Zbeeb (via
teleconference)
Ex-officio Kathy Neumann, Interim; Ilon Lau, Parliamentarian**

SENATORS ABSENT:

2. **The Anthropology major (with just 3.5 faculty) now has 43 majors and 42 minors. (This is well above the threshold for being removed.) The faculty are also working with Fallina and Amy Crosby to produce a "crowd funding" campaign to support the 2019 Archaeological Field School at the world renowned Orendire site. The campaign should go live in the next couple of weeks. This will expand WIU's reach to students from other universities who might also want to attend the field school this summer.**
3. **This year's EGO/ (English Graduate Organization/Sigma Tau Delta Honors Society) conference was a great success, thanks to the terrific teamwork of the English Graduate Organization students and the Sigma Tau Delta undergraduate students. Together they carried the heavy lift. All these students deserve kudos!**

STATS:

**6 Regional colleges and universities were represented by 8 students
 14 Undergraduates represented
 19 Graduate Students represented
 11 WIU English Faculty represented
 65 people from freshman First Experience students to graduate students and faculty attended keynote speaker Dr. Kishonna Gray's (University of Illinois at Chicago) talk, "Hypervisible Blackness, Invisible Narratives: The Digital Stories that Games Tell." Students led a standing ovation for Dr. Gray after her remarkable and powerful presentation!**

AWARDS:s--

9. Budget Director Letisha Trepac and Interim Vice President for Administrative Services Bill Polley

Ms. Trepac explained that WIU has three different accounts, which includes tuition income; restricted funds, such as those for unrestricted local funds and grant accounts. She told senators that over the past years WIU's budget has not been balanced, which the administration is trying to correct. Ms. Trepac presented a slide illustrating the history of state appropriation, which for FY 19 is \$47.2 million. The state appropriation in FY 10 was \$59.9 million. Ms. Trepac explained that the budget impasse of FY 16 created a big hole in the University budget that has never been made up by the state, in part with declining enrollments, part of the reason that WIU is in its current predicament. Interim Vice President Polley added that FY 16 and 17 state appropriations combined a little more than the University would normally receive. Ms. Trepac pointed out that this year's appropriation was two percent higher than last year but was still eight percent from FY 15.

provided by the state, which is the reverse from 16 years ago and is why declines enrollment really hurt the University on the revenue side. Senator Dimitrov asked projections for FY 19 anticipate that the state will be providing more than 50 percent of the appropriated revenue or if there is the expectation that the state will reduce that amount. Ms. Trepac responded that the Budget Office tries to assume a level appropriation, but it could go either way, particularly since there will be a new set of people coming into Springfield.

Senator Dimitroff observed that there seems to be a negative \$

of zero out-of-pocket costs to attend WIU, which he thinks is important in order to attract students to come here. He added that in the days before there was such a gap between financial aid and university costs, most students could attend for nothing or a modest amount out of pocket.

Senator Allison observed that retention rates increased dramatically in 2012.

order to increase enrollment and retention. Interim Vice President Polley added that students at the top end of the ACT scale do pretty well with the Western Commitment Scholarship, and Aim High can be added onto that. He confirmed that for students with ACTs, who might just miss the Western Commitment cut off, Aim High is able to give them something that will only apply to tuition and fees, not room and board like Western

who want to change careers and become teachers in those fields and represent our efforts WIU is taking to address the teacher shortage. She added there will be three within one master's degree. Senator Boynton also told senators that the meeting featured guests from Peoria Public Schools who wants to develop a connection between WIU and schools in his district. She said this individual would like to see WIU professors teach at Peoria schools and also have their students come to WIU for classes; the district needs additional teachers in all areas but particularly in mathematics, science, and special education. Senator Allison asked if there is any sense of where the political winds are blowing on this issue. Dr. Carr replied that she was unable to attend the last IBHE meeting so the WIU alternate member attended in her place. The council had a conversation with a representative from the ISBE, but Dr. Carr said she hears different versions about how things are progressing at the state level depending on who she

Interim Vice President Polley told senators that the University has a process for creating a budget every year which provides a guideline for expanding subject to state appropriations and enrollment, but the University has some control over expenses up to the middle of the year. He pointed out that before the budget impasse in FY 15, particularly budget and revenue were everything were more predictable, and the state was increasing its budget appropriation each year while WIU's student enrollment was not falling as precipitously at that time, so there was always more revenue than expenses. He pointed out that when the budget impasse hit in FY 16 and 17 and the University received about one year's worth of state appropriation for two years, the University ended up with an appropriated deficit of about \$14 million for those years combined. Interim Vice President Polley said that this \$14 million deficit ate up a lot of the \$20 income reserve that WIU had going into that crisis, but the University was able to decrease its expenses somewhat and to preserve what was left as a positive reserve going into FY 18. He stated that for FY 18 and the prediction for FY 19, revenue has fallen precipitously relative to the University's budget numbers; the budget for FY 18 is around \$124 million and was \$127.5 for FY 18, but the expected revenue for FY 18 and the actual revenue for FY 18 was considerably below that, so ultimately the University's expenses are greater than its revenue. Interim Vice President Polley said that explains the need for \$5 million right away as the University completes this year's actual expenditures, and that has to happen to keep WIU from going into the red. He stated that if the trend does not change, the University would end the year needing \$4 to \$5 million from the income reserve fund, so the \$5 million is needed to keep from falling below zero (or not too far below zero). He noted that this does not, however, address the ongoing problem for FY 20, 21, and beyond. He pointed out that on the spreadsheet in Senate packets, the projections for FY 20 and 21 were net income expenses of \$14 million and \$18 million, respectively, if no changes are made, so expenses will need to be reduced at least that much in order to bring the budget into balance. He stated that because WIU's budget is already far above what its income and expenses have been in the past couple of years, it needs to be brought back into alignment. He added that there are a lot of vacant positions still on the budget that have not been filled, and taking those off the books will reduce the budget numbers without impacting the expense numbers, helping to bring the budget back into some alignment.

Ms. Trepac told senators that the current projections are based on level new student enrollment and level state appropriations, but those are variable and could change. She recognized many are hopeful that the University will receive a higher appropriation for next year, but she does not think WIU should put all of its eggs in that basket, especially since she has spoken to the state budget director who has informed her of the situation at the state level. She said that if WIU were to do nothing to address its budget situation, she could conceivably be off a few million in her estimate, but she thinks it very unlikely that the projections would be off by \$20 million, which is something to keep in mind when considering budget versus actual income and expenses. Interim Vice President Polley stated that even if WIU received what everyone in the room would consider a satisfactory outcome from the state, which would be to go back to FY 15 funding, that is only a

to \$5 million of what the University would need. Ms. Trepac confirmed that even if cuts were to occur, WIU would still need to make structural changes. Interim Vice President Polley stated that the University could potentially reduce the amount that expenses need to be decreased if the state were to increase its appropriation. He is talking about closing a \$21 million budget gap, an extra \$4 million to \$5 million from the state would be wonderful but would not do the job. He added that a couple hundred more students would bring in a couple million more dollars but would also not bring the University all the way to where it needs to be.

Senator Allison said she does not understand the \$20 million expense reduction amounts. Chairperson Pynes explained that next year's \$21 million budget reduction is not the same thing as this year's \$5 million expense reduction. He added that some of the \$5 million will also be recouped in expense reductions, but the Budget Office does not know that. Additionally, \$6 million of next year's budget reductions are vacant positions that do not affect spending at all. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that if both of these amounts [the \$5 million expense reduction and the \$6 million reduction from vacant positions] were carried over to next year, then the budget reduction for next year would be \$10 million. Ms. Trepac added that if the University would have already identified continuous expense. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that if a secretary position is s 7ffwilenditeou]TJ . Td [(U)5(ni)-5(v)1*(w)5(t)--

reductions might be needed next year because this depends on enrollment, next year's budget, and how much of the \$5 million savings from this year will be able to be carried over next year, so it is complicated. Chairperson Pynes has told President Thomas and Vice President Polley that the messages have to be clearer and simpler, and today's meeting provides an opportunity to disseminate good information.

Senator McIlvain asked if there are different projected scenarios since everything presented today is based on current enrollment, but the hope is that the University grows enrollment and increases retention with an appropriated budget. She wonders if different scenarios are being developed for the next five years if this occurs. Ms. Trepac responded affirmatively, adding that she works with an enrollment matrix model, one variable of which is an increase in new students. She explained that this model allows her to determine how many students are needed to maintain enrollment without reductions, but she has not run those numbers because it would be impossible to achieve without reductions since WIU's market of students is predicted to shrink by 2025. She added that her office does take a look at those models and communicates with Admissions in order to develop better targets and goals. Senator McIlvain asked if those models could be shared with Faculty Senate at some point. Ms. Trepac responded that she can share what it would take for WIU not to have a projected deficit. Chairperson Pynes recalled that two years ago former Admissions Director Seth Miner and Vice President Williams presented those projections to Faculty Senate, and he will get back to Ms. Trepac to follow up on this.

Senator Dimitrov suspects that other universities spend much more than WIU on lobbying. He observed that things went wrong for WIU in FY 16, when the University received \$14 million appropriation rather than \$51 million. He wonders if the University could lobby the state for additional funding. Ms. Trepac responded that the administration has lobbied the state for additional funding on numerous occasions. She related that last Thursday, November 10, WIU's governmental liaison set up meetings for WIU officials with fo-3(n)2(e)-2(r)-

auditing departments; Chairperson Pynes confirmed that it does not since it is only about University auditing.

Senator Bellott asked if the second item the Board of Trustees said no to Faculty Senate's request that they not destroy past closed session minutes. Chairperson Pynes explained that this resolution authorizes that the BOT may eliminate their July 13/4 and September closed session minutes and ~~will not~~ release any of the closed session minutes verbatim from recordings that they have already deleted. He added that the BOT is not required to do these, but the University attorney did previously release one of those from the list. Senator Rahman recalled that Faculty Senate discussed last week working closer with the BOT and would be in the Senate's best interests to do so, but this resolution does not make her work with the BOT. She would vote not to consent to this BOT agenda. Chairperson Pynes related that after the last Executive Committee meeting, President Thomas, and the University counsel an email asking for the release of the closed session minutes, and responded. He included the Senate resolution *stating that Faculty Senate requests that the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees release all currently held verbatim recordings of closed session meetings from the July 2017 Board Retreat until the most recent Board meeting of 27 September 2018 by no later than 7 December 2018*] and vote total to all the same people after the November 27 Faculty Senate meeting which it was approved. No one has responded. Senator Rahman remarked that this says a lot.

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Senator Boynton observed that it seems as if the BOT is saying that the BOT has decided certain minutes should remain confidential, but this is the same BOT that has been wrong in the past. She asked if the Faculty Senate is being asked to trust them on this issue. Chairperson Pynes responded that the BOT is asking to eliminate particular verbatim recordings and that minutes confidential that they can legally continue to release. Senator Boynton asked if the trustees who have violated the Open Meetings Act are the ones who are determining that they have not violated the Open Meetings Act in this particular case. Chairperson Pynes responded negatively, explaining that the trustees are not determining that but are stating that the confidentiality for these particular meetings still exists. He explained that the legal justification for the BOT keeping these minutes quiet is that they believe the content is still confidential; about whether they believe what they did was permissible based on the Open Meetings Act. Senator Boynton observed that the BOT seems to be saying that everything in these minutes is allowed to be kept confidential under the Open Meetings Act and are asking Faculty Senate to trust that they are not lying about this, even though they have lied about this in the past. Chairperson Pynes stated that he does not think the proposed reform is advisable in that regard. He explained that the BOT is allowed to say that the minutes are required to remain confidential as long as they think should be allowed to remain so, and it does not indicate whether the BOT did or did not violate the Open Meetings Act. He added that it would require an independent person to make that determination, and the BOT cannot keep the Public Access to the Counselor (PAC) in the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

Senator Rahman stated that the real issue is that the BOT wants to authorize the destruction of recordings of their closed session minutes, and there is not much information in their verbatim minutes, as has been seen in the past. She asked if this is legal; Senator Perabo confirmed that it is legal. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that the action item does not state that the BOT will destroy recordings; it says that the BOT will destroy recordings. Senator Rahman observed that these decisions seem to be made in private anyway; she gets the impression and keeps hearing that faculty have no confidence in the BOT and they have lost the faculty's trust, and she wants to reiterate that. Senator Perabo stated that is a good reason to object to this agenda item.

Motion: That Faculty Senate does not consent to the second agenda item (18.12/2) and approved a statement indicating that, given the recent violations of the Open Meeting Act, Faculty Senate does not think it appropriate for this currently constituted Board of Trustees (Trpb13(r)-2(u)13s-(1) to be reconstituted.

SENATOR RAHMAN CALLED THE QUESTION

NO OBJECTIONS TO ENDING DISCUSSION

MOTION APPROVED 12 YES – 1 NO – 0 AB

IV. New Business

A. For the Good of the Board None

Motion: To adjourn ~~Cordes~~

The Faculty Senate adjourned ~~6:00pm~~.

Susan Czechowski, Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary