

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
Regular Meeting, 31 March 2020, 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: J. Albarracin, D. Banash, M. Bean, B. Bellott, J. Choi, S. Cordes, S. Czechowski, G. Delany- Barmann, R. Filipink, J. Franken, D. Hunter, I. Lauer, T. Lough, M. Maskarinec, D. Oursler, B. Perabo, C. Pynes, J. Robinett, M. Stinnett, F. Tasdan, E. Taylor, K. Zbeeb (via teleconference)

Ex-officio: Billy Clow, Interim Provost; Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Parliamentarian

SENATORS ABSENT: R. Sawhney

GUESTS VIA ZOOM: Martin Abraham, Jobu Babin, Greg Baramidze, Steve Bennett, Mark Bernards, Tom Blackford, Ginny Boynton, Katrina Daytner, Dennis DeVolder, Jack Elfrink, Spencer Foust, Denise Gravitt, Robert Hironimus-Wendt, Bob Intrieri, Ruth Kelly, Bill Knox, Richard LaFlam, Jessica Lin, Angela Lynn, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Jenny McGarry, Kristi Mindrup, Deb Miretzky, Russ Morgan, Jill Myers, Rafael Obregon, Lorette Oden, Renee Polubinsky, Rob Porter, Tim Roberts, Susan Stewart, Bill Thompson,

completed petition forms. A candidate meeting will be held virtually on April 12, and voting will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on April 20-24 through PurplePost. Election results will be available at 4:30 p.m. on April 24.

D. Other Announcements

expecting a couple of ideas for things that might be feasible. Interim President Abraham has a meeting scheduled with SGA President Colton Markey and hopes to be able to meet with

students are in a very bad spot currently; they are kind of stuck wherever they are and probably could not get home if they tried. He knows that there are international students currently residing in Macomb, but he does not know where they all are or whether they have all the resources that they really need. He thinks the University needs to try to identify these students and make sure that they are safe, secure, and have the resources that they need. Interim President Abraham stated that international students that did go back to their home countries will not be able to return to WIU right now and may not be able to come back in the fall. He does not know where travel and visas will stand at that point, but there are no visas currently being issued, so the University is potentially looking at no new international students for the fall on campus. Interim President Abraham told senators the administration is trying to make contingency plans around this possibility, but there is only so much that they can do.

Senator Albarracin asked if international students could be offered computers because she knows of some who are unable to do work online. Interim President Abraham has also had international students raise that concern with him, and University Technology has 40 Chromebooks that students can borrow at no charge. He added that students have to sign a document promising to return to the computers at the end of the semester.

Chairperson Pynes relayed a question regarding studio and lab courses: will they be offered at all if the University must go to a fully online format for fall semester? Interim President Abraham

but many departments would not agree to do that. Chairperson Pynes asked if this waiving of the prerequisite would only be for this semester; Dr. Bernards confirmed this is correct. He stated that students should know that if they choose Pass/Fail for a class taken this semester, it may not count toward a future class that requires a C+, C, or C- prerequisite.

Dr. Bernards related that CAGAS engaged in an extensive discussion about whether it is possible to indicate within WIU's system something that would show whether a class was graded Satisfactory as opposed to Pass. He said Registrar Lynn thinks this will be possible to code, but there are different criteria across departments; for example, Nursing requires a minimum of C+, while other programs require a minimum of C and many require a C-. He explained that because of this lack of consistency, CAGAS felt it would be best to adopt a simpler policy. Dr. Bernards related that Registrar Lynn discovered that WIU's proposed policy is in line with many peers in Illinois, and the state of Illinois is far ahead of peer institutions in Wisconsin, Iowa, and other states in adopting similar policies. He said schools in the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University systems are considering policies, as are Illinois State and Northeastern; Eastern Illinois University and Northern Illinois University have already adopted policies.

because it is a policy may not be in their best interests; if they need a C+, C, C- or better, they should work toward that. Dr. Bernards noted that if a student is in a hard spot, this gives them a way to get through this semester without withdrawing, without losing the value of their tuition, and without jeopardizing their potential graduation since these classes will count for graduation outside the 12 elective hours.

Chairperson Pynes pointed out that faculty will assign students regular grades; if a student wants the grade changed to Pass/Fail, it will happen at the level of the Registrar and not at the faculty level. Senator Hunter asked if the faculty member will be notified that a student is requesting a grade change. Chairperson Pynes replied that faculty will not generally be notified; faculty will assign students the grades that they have earned. Dr. Bernards confirmed that faculty will not be notified if a student opts for a Pass/Fail grade; the Registrar's office just makes the conversion, which is consistent with the University of Illinois/Champaign-Urbana policy for credit/no credit.

Senator Filipink asked why majors and minors would not be allowed to make these kinds of decisions themselves. He noted that while the policy says that major and minor course requirement can be fulfilled with P grades, at the bottom of the policy it states that these "Might not meet course requirements," which he thinks speaks to Interim President Abraham's concerns. He wonders if the University would not be better off letting the different programs make that decision rather than establishing a blanket policy. He thinks Interim President Abraham's statement grows out of the policy saying that P grade semester hours will count for major and minor course requirements while also telling students that they might not meet course requirements or prerequisite requirements, and the President would like for this to be consistent. Senator Filipink asked if it would be better to allow majors to make decisions themselves as to whether a P grade would count going forward; he thinks departments or schools should decide if they want to waive their requirements to allow students to meet prerequisites with a P.

Registrar Lynn related that she emailed all departments and schools to ask them to provide information as to whether they would allow a P grade if they have specific requirements for graduation or prerequisites. She said only a couple indicated that they would accept a P for prerequisites in place of a C+, C, or C-. Registr f(o w)5(he)f6811(nn r)-2(t)-uggtd,f7(l)-5in f or

another major, they could still count those hours, so the debate is not about whether the P is

perfect indication of whether a student is prepared for their classes. He pointed out that

what other institutions are doing. She added that her office will also be conferring degrees shortly after May 20, so they need to have some sort of point

consulted yet. He said this way there would be some kind of check that says the student has talked to an advisor and knows that a P grade will or will not count. Dr. Bernards asked if this could be solved by changing “should consult carefully” to “must consult carefully.” Senator Bellott said this would solve the issue for him.

Senator Albarracin asked why WIU cannot do what the University of Illinois does: if a student gets a B- and does not want that to affect their law school career, for example, the student would get a passing grade, and the course would still count toward their major. She said if the student were to get a D, they would get credit but it would not count toward their major. She said that WIU could say that if a student gets a P, it will count for everything, but if not then the student could choose the other option. Chairperson Pynes explained the reason the policy is written this way is because the University already has catalog copy addressing pass/fail grades.

Chairperson Pynes said he has heard no objection to his suggestion regarding moving the fourth bullet point and numbering the bullets and to the suggestion from Senator Filipink. Senator Bellott pointed out that he objected earlier. Chairperson Pynes said he would like for the policy not to have to come to a formal vote if possible and that senators just accept the CAGAS report. Senator Bellott agreed that if “should” is changed to “must” in regards to advising, he would not object. Registrar Lynn said she envisions a streamlined process whereby she would create some sort of form that could be emailed to the Registrar’s office.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

Motion: To move Old Business to be considered next (Lauer/Filipink)

MOTION APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE 20 YES – 0 NO – 0 ABSTENTIONS

IV. Old Business (*Reordered*)

- A. Proposal to Merge the Department of Accounting and Finance with the Department of Economics and Decisions Sciences to Create a New School

Chairperson Pynes recalled that the last time this proposal came before Faculty Senate, it did not pass, in large part because of voting issues. He stated that this time all faculty members in Unit A in both departments have voted unanimously to approve creation of the new school. Chairperson Pynes said Fac 64p4 326.52 640.24(eh TcoBe[(p)2(ass,s)-2(e 27p [(F)15dc)-2(c)-2(o)11(untxe)11t)-3(d)1ed Fa

i. Emergency Management

V. New Business

A. For the Good of the Body – None

Motion: To adjourn (Filipink)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Susan Czechowski, Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary