

**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY SENATE**  
**Regular Meeting, 13 September 2022, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Union Capitol Rooms/Zoom**

**A C T I O N   M I N U T E S**

**SENATORS PRESENT:** J. Albarracin, D. Atherton, S. Bailey, D. Banash, B. Bellott, M. Bernards, D. Brown, G. Cabedo-Timmons, A. Carr, C. Chadwell, L. Ebert Wallace, D. Hunter, J. Land, K. Perone, B. Petrocoviçi, B. Polley, E. Shupe, B. Thompson, J. Wroblewski  
**Ex-officio:** Manoochehr Zoghi, Provost; Craig Whetten, Parliamentarian

**SENATORS ABSENT:** D. Barr, L. Brice, T. Lough, S. Macchi, Y. Tang

**GUESTS:** Tom Blackford, Cara Cerullo, Julie Cox, Katrina Daytner, Carl Ervin, Samantha Klingler, Ray Lawson, Sarah Lawson, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Patrick McGinty, Christopher Merrett, Kristi Midrup, Russ Morgan, Mark Mossman, Lorette Oden, Renee Polubinsky, Linda Prosisë,

I.     Consideration of Minutes

A.     August 30, 2022

**APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED**

II.    Announcements

A.     Provost's Report

Provost Zoghi told senators he had been asked to speak about the Provost's Travel Awards. He stated that, as in the past, \$25,000 has been allotted for faculty travel plans this year. He explained that typically two-thirds of the award is given in the fall semester, or about \$15,000, and the remaining one-third, or about \$10,000, in the spring semester. Provost Zoghi noted that this is not indirect cost recovery money. He said faculty typically receive up to \$500, but he has been wondering, since expenses have gone up so much post-Covid and inflation is pushing up prices, if the award should be increased to up to \$600 per faculty member. He noted that this would, however, reduce the number of faculty who could receive the award from its current level of 50 down to 41 since the total amount available would remain the same. He would like to know if faculty would like to see the amount of each award increased or whether it should be kept at the same amount so that more faculty can receive it. He plans to talk to Budget Director Renee Georges after the Board of Trustees meeting next week.

Ray Lawson, Director for Distance Education and Support, who is administering the Provost's Travel Awards this year, said the application process is the same as was used in the past: faculty applying need to write a proposal about the conference they will attend, and the funds must be awarded in the fiscal year in which the conference takes place. He noted that in the past faculty have sometimes needed to travel to a conference in early July, but in that case they must wait until after July 1 to apply for that fiscal year's funds. Dr. Lawson told senators the process is very straightforward: a committee will review and award the funds on a first come, first served basis until the allowable number of faculty is reached, at which time the application process will be closed. Dr. Lawson stated that while the website (<http://www.wiu.edu/citr/home/faculty-travel.php>) says "Not currently accepting applications," he will be making that active so that faculty can submit through the website. He added that in many cases the committee approves the applications that are properly received, but applications must include the approval of the faculty member's chair/director and dean. Provost Zoghi added that applications should be received at least two weeks in advance of the conference the faculty member plans to attend.

Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, asked if all of the travel award money from last year was used. Provost Zoghi responded that he checked with the Budget Director and the Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration who told him that since the money is not

indirect cost recovery funds, it cannot be carried over to the next year. Dean Martinelli-Fernandez asked how much was used in the fall and spring last year. She thinks faculty may be more willing to apply if the



WesternOnline earlier

noted that on September 15, the Department of English is bringing in Black/queer/transmasculine poet KB Brookins to speak, while the Department of Race, Religion, Gender, and Multidisciplinary Studies with the Department of Mathematics and Philosophy is bringing in a speaker who will deliver a lecture on “Muslims in the Heartland.” The Multicultural Center is sponsoring a Bring Your Own Tortilla event and The Big Picture with LGBTQ+ students and allies. Mr. Ervin pointed out that when students see faculty at these events, they feel more supported. He recognizes that faculty are very busy but stated that even if faculty can pop in for a moment for students to see them, it makes a world of difference.

Mr. Ervin noted that one thing faculty and employees can do is include their personal pronouns in their signature lines as a show of solidarity. Mr. Ervin stated that he is available to help faculty, staff, and students live up to the dream and goal for WIU to be as inclusive as possible and to become a place where diversity is one thing the university is well known for. He noted that there is a lot of discussion about WIU being a “veteran-friendly campus,” and his goal is to do the same for diversity by letting people know the great things WIU is doing on campus and the changes that are being accomplished to make things better.

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assess the course curriculum to see where supporting students mental health and wellbeing fits -  
- where this support is already being implemented and places where it could be incorporated  
further. She would like to work with faculty in the future to develop a plan to address this.

Ms. Cerullo would also like to get more individuals on campus trained in understanding mental  
health, the resources available, and how to refer students both on- and off-campus. She  
explained the way the Counseling Center has been accomplishing this to date is through Mental  
Health First Aid Training. She said this free training is lengthy, but if a group of faculty are

