

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes of the Meeting
May 18, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 1:06 p.m. in the President's Conference Room Sherman Hall 205 in Macomb. Chair Radosh presided.

Trustee Brown moved to convene to open session. Trustee Twomey seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Greg Aguilar	Yes
Trustee Justin Brown	Yes
Trustee Patrick Twomey	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Erik Dolieslager	Yes

Motion carried.

ATTENDANCE

Several members attended remotely due to a March 16, 2020 temporary suspension of certain Open Meetings Act requirements by Governor Pritzker in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The suspension states that,

- A Public body may convene a properly noticed meeting with any number of members physically present, or nonmembers physically present, as long as the total participating members constitutes a quorum; and
- No specific reason or vote to allow for the remote participation is required.

Board Chair Polly Radosh (In Sherman 205)
Trustee Greg Aguilar (In QCC 3420A)
Trustee Justin Brown (Remote Attendance)
Trustee Erik Dolieslager (Remote Attendance)
Trustee Kisha Lang (Remote Attendance)
Trustee Doug Shaw (Remote Attendance)
Trustee Carin Stutz (Remote Attendance)
Trustee Patrick Twomey (Remote Attendance)

Also present for the open meeting of the Board of Trustees:

Interim President Martin Abraham (In Sherman 205)
Legal Counsel Liz Duvall (In Sherman 205)
Board Treasurer and Associate Vice President for Budget and Finance Letisha Trepac (In Sherman 205)
Interim Provost and Academic Vice President William Clow (In Sherman 205)
Interim Vice President for Student Services, John Smith (Remote Attendance)
Senior Vice President for Strategic Planning and Initiatives Joe Rives (In QCC 3420B)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Heronimus-Wendt: All know we have come through a horrible fiscal past. When the General Assembly refused to override the Governor's budget veto (an override allowed to pass by our WIU Rep. in the General Assembly), we lost \$50-75 M in our WIU communities. As a result, there were hundreds of layoffs, wage concessions, furloughs, etc.

Today, we have a new Administration and a new BOT. Yet in spite of our history and repeated directives to hold the line on spending and hiring, this body has in fact done the opposite. You have expended our fiscal reserves, and have spent all our income streams. You openly hope to break even this year. You have also expanded hiring and promotions across campus.

As a result, you are now entertaining multiple proposals to rob Peter in order to pay Paul.

Today, you will again ask Quad Cities students to pay more for services they simply do not and will not receive while students at WIU. In May, the QC-SGA explicitly opposed the "one fund for both campuses" fees structure. They opposed paying housing fees since they are a commuter college. They opposed paying athletics fees, since no athletics exist within 60 miles. They opposed paying fees for health services they are not provided.

There was also very strong opposition to reducing Talent Grants for students, and against targeting reductions in the Fine Arts programs.

At the May BOT meeting, you voted to allow the Administration to "borrow" money from Housing and Dining Services (i.e., the Auxiliary funds where student fees are held), so as to meet payroll should our state appropriations be delayed.

It must be publicly noted this Administration is now formally requesting that all employee bargaining units enter contract negotiations early to prepare potential costs reduction strategies. In a newsletter, UPI President Thompson intimated these cuts can be equated with potential wage concessions, layoffs, academic restructuring, etc.

In short, you are voting to extract more money from students who explicitly have no opportunity to receive services, but whose peers will.

We are preparing to consider furloughs and layoffs for faculty and staff.

And you will shortly entertain a motion to either maintain or increase the salary of the Interim President, even though he is already paid more than any WIU President in history. You are openly advocating a bonus structure for the Interim President as we go into deficit spending new year.

Demanding a thousand students pay more, many hundred students receive less, and moving to consider hundreds of personnel jobs and wage cuts, so that one can earn more is unethical, and fiscally irresponsible.

Robert J. Hironimus-Wendt
Professor of Sociology

Colin Harbke: Thoughts regarding proposed fee structures options A & B is not spelled out or transparent. The Macomb student fees are clearly laid out.

Marissa Kletke: (Current VP of QC SGA, President-Elect Fall 2020) This letter is a follow up to the May 5 Board meeting to sound my opposition to the proposed new and additional QC fees.

First, I would like to recap the sequence of events so the confusion of a fee proposal and sharing a future idea may be better understood.

- Fri/Apr 24 - University Interim President asked to meet QC/SGA representatives (three attended) via Zoom and he shared this information. In addition, the Macomb/SGA President was in attendance.
- Tue/Apr 28 - QC/SGA called an emergency meeting to the full SGA group and a discussion was had on the topic.
- Sun/May 3 - On behalf of the QC/SGA, I sent an email to Interim President Abraham attaching a letter which explained our concerns and opposition to the idea discussed on Fri/Apr 24.
- Sun/May 3 - I received a response from Interim President Abraham, noting among other things that he had wished we presented our concerns on the 28th so that he would have a chance to respond.

I would like to point out that within 10 days (five working days) from the Friday afternoon Zoom event, QC/SGA met and responded. Also, it is noted that at no time during the meeting on the 24th, or any time before the BOT Agenda came out, were we advised that this issue was going to be an Agenda item.

I would like to reiterate not only the position of the QC/SGA but my own, individually. I have an open mind to raising fees that are researched and justified. However, wanting to raise fees for services not immediately provided, and service ideas not explained, is justly unfair.

When there is actual housing or associated residential options that are WIU owned premises, then I think this idea would be duly justified to be discussed. I feel the two campus lifestyles that WIU offers are exceptional. In the QC many of our student body live at home for personal reasons. Many of those reasons once again include financial, having a job, and taking care of family - most of these situations carry on since high school. The dream of being a Leatherneck was not taken away because the QC campus is here. I chose the QC campus because it allowed me the opportunity to live at home, save money, and still be a Leatherneck. Honestly, if I did not have this as an option while applying to colleges in high school, I would not be where I am today. If these unjustified fees were in place then, I know I would not be here now.

I do not understand how adding a fee for services would benefit recruitment. Interim President Abraham's email stated that this fee would also apply to Macomb off campus students. Here again, students commuting to be a Leatherneck that do not live on the traditional campus are supplementing that benefit for others. I am worried for what is next.

Lastly, Interim President Abraham's email stated "we cannot support the services that QC students have been requesting for many years". When appropriate, I would like to explore what these requests might have been far in advance of any fee proposal.

I appreciate the time and attention of the Board of Trustees, Interim President Abraham, and all supporting staff.

Caleb Robakken: (QC Senator at Large) opposes fee increase for QC students especially in light of the effects of COVID-19. When the pandemic dies down we will increase enrollment, thus increasing fees.

William Fabyan: (Comptroller) Focus for him and most graduate students have an academic focus and no interest in activities. Affordability is more important than activities. Students need a transportation service to and from Macomb to get the classes not offered in the QC.

Jacob Cox: (QC SGA President) The QC student government was considering a fee increase, but in light of COVID-19 this is not good timing. Increasing the price of attending at the QC would deter students enrolling. Encouraged Board to evaluate the differences and different needs of the two campuses.

Raven Overton-Price (Former QC SOA President): I transferred to and stayed at WIU-QC due to its affordability. That is now more important as ever.

Jennifer Ashdown Noble: I have concerns about Quad Cities students paying the same fees as the Macomb campus students. I am an independent adult student and for me to have paid housing fees would not have been something I would have been in favor of. We have been told that we would eventually have services such as athletics, fine arts and housing, but up to now there has been no clear plan presented to us. On April 17 I emailed Interim President Abraham with my concerns about not holding commencement in the Quad Cities when it is safe to do so. He responded the next day thanking me for my email and said the following about my concerns:

"While I understand your reluctance to make the drive to Macomb, as it is a campus that you have never attended, I should point out that we have QC students attend the December commencement every year. In addition, students come from all across Illinois and their families regularly make the trip to Macomb to attend commencement."

Quad Cities students paying the same fees as Macomb students and the disregard for the concerns of the students in the Quad Cities over commencement emphasize my point that the two campuses are fundamentally different and are viewed differently. Macomb students chose to attend there and go to a campus where they knew they would have to travel and their families would too. Students such as myself go to the Quad Cities campus because they don't want to pay as much and don't care to be involved in athletics or other activities that a residential campus has.

Charging the same for both campuses even though they are vastly different is wrong.

Eric Campbell: Does not think a dramatic increase in fees in the best interest of students. The decision that is made will impact his decision on whether or not to remain at WIU.

Olivia Morris: Concerned about the requirement for QC students to pay the same as Macomb students.

Darlene Campbell: Alumni of WIU-QC student and was a non-traditional student. Imposing fees on students who would not have the opportunity to have the services. Access to WIU in the QC gave her an opportunity for affordable degrees. Encouraged her son to attend fall 2020.

Anna Campbell: Recognizes that money is tight under the current circumstances and the current affordability is important.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Housing fees are not being included in the Quad Cities so there has been some miscommunication somewhere.

In reference to the use of the Auxiliary Funds there is no plan to use those funds.

We are not moving toward layoffs.

The Board has also not advocated for a bonus for the Interim President.

There is no plan for some students to pay more and some receive less. There is no talk of layoffs we are just forming contingency plans.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

There are two issues to be decided: 1) The allocation of the services we provide for the fees we charge our students and 2) Whether or not Quad Cities students should be charged those fees. One of the options must be chosen. The longer we wait the harder it is for our students and their families to plan for finances for college. A working group including the SGA President spent over ten hours working with university administration and assisting with this decision. Their recommendation reflects Option D. I fully support the Arts and recognize the value of the Arts in both the Macomb community and Quad Cities and to society at large. I am a supporter both personally and professionally. The proposals do not decimate the arts, but recognizes that they are a part of many things that are important. With limited resources difficult decisions must be made. Students have also recommended a decrease in Athletics and an increase in technology funding. As enrollment has decreased the availability of funds to meet student needs has declined, and the students have asked for an increase in the Student Activity Fee so that we can provide what students want and need. There are many ways to distinguish specific groups of students and not everyone takes advantage of services offered. It has been pointed out that many of the Quad Cities students are commuter students. So too are many students on the Macomb campus. Our objective is to have one university with all students choosing from a set of services that meet their needs. We bring these proposals to the Board with careful, deliberate thought. In the case of our fees proposal, we agree with the recommendation provided by our students: That a change in the distribution is needed in order to best promote the interest of all of our students across our university, on both campuses, regardless of the modality. Option A allows us to honor the student recommendation. I ask you to approve Option A as presented.

GENERAL DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Report No. 20.5/1: FY2020 Student Cost Guarantee

Assoc. Vice President for Budget and Finance CFO Letisha Trepac and Executive Director of Personnel and Financial Affairs Ketra Roselieb

Associate Vice President for Budget and Finance CFO Letisha Trepac presented a slide presentation on all four proposals available at the end of this document.

Resolution No. 20.5/9: FY2021 Fees Recommendation

Assoc. Vice President for Budget and Finance CFO Letisha Trepac and Executive Director of Personnel and Financial Affairs Ketra Roselieb

Chair Radosh read the Resolution as printed

Trustee Twomey moved to approve Resolution 20.5/9: FY2021 Fees Recommendation Option A. Trustee Stutz seconded the motion.

Discussion was held.

Trustee Twomey encouraged action on Option A because of the expertise involved in its preparation. The Board must approve one of the proposals at hand.

Trustees Aguilar, Lang, Stutz oppose Option A.

Trustee Dolieslager thanked the administration for the effort put into the proposals. Would like for the Board to produce a combination of the proposals that is workable.

Dr. Rives provided an analysis of what other Illinois public universities are doing. Online fee increases is one major component because currently our online students do not pay mandatory fees. Six of the publics have the same fees for both main campus and branch campus online students. Although GSU pays the same rate, that does not imply same services. For example, online fees go to developing online courses. Everyone pays the same thing but the fees go to different things. WIU is the only public university in Illinois that does not have a dedicated revenue stream to develop online education. Pointed out that WIU uses the term “extension” to define instruction not offered in Macomb or in the Quad Cities or off campus instruction. There must be a funding stream to support off campus and online growth.

Trustees Stutz and Twomey favor Option B to reinforce the “One University” concept.

Dr. Rives reinforced that each revenue stream is dedicated to the growth of each respective area.

Trustees Stutz and Aguilar favor Option D with some modifications including an increase for Quad Cities students.

Trustee Brown proposed Option B to stay true to the proposal that was approved by Macomb SGA. and dividing the Publication Fee for Macomb between Fine Arts and Talent Grants and eventually dividing it into three areas.

Trustee Shaw echoed Dr. Abraham’s sentiment that there must be a decision made. Leans toward Option D over B but would prefer a combination of the two and requested a list of services to be offered for the Quad Cities students.

Trustee Twomey amended his motion to reflect Voting for Option B, seconded by Trustee Stutz.

Trustee Justin Brown	Yes
Trustee Erik Dolieslager	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Patrick Twomey	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Greg Aguilar	Yes

Motion carried.

Trustee Aguilar asked for clarification on where the funds would land. Trepac said that the money would go into one fund and would be allocated for the highest priorities.

Interim President Abraham reached out to the Faculty Council President, Dr. Rob Porter, to work together to form a plan for the funds and was turned down. Trustee Aguilar asked who else was/should have been involved in determining what to do with the fees. Dr. Rives said he was not involved and normally would be.

Shared governance was recognized by Trustee Aguilar as being of utmost importance.

Trustee Brown suggested taking the Publication Fee and moving that in Option B to the Fine Arts line and disagrees with moving money from the Student Activities fund to Fine Arts or Talent Grants because Student Activities impacts students across campus. As the Student representative he supports Option B as that is what the students chose.

Duvall suggested adding an amendment to Option B to reallocate the proposed Publication Fee reduction for Macomb equally into three categories: Athletics, Fine Arts, Talent Grants.

Trustee Twomey made a motion to amend Option B to reallocate the proposed Publication Fee reduction for Macomb equally into three categories: Athletics, Fine Arts, Talent Grants. Trustee Brown seconded.

Roll Call

Trustee Greg Aguilar	Yes
Trustee Justin Brown	Yes
Trustee Erik Dolieslager	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Patrick Twomey	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes

Motion carried.

Quad Cities fee increase plan discussion:

Trustee Twomey was in favor of accepting Option B as written to increase fees for QC gradually over four years to unify campuses.

Dr. Abraham stated that they arrived at the figures for QC fees by increasing the existing FY20 fees by 25% over four years. Suggested that the Board specify the amount of increase and the amount of years in which that the increase should occur.

Trustee Twomey made a motion to amend the Resolution to authorize the administration to make the internal adjustments to the QC fees over a four-year period to equal the Macomb fees and was Seconded by Trustee Brown.

Trustees Lang, Aguilar and Stutz agree that the QC students, faculty and administration be involved in the application of fees in the future. For the purposes of this Resolution it is an administrative/accounting measure.

Roll Call

Trustee Justin Brown	Yes
Trustee Erik Dolieslager	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Patrick Twomey	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Greg Aguilar	Yes

Trustee Twomey made a motion to adopt the amended Resolution 20.5/9 Option B and seconded by Trustee Brown.

Roll Call

Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Patrick Twomey	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Greg Aguilar	Yes
Trustee Justin Brown	Yes
Trustee Erik Dolieslager	Yes

Motion Carried.

Amended Resolution is below:

FY2021 Fees
Approved May 18, 2020

	FY2018*	FY2019*	FY2020*	Approved FY2021**		
				Amount	\$ Change	% Change
I. MANDATORY STUDENT FEEMACOMB AND EXTENSION ALLOCATIONS						
<u>Academic Year (Based on 30 SCH)</u>						
Activity	\$ 105.60	\$ 105.60	\$ 105.60	\$ 123.30	17.70	16.76%
Fine Arts Activity	77.70	77.70	77.70	66.30	(11.40)	-14.67%
Athletic	542.10	542.10	542.10	530.40	(11.70)	-2.16%
Bond Revenue	859.80	859.80	867.90	867.90	-	0.00%
Technology	146.70	146.70	146.70	180.00	33.30	22.70%
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	546.30	546.30	606.30	636.30	30.00	4.95%
Health Center	282.30	282.30	282.30	282.30	-	0.00%
Publication	29.10	29.10	18.90	-	(18.90)	-100.00%
Talent Grant	52.50	52.50	52.50	40.80	(11.70)	-22.29%
Transit	83.40	83.40	83.40	113.40	30.00	35.97%
Total Per Academic Year	\$ 2,725.50	\$ 2,725.50	\$ 2,783.40	\$ 2,840.70	57.30	2.06%
<u>Fall or Spring Semester Per Credit Hour</u>						
Activity	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.52	\$ 3.52	\$ 4.11	\$ 0.59	16.76%
Fine Arts Activity	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.21	(0.38)	-14.67%
Athletic	18.07	18.07	18.07	17.68	(0.39)	-2.16%
Bond Revenue	28.66	28.66	28.93	28.93	-	0.00%
Technology	4.89	4.89	4.89	6.00	1.11	22.70%
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	18.21	18.21	20.21	21.21	1.00	4.95%
Health Center	9.41	9.41	9.41	9.41	-	0.00%
Publication	0.97	0.97	0.63	-	(0.63)	-100.00%
Talent Grant	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.36	(0.39)	-22.29%
Transit	2.78	2.78	2.78	3.78	1.00	35.97%
Total Per Credit Hour	\$ 90.85	\$ 90.85	\$ 92.78	\$ 94.69	\$ (1.91)	-2.06%
<u>Summer Semester Per Credit Hour</u>						
Activity	\$ 2.26	\$ 2.26	\$ 2.26	\$ 2.63	0.37	16.37%
Fine Arts Activity	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.41	(0.25)	-15.06%
Athletic	11.56	11.56	11.56	11.32	(0.24)	-2.08%
Bond Revenue	18.35	18.35	18.52	18.52	-	0.00%
Technology	3.13	3.13	3.13	3.84	0.71	22.68%
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	11.65	11.65	12.93	13.57	0.64	5.49%
Health Center	6.03	6.03	6.03	6.02	(0.01)	-0.17%
Publication	0.63	0.63	0.41	-	(0.41)	-65.08%
Talent Grant	1.12	1.12	1.12	0.87	(0.25)	-22.32%
Transit	1.78	1.78	1.78	2.42	0.64	35.96%
Total Per Credit Hour	\$ 58.17	\$ 58.17	\$ 59.40	\$ 60.60	\$ (1.20)	-2.06%

* Fees assessed on Macomb face-to-face courses only.

** Fees assessed on Macomb face-to-face and extension courses for incoming Fall 2020 students.

FY2021 Fees
Approved May 18, 2020

	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	Approved FY2021			
				Amount	\$ Change	% Change	
II. Mandatory Student Fee Quad Cities Allocations							
<u>Academic Year (Based on 30 SCH)</u>							
Activity	\$ 134.70	\$ 134.70	\$ 134.70	\$ 131.70	\$ (3.00)	-2.23%	
Technology	140.40	140.40	140.40	150.30	9.90	7.05%	
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	211.80	211.80	211.80	318.00	106.20	50.14%	
Publication	27.30	27.30	27.30	20.40	(6.90)	-25.27%	
Talent Grant	83.10	83.10	83.10	72.60	(10.50)	-12.64%	
Transit	149.10	149.10	149.10	140.10	(9.00)	-6.04%	
Other Mandatory Fees	-	-	-	436.80	436.80	New	
Total Per Academic Year	\$ 746.40	\$ 746.40	\$ 746.40	\$ 1,269.90	\$ 523.50	70.14%	
<u>Fall or Spring Semester Per Credit Hour</u>							
Activity	\$ 4.49	\$ 4.49	\$ 4.49	\$ 4.39	\$ (0.10)	-2.23%	
Technology	4.68	4.68	4.68	5.01	0.33	7.05%	
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	7.06	7.06	7.06	10.60	3.54	50.14%	
Publication	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.68	(0.23)	-25.27%	
Talent Grant	2.77	2.77	2.77	2.42	(0.35)	-12.64%	
Transit	4.97	4.97	4.97	4.67	(0.30)	-6.04%	
Other Mandatory Fees	-	-	-	14.56	14.56	New	
Total Per Credit Hour	\$ 24.88	\$ 24.88	\$ 24.88	\$ 42.33	\$ 17.45	70.14%	
<u>Summer Semester Per Credit Hour</u>							
Activity	2.84	2.84	\$ 2.84	\$ 2.81	\$ (0.03)	-1.06%	
Technology	2.99	2.99	2.99	3.21	0.22	7.36%	
Facilities Enhancement & Life Safety	4.52	4.52	4.52	6.78	2.26	50.00%	
Publication	-	-	-	0.44	0.44	New	
Talent Grant	1.77	1.77	1.77	1.55	(0.22)	-12.43%	
Transit	-	-	-	2.99	2.99	New	
Other Mandatory Fees	-	-	-	9.32	9.32	New	
Total Per Credit Hour	\$ 12.12	\$ 12.12	\$ 12.12	\$ 27.10	\$ 14.98	123.60%	

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting – June 11/12, 2020, Riverfront Hall/ Rooms 103 & 104, WIU-QC Moline pending the Governor’s Orders.

ADJOURN ACTION

Trustee Twomey made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Board at 3:11 p.m., seconded by Trustee Brown.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.

Trustee Polly Radosh, Chair
Nicky Friedrichsen, Administrative Assistant to the Board