

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Meeting
September 24, 2020

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 8:24 a.m. in Horrabin Hall 1 in Macomb, IL. Chair Polly Radosh presided.

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

Roll Call

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

Motion passed.

ATTENDANCE

As of September 18, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker has declared all counties in Illinois Disaster Areas and has found that in-person attendance of fifty or more people at a meeting location is not feasible. The passing of Senate Bill 2135 and its revisions allows for remote attendance under the Open Meetings Act.

The following Trustees were present:

Board Chair Polly Radosh (Horrabin Hall 1)
Trustee Greg Aguilar (Remote)
Trustee Justin Brown (Horrabin Hall 1)
Trustee Erik Dolieslager (Horrabin Hall 1)
Trustee Kisha Lang (Remote)
Trustee Doug Shaw (Horrabin Hall 1)
Trustee Carin Stutz (Remote)
Trustee Patrick Twomey (Remote)

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

Interim President Martin Abraham (Horrabin Hall 1)

Interim Provost and Academic Vice President William Clow (Remote)
University Legal Counsel, Liz Duvall (Horrabin Hall 1)
Administrative Associate to the President, Jackie Miller
Assistant to the President for Diversity & Inclusion, Sterling Saddler (Remote)
Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Gary Swegan (Remote)
Director, Undergraduate Admissions & Enrollment Service, Doug Freed (Remote)
Associate Director of Admissions, Transfer Services, Kassie Daly (Remote)
Executive Officer of the Foundation, Brad Bainter (Remote)
Interim Associate Vice President for Budget and Finance, CFO, Teresa Smith (Sherman 205)
Budget Analyst, Renee Georges (Sherman 205)
Executive Director, University Technology (CIO), Rebecca Slater (Remote)
Interim Vice President for Student Services, John Smith (Remote)

Advisory Group Representatives present:

Daria Levchenko – President, Student Government Association – Macomb
Ilon Lauer – Vice-Chair, Faculty Senate – Macomb
Justin Schuch – President, Council of Administrative Personnel
Nicky Friedrichsen – President, Civil Service Employees Council

PUBLIC COMMENT

Amy Carr- I am surprised and concerned that a significant proposal for removing General Education courses and liberal arts majors from the Quad Cities campus has been sent all the way to the BOT for discussion without any real input from College of Arts & Sciences faculty members in the Quad Cities, or from the Faculty Senate as a whole. Why remove majors in the humanities and social sciences, like English or the Liberal Arts & Sciences degree? The proposal also seems to turn the Quad Cities campus into a school largely for juniors and seniors, by "outsourcing" Gen Ed courses to community colleges or to online WIU courses taught from Macomb. Has there been any thought about what this would mean for tenured professors in the humanities and social sciences in the Quad Cities, or for students who have connected with faculty mentors in the liberal arts who are located at the Quad Cities campus? Please do not endorse the recommendation to focus the Quad Cities campus on applied programs and to discontinue Gen Ed courses taught in the Quad Cities--or to effectively shut down College of Arts & Sciences major degree programs at the Quad Cities campus. Any curricular proposal should first have a hearing in the Faculty Senate, and have input from the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, following the principles of shared governance.

Everett Hamner- Thank you for volunteering your time and energy to serve in this role. It matters so much.

I had planned to play a 90-second video for you as a Public Comment, but since I learned that was not an option, I would like to simply share the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kb->

[D2HtLUKU](#) . This video provides only a brief glimpse of the many WIU-QC alumni from the last decade whose lives and career opportunities have been transformed by the English and LAS programs on campus.

Since we are now entering a very welcome process of reevaluating WIU-QC academic emphases and the support the associated programs need in order to thrive -- increased support that I must note faculty have repeatedly requested and instead seen reduced during the last five years -- I want to share this window into the many rewarding professional applications that we help our students find. In the WIU-QC English and LAS programs in particular, we strongly believe that transforming hearts and minds and preparing people to welcome cultural differences (the traditional work of an arts and sciences education) goes hand in hand with preparing students for appealing professional opportunities immediately upon graduation.

Bill Thompson- Thank you for listening to me today.

- 1) Only one faculty member participated in the QC report making process. That smacks of tokenism. I didn't see any input from advisors or admissions counselors who will also be an important part of any QC restructuring. Lack of input from a diverse group of faculty and staff create an impression of low regard for the views of faculty and staff.
- 2) UPI would ask that the administration pay close attention to the program reorganization and transfer articles as they rethink the mission of the QC.
- 3) Why are you still hiding from public view the closed session minutes of the previous Board? How terrifying can they be?
- 4) As a heads up: Your new meeting rules limit your ability to speak on issues, but do not limit the President's or any other administrator's ability to speak at length. If you are going to tie your own hands, you might want to tie the hands of the people who report to you. Looks odd if you don't. I also hope that the time limits do not decrease transparency by limiting discussion on the floor, thus sending it into the darkness of two-by-two meetings.
- 5) UPI continues to have concerns about the spread of Covid-19 in our region and the part that WIU may be playing in that. The [Wall Street Journal reported](#) on September 22 that according to a new study, "... researchers estimated that an extra 3,200 cases a day occurred in the U.S. that likely wouldn't have happened had schools kept classes online." We know that our Covid-19 numbers are much higher now than they were before school started. Nor is WIU the only school adding cases to their community, Iowa State, the University of Alabama, the U of I, and the list goes on. We know the fiscal advantages of opening in person. It would be interesting to hear some Board discussion of its (and WIU's) moral responsibility in this area. Maybe WIU has no moral responsibility to the community—though that strikes me as an unlikely argument for you to make. Or maybe your (and our) fiscal responsibility to the institution outweighs any other consideration? What do you think?

- 6) UPI recently withdrew its ULP after the conclusion of our agreement. We are satisfied with the agreement and with the legal precedent created for public workers across the state as a result.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Review and Approval of June 11-12, 2020 Board Open and Closed Meeting Minutes

Motion: Doug Shaw

Second: Justin Brown

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 passed.

CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS

Good morning and welcome to the September Board of Trustees meeting.

First, I want to acknowledge and thank all members of the University community and first responders in Macomb and the wider region who guided the campus through the tragic incident on campus last week. We truly appreciate the rapid response and recognize the professionalism with which all parties managed the incident.

Second, I’d like to thank all of the campus community who have pulled together to keep the University open in these unprecedented times. The Board encourages the administration and staff to expand testing, and to remain attentive to evolving knowledge about the virus. We recognize that all of our successes in these times are fragile and we strongly encourage everyone to get tested, to continue to wear masks, to wash hands frequently, and to avoid large gatherings. Remaining attentive to the protocols, testing, and continued vigilance will be key to staying safe and keeping the University open.

Third, the search for the 12th president of WIU is moving forward. We are now at the fourth stage of a six-stage process. The search committee has reviewed candidate files and completed round-one interviews. Our search consultants are currently working on reference checks and the committee will reconvene after that work has been completed.

We have a long agenda, so I will not delay in getting to the business of the University.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

You will be hearing throughout the meeting about a number of issues occurring on campus, and in the interest of time, I won't add anything further on those items as part of my remarks. Instead, what I would like to do with my time is express my deepest gratitude to our WIU staff who continue to go above and beyond to support our students.

We initiated COVID testing on campus just at the beginning of the semester. Getting that system in place over a weekend was in and of itself a heroic undertaking. Staff were on hand to hand out and then collect tests, and as positive test results were received, those same staff then needed to turn around to connect with the students, assure them that everything would be okay, move them to isolation, identify their contacts and connect with those folks who needed to move to quarantine, maintain contact with students as case managers, talk with concerned parents, and way more. We have many folks who have been working backbreaking hours for months, in order to maintain the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff.

I also want to thank and acknowledge everyone who responded to events last week. When I arrived on campus shortly after 11 pm, OPS and other first responders had things underway and were working to move our students to shelter in Western Hall. I spent another three or four hours with them, watching our residence hall staff and our counselors respond to the needs of those students. I have more recently learned of the heroic action of our two Thompson Hall RAs who were present for the incident and immediately stepped into action. Their heroic actions helped save a student's life, and I especially want to offer my appreciation for all that they did. Their swift action, along with the efforts of all Thompson's Hall resident assistants and housing staff on Sept. 15 and the days following, is indicative of the wonderful students we have at WIU, as well as the caliber of our resident assistants and hall staff.

As events like these occur on campus, I realize more and more just how critical every one of our people is in making sure that things operate effectively for our students. Our RAs are dealing with the challenges of COVID on top of all of their normal duties, and now also the mental health challenges that some students will experience as a result of the shooting. Our counselors are available and ready to help, and they too are dealing with these events in their own way. Other staff, whether in the residence halls or elsewhere throughout campus, are also responding.

Western works because we have incredible people doing incredible things. And we don't thank them enough. I am beyond proud of all that they do, and honored to be part of the team.

I want to conclude by reminding folks that yesterday was Founders Day. I want to share the video that we produced for our virtual event, because it provides one more chance to remind everyone just what it means to be a Leatherneck.

ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Daria Levchenko – President-elect, Student Government Association – Macomb

SGA general assembly has met two times this semester. We have appointed people to cabinet and have two positions left to fill. We have reached quorum at both meetings and committees met for the first time this past Tuesday. We passed a bylaw amendment this week that will allow a council to form through SGA on behalf of the graduate studies seat. This bylaw will allow the formation of the Council on Graduate Student Relations to better represent and serve the graduate students at Western. We are also in the process of adding a new Director position to our cabinet, the Director of Diversity and Inclusion. We have written out the duties and responsibilities that this person will have, we will read the bill next week and the senate will vote on it then as well.

Marissa Kletke– President, Student Government Association – Quad Cities

No report.

Ilon Lauer – Vice-Chair, Faculty Senate – Macomb

Lauer noted that the Faculty Senate has not consented to the Resolution items in the agenda for the meeting, but has also not received any opposition to the Resolutions.

Justin Schuch – President, Council of Administrative Personnel

The Council of Administrative Personnel (COAP) would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new and returning Leathernecks to the fall 2020 semester. Whether on campus in the Quad Cities, in Macomb, or attending fully online, or a hybrid combination of both, we are excited to have the opportunity to work with each and every one of you.

We would also like to thank members of the WIU administration and Board of Trustees for allowing us to speak today.

COAP has appreciated the updates provided by Interim President Abraham throughout the pandemic and the willingness to engage in conversation about what the fall semester will look like. COAP has also appreciated the governance group meetings offered by Dr. Abraham has another effort to gain insight from staff throughout campus.

The COAP Executive Board is looking forward to the year ahead and has started to focus on plans to enhance fellowship opportunities among members and continue fundraising efforts to help build the professional development fund to support members.

The Council of Administrative Personnel has decided to offer an earlier open forum for members to hear about enrollment updates as well as from campus leadership. We look forward to this open forum in September and thankful for the opportunity to connect.

The 2020-2021 full Executive Board can be found below. We look forward to working with you this year.

President: Justin Schuch

Vice President: Sara Lytle

Past President: Joe Roselieb

Secretary/Treasurer: Holly Sutton

Area Representative for Quad Cities: Kim Moreno

Area Representative for Academic Affairs: Shannon Sutton

Area Representative for Budget and Finance: Shannon Reed

Area Representative for Enrollment Management: Lisa Melz-Jennings

Area Representative for Student Services: Christie Reynolds

Area Representative for the President's Area: Paul Bubb

COAP thanks the Board of Trustees and the campus leadership for your ongoing support and guidance.

Nicky Friedrichsen – President, Civil Service Employees Council

Good morning. The Civil Service Employees Council has been meeting virtually. We have revised our Constitution and By-laws, something which has not been done since 2014.

Employees have also become more engaged in campus committees despite their full plates.

We have also resumed the EOM program and the September EOM is Brent Heaton, Associate Agricultural Research Technician at the University Farm. Until last month, a CS employee was only allowed to be honored with the EOM award once since January, 2002. We have updated this criterion so that an employee who receives the award is eligible to receive the award again after a period of only five years.

We were also able to award all six applicants for the CS Dependents Scholarship: Connor Sullivan, Jordan Hare, Sydney Scott, Madeline Weiss, Erica Clark, Sarah Eden.

The staff here at WIU have continue to weather yet another storm called the pandemic, and I have watched in awe as they continue picking up the pieces, both literally and figuratively, of what our "normal" used to be. We have had to learn to function with departmental staff reductions, absorbing of extra duties, layoffs, surprise reassignments, unexpected retirements and resignations, loss of institutional knowledge; the list goes on.

The Western Illinois University Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriated Funds Operating Budget Request is encouraging, though! The request states: *"Salary erosion is a critical issue facing Western Illinois University. The ability to recruit and retain high achieving and diverse faculty and staff is directly related to ensuring educational quality. Our employees have*

sacrificed a great deal in the last five years with salary reductions and furloughs. Our request attempts to rebuild the salary erosion and ensure competitiveness.”

If those holding the state’s checkbook could work a day side by side with the faculty and staff and see them in action, they would see a fierce dedication to the students of WIU and would grant the \$1.4M for Salary Increases for Faculty and Staff. As CS Employees, despite the difficulties, we pledge to continue to persevere in the quest to support students and faculty. It is this work ethic that will drive this university forward, allowing it to thrive and not just survive amidst challenges.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Assistant to the President for Governmental Relations Jeanette Malafa read her report as follows:

WIU has hosted a few elected officials already this Fall semester:

- Congressman Darin LaHood visited campus on August 19th for a briefing on how the university is handling the re-opening of campus, how we are spending our federal CARES Act funds, and our future needs. He toured freshman move-in at Thompson Hall with President Abraham, viewed some of our new smart classrooms with IT Director Rebecca Slater, and toured the ESDA command center. Congressman LaHood and his staff continue to press the issue in DC of how the federal Defense Production Act impacted us and other universities and the need to prioritize the reopening of universities and to support our testing capacity needs.
- Governor Pritzker stopped by Sherman Hall on Friday September 18th before his Macomb press conference addressing the US Census. President Abraham and the Governor got to have a conversation and an open invitation for another campus tour was extended.

On the state legislative front: This month, the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus has been holding a series of hearings on the four pillars of 1) Criminal Justice Reform, violence reduction and police accountability; 2) education and workforce development; 3) economic access, equity and opportunity; and 4) health care and human services. It is assumed that the higher education portion of the education hearings will be in late October. The Black Caucus will then develop its legislative proposals to be introduced during Veto Session.

That leads me to my last topic, Veto Session, that will be held the weeks of November 16th and November 30th. There are no vetoes to be dealt with, so there will be 6 days to deal with other issues as they arise.

That is all that I have. I can answer any questions you may have.

CAMPUS DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION REPORT

Assistant to the President for Diversity and Inclusion Sterling Saddler reported the following:

The following information outlines new initiatives and updates regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts currently taking place at Western Illinois University. This is by no means a complete report as efforts continue to be compiled from various colleges and departments across WIU who are attempting to address the concerns brought to light by our students, faculty, and staff. This feedback continues to inform changes to address the needs our campus community faces.

BLACK FACULTY AND STAFF COUNCIL (BFSC)

Drs. Laila McCould and Lorette Oden co-chaired the BFSC first introductory meeting. The first meeting for the reinstated Black Faculty/Staff Council was held on Thursday, September 10, 2020. There were approximately 15 individuals in attendance. The meeting agenda consisted of introductions, discussions on the purpose and expectations of the Council, and the goals upon which the Council members would like to focus. Some of the topics discussed included, but were not limited to the development of a mentoring program, student/faculty of color orientation, advocacy, recruitment, and hosting social events. There was also a very important discussion regarding the support of black students, especially in light of the recent demonstration conducted by the students. Consequently, the Council agreed to write a statement in support of the Black students. The Council members agreed to have regular meetings every other week.

The mission and objectives of the council is following:

The *Black Faculty and Staff Council (BFSC)* of the Western Illinois University is dedicated to improving the quality of the Black experience at WIU by fostering a campus climate that is inviting, unified, encouraging, and that promotes upward mobility. We are committed to establishing a proactive environment that is sensitive to the issues and concerns that Black, faculty, staff and students face including mentoring, tutoring, recruitment, retention and promotion.

- Fostering a sense of unity and collegiality among the Black faculty and staff;
- Encouraging and support efforts at upward mobility through effective mentoring;
- Assisting with the WIU diversity initiative by encouraging the recruitment and retention of Black faculty, staff, and students;
- Bringing issues of importance concerning Black faculty, staff, and students to the attention of senior administrators at WIU;
- Providing WIU leaders with a comprehensive and representative Black perspective on institutional, societal, and programmatic matters;
- Serving as a resource to connect WIU to Macomb and its surrounding communities.

NOTE: The Council has developed a statement in support of Western Illinois University black undergraduate and graduate students.

BLACK MALE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

We are in the planning stages with the black male mentorship program. Currently, our focus is to recruit individuals from the UNIV 100 and First Year Experience Courses. We had our first meeting and established a leadership core amongst our mentees. We would like to thank Justin Schuch for the support of identifying monies for Junior Mentors who will assist with the development of first year mentees. We are hoping to recruit 20 Junior Mentors. As for the research, core member, Dr. Anthony McBride, Associate Professor in the School of Law Enforcement & Justice Administration received IRB approval to conduct the following study:

The Aim

The Aim of the program is to offer mentoring programming to black male freshmen and first-time transfer students.

Study Description

To Examine the Black Male Mentoring Program Impact on its participants (mentee's) progression throughout their freshman and first-time transfer students' school year.

Research Methods

The initial research methods will utilize a Pre/Posttest survey and Questionnaire. Survey monkey will be used to collect the data. The participants will be emailed referring them to the pre-test and questionnaire links. The participants will be provided the option to participate in or abstain from the study. **The post test will go out later towards the end of the school year.**

Future methodology steps will consist of focus groups and interviews of mentee's and mentors and all other involved stakeholders.

BLACK LIVES MATTER MARCH- "A CALL FOR ACTION"

Members from the Black Student Association (BSA) coordinated a peaceful protest march from campus to Chandler Park on Friday, September 4, 2020. The intent of the program was to bring attention to specific concerns Black students would like to see resolved. The march was supplemented by a written list of suggested changes that they felt would help Black students, faculty, and staff feel safer and more aligned with WIU. The itemized list is attached.

ONLINE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TRAINING

We have finalized a negotiation deal to implement an online diversity and inclusion training program with our current contractor Get Inclusive. Implementation of the training will be announced within the next two weeks.

DELTA SIGMA THETA, ETA ETA

Dr. Sarahjini Nunn Spencer, the Midwest Regional Director of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has been in contact with Mr. Nicholas Katz, Director, Office of Student Engagement regarding the possibility of reactivating the ETA ETA chapter in spring 2021 once approval from the National Office has been received.

REBUILDING OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT

An exploratory committee is being established to begin to outline groundwork for the return of African American Studies, Women's Studies and Queer Studies including curriculum offerings, staffing options and implementation.

ANTI-RACIST INQUIRY SERIES - Initiative for Social Justice Pedagogies (ISJP) fall 2020 - Looking Inward: White Educators Examining Race

Brief series update following Sept 9

The Initiative for Social Justice Pedagogies held the first of six discussion series on Wednesday September 9, 2020 from 12:00-12:50 via ZOOM. 45 faculty and staff members participated in the series event titled: Why We Need to Talk About Race. The facilitated discussion with small groups of 3-4 members went smoothly both pedagogically and technologically based on preliminary feedback from participants. A number of participants followed up, shared preliminary action plans, and continued with discussions via the series' Western Online site. The series' next event is titled: Identifying and Challenging Biases, will be held on Wednesday

September 23, 2020.

LGBT+QA CELEBRATION

The 16th annual Big Picture Picnic was held Friday, Sept. 18 hosted by the LGBT*QA Resource Center. It is held each year as an opportunity for community building among the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, asexual and allies within the campus community.

Facial coverings was required by all participants, and attendance limited to the first 50. The picnic featured "grab and go" items to ensure pandemic-related protocols were followed.

The picnic will began at 4:30 p.m. on the Multicultural Center lawn, with the formal picture taken promptly at 5 p.m. (individuals interested in taking part in the Big Picture had to be there no later than 4:50 p.m.). All members or allies of the LGBT*QA community, including family and friends, are invited to take part in the photograph.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Monyae Williamson from the Athletic Department at WIU reported the following student athlete diversity initiatives:

Protest to Vote (Sept. 26)

Protest to Vote is a campaign created by DeShon Gavin (football) that encourages young adults to vote. It includes a march through campus (The Athletic department have a meeting with campus police to ensure all COVID-19 protocols are followed) as well as an informational page with links/tools on voter registration, mail-in voting, and absentee ballots.

Black Student-Athlete (BSA) Group

Student-athletes have voiced a need for an on-campus group primarily for black-identifying athletes, where they can create programming and policy that will impact not only WIU but peer league institutions.

Social Media Content (Ongoing)

Social media content (primarily video, pictures, and graphics) related to equality (Black Lives Matter, LGBTQIA rights, women's rights, etc.)

LGBTQIA History Month (October)

Partnering with the LGBT*QA Resource Center to promote ally ship and provide education and awareness. They also hoping to schedule safe space training for student-athletes, coaches, and staff.

NCAA Diversity & Inclusion Social Media Campaign (Oct. 27-29)

Joining the NCAA to engage in discussions about diversity and inclusion.

In-house, they are also planning additional diversity and inclusion training for student-athletes, coaches, and staff. In June, they scheduled training with the Institute for Sport and Social Justice (Huddle Up) and will have a follow-up session in the coming weeks.

STUDENT AFFAIRS INVOLVEMENT WITH DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Inclusion Report from the Residence Assistants (RA'S) and Community Coordinators (CC's). The Associate Vice President of Student Services, John Biernbaum, and his staff held the following events as related to the UHDS Inclusion:

- A virtual in-service session was held via zoom about 'Black Lives Matter & Bias' on 09/15/2020.
- The committee will be holding "open" inclusion meeting **bi-weekly starting on Thursday, September 17th at 9AM (held virtually)**. These meetings will be open to any Housing staff member that wants to attend and get informed about what the committee is planning or provide feedback. Calendar invites for these meetings will be sent soon. For those that are unable to attend our scheduled meetings, we will also begin sharing brief notes from the meetings so you can stay informed if you would like. Our goal in offering these open meetings and notes is to be transparent about the work that is being done to serve you as student staff members and provide a permanent avenue for you to participate in this department's inclusion work if you are interested.
- As part of this committee's inclusion efforts, ACD Austin Quarles will be hosting a **roundtable solely for Black/African American identifying RAs and CCs**. If you identify as Black/African American and would be interested in participating in this roundtable please **fill out this form by September 17th @9AM** so I can get a headcount and find a date/time that works for most people. This space can be whatever we want it to be, but I hope that it can provide some support and fellowship as well. This will be an affinity space/brave space to ensure that Black/African American voices are centered, but there *will* be other opportunities for us to come together as a collective Housing staff and have these important conversations.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to me directly or through any of your head staff. The inclusion committee is excited to serve you this year!

Committee Members: Alexis Trionfo, Amani Tucker, Branden Kmetz, Delilah Sanders, and Austin Quarles

FINANCE

Resolution No. 20.9/1: FY21 All-Funds Budget

Interim Associate Vice President of Budget and Finance Teresa Smith & Director of Sponsored Projects Shannon Sutton

Motion: Trustee Shaw
Second: Trustee Brown

Shannon Sutton presented a [Budget Presentation](#) outlining the proposed Budget.

Trustee Shaw asked how much CARES Act funding we could expect for reimbursement. Sutton said that we have approximately \$8.4M (\$4M majority is student financial aid spent last FY, \$4M in institutional aid, and \$2.75M of that spent last FY, slated to receive another approximately \$400K in FY21).

Trustee Stutz asked for further information on the budget deficit that is projected for this year (revenue vs expenses). Sutton said they are budgeting a \$7.8M structural deficit. This is no the final number anticipated at the end of the year, mostly due to the COVID tests that will be reimbursed (at around \$2M) and will in turn run through the general fund.

- \$4M in personnel savings due to vacant and open positions. QTD saved \$1.2M in open positions
- \$500K utilities
- \$1.3M in purchasing only essential goods and services.

Roll Call

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

Motion passed.

Resolution No. 20.9/2: FY 2022 Appropriated Operating Budget Recommendations

Interim Associate Vice President of Budget and Finance Teresa Smith & Director of Sponsored Projects Shannon Sutton

Chair Radosh read Resolution No. 10.9/2 as published.

There is a meeting with WIU and IBHE next week, and the Governor sounded positive about the funding available to WIU.

Chair Radosh asked for an articulation of which programs would be funded with the \$1.6M for expanded programs. Programs noted are African American Studies, Engineering, (This information is available on page 21 of the Board Book.)

Motion: Trustee Twomey

Second: Trustee Brown

Roll Call

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

Motion passed.

Resolution No. 20.9/ 3: FY 2022 Appropriated Capital Budget Recommendations

Interim Associate Vice President of Budget and Finance Teresa Smith & Director of Sponsored Projects Shannon Sutton

Trustee Dolieslager asked for a recap of the rationale of the ranking of the capital projects. Interim President Abraham said there are two projects not on the list that have been authorized: PAC and Science Building Phase I. Next would be Science Phase II, etc.

Troy Rhoads gave some clarification on the design

Chair Radosh asked if, since the QC campus is under-utilized, shouldn't the Library be moved above the QC Phase III and also the Education Building project. Trustee Lang asked why the Library was not prioritized higher initially, and Interim President Abraham indicated that, with the political component involved in a budgetary request, it is not customary to change the order of or completely change requests. Given the urgency of the Library it would make sense to move it up.

Chair Radosh proposed moving the Library to the second position on the list with the rationale for the move: leaking roof, mold, etc.

Shannon Sutton said the list goes to IBHE, then IBHE compiles a master list and once their list is compiled and we would sub out a project, that project would go down to the bottom of the list. Currently our Science Phase II is #9 on an 18-project list. Jeanette Malafa confirmed this.

Trustee Lang asked if we could leave the list as presented in order to secure one project. Trustee Twomey said we need to adjust as priorities change. Trustee Lang said that the experts (Interim President Abraham and Troy Rhoads) compiled the report and they would have reflected priorities in that report.

Trustee Twomey asked for clarification: "Will the current list gain higher traction rather than moving the Library to a higher position?"

Dr. Abraham said the only item on the list that is on their radar is Science Phase II. Science Phase I has been approved but not appropriated, and putting the Library on the list was in an effort to get it on everyone's radar. The reality is that we won't get funding for any of the projects this year.

Trustee Stutz asked if the best course of action is to submit the list as presented to secure funding for this year and then revisit in the future. Dr. Abraham agreed.

Motion: Trustee Twomey

Second: Trustee Lang

Roll Call

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

Motion passed.

Chair Radosh called for a 10-minute break at 10:04 am.

The meeting resumed at 10:16 am.

Report No. 20.9/1: Purchases of \$100,000-\$499,999.99 Receiving Presidential Approval

Interim Associate Vice President of Budget and Finance Teresa Smith & Director of Sponsored Projects Shannon Sutton

Chair Radosh asked about who McAllister & Quinn is. Dr. Abraham indicated that this is a firm that assists with grant procurement.

Chair Radosh reiterated her concern for flat roof leaks and recurring expenses.

Chair Radosh also expressed concern that WQPT does not provide any recognition for the university when it provides the space for the organization in-kind. Dr. Abraham said that the change in leadership at WQPT has sparked a review of their services to the University.

Chair Radosh expressed concern for the expenses on legal fees and cautioned about the repeated practice of continuing services that are unnecessary.

Trustee Dolieslager said that we should try to renegotiate the contract with Waste Management if we are quarantined again so that trash pick-up occurs less frequently.

The contract for Burlington Trailways includes language allowing us to not pay if we do not use the service.

Resolution No. 20.9/4: Purchases of \$500,000 and Over – Additive Manufacturing System

Interim Associate Vice President of Budget and Finance Teresa Smith & Director of Sponsored Projects Shannon Sutton

Chair Radosh read the resolution as presented.

Motion: Trustee Brown

Second: Trustee Shaw

Trustee Stutz said she is in favor of the grant and thanked those who work for the partnerships to make things like this happen.

Chair Radosh asked how many students are served at the QCML. Dr. Abraham said there about a dozen students but the equipment is available for use for a larger population at that organization's cost.

Roll Call

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

Motion passed.

Resolution No. 20.9/5: Purchases of \$500,000 and Over – COVID 19 Test Kits

Interim Associate Vice President of Budget and Finance Teresa Smith & Director of Sponsored Projects Shannon Sutton

Motion: Trustee Shaw

Second: Trustee Twomey

Trustee Stutz asked for a recap of the purchasing process for COVID test kits. Dr. Abraham indicated the availability of tests is limited and this Resolution allows for additional purchase if necessary.

Roll Call

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

Motion passed.

Resolution No. 20.9/6: Approved Depositories and Signatories

Interim Associate Vice President of Budget and Finance Teresa Smith & Director of Sponsored Projects Shannon Sutton

Motion: Trustee Shaw

Second: Trustee Brown

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

Motion passed.

GENERAL DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 20.9/7: Revision of Board Regulations, V. Administrative Affairs J. Mandatory Fees 3. Other Mandatory Fees – First Reading

Interim President Dr. Martin Abraham

Chair Radosh read Resolution 20.9/7 in its entirety as the first official reading.

Motion: Trustee Shaw

Second: Trustee Brown

Discussion on distribution and transparency of fees was held. Dr. Abraham indicated that the Board could receive as much or as little information they would like going forward regarding fee breakdowns. Chair Radosh said that it is rare for universities to specifically name where fees are allocated in Board Regulations.

Roll Call

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

Motion passed.

Resolution No. 20.9/8: Utility Easements on Wigwam Hollow and Near North Quad

General Counsel Elizabeth Duvall

Motion: Trustee Shaw

Second: Trustee Brown

Duvall gave an overview of the Resolution.

Roll Call

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

Motion passed.

Report No. 20.9/2: Enrollment, Retention and Graduation Rate Information

Interim Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Gary Swegan said that he inherited an incredibly talented staff and said the foundation for success was laid by this. Pages 54-66 of the Board Book includes the collective report. Highlights are as follows:

Goal #1 met with XXX % increase over last Spring

Justin Schuch, Executive Director of Retention Initiatives, said our retention of Freshmen rose to 77%.

Dr. Mark Mossman indicated that, when the pandemic subsides, we should see a marked increase in Graduate enrollment due to the ability for more international students to enroll. Many international students have deferred their enrollment to Spring 2021.

Swegan said he sees things moving and trending in a positive direction. For reference, if we had matched last year's class we would be down 5.4% and if we had not retained the freshmen we would be down 6.8%.

Chair Radosh asked what percentage of students we admitted under the new test-optional standard, and Freed said that WIU was ahead of the curve in relaxing those standards because all of the state institutions are now going to that standard. Admitting students that we may not have in the past has proven to be positive because grade point is a strong predictor of future performance.

Chair Radosh asked if the relaxed academic probation standards last Spring have had an impact on retention. Schuch said those students were given another chance and are being followed closely in order to maintain them.

Trustee Dolieslager asked for an update on onboarding and the timeline from application to admission/enrollment. Swegan said that the number has increased since the last report.

Trustee Stutz asked what we did differently? Swegan answered that consistency of process is key. The university has been in a habit of changing processes quickly before the opportunity to evaluate their effectiveness arises.

Swegan also said WIU should look at what the cost per student and will most likely find WIU is in line and comparable to peer institutions. Freed said that operationally Admissions spent less (due to COVID) this past year.

Report No. 20.9/3: Update on Higher Learning Commission Accreditation

Associate Provost for Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Dr. Mark Mossman summarized that the university continues to prepare for the Reaffirmation of Accreditation (March 29-30 for Macomb and around that time for QC) and the Assurance document is under construction. The larger review committee will convene in October and the final document will be up for review by the BOT at the December meeting. All of the work will inform the Strategic Planning in the

coming years.

Chair Radosh asked if there are any areas for concern, and Mossman said there is an incredible amount of work. They have assembled an office of accreditation and assessment to coordinate the accreditation. He will be available to review the types of data with BOT members as requested.

Report No. 20.9/4: Update on Quad Cities Strategic Position

Assistant Vice President Dr. Kristi Mindrup

Mindrup reviewed the process, intention, data and recommendations, and concluded that the Quad Cities campus is a critical asset and will benefit the entire university. Mindrup provided recommendations to inform actions that establish an academic identity for the Quad Cities campus of Western Illinois University. A working group created by Interim President Martin Abraham met for two months to review and synthesize institutional and external data, study Quad Cities area economic and workforce reports, conduct a SWOT analysis, and collect input from internal and external stakeholders. Our findings indicate that with intentional strategic design, paired with institutional, community, and State of Illinois commitment and support, the Quad Cities campus of Western Illinois University will be uniquely positioned to respond to area workforce demand by aligning student interests, experiences, and success.

The focus areas are: Innovation & Science; Enterprise & Commerce; Health, Education & Public Service.

The recommendation is to brand the Quad Cities campus as the destination for quality, applied academic programs that meet Quad Cities area workforce demands through emphasis on practical, experiential learning, research, workforce preparation, and career placement, with a commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Trustee Aguilar asked for clarification on the proposal to discontinue General Education offerings. Mindrup said the intention of the statement is to provide for the current limited financial resources with the intention to grow the General Education and support courses in the upper division. Aguilar also said he can foresee a problem for first year students to navigate between Macomb, Online and QC and also improve WIU's position in the region.

Aguilar also asked about the promotion of the QC Campus. Mindrup said there are things we can immediately do. Presenting an outward face to the community by defining and explaining the focus areas. Career Development expansion is also key so we engage students from the time they express interest in WIU at the admissions stage to graduation and beyond.

Chair Radosh thanked the committee for their work and emphasized that there are many academic decisions involved in the Strategic Position. Dr. Abraham indicated that this is a starting point and that all stakeholders will be consulted. Chair Radosh said there would need to be internal conversations before reaching out to community partners.

Trustee Stutz asked for a brief history of the QC Campus and the intention of the students it would serve.

Chair Radosh called for a 30-minute lunch break at 12:09 pm.

The meeting resumed at 12:42 pm.

Report No. 20.9/5: Annual Technology Strategic Plan & Update on ERP Implementation

Executive Director of University Technology Rebecca Slater presented the report on the Annual Technology Strategic Plan as submitted. No questions were asked. She then presented a series of screen shots and a presentation on where the ERP Project is at. The presentation can be found at <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1hNmhKqYvhT72wn1zIZ3ecfQeZMEUbJHwjbluYGmWZ4/edit?usp=sharing>

The timeline for the module implantation is as follows:

2/2020 Unified Student-Verify (Identity and Access Management)

10/2020 Unified Yoda Chatbot (Personal AI Assistant "Rocky P.A.W.")

11/2020 Unified Student-Engage (Mobile App & Campus Portal "myWIU")

12/2020 Unified Student-Admit (Recruiting and Admissions CRM)

12/2020 Unified Events (Management & Reservations)

2021 Unified Student-Manage

Long-term goals**:

12/2021 Financial Aid (College Board)

5/2022 Finance (SAP)

5/2022 HR & Payroll (SAP)

10/2022 Integrate Financial Aid, Finance, Payroll with Student Manage

**dates are guidelines from vendors and are not anticipated as actual dates of completion

Report No. 20.9/6: Report on Contributions

Executive Officer of the Foundation Brad Bainter mentioned that Foundation has distributed t-shirts to local businesses to "paint the town purple." The Fallen Soldiers 5K race will be virtual this year. There are many large gifts and scholarships in the pipeline despite the challenges of development during COVID. So much positive news coming out of the university has been helpful in the fundraising efforts. Bainter also thanked the Foundation Board for its work on Adams St., the E-Gaming Facility, the Gwendolyn Brooks Park, and a speaker series of Black alumni. The latest Alumni Magazine has been published and has been produced by a number of staff who have worked tirelessly to make it happen.

Report No. 20.9/7: Office of Sponsored Projects Annual Report

Director of Sponsored Projects Shannon Sutton overviewed the grants that faculty have received for research, CARES Act funds (SBDC, WQPT, TSPR), Retention G.E.A.R. funding, and Early Childhood Education grant funds. Sutton also mentioned the partnership with the grant-writing firm McAllister & Quinn, LLC.

Report No. 20.9/8: Facility Assessment Report

Executive Director of Facilities Management Troy Rhoads highlighted that the Alumni Plaza is nearly completed, phase two of the Gwendolyn Brooks Park project nearly complete, and significant funds from the Capital Development Board (\$12M for HVAC, chilled water loops, roof projects, and the Center for Performing Arts is moving forward. COVID preparation has taken up a significant portion of time and the campuses are safe. Transportation is right-sizing the maintenance and rental fleet.

Report No. 20.9/9: Report on New Federal Title IX Regulations

Director of Equal Opportunity & Access Stephanie Kincaid provided an overview of the major changes to the Title IX Regulations.

- The university's jurisdiction has changed to cover only those incidents that occur on campus between two campus community members, between those in student activity building, or university-sponsored events off campus.
- Live hearings are now required for all student and employee cases. Advisors for each party will also be active and not just silent supporters—they will actively question both parties. If someone does not appear in person at the hearing, then his or her testimony cannot be considered.
- Additional training will occur to ensure compliance and proper handling of the new regulations.

Resolution No. 20.9/9: Adoption of New Rules of Board Procedures –First Reading

Chair Dr. Polly Radosh read Resolution No. 20.9/9 in part.

Motion: Trustee Brown

Second: Trustee Shaw

Trustee Twomey said he believes that this new set of procedures was a result of the Board Retreat training and he looks forward to working with fellow Board members long-term.

Chair Radosh addressed the concern in Public Comments that Trustees are limited on their comments when administrators are not limited. Trustee Aguilar asked if it could be eliminated because it is a "Trustees" meeting and they should not have a time limit imposed upon them.

Consensus was reached that Trustees should not be limited on their time but the focus should be on equal opportunity.

Trustee Aguilar asked if the language for limiting discussion could be eliminated, and General Counsel Duvall suggested that she should consult with the trainer to find alternatives that would still provide structure.

Trustee Aguilar made a motion to table the motion to approve Resolution 20.9/9 until the December meeting with further review/modification.

Trustee Lang Seconded.

Roll Call

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

Motion passed.

Report No. 20.9/10: Revision to Academic Year 2020-2021 Academic Calendar

Interim President Martin Abraham presented that the Spring 2021 calendar has been modified to eliminate Spring Break to limit COVID exposure.

Trustee Stutz asked why commencement was not moved up. Abraham said that there is a contract for Tax Slayer Center on May 16, residence halls will remain open, families can retain their hotel reservations.

Resolution No. 20.9/10: Release of Closed Session Written Meeting Minutes and Audio Recordings

Chair Radosh read the "Whereas" portion of Resolution No. 20.9/10 as well as the recommendation that the written minutes and recordings in question should be retained and as confidential.

Motion: Trustee Brown

Second: Trustee Shaw

No discussion.

Roll Call

Trustee Greg Aguilar	Yes
Trustee Patrick Twomey	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes

Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Erik Dolieslager	Yes
Trustee Justin Brown	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes

Motion passed.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS

Interim Provost and Academic Vice President – Billy Clow reported that the contract for the Center for Performing Arts has been finalized. Debbie Kepple-Mamros will be the Director of Assessment, Accreditation and Strategic Planning. International Studies has transitioned to Global Studies and has a new Executive Director of International Affairs, Randy Glean, and he hopes to begin traveling again in the Spring. A new Instructional Design position is being hired as well as an Office Manager position in CAIT (vacancies are due to retirements) in order to better coordinate the online platforms.

Interim Vice President for Student Services - John Smith

I would like to begin my report by thanking all of the people who work to make Western Illinois University a great place to guide, teach, mentor, and care for students. The strength of the university community has been repeatedly challenged over the course of the past 15 months, and we have continually risen to those challenges and have found ways to keep the university moving forward and focused on student success. The resilience that the university community has shown is something that we should all be proud of. As a university we have demonstrated that through tenacity and resilience we can be successful and overcome many of the challenges that life presents, a life lesson that many of our students will use for a lifetime of success.

I am honored to guide and work in the Division of Student Services. The division has worked tirelessly and selflessly to create an environment that allows students to focus on their academic success. We have met challenges at every turn (covid-19, testing, staffing levels, etc), we have had successes and failures, fought and argued, laughed and cried, despite these obstacles we have become united and a stronger division.

Testing Challenges

Like many other institutions we have experience many challenges in obtaining testing supplies. There were very few testing options that were available in the beginning as there were shortages in either equipment, or the supplies to conduct the test. We worked with U of I and found that we would not be able to implement their system as it had not received FDA approval for emergency use. We remained vigilant monitoring the Emergency Use Authorization site looking for options that could be implemented at WIU. The first option that we were able to secure was pulled by the department of health and human services. We moved towards a testing solution

through IDPH which was denied shortly before the start of the semester. We were then able to secure a saliva-based test from a laboratory in Kansas the Friday before the start of the semester. The testing was implemented the next day in the residence halls and we have continued this testing to this point.

Staffing Levels

We were further challenged by budget cuts and reduced staffing levels that had occurred in previous years. We reached out across campus and have been fortunate to have many staff and students that have reached out and volunteered. Dr. Abraham was quick to authorize the hiring of appropriate medical staff to help and we continue to interview and identify the help that we need.

To be able to distribute testing supplies as well as collect them we have used staff throughout student services departments. They have averaged 10-15 hours a day 7 days a week since the beginning of the semester to keep up with not only testing but the transportation of students to isolation/quarantine. All of these individuals have been trained in the donning and doffing of PPE to protect themselves as well as their coworkers and family.

To provide a brief glimpse into what we are managing we have 6-8 case leads that also serve as contact tracers. They assign positive cases and contacts that need to be quarantined to case managers of which we have about 30. The case managers are then responsible to check in with their patients 1-2 times daily either by phone, text, or email that the patient chooses. At our highest point we had about 440 patients in isolation/quarantine.

In addition, we are doing our best to keep up with the daily needs of students with routine medical needs, counseling, as well as the guidance needed for student organizations. To say that we are short staffed and challenged does not begin to describe the work that people are doing. There are many other great things that Student Services are doing to provide a college experience for our students in the midst of a pandemic and socially challenging times.

Summary

As Board Members you get to hear a lot about the mistakes that people think we make. I also get a lot of complaints and second guessing of our decisions. I would encourage you to spend some time with the leaders in Student Services. Go for a ride along with OPS, spend some time in the Student Development Center, Counseling Center, Office of Student Engagement, Multi-cultural Center, Housing and Dining, Recreation Center, Disability Resources, Student Judicial, and Beu Health Center. What you will find is a group of dedicated professionals that strive to make the university a better place for our students to live, learn and grow as aspiring professionals.

I would like to thank all of the Directors, Staff, Grad Students and Student Workers for the hours, ideas, and thoughtfulness that you have provided. I have long thought that crisis and challenging times bring out the best in people and the past few weeks has really highlighted that.

Sodexo has been an integral part in the success of the university as they have stepped in and provided support and supplies to students above and beyond contractual obligations.

OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Stutz asked for more clarification on WQPT, an audit for the cost and return on investment, etc. Interim President Abraham stated that the university does not expend any funds on WQPT other than running their donations through the Foundation and providing office space. He will convene a committee to analyze the partnership.

Chair Radosh thanked Vice Chair Shaw for assisting with the business of the Board during such busy times.

NEW BUSINESS

AGB Professional Conference did not happen due to COVID, but most of the material and training was covered during the Board Retreat.

Next Meeting

December 17 -18, 2020 – University Grand Ballroom

ADJOURN ACTION

Trustee Shaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Board at 2:20 p.m., seconded by Trustee Brown.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

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