

**WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE  
Regular Meeting 7 February 2017, 4:00 p.m.  
Capitol Rooms - University Union**

**ACTION MINUTES**

**SENATORS PRESENT:** M. Allison, V. Boynton, J. Brown, G. Delany-Barmann, D. DeVolder, R. Hironimus-Wendt, C. Keist, N. Lino, B. Locke, S. Macchi, H. McIlvaine-Newsad, J. McNabb, K. Pawelko, J. Plos, R. Porter (via teleconference), C. Pynes, T. Roberts, T. Sadler, M. Sajewski, D. Sandage, S. Szyjka  
Ex-officio: Kathy Neumann, Interim Provost; Janna Deitz, Parliamentarian

**SENATORS ABSENT:** K. Kapale, C. Tarrant

**GUESTS:** Tammi Bories, Tom Cody, Katrina Daytner, Anita Hardeman, Boh Young Lee, Jessica Lin, Angela Lynn, Sue Martinelli-Fernandez, Kyle Mayborn, Kristi Mindrup, Russ Morgan, Tori Niemann, Courtney Penna, Roger Runquist, Matt Tanney, Sam Thompson, Maggie Walsh, Barry Witten, Dan Yoder

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. 24 January 2017

**MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED**

II. Announcements

Chairperson Pynes introduced Maggie Walsh, SGA Director of Academic Affairs, who will be the new SGA Representative to the Faculty Senate. He also introduced Rob Porter, Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration, who was elected as the new Senator At-Large representing faculty in the Quad Cities. Finally, Chairperson Pynes introduced Kristi Mindrup, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs in the Quad Cities, who, along with Senator Porter, will begin regularly attending Faculty Senate meetings via teleconference so that multiple voices can transmit information to the Quad Cities faculty. Chairperson Pynes stated that Dr. Mindrup was asked to attend the Senate meetings following his conversations with the Quad Cities Faculty Council and Interim Provost Neumann.

A. Provost's Report

Interim Provost Neumann announced the following upcoming events:

- Beginning today through Friday, February 10, the College of Business and Technology will be hosting Jim Leahy as its Executive in Residence. Interim Provost Neumann stated that Mr. Leahy is a 1985 WIU graduate and Chief Operating Officer with Veterans Canteen Services of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- The Camerata Woodwind Quartet will perform at noon tomorrow (February 8), in the Art Gallery where an exhibit by WIU Professor Emeritus Fred Jones is being featured. The exhibit is titled "Ways of Seeing Landscapes."
- President Thomas will be attending the rally in Springfield tomorrow in support of educational funding. Interim Provost Neumann told senators that President Thomas is the only president of a four-year institution that has been invited to speak at the rally, which begins at 1:00 p.m.
- Black History Month activities begin at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow (February 8) in the Lamoine Room with featured speaker Bryant Smith.
- The 47<sup>th</sup> annual Ag-Mech Show and Farm Expo will be held in Western Hall this weekend. Interim Provost Neumann stated that WIU's is the largest student-run agriculture show in the United States. She told senators she is impressed with the amount of work students do to put on the show and how well it is run.
- In celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday, the University will be closed on Monday, February 13.

- UNIV 100 Peer Mentor interest meetings will be held on Wednesday, February 15.
- The 44<sup>th</sup> annual Jazz Festival will be held on WIU's Macomb campus on February 17.
- "Freezin' for a Reason," a one-mile charity walk/run to benefit the Macomb YMCA, will be held on February 18.
- Discover Western will be held on Monday, February 20.

Interim Provost Neumann introduced Registrar Angela Lynn to discuss official tenth-day count enrollment figures. Dr. Lynn told senators that official total headcount for spring – including undergraduate and graduate students from both campuses and online students – is 9,469, down 6.2 percent from spring 2016. The spring 2016 tenth-day total headcount was 10,098. Dr. Lynn observed the figure grew somewhat from when she came to the last Senate meeting, at which time unofficial enrollment was down 6.5 percent. Dr. Lynn was unable to find a time when spring enrollment was down a smaller percentage than the previous fall. She said that, overall, the University ended up better than expected this semester. The Registrar's office is immediately starting to gear up for fall 2017. Semester schedules for summer and fall 2017 will be posted on February 14.

Senator Allison remarked that two weeks ago the Registrar did not know enrollment figures from other state universities. She asked if that information is now available. Dr. Lynn replied that she does not have access to that information yet, and she has not yet been asked for WIU's spring numbers. She said that universities in December posted their admissions figures, and freshman applications were down 2.8 percent overall for state public universities; transfer applications were down 7.7 percent, and graduate applications were down 8.8 percent. Senator Allison observed that the University of Missouri is increasing its tuition this fall and she wonders if that will benefit WIU's enrollment; Dr. Lynn replied that she has not heard specific information about this yet.

Chairperson Pynes stated that he is impressed that the Office of Institutional Research and Planning has tenth-day data on its website already. The only enrollment data he has seen statewide is that of Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, who stated in their press release that this semester saw their second highest spring enrollment on record.

B. Student Government Association (SGA) Report  
(Maggie Walsh, SGA Director of Academic Affairs)

Ms. Walsh reported that last week Macomb Mayor Mike Inman and WIU Chief Information Officer Steve Frazier spoke to SGA. SGA spoke to Mr. Frazier about the WIU app and some potential improvements.

SGA approved several bills of appointments last week, including new members to the Council for Student Elections and Representation. Constitutional amendments were also considered.

C. Other Announcements

1. In the recent Faculty Senate elections, Rob Porter, Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration, was elected to represent faculty in the Quad Cities until fall 2018, and Andrea Hyde, Educational Studies, was elected to fill one of the three-year seats for the College of Education and Human Services beginning fall 2017.

One fall 2017 Education and Human Services seat remains unfilled, as well as one seat each for the College of Business and Technology and the College of Fine Arts and Communication. The Senate Executive Committee has extended the deadline for petitions to be submitted for those seats until Friday, February 10 at 4:30 p.m. Petitions and election notices can be found on the Faculty Senate website under Elections.

Electronic ballots went out today for two contested fall elections. There are four nominees for two three-year positions to represent the College of Arts and Sciences and three

candidates for the two three-year at-large seats. Votes for these positions must be cast by February 20 at 4:30 p.m.

2. University Professionals of Illinois and the Expanding Cultural Diversity Project will be showing “Starving the Beast,” a documentary about the deliberate defunding of Higher Education in the United States, on Wednesday, February 8, at 1:00 p.m. in the Sandburg Theatre and at 7:00 p.m. in Morgan Hall Room 109. Local politicians have been invited to attend the second showing and participate in the discussion.

“Starving the Beast: Local Edition” will feature a presentation by Ralph Mortire of The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability on the economic and social consequences of defunding higher education. His presentation will be held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 14 in the Union Capitol Rooms. Senator Boynton remarked that she has heard that Mortire is an excellent speaker. He will explain, and support with data, the complexities of the current situation.

3. Faculty who are interested in working on Admissions efforts, such as Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR), should contact Senator Macchi, Communication ([SM-Macchi@wiu.edu](mailto:SM-Macchi@wiu.edu)), who is compiling a list of interested faculty. Chairperson Pynes clarified that Senator Macchi is not compiling the list on behalf of the Director of Admissions but on her own initiative to help faculty assist students to choose WIU as their first choice for higher education.
4. The State University Annuitants Association (SUAA) will be participating in the Coalition to Fund Higher Education’s rally in Springfield on Wednesday, February 8. The rally begins at 1:00 p.m. inside the first floor Capitol Rotunda. Interested individuals are encouraged to join them to show support for this effort.

### III. Reports of Committees and Councils

#### A. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI) (Anita Hardeman, Chair)

##### 1. Curricular Requests from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction

###### a) Requests for New Courses

- (1) ECH 277, Observation and Assessment in Early Childhood Education, 3 s.h.
- (2) ECH 359, Art and Movement for Children Ages 2-8 Years Old, 3 s.h.
- (3) SPED 392, Strategies and Procedures for Exceptional Children Ages Birth to Five, 2 s.h.

#### **NEW COURSES APPROVED**

###### b) Requests for Changes of Majors

- (1) Early Childhood Education
- (2) Elementary Education

#### **CHANGES OF MAJORS APPROVED**

##### 2. Curricular Requests from the Department of Geography

###### a) Requests for New Courses

- (1) GEOG 202, Principles of GIS, 4 s.h.

Senator Boynton asked if this course would be appropriate for non-majors; Geography Chair Sam Thompson responded that it would.

(2) GEOG 402, Advanced Cartography, 3 s.h.

Senator Allison observed that this course previously existed but went into deep freeze, was deleted, and is now being brought back. She asked why the course will be successful now when it was apparently unsuccessful before. Dr. Thompson responded that this course was previously a traditional pen and ink cartography course, but the field has now moved toward electronic digital cartography, which is why the department decided to request the course be brought back. He added that the principles used in the course will be the same as they were previously, but pen and ink will no longer be used. Senator Allison asked why the course went into deep freeze originally; Dr. Thompson replied that changes in faculty combined with pen and ink cartography falling out of favor led to the course no longer being offered. Senator McNabb remarked that the request indicates that no additional equipment is needed to offer the course; she asked if the department is prepared with existing equipment. Dr. Thompson responded that they are.

(3) GEOG 407, Social Applications of GIS, 3 s.h.

Senator Boynton remarked that when reading in the proposal about the social connections of this course, she also thought that there might be connections with History, such as mapping of historic sites. Dr. Thompson agreed. Parliamentarian Deitz remarked that Political Science students taking the Congress or Campaigns and Elections classes might also be interested in taking this course for a better understanding of GIS applications, and she will encourage them to seek it out. Senator Hironimus-Wendt added his compliments regarding the course proposal, adding that he sees a great deal of applications for Sociology students in regards to spatial mapping of census data. Senator McNabb asked whether, with the applicability to so many different constituencies, the department plans to pursue a "G" designation for the course; Dr. Thompson replied that they do.

Senator Pawelko observed that Geography is proposing 19 s.h. of new courses. She asked if the department plans to provide a minor in any of the new areas. Dr. Thompson replied that documents are on the way that will develop options within the existing Geography major; some of the new courses will go toward a new Geospatial option or a reworked post-baccalaureate certificate. He hopes to bring the proposals forward in March. He is working with other departments and colleges on some parts of the proposals.

Senator Allison asked how an additional 19 s.h. of classes will fit into an already existing department since there is no change of major plan proposed, adding that she cannot imagine adding that many hours to her department. She asked if Geography has enough students to support the courses; Dr. Thompson responded that they do. He explained that the courses have been structured to fit into the GIS minor, GIS certificate, and Geospatial option, and he thinks that many students will be attracted to the changes. The department also plans to delete a few existing courses to make room for the new ones.

- (4) GEOG 410, Applied GIScience, 3 s.h.
- (5) GEOG 440, Connections: A Geography of Transportation, 3 s.h.
- (6) GEOG 458, Planning Methods, 3 s.h.

**NEW GEOGRAPHY COURSES APPROVED**

- B. Senate Nominating Committee  
(Ginny Boynton, Chair)

**SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:**

Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction

Elgin Mannion, Soc/Anth      replacing      Tracy Walters      FA&C      Spr 17 only

**UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES:**

IT Governance Technical Alliance

Shankar Ghimire, Economics & Decision Sciences      At-large      Fall 2020

Chairperson Pynes called for nominations from the floor. There were no other nominations for the CCPI vacancy, and Dr. Mannion was declared elected. Senator DeVolder nominated Hoang Bui, Computer Sciences, for the IT Governance Technical Alliance vacancy.

Senator Boynton told senators that the purpose of the Technical Alliance is to develop proposals that cut across both campuses and that are especially technical in nature. She said that University Technology seeks faculty representatives who are technically inclined; the first proposal to be developed is the new password policy. The Alliance will start meeting this month.

Chairperson Pynes asked if the nominators would like to say a word about the candidates for the position. Senator Boynton responded that Senator Tarrant made the nomination since he represents the College of Business and Technology on the Senate Nominating Committee, but as he was absent from the meeting she is not conversant with the reasons supporting the nomination. She stated that as this is a newly-created committee, there was no list of interested individuals previously gathered from the interest survey to consult.

Senator DeVolder stated that Dr. Bui is a computer architect with a passing interest in security who works with the hardware side of computing, such as operating systems. He added that Dr. Bui primarily teaches graduate-level classes.

Paper ballots were distributed, and votes were tallied by the Parliamentarian and Recording Secretary. Hoang Bui was elected to the IT Governance Technical Alliance.

- C. Council on Intercollegiate Athletics  
(Tammi Bories, Chair)

1. Report on Student-Athlete Absences for 2016-17

The Council on Intercollegiate Athletics (CIA) presented its Summary of Missed Class Data for 2016-17. According to the report, WIU guidelines indicate that sports schedules should not require students to be absent from more than five Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes and four Tuesday-Thursday classes during a single semester. In fall 2016, the only sport that exceeded these guidelines was volleyball, with eight MWF and two TTh days missed. The report explains that Summit League conference and tournament schedules for volleyball fall primarily over Friday-Saturday periods, but all non-conference tournament weekends were scheduled relatively close to campus.

In spring 2017, baseball, men's basketball, men's golf, and softball exceeded the established absence limits. Baseball exceeded the MWF guideline by three dates but will only have one TTh miss; half of the MWF dates missed for baseball result from the Summit League-assigned schedule, which includes weekend trips to the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Oral Roberts University, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Worth, and South Dakota State. The report states that the other four Fridays missed take place early in the season when the team needs to travel south for playable weather.

Men's basketball exceeded the TTh guideline by one date because of the Summit League schedule. Men's golf exceeded the MWF guideline by one date, primarily because of more Friday-Saturday-Sunday matches in warm-weather locations, such as Houston and southern Utah. Softball exceeded the MWF guideline by one date but is under the TTh guideline by one date; the reasons for exceeding the guidelines include weather limitations requiring the team to travel further away to play weekend games; tournaments in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Arizona; and Summit League-assigned games.

Senator Allison stated that she teaches Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes and was horrified to see how many classes student-athletes miss on these days. She pointed out that volleyball and men's basketball players miss eight MWF classes and softball players miss six. Senator Allison stressed that while she likes student-athletes and thinks they do a great job in general, she is horrified by their schedule of missed classes.

Senator Boynton asked if the summary of missed classes includes conference championship games, which usually result in Friday absences. CIA Chair Tammi Bories stated that a majority of the absences can be attributed to the Summit-League schedule, and coaches have very little ability to make changes to that schedule. She explained that some sports, such as golf, have all their competitions on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, so some students have to miss more classes due to the nature of their sports.

Senator Allison stated that while she understands the need to miss some classes because of the nature of the sport, she does not understand missing two-and-one-half weeks of classes. Senator Allison added that she would find such a record of absences unacceptable in any other student and would not have them take her class. Senator Boynton said that she shares Senator Allison's concerns and raised them at Faculty Senate last year. She added that it seems that volleyball students are constantly gone from her classes.

Chairperson Pynes asked how student-athlete schedules are determined and if there is an effort made to try to get them into primarily Tuesday-Thursday classes in the spring. Athletics Director Matt Tanney replied that efforts are made to keep these things in mind when working with student-athlete schedules. Mr. Tanney told senators that student-athletes meet with both their academic advisors and their athletic advisors. He pointed out that baseball and softball, for instance, play conference games on weekends, so players inherently miss more Fridays; in order to avoid additional missed classes, every attempt is made to schedule non-conference games midweek. Chairperson Pynes asked if Mr. Tanney has seen increased difficulty in getting students into classes that would reduce the number of potential absences due to greater lack of class availability; Mr. Tanney responded that he has not seen any demonstrable difference.

Dr. Bories explained that when CIA considers athletic schedules, they are considering *anticipated* missed classes. She stated that Lisa Melz-Jennings, athletic academic advisor, tries her best to make sure students enroll in the appropriate classes to avoid missing as many as possible.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt told senators that he has raised similar concerns in the past. He related that last year NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative Tom Cody, who serves in that position on CIA, pointed out that coaches make an effort, when possible, to rotate players in individual sports who must miss classes to attend tournaments. Senator

Hironimus-Wendt stated that in the case of golf, for instance, some freshmen players do not attend all the matches. Dr. Cody told senators this is much easier to do with golf or tennis because only a certain number of individuals compete during matches. Dr. Cody stated that if a student qualifies for a golf tournament, he or she may not travel any more for the year in order not to miss any additional classes, depending on where the student is in the rotation. He added that the majority of missed classes for team sports are because of the Summit League schedules, which are beyond CIA's control.

Senator McNabb observed that the chart of missed classes reflects actual figures for fall 2016 sports, and only one sport exceeded the guidelines, but she wonders if the spring 2017 results, since they have not yet occurred, reflect worst case scenarios. Mr. Tanney responded that the chart reflects the days that Athletics knows that student-athletes will miss, and no additional days are anticipated beyond what is reflected in the chart. He added that baseball and softball compete in over 50 games while football only competes in nine to 11 games per season, and some sports have a higher volume of competitions in the spring.

Senator McNabb observed that the chart is based on entire team schedules while the number of missed days for individuals can vary a great deal. She related that student-athletes give her letters at the beginning of the semester listing what days they will need to miss but rarely miss as many classes as are indicated in the letter. Senator Allison said she has never had the experience where a student-athlete has missed less than indicated in the letter.

Senator Boynton asked if additional absences will be needed if the baseball team makes it into the conference championship games. Mr. Tanney replied that the baseball conference championship games occur after the end of the semester. The softball championship tournament, however, starts before the end of the semester, so if WIU's softball team makes it into those playoffs it would add more absences than the six indicated for MWF.

Dr. Bories informed senators that several coaches offer study tables and mandate study time for student-athletes while they are traveling. Senator Boynton pointed out that the question is not study time but class time, and student-athletes are not in class to contribute when they are on the road. Senator Roberts asked if tutors competent in certain academic subjects travel with the athletic teams. Mr. Tanney replied that on occasion academic staff travel with the team to proctor exams, but there are no tutors drafted to travel with any of the sports to his knowledge.

Senator Allison reiterated that the issue is not one of studying but of class time. She related that her classes are discussion-based, and student-athletes are not benefitting from the discussions. She added that their absences make it difficult to be equitable to all of the students in her classes. Senator Allison reiterated that she supports student-athletes but missing eight days in a semester leaves her flummoxed.

Parliamentarian Deitz asked if the chart reflect the maximum days that would be missed based on the sports' schedules; Mr. Tanney confirmed this is correct. Parliamentarian Deitz stated that what senators may be expressing is a reaction to the possibility of students missing the *maximum* number of days in the semester because Faculty Senate does not have information on the *average* number of days that student-athletes miss. Mr. Tanney confirmed that what the chart reflects is the worst case scenarios. Parliamentarian Deitz pointed out that student-athletes may not reach the maximum number of absences reflected on the chart for their sports. She asked if Athletics has information on the average number of days missed by student-athletes; Mr. Tanney replied that Athletics does not collect that data. He said that to do so would involve going through the roster of each team and determining absences for each individual student-athlete. Dr. Hardemann remarked that the attendance tracker system created by the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR) would be able to collect that data.

Senator Roberts recalled that a past Athletics Director reported to Faculty Senate about the academic performance of student-athletes, and typically student-athletes perform higher than non-athletes at WIU. Mr. Tanney stated that student-athletes this year have a cumulative GPA of 3.15, the second highest in WIU's history. Senator Roberts asked if there is a correlation between attending class and academic performance. Mr. Tanney responded that he believes attending class helps academic performance. Senator Hironimus-Wendt suggested that one way to tell if absences are affecting the performance of student-athletes would be to look at individual sport GPAs rather than the overall GPA for all athletics. He stated that WIU's student-athletes are exceptional and overall do better than the average WIU student, but one way to possibly clear up senators' concerns would be to look at the individual sports and see which have lower GPAs. Mr. Tanney told senators he would be happy to share all team GPAs. He added that in fall baseball players achieved an overall 3.0 GPA for the first time.

Chairperson Pynes asked if WIU incurs any issues with the Higher Learning Commission or accreditation if the guidelines for missed classes are exceeded. He added that the guidelines seem to lack teeth. Interim Provost Neumann responded that there are no repercussions of which she is aware. Senator Boynton observed that the guidelines are a University policy. Senator DeVolder added that this issue has been repeated many times on the floor of the Senate and at CAGAS in years past. Chairperson Pynes observed that he has always thought it odd that student-athletes can miss more MWF classes than TTh and that no one is apparently aware how many classes student-athletes actually miss.

## **NO OBJECTIONS**

### **D. Ad Hoc Committee on Medical Absences (Jessica Lin, Chair)**

#### **1. Final Follow-up Report and Recommendations**

According to its report, "The Ad Hoc Committee on Medical Absences (COMA) was formulated in the Fall of 2012 and was charged to address the challenges faced by Beu with regards to the excessive number of appointments dedicated solely to obtaining a doctor's note." During the summer of 2013, CITR worked with the ad hoc committee to develop the Online Absence Reporting System (OARS) that replaced the paper visit verification forms students formerly requested from Beu Health Center.

Dr. Lin told senators that Athletics has been very supportive of the program, and most student-athletes use OARS when they travel for competitions. She added that OARS has data regarding when student-athletes actually miss that can be accessed if the Senate wishes to pursue this. Chairperson Pynes stated that Faculty Senate might want that data in future if it is easily available.

Senator Boynton had expressed concerns via email that she has had a number of students misunderstand that when they send her a message via OARS it does not constitute an excused absence; she has now added a line to her syllabus explicitly stating this. She stated that the information sent by OARS is basically meaningless to her. Senator Boynton stated that while she can see value in notifying advisors if students are missing a lot of classes, as a faculty member the OARS notification merely represents one more email that she has to file in a folder, and she does not find it to be a particularly useful service. Senator Boynton added that she is unaware how much time and money the University spends on OARS but she does not get any useful information from it.

Dr. Lin stated that students had the same misunderstanding when they used slips from Beu, which also had no verification powers. She stated that OARS provides a method for students to tell professors that they will not be in class, but, like the slips from Beu, they



do not excuse students. Dr. Lin has stressed this in meetings with SGA and resident assistants, and she thinks OARS needs continued outreach from some source, particularly with students, to clarify that it does not provide an excused absence but is merely a method of notification.

Senator Allison said she tells students she does not have excused absences but they still send her OARS notifications which she has to file, which seems to her a waste of time. She thinks the system seems to confuse students because sometimes students put no information in OARS or do not seem to understand what it is they are inputting. Senator Allison stated that a student telling her she/he will be gone and asking what they need to do is much more useful than an OARS notification.

Dr. McNabb pointed out that the usual place that faculty try to clear up this kind of confusion is the syllabus, and she wonders if this would perhaps be a useful addition to the University's syllabus policy. She suggested that a statement could be added to specify that OARS is intended to assist as a notification service only.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt served on Faculty Senate when COMA was created and reminded senators that the original emphasis was to relieve the burden on Beu Health Center. He related that at that time there were far too many students going to Beu every day for excused absence from class forms, which was taking up University and staff time. He pointed out that COMA found a solution so that students can notify professors of their absence without going to Beu. He stated that, in that context, he thanks COMA and wonders if Faculty Senate can discharge the Committee. Chairperson Pynes responded that if senators accept the COMA report, the Committee will be discharged from their job.

Chairperson Pynes told senators that ExCo thought a natural place for OARS to live would be CITR. He stated that because the committee is ad hoc and will soon be discharged, Chairperson Pynes emailed CITR Director Roger Runquist to see if the Center would be willing to take over OARS for the Senate, and Dr. Runquist magnanimously agreed. Dr. Runquist told senators he is fine taking over technical charge of OARS and overseeing notifications as they occur, but he does not have a relationship with students so would not have a mechanism to explain OARS to them. Dr. Runquist added that he can explain OARS to faculty during Faculty Orientation but does not see students during SOARS or other events and there is no mechanism in place to educate them about its purpose.

Senator McNabb suggested that information about OARS might be useful to include in UNIV 100 as part of students learning how to be responsible about reporting when they will not be in class, whether the instructor does anything with that information or not. She thinks the educational piece that CITR is not able to take up could happen elsewhere. Senator Boynton agreed that UNIV 100 seems to be the logical place for this type of information to be conveyed to students. She added that the Council for Academic Advisors might be another place that would benefit about notifications regarding what OARS does and does not do. Chairperson Pynes remarked that the ad hoc committee has prepared a small business card with information about OARS. Dr. Lin stated that she still has informational material about the system, and advisors have access to that material already. She also talks to resident assistants about OARS, and information about the system is included in the UNIV 100 syllabus. Dr. Lin added that UNIV 100 has the largest number of constituents who regularly use OARS for reporting.

#### **NO OBJECTIONS**

Chairperson Pynes discharged the Committee and thanked COMA for their hard work.

#### **IV. Old Business**

**Motion:** To continue discussion from the previous Senate meeting regarding the Faculty Senate Constitution (McNabb/Boynnton)

Chairperson Pynes informed senators that to add an item to the agenda requires a two-thirds vote of those senators present. Senator McNabb stated that the Executive Committee minutes relate discussion about the Faculty Senate Constitution's need for revision. Senator McNabb during that meeting suggested that senators be surveyed but stated that she would like to have that survey occur during the current meeting rather than via email.

**MOTION APPROVED 18 YES – 1 NO – 1 AB**

Chairperson Pynes distributed Articles I, II, III, and VI of the Senate Constitution. He told senators that Senator McNabb wants feedback on some issues, such as that expressed last fall by Senator Hironimus-Wendt regarding chairs serving on Faculty Senate. Chairperson Pynes stated that Parliamentarian Deitz has pointed out that the body contracts in odd ways. Additionally, some language issues exist regarding describing the membership.

Chairperson Pynes stated that one issue is whether chairs should be considered administrators or faculty for the purposes of the body of Faculty Senate. Article I states that "The Faculty Senate shall serve as a means by which the opinions and viewpoints of the faculty may be determined and communicated to the administration of the University, and it shall serve as an agency through which the faculty may participate in the formation of basic University policy."

Chairperson Pynes stated that some issues have arisen regarding eligible faculty, as defined in Article II: "Staff members eligible to vote are those who are full-time, who hold the rank of instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor, and who have their primary appointment in an academic department, in University Libraries, in the Counseling Center, or in the Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs. Questions of interpretation of this article shall be determined by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate." Chairperson Pynes related that the Recording Secretary pointed out to him that full-time faculty could be those with temporary contracts; the Executive Committee in a previous year determined that faculty with temporary contracts should not be eligible even though they are full-time and hold the appropriate rank. He stated that the number of full-time temporary faculty with rank varies from year to year, and the interpretation of their ineligibility has been in place for more than a dozen years, but it could be more explicitly stated. He added that a faculty member with a temporary contract could be elected to a three-year term and then not have his or her contract renewed, so it would be nice to fix this language.

Chairperson Pynes related that Article III, Section 1. states that "All faculty members are eligible for Senate membership who meet the qualifications under Article II." In two recent incidents faculty members were determined to be ineligible for service on the Senate but retained their voting eligibility, which is in direct conflict with Article II. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that the Director of the Writing Center has to serve on the WID Committee as part of the duties of his position, but his WID service prohibits him from serving on Senate although not from voting in Senate elections. Chairperson Pynes also related that last year the Executive Committee decided that the Union President's primary duties are to University Professionals of Illinois; thus, he would be ineligible to serve on Senate since his service is not to a category specified in Article II. He added that ExCo did not, however, want to take away the UPI President's voting rights as a faculty member. Chairperson Pynes thinks that if voting is defined separately from eligibility for Faculty Senate, these sorts of problems will be avoided.

Chairperson Pynes stated that another thing to be determined is how big Faculty Senate thinks the size of the body should be and how to determine that membership. Article II, Section 1. states that "Each undergraduate college of the University shall be represented by one member for each forty faculty members or major fraction thereof. Persons to be enumerated for the purpose of determining Senate membership must be eligible to vote according to the provisions of Article II." Article II, Section 2. adds that "Six representatives shall be elected by and from the faculty at large whose primary assignment is at the Western Illinois University campus in Macomb, and one representative shall be elected by and from the faculty at large whose primary assignment is at Western Illinois University's Quad Cities campus." Chairperson Pynes pointed out that with colleges shrinking, a college could lose a seat, but the size of at-

large representatives is constitutionally determined and stays the same. He said this strikes some, particularly the Parliamentarian, as odd.

Finally, Chairperson Pynes pointed out that Article VI of the Constitution states that if a proposed amendment to the Constitution is approved by a two-thirds vote of the total Senate membership, voting must be accomplished by mail ballot; an affirmative vote by the majority of the voting faculty shall constitute approval of the amendment, after which it goes to the WIU President for consideration before becoming part of the Constitution. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that since Senate elections are now done via electronic ballot, senators may want this article changed to allow for electronic voting for amendments as well, noting that counting paper ballots by hand involves a lot of time and work on the part of the Parliamentarian, Chair, and Recording Secretary.

Chairperson Pynes believes the most difficult question to solve will be how big the body should be and how representatives should be decided among the colleges, while membership, voting eligibility, the definition of full-time faculty, and electronic voting should be fairly easy to fix. Chairperson Pynes has been reviewing the make-up of faculty senates across the state and told senators that there are a wide variety of models, with some having as many as 200 members, some including administrators on their senates, and one with the provost as the *de facto* chair.

Senator Boynton suggested it might be possible for at-large senators to represent a percentage of the total size of faculty so that the number would fluctuate if Faculty Senate shrinks or grows. Chairperson Pynes stated that senators could fix the total number of individuals serving on Senate and then apportion at-large representation based on that, or continue to have the size of the body fluctuate based on percentages, such as the current model, and determine an algorithm for at-large representation. He added that models in other state senates sometimes get quite complicated. He would like to talk to the Parliamentarian about how these decisions are best made. He added that elsewhere they range from pure percentage models to fixed models. Chairperson Pynes provided a philosophical example: the four colleges each get three representatives with staggered terms so that one goes off of Senate every year with a fixed number of at-large and Quad Cities representatives. He added that senators must come to some agreement unless the body thinks the current Constitution is fine as is. Senator Boynton stated that it seems weird that the number of senators is based on the number of faculty rather than on the number of students, although in the sense that Faculty Senate represents faculty it makes sense.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt likes the idea of a fixed body with a fixed number of senators based on a fixed apportionment. He said the dilemma is that at some point Arts and Sciences may feel over- or underrepresented relative to the faculty size since that College represents just under one half of total WIU faculty. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that Arts and Sciences has six seats of the 23 on Senate. Senator Hironimus-Wendt stated that he has always run at-large because he likes the idea of representing all faculty. He pointed out that Business and Technology and Fine Arts and Communication have tended to have less faculty, with Arts and Sciences having the largest number of faculty and Education and Human Services somewhere in between, and while the numbers have fluctuated somewhat, that general proportion has remained. Senator Hironimus-Wendt said he is not proposing at this point how Faculty Senate should establish the total numbers, but he likes the idea of a fixed body. Chairperson Pynes pointed out that faculty in Business and Technology, Fine Arts and Communication, and Education and Human Services did not submit petitions to fill their seats on Senate in the recent election. He added that next year, the Senate will have two senators who are primarily based in the Quad Cities – one specifically representing Quad Cities faculty and the other representing Education and Human Services.

Senator McNabb stated that one reason she wanted the issue brought to the attention of senators was to get a reading of the barometer of the Senate. She said ExCo knows that a few people have expressed concerns to the Chair, and she was curious as to how global those concerns were. She wants to know if senators agree that these constitutional issues are ones that need to be addressed and if senators have any particular input that might be important to know moving forward.

Senator Allison related that several faculty in the Department of English do not understand why chairs are allowed to serve on Faculty Senate. She said this has been a recurring question in her department, especially in light of the fact that the person who serves ex-officio on the WID Committee as part of his

duties as Director of the Writing Center cannot serve on the Senate or any other of its subcommittees while serving on WID. Senator Allison stated that while she understands logically the argument for this ruling, she does not understand why chairs, who are contractually administrative, can serve on Senate while a faculty member cannot. She pointed out that chairs sit on Chairs' Council and have access to deans and upper administration. She said this does not make sense to her or to a majority of her department, and she is glad that her chair does not want to serve on the Faculty Senate.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt pointed out that Faculty Senate includes chairs, former chairs, and interim chairs, and he hopes those individuals do not see him as judging their characters by his statements. He compared the service of chairs to a kind of emollients clause since chairs serve the interests of their deans and the Provost and in some ways are paid to represent the administration to their department faculty. He explained that if the dean or provost were to instruct a chair to tell his/her faculty that a certain policy will be enforced, the chair's pay or emollients would be at the behest of the administration on some issues. Senator Hironimus-Wendt stated that faculty, however, represent the faculty full-time and are being paid because they are faculty. Senator Hironimus-Wendt respects the chairs on Faculty Senate who have served and continue to serve, his department chair, and his dean, but he believes there is a political aspect involved with trying to represent two interests, and that needs to be addressed. He does not like the idea of chairs serving on the Faculty Senate when it is constituted to represent the will of the faculty to the chairs.

Senator Boynton wonders if Faculty Senate should ask ExCo or an ad hoc committee to look into these constitutional issues because they will not be resolved today. She admitted to mixed feelings about the issue of chairs serving on Senate, noting that it depends on if the person elected has been a member of the faculty who is then appointed to chair a department or if the chair is a person elected from outside for that specific duty. She would like to see these questions referred to a smaller body to make recommendations. Chairperson Pynes stated that the purpose of the conversation was to provide feedback to ExCo members, which they have heard.

Senator DeVolder explained that the sole responsibility of the chair is not to bring messages from the administration to the faculty, enforce those messages, and represent the administration to the faculty; it is very much the other way around and is certainly a two-way street. He stressed that responsible chairs spend as much time and more representing faculty to the administration. Chairperson Pynes agreed that this is a fair assessment of what it means to serve as chair. He stated that one concern he has had is that if a chair who also serves as a senator was actively involved in the recent layoffs, then it makes it difficult for that chair to sit in Faculty Senate and rebuke that process, and that kind of conflict has never been brought forward before this past fall. He would like to prevent chairs from being put into that position, particularly since they are contractually administrative. Chairperson Pynes stated that Faculty Senate existed before the establishment of the faculty union, and now the union has an effect on the kinds of titles and responsibilities that faculty have. Chairperson Pynes said that while he appreciates the two-way street aspect of chair duties, he thinks this is the type of conflict that people are now worried about. Senator DeVolder clarified that the faculty member who was lost in his department was not part of the recent layoff process but was lost due to reorganization, and he had no say in this decision.

Senator Allison stated that, regarding the function of the Faculty Senate, her chair is her boss, and as such can do things she cannot do and can instruct her to do things, so there is a power system in place that is not in place with fellow faculty members. She believes it is a question of administration and faculty, and while she understands that a lot of chairs are seen as faculty members and hold that rank, they have power to do things that a faculty member cannot do. She added that there is also the representational question because chairs have access that faculty members do not have.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt stated that while the duties of chair represent at two-way street, faculty do not necessarily have the opportunity for that same two-way street. He noted that while he can talk to chairs and deans, he cannot serve on their councils and committees; while he can speak to the Chairs' Council as a faculty member, he cannot serve on it as a voting member. He stated that while chairs do have a two-way street, the parallel is not the same as that of regular faculty. Senator Hironimus-Wendt added that he has nothing but respect for Senators DeVolder and Boynton and the jobs they have done in their positions. He added that he has spoken to Senator McNabb about the possibility of interim chairs being allowed to continue to serve on the Senate.

Chairperson Pynes announced that Senator Boynton has asked the Executive Committee to put together a proposal. He asked the Vice Chair if she is satisfied with the discussion. Senator McNabb stated that there seem to be concerns, and it sounds like there is a recommendation that these issues will not get hashed out in a large body, so it may be beneficial to posit scenarios and return them to the group.

Senator Boynton asked why Article II refers to “Staff who are full-time...” rather than faculty. She suggested that this should also be cleaned up.

V. New Business

A. Resolution in Condemnation of President Trump’s Executive Order on Immigration

Chairperson Pynes related that a faculty member asked senators to consider a resolution condemning President Trump’s Executive Order on Immigration:

**Western Illinois University Faculty Senate Resolution  
Condemnation of Executive Order on Immigration**

**Whereas**, the President of the United States signed an Executive Order on January 27, 2017 that restricts immigration;

**Whereas**, this Executive Order bars citizens of Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen from entering the United States for 90 days as well as puts Syrian refugee admissions on hold indefinitely;

**Whereas**, this Order specifically targets nations with majority Muslim populations;

**Whereas**, this Order is not in direct response to any specific actions from citizens of those countries;

**Whereas**, the ban already is restricting the travel of individuals in this country as well as those stopped at the borders;

**Whereas**, this Order impacts numerous current and countless future students and employees of Western Illinois University (WIU);

**Whereas**, students and workers from other countries—particularly Muslim-majority ones such as Saudi Arabia—will be afraid, rightfully, to attend US schools in such a discriminatory atmosphere;

**Whereas**, this ban drastically curtails our ability to do our work as educators, students, and scholars in every academic field;

**Whereas**, this ban will diminish Western Illinois University as a site of international cooperation and compromise in the transnational production of knowledge: in participating in international conferences, hosting international visitors, and conducting collaborative research;

**Whereas**, WIU has made a strong commitment to “Social Responsibility,” declaring: “Western Illinois University is committed to equity, social justice, and diversity and will maintain the highest standards of integrity in our work with others. We create an environment that fosters and promotes civic engagement. We serve as a resource for and stimulus to educational, cultural, environmental, community, and economic development in our region and well beyond it”;

**Be it resolved that** The Western Illinois University Faculty Senate condemns this Executive Order and will do its utmost to support students, faculty, and staff from any of these nations.

**Be it further resolved that** WIU should reach out to other universities and colleges, along with professional organizations including the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), to come to a just solution.

**Be it further resolved that** The Western Illinois University Faculty Senate encourages the President of the United States to withdraw this Executive Order.

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**Friendly Amendment:** That the word “ones” in the seventh “Whereas” be changed to “countries” (DeVolder)

Senator Locke remarked that the phrase “will be afraid” in the same section sounds proscriptive.

**Friendly Amendment:** That the phrase “will be afraid” be changed to “may be afraid” in the seventh “Whereas” (Locke)

Chairperson Pynes stated that in addition to sending the resolution to the President of the United States, the Executive Committee suggested that it be sent to Senators Durbin and Duckworth and to Representatives LaHood and Bustos, who represent the Macomb and Quad Cities areas.

**Motion:** To approve the resolution as amended (Boynton/Locke)

**MOTION APPROVED 14 YES – 0 NO – 2 AB**

Chairperson Pynes stated that the Executive Committee asked Interim Provost Neumann how many actual faculty members are from the seven countries banned under the Executive Order. He related that he has known some excellent faculty members from Iran, including his chair, for example, and he is amazed at the kind of positive influences that are provided from faculty from the banned countries on this campus and others. Interim Provost Neumann responded that she does not have a number. She asked the individuals handling immigration paperwork on campus and they have been unable to provide her with a number because some faculty are now United States citizens so are not affected.

Senator Hironimus-Wendt stated that he has been disturbed because the ban ignores the fact that it affects not only Muslim-majority but also primarily Arab nations. He stated there may be Arabs from these countries who are systemically excluded even though not all Arabs are Muslim.

Senator Boynton asked if any other university senates in Illinois are taking action against the ban. Chairperson Pynes replied he has not checked with the Council on Illinois University Senates yet but he would not be surprised. He plans to send WIU’s Faculty Senate resolution out as a model to other senates. Senator Allison thinks Knox College in Galesburg has made a statement. Senator Szyjka added that professional organizations, such as the National Association for Research and Science Teaching, are gearing up to release a formal statement; Senator Boynton stated that the American Historical Association has also made a statement, as well as many historical societies.

B. For the Good of the Order

Chairperson Pynes told senators that this agenda item will be renamed For the Good of the Body since “for the good of the order” is language from *Robert’s Rules of Order*, and Faculty Senate uses *Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure*.

**Motion:** To adjourn (McNabb)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Senate Secretary

Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary