

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 4, 2024
Western Illinois University
Macomb, Illinois
Open Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 8:30am on June 4, 2024 in the Macomb Union, Capitol Room. Chair, Carin Stutz presided.

June 4, 2024 – University Union Capitol Room

Trustee moved to convene to open session at 8:30 am.

Motion: Trustee Lang

Second: Trustee Wise

Roll Call

Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes

Motion approved.

Roll Call

The following Trustees were present:

Trustee Cody Cornell
Trustee Derek Wise
Trustee Polly Radosh
Trustee Doug Shaw
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins
Trustee Kirk Dillard
Trustee Carin Stutz
Trustee Kisha Lang

No Trustees are absent

None

Also present for the meeting of the Board of Trustees:

Interim President Kristi Mindrup

Interim Legal Counsel, Victoria Smith

Senior Executive Assistant to the President, Athena Brooks

Public Comments

Merrill Cole

Voiced concerns that budget reductions will harm students and the WIU community.

Review of Michelle Howes many services above her job duties.

Efficiency concerns listed include giving more work then can be reasonably accomplished by employees. Depriving students of the support they need to succeed including non academic support. Using a one size fits all blanket approach. Standardizing offerings.

UPI has requested hard numbers from administration and plea for shared governance.

Edward Woell

Review of history, then background with WIU.

Review of how the past shapes the here and now.

Over the past fifteen years, undergraduate enrollment has declined, Largely due to administration's choices.

Additional programmatic changes are now being made by an interim administrator including the Wide scale termination of unit B and the elimination of a category of courses in the general education curriculum.

Concerned voiced with little consultation in regards to the faculty when making these decisions. Why should anyone in the faculty trust what the administration has done or trust it will benefit the institution?

Leigh Fisler

Request to the Board to avoiding sweeping cuts that will directly impact departments and our students.

Review of the duties performed by the Unit B faculty members in the Psychology department that are essential to the department.

The implications of unilateral cuts across campus are as follows:

- 1) The closer or reduced enrollment of the Clinical/ Community Health MS program as a result of not having adequate faculty for supervision and content courses within hiring or retaining a minimum of 3 FTE faculty for appropriate supervision requirements.
- 2) The closer of the Specialist in School Psychology graduate program as a result of not having a minimum of 3 FTE per our national accreditation requirements.
- 3) The closer or reduced enrollment of the BS in Psychology program at the QC campus without sufficient faculty to sustain the current courses required for the degree.
- 4). The closer of the community serving Western Autism Center of Excellence and reduced service and clinical supervision for the Speech Language Hearing Clinic.

Amy Louck Davis

A Unit B faculty in WIU's Psychology Department (Macomb) in the graduate programs for Clinical/Community Mental Health (C/CMH) and School Psychology, and the undergraduate Forensic Psychology major.

Review of services provided in her role.

Without this position, the C/CMH and School Psychology graduate programs would be so crippled they could not function to provide the education and training of the currently enrolled students.

Programs will not continue to operate and WIU would risk losing two highly successful, accredited graduate programs.

Voiced concern that the remaining Unit A faculty would be insufficient to maintain the C/CMH and School Psychology graduate programs due to lacking skills in the remaining faculty and too few faculty to fulfill the accreditation and program requirements.

Peter Cole

Voiced concern in the changes to General Education with lack of input, consultation, and shared governance from the faculty.

Question raised as to why all non-union WIU employees were granted significant raises a few months ago if there is a budget concern.

Request to the BOT to not make such drastic changes in a manner of weeks that could harm WIU for many years.

Craig Tollini

Two suggestions posted to the Board:

1) Increased communication between all members of the university community.

Examples given of lack of communication when the past two policies had changed.

Suggestion to share all policies with all affected personnel and answer questions about them, similar to what Interim Provost Mossman did.

Increased communication is necessary to reduce (or at least address) rumors and to ensure the policies are fully understood. Increased communication can also help with morale, in part by demonstrating that everyone is valued enough to be informed.

2) Be cautious about making decisions quickly.

The Board has tasked administrators with taking action. Bad decisions can be made quickly.

Examples given, in regards to the two policies, better policy could have been created if more input was sought.

A good number of faculty and staff members would support some version of most policies.

Administrators can find faculty and staff who will work with them to solve problems and make decisions, but there needs to be open and honest communication (on all sides) for that to happen.

Mokhtar Aouina

Current Unit B in the Department of Mathematics and Philosophy. Review of classes assigned and additional classes taught that were not considered overload.

Review of credentials, activities, advising, clubs and recruitment to support students and help them to learn and benefit more in the Department.

Review and approval of March 21 Open and Closed and 22, 2024 Open Session Meeting Minutes and May 10, 2024 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion: Trustee Cornell
Second: Trustee Dillard

Roll Call

Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes

Motion approved.

Chairperson's Remarks

Ms. Carin Stutz

- Progress is the word of the day
- Our board has recognized challenges and asked for action. The last few years we have overspent and exhausted any remaining reserves.
- I acknowledge the public comments and agree with the value of every single person that was spoken of.
- Truly wish the financial situation was different and that there was trust in the room. The money is not there.
- Today the board will approve a contract that will appoint Kristi Mindrup the Interim President as of June 30, 2024. She has been serving in the role and provided exemplary leadership. The board believes she is the right person to lead the university during this time of transition. She has been tasked with making the decisions that nobody looks forward to and she understands that the magnitude, an urgency of the situation.
- At this time, the board will postpone the search for a new president. WIU is facing economic challenges that are complicated. And need to be resolved prior to the upcoming school year. Statewide, enrollment has declined and we must be disciplined in our spending. Many universities have the same challenges.
- The postponement of a search does not mean the Dr. Mindrup has been selected permanently. A search will be conducted, but it will be deferred at this time while important issues are resolved.
- Our second objective is to get a balanced budget.
- We ask for unity as the university works on its financial challenges, and we ask for support for Dr. Mindrup. We are one hundred percent behind her as she takes on this role. She will focus on the long-term viability of the University and the continued outstanding education that every student receives while here.

President's Remarks

Interim President Kristi Mindrup

- I appreciate the opportunity to share remarks and reflection as I serve as Interim President.
- Thank you to the whole university community for the warm welcome I have received as I stepped into this role.
- The positive reception from long term colleagues and new faces across the university in the community affirmed the reasons why I said yes to serve.
- This is the peak season for events, activities and advocacy at the state level.
- April and May have been the ideal time to meet with students and hear their voices and views while I observe their talents in athletics, academics, leadership and the arts.
- Commencement was once again a wonderful celebration of student success. As well as a symbol of our faculty staff, alumni and community dedication to our students, success. It was an honor to congratulate over one thousand students who graduated.
- Thank you to all of you who create transformative experiences for our students to learn, live and thrive that can prepare them for future success.
- We continue to listen and learn today. It was important to me to make a connection with the university community to establish institutional priorities that strive to accomplish balance. Ten days in I offered an address to faculty, staff and students. We discussed institutional priorities. These all fall within our institutional strategic plan and include key themes shared with me across the university community and our state leaders.
 1. Promote a thriving and inclusive environment.
 2. Financial stability with a future focus.
 3. Align resources with growth opportunities.
 4. Focus on innovative academic programming and student development initiatives.
- Western Illinois University is at a critical crossroads, like so many institutions. This calls for our university community to exercise mindful balance of the exciting opportunities that our future holds. To be the dedicated and persistent community that once and for all stands, up to address the longstanding financial challenges.
- This university community in this moment, represents those who are truly dedicated to this institution, and its students. We have learned from experience, and through our resilience, we are called now to plant the seeds that will grow into short and long-term success by balancing the budget, defining where we stand and engaging in a multi-pronged strategy and action, we will pave the way to financial stability. We will also work as a university community to have a positive impact on students, our region, the state and beyond. There are great things happening in Western Illinois University.

Reports and Discussion Items

Report No. 24.6/1

Repair and Maintenance of Official Residence

(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards)

Report No. 24.6/2

Purchases of \$100,000-499,999.99

(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards)
Report No. 24.6/3
Budget and Financial Data for Quarter Ended March 31, 2024
(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards)

Report No. 24.6/4
Marketing & Communication Update
(Interim Assistant Vice President for Communications, Marketing and Media Relations,
Alisha Looney)

Report No. 24.6/5
Annual Listing of Academic Program Changes
(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Report No. 24.6/6
Academic Affairs Report
(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Report No. 24.6/7
Report on Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts for the 3rd Quarter
(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Report No. 24.6/8
Report on Contributions
(Vice President for Advancement, Alumni Relations and Athletics, Clare Thompson)

Verbal Reports and Updates

Executive Director of QC Outreach and Operations, Audrey Adamson
Athletics Director, Paul Bubb
Director of Justice, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, Carl Ervin
Director of Governmental Relations, Zach Messersmith
Interim Vice President for Student Success, Justin Schuch

General & Advisory Group Reports and Comments

Student Government Association, Kyle Ramlow (Macomb)
Student Government Association, Ashley Danner (Quad Cities)
Faculty Senate Chair, Julia Albarracin (When does Jeremy Robinett take this position?)
Faculty Council Co-Chair, WIU-Quad Cities, Everett Hamner and/or Dana Lindemann
Civil Service Employees Council, Jackie Price
Council of Administrative Personnel President, Paul Bubb

Resolutions and Action Items

Action

Resolution No. 24.6/1
Interim President, Dr. Kristi Mindrup Employment Contract
(Interim General Counsel, Victoria Smith)
Motion: Trustee Shaw
Second: Trustee Lang

Action

Roll Call

Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 24.6/2

Action

Fiscal Year 2024 Preliminary Spending Plan

(Vice President of Finance and Administration, Paul Edwards and University Budget Director, Renee Georges)

Motion: Trustee Radosh

Second: Trustee Shaw

Roll Call

Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	No
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 24.6/3

Action

New Degree Program – BA in Public Relations

(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Motion: Trustee Radosh

Second: Trustee Cornell

Roll Call

Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes

Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 24.6/4

Action

Tenure Recommendations for 2024 - 2025

(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Motion: Trustee Lowe Mullins

Second: Trustee Lang

Roll Call

Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 24.6/5

Action

Release of Closed Session Meeting Minutes

(Interim General Counsel, Victoria Smith)

Motion: Trustee Wise

Second: Trustee Lang

Roll Call

Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	No
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 24.6/6

Action

Elect Trustee to Serve on State Universities Civil Service Merit Board
(Interim General Counsel, Victoria Smith)

Motion: Trustee Wise

Second: Trustee Shaw

Nomination made for Kisha Lang to Serve on State Universities Civil Service Merit Board

Roll Call

Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 24.6/7

Action

Election of Officers of the Board for July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025
(Interim General Counsel, Victoria Smith)

Motion: Trustee Wise

Second: Trustee Shaw

Written votes taken and tallied

Chair Trustee Stutz

Vice-Chair Trustee Radosh

Secretary Trustee Cornell

Roll Call

Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 24.6/8

Action

Recommendation for the Naming of a University Building
(Interim President, Dr. Kristi Mindrup)

Motion: Trustee Lowe Mullins

Second: Trustee Dillard

Edited resolution read for the honorary naming – Goldfarb Center for Performing Arts

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section VI.C.1 of the Board of Trustees Regulations, the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University reserves the right to name all buildings belonging to the University; and

WHEREAS, the President shall make recommendations to the Board regarding the naming of University property; and

WHEREAS, University property may be named for notable former employees at the University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Alvin Goldfarb served as the 10th President of Western Illinois University, honorably and with distinction, from 2002—2011; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Goldfarb's career as an educator, theatre historian, and administrator culminated in his presidency at Western Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Goldfarb, as president, initiated the study and implementation of the Center for Performing Arts as one of the many highlights of his presidency; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Performing Arts began in 2002 and is the first state-funded building on the Macomb campus since 1974; and

WHEREAS, the building is a LEED Certified Silver, state-of-the-art, 100,000-square foot, \$119-million-dollar iconic performance and academic building, and is currently scheduled to be completed by 2025;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees hereby names the Center for Performing Arts THE GOLDFARB CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS in honor of Dr. Alvin Goldfarb. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees directs that an appropriate ceremony be held to mark the naming of the building.

Motion to approve the edited resolution.

Motion: Trustee Lowe Mullins

Second: Trustee Dillard

Roll Call

Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes

Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes

Motion approved.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

Next Meeting

September 26, 2024 Closed Session - Macomb Campus

September 27, 2024 Open Session - Macomb Campus

ADJOURN ACTION

Trustee moved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Trustees at 3:02pm.

Motion: Trustee Wise

Second: Trustee Cornell

Roll Call

Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Kirk Dillard	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	Yes
Trustee Cody Cornell	Yes
Trustee Derek Wise	Yes

Motion approved.

Carin Stutz, Chair
Athena Brooks, Senior Executive Assistant to the President