

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 27, 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 September 27, 2024 in the Macomb Union, Capitol Room. Chair, Carin Stutz presided.

### September 27, 2024 – University Union Capitol Room

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

Motion: Trustee Wise

Second: Trustee Lang

#### Roll Call

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

The following Trustee was absent  
Trustee Cody Cornell

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**

Audrey Lamb

- Concern regarding the closing of the library on the QC campus
- Students want in-person classes
- Layoffs and backlash to students and financial aid
- Budget cuts, what are student fees paying for
- Asking for an alternative so it doesn't affect students
- Reconsider decisions made

Sarah Wright

- QC prides themselves on services, provided students need to know what will be provided
- Students feel ignored
- Concern with no commencement in the Quad City
- Campus fees have stayed at the same price, but services have been cut
- I'm here to advocate for those around me
- We need in-person options for students

Evan Mullvaney

- Here on behalf of veteran students
- Last-minute changes have been frustrating
- Students come to me and they need in-person classes for benefits to be active
- Veterans come to me in our office and I don't have answers
- This is very frustrating to see faculty no longer in class
- I want you to understand we are frustrated and scared
- I hope this can be resolved so veteran students can achieve their dreams

Hunter Dunlap

- I came to Western for the people who are here
- We have a beautiful library
- Hard to hear that every librarian contract has been terminated
- Our students are hurt by this decision
- I wouldn't send my daughter to a university without support in their library
- There are accreditations coming and they will ask about services
- 62 million has been invested in the library
- We want to negotiate this with our union. Is there any way to keep any of them?

Written comments read by Victoria Smith

Craig Tollini

- Expressed that this comment will be his last because (1) staying informed takes too much time and energy, (2) the information obtained is too depressing and frustrating, and (3) previous actions seem to have failed
- Plans to focus on tasks found more rewarding and energizing
- Disengaging is better for colleagues, students, and self
- The Board should more thoroughly review plans from the administration
- The Board should hold the administration to account
- The Board and administrators should listen to and provide space for complaints from faculty and staff
- Suggest that no Trustee or administrator say WIU's employees should be grateful they have a job. Workers may not be owed jobs, but companies are not owed workers

William Thompson

- Concern with firing librarians
- Advocating for a 129-million-dollar renovation for a library will bring ridicule and disrespect
- Concern in regards to the deficit encumbered by the Athletics program and the request to subsidize two positions. If WIU cannot afford librarians, it can not afford these positions

Olivia Christensen

- Psych major at the WIU QC campus
- Lived in the QC all my life and being able to go to this campus has been very positive to my life
- With cuts to in-person courses, I know myself and others would probably not be able to return to WIU. Will NOT take a masters program online
- Concern that many will not have the ability to go to Macomb for in person classes
- The decision to have QC go to on-line classes will take away social activities and relationships build
- Layoffs of professors is a concern
- Dr. Sim is an amazing teacher who is enjoyed and students looked forward to being in class with
- Many decisions continue to be made without taking into consideration how it would affect the student's education and life in general
- Hope that things will change in a positive direction

Review and approval of June 3, 2024 open, closed and June 4, 2024 open session Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Trustee Shaw

Second: Trustee Wise

Roll Call

Trustee Carin Stutz

Yes

Trustee Kisha Lang

Yes

Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	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

- Thank you to all here today including our students
- You are now armed with the facts of our financial situation
- Thank you to Ketra and Renee for a meeting with groups on campus that wanted to talk about the facts and for your transparency
- This concern is not new news; past administration had the facts but lacked the courage to act on time
- Dr Mindrup and her team have put the University on a path to success, they continue to work to find savings
- I read all of the comments and I understand the cuts are deep
- I look forward to healing and moving forward with grace and dignity while respecting opposing positions while focusing on the future
- The Board goal is to be transparent as we look to appoint a permanent President
- Since Dr. Mindrup's appointment, the Board has received many comments from faculty, staff, community, donors, and alumni suggesting they forgo the search process and appoint Dr. Mindrup as permanent president of WIU
- Her 27 years of experience has positioned her to lead with more insight into the complexity of the problems
- With that said, the Board is not ready to make that appointment at this time
- The Board wants to explore forgoing a search and next steps with the campus community and all the constituents before making a decision
- We appreciate Dr. Mindrup
- In October at the retreat we will discuss a procedure to open up a dialogue with the campus on the topic of a permanent appointment for Dr. Mindrup. We will solicit feedback to inform our discussions about next steps
- Our intent is to figure out what direction to take in the process by the December meeting
- Thank you

### **President's Remarks**

Interim President Kristi Mindrup

- I want to acknowledge the QC students
- I invite you to sit down and talk. I assure you that we will take care of you
- We will ensure that you have a quality experience as you navigate your degree program
- The long term look of the campus will be student focused
- Thoughts are with Student Trustee Cody Cornell and his family at this time

- We're celebrating our 125th year anniversary of our founding
- It's remarkable to think of how much our University has changed and evolved during this time
- Work that would take years in higher education happened swiftly this summer due to necessity
- Our highest priority is to stabilize the financial current and future of WIU
- With reserves depleting, expenses increasing and enrollment following a downward trend in many regional Universities across the country, bold action was needed to balance this deficit
- Our cash flow has been extended due to our efforts
- September 30th would have been the last day we could have made payroll, but we now have a longer runway
- WIU is now on track to remedy our financial concerns in a sustainable way
- Thank you to all of the University community for your patience, tolerance, agility and for the necessary work that will sustain our institution and its mission to serve students
- I want to publicly thank the leadership team, these individuals stepped up to serve during an unenviable time
- I want to thank our stakeholder leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to communication with their respective groups and engaged in critical dialogue with Administration and me directly
- There are five areas where we have made change minimize further impact on personnel while also strategically positioning WIU
  - Decrease expenses
  - An evaluation of spaces on campus with an eye toward addressing deferred maintenance and operational efficiencies
  - Increase external funding
  - Take advantage of the QC campus through a hub of innovation
  - Increase grants for the university
- While we navigate, respond, and adapt to significant change one thing that has remained constant over our 125 years is Western Illinois University's commitment to students
- I want to thank all of the faculty and staff who have unified to create positive experience for students in and out of the classroom
- This fall we saw the impact of several initiatives intended to attract new student populations that saw a 30% increase
- We are pleased to welcome 6,332 students to Western Illinois University this fall semester across both campuses and online
- A constant at Western Illinois University is a dedication of our employees I lift up today three teams of individuals
  - The Financial Aid team provided ongoing communication due to technical delays
  - Office of Public Safety, including Chief Derek Watts and Interim Vice President of Student Success Justin Schuch, who coordinated WIU's response to an off-campus event while ensuring the safety of our students, faculty, and staff
- Universities across the country face similar challenges our plan is for Western Illinois University to be one of the success stories

- We are dedicated to fixing problems and implementing plans that emphasize our strengths and seize new innovative opportunities
- It is a privilege to serve as your Interim President of this incredible student-centered, mission-focused University. I look forward to continued work and collaboration with all of you

### **General & Advisory Group Updates -**

1. Student Government Association, Emir Miranda (Macomb)
2. Student Government Association, Harrison Dehnert (Quad Cities)
3. Faculty Senate, Jeremy Robinett
4. Faculty Council Co-Chair, WIU-Quad Cities, Everett Hamner and Dana Lindemann Civil Service Employees Council, Natalie Divan
5. Council of Administrative Personnel, Holly Sutton
6. QC Outreach and Operations, Audrey Adamson
7. Athletics, Paul Bubb
8. Justice, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity, Carl Ervin
9. Governmental Relations, Zach Messersmith
10. Division of Student Success, Justin Schuch

### **Reports and Discussion Items**

Report No. 24.9/1

Purchases of \$100,000-\$499,999.99 or Exempt  
(Administrator in charge of Finance and Administration, John Smith and Executive Director of Financial Affairs, Ketra Roselieb)

Report No. 24.9/2

Budget and Financial Data for Quarter Ended June 30, 2024  
(Administrator in charge of Finance and Administration, John Smith and Executive Director of Financial Affairs, Ketra Roselieb)

Report No. 24.9/3

Academic Affairs Report  
(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman)

Report No. 24.9/4

Externally Sponsored Grants and Contracts for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter  
(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman and Director of Sponsored Projects, Shannon Sutton)

Report No. 24.9/5

Office of Sponsored Projects Annual Report  
(Interim Provost and Academic Vice President, Mark Mossman and Director of Sponsored Projects, Shannon Sutton)

Report No. 24.9/6  
Report on Contributions  
(Vice President for Advancement, Alumni Relations and Athletics, Clare Thompson)

Report No. 24.9/7  
Enrollment Report  
(Interim Vice President for Student Success, Justin Schuch)

Report No. 24.9/8  
International Studies  
(Associate Vice President of Global Studies, Randy Glean)

---

**Resolutions and Action Items** **Action**

Resolution No. 24.9/1 **Action**  
FY 2025 All-Funds Budget  
(Administrator in charge of Finance and Administration, John Smith and Budget Director,  
Renee Georges)  
Motion: Trustee Shaw  
Second: Trustee Radosh

Roll Call

Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	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. 24.9/2 **Action**  
FY 2026 Appropriated Operating Budget Recommendations  
(Administrator in charge of Finance and Administration, John Smith and Budget  
Director, Renee Georges)  
Motion: Trustee Wise  
Second: Trustee Lang

Roll Call

Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	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

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 24.9/3 **Action**  
FY 2026 Appropriated Capital Budget Recommendations  
(Administrator in charge of Finance and Administration, John Smith and Budget Director,  
Renee Georges)  
Motion: Trustee Radosh  
Second: Trustee Shaw

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

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 24.9/4 **Action**  
Approval of the Calendar Year 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting Dates  
(Senior Executive Assistant to the President, Athena Brooks)  
Motion: Trustee Radosh  
Second: Trustee Wise

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

Motion approved.



Resolution No. 24.9/5

**Action**

Approved Depositories and Signatories  
(Executive Director of Financial Affairs, Ketra Roselieb)

Motion: Trustee Radosh

Second: Trustee Wise

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 Derek Wise	Yes

Motion approved.

Resolution No. 24.9/6

**Action**

Authorizing the Necessary first Steps for the Sale of Surplus Real Estate  
(Assistant Vice President for Student Success, Joe Roselieb)

Motion: Trustee Wise

Second: Trustee Shaw

Roll Call

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

Motion approved.

**Old Business**

- None

**New Business**

- None

**Next Meeting**

October 11, 2024 Board Retreat - Macomb Campus

December 6, 2024 Closed and Open Session - Macomb Campus

**ADJOURN ACTION**

Trustee moved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Trustees at 1:31 pm.

Motion: Trustee Lowe Mullins

Second: Trustee Shaw

Roll Call

Trustee Kirk Dillard Yes

Trustee Carin Stutz Yes

Trustee Kisha Lang Yes

Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins Yes

Trustee Derek Wise Yes

Trustee Polly Radosh Yes

Trustee Doug Shaw Yes

Motion approved.

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