

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Regular Meeting, 22 October 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom and in Union Capitol Rooms

ACTION MINUTES

SENATORS PRESENT IN PERSON: J. Albarracin, D. Allwardt, E. Asare, B. Bellott, B. Brewer, D. Brown, C. Chadwell, D. Gravitt, D. Hunter, D. McArthur, J. McKenzie, A. Melkumian, B. Petracovici, J. Robinett, S. Turkelli, J. Walker, L. Wipperling, E. Woell

SENATORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: E. Hamner, B. McDonald, R. Sharma, K. Wiseley

SENATORS ABSENT: H. Elbe

EX-OFFICIO: Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Acting Parliamentarian; Interim Provost Mark Mossman

GUESTS: Tom Blackford, Zaire Bradsher, Paul Bubb, Amy Burke, Amy Carr, Dennis DeVolder, Rich Filipink, Kishor Kapale, Rick Kuracz, Mary Lane, Sarah Lawson, Jim McQuillan, Holly Nikels, Lorette Oden, Betsy Perabo, Renee Polubinsky, Linda Prosis

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. October 8, 2024

MINUTES APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

II. Announcements

A. Provost's Report

Interim Provost Mossman expressed his apologies to the Senate, adding that he has had a dreadful cold and did not prepare a report. Senator Gravitt asked if the department/school workload and promotion/tenure documents have been 100 percent approved by the Interim Provost and should be posted on school/departmental websites. Interim Provost Mossman replied they have been approved and can now be posted.

B. Student Government Association Report (Zaire Bradsher, SGA Director of Academic Affairs)

Mr. Bradsher reported that SGA's Attorney General, Jeffrey Keith, is currently rewriting their constitution in order to ensure SGA runs smoothly. He reported that Jade Cross, SGA Director of Public Relations, continues making posters, advertisements, and social media posts for SGA. Mr. Bradsher related that Alonzo Ruffin, SGA Vice President for External Affairs, held an event called "Unfiltered" with Carl Ervin, Director of the Office of Justice, Inclusion, Diversity and Equity; this event allowed students to give their honest opinions about WIU and express any concerns or grievances they might have.

Mr. Bradsher told senators he is working on a mental health check for faculty because he thinks students have a lot of resources but there are not as many for faculty. He expressed his appreciation for WIU's faculty, the efforts they make, and what they do for the university. He has been in contact with Human Resources Executive Director Cassandra Standberry about what can be done for faculty and will provide Faculty Senate with more details as the plans are further developed.

C. Faculty Senate Chair's Report

Chair Robinett stressed that the role of Faculty Senate in relation to the Academic Program Elimination Review (APER) Committee is to simply populate the committee through facilitating the elections of members. He added that Faculty Senate is not tasked with any other aspect of APER once the committee is actually assembled. Chair Robinett stated that election notices have been distributed, and two petitions have been submitted so far; petitions are due by Friday, October 25. He explained that ballots for any contested elections will be distributed to eligible faculty in those colleges on Monday, October 28; by Monday, November 4 the contested elections will conclude, and the APER Committee membership will be announced on Wednesday, November 6. He added that if there are no contested elections, the announcement will be made sooner.

Chair Robinett met with Ketra Roselieb, Vice President for Finance and Administration, recently in order to follow up on a list of questions from the Budget Transparency Committee (BTC), on which he serves. He told senators that Vice President Roselieb summarized a report she gave at the recent Board of Trustees retreat showing that there are still cash flow issues for the spring semester and that the administration is still looking at possible cost savings measures. Chair Robinett stated that Vice President Roselieb will share information about budgets, cash flow, and tentative information about the impact of layoffs on the FY 25, 26, and 27 budgets at a meeting with the full Budget Transparency Committee on November 8. He hopes Interim Provost Mossman will be able to join the meeting to answer questions the BTC has related to adjuncts and overload because these conversations need to involve Academic Affairs and the Budget Office.

Chair Robinett related that the Committee on Assessment of Presidential Appointment met on October 16. He said Trustee Wise, who is leading this committee, shared the one question the Board of Trustees wants every group to ask their constituents. He said the committee was given pretty clear expectations regarding the single question, the number of responses, the response rate, and when the information was to be submitted via a jotform. He said members were told they are welcome to ask their constituents additional questions because the Board would like to hear diverse opinions and voices. Chair Robinett observed that some surveys have already been distributed among the various groups; while there are some similarities, each group appears to be collecting slightly different information.

Chair Robinett related that, following what he had told Faculty Senate he would do, he met with a research methodologist who works on these particular kinds of assessments quantitatively. He said Colin Harbke, Psychology, helped him to design an instrument that does what the Board said had to be done but will also allow the Faculty Senate to better contextualize the types of questions that faculty told him they wanted. He added that the survey was shared with senators earlier this week, and there were some pretty significant changes made to it based on feedback received from other faculty members. He stated that if any senators wish to speak to him about the survey following today's meeting, they are welcome to do so, or senators can email him about the survey if they prefer.

Chair Robinett stated that the Assessment of Presidential Appointment survey will be sent out to faculty via email on Monday, October 25; a reminder will be sent to faculty on Monday, November 4, and responses will be due on Tuesday, November 5. Chair Robinett will present a summary report to Faculty Senate at their meeting on November 12 before submitting it to the Board of Trustees on November 15. He recognizes that the faculty survey is going out a bit late, but he wanted to make sure it would capture data that faculty thought would be useful for moving the university forward.

Chair Robinett attended a meeting of the Council on Illinois University Senates (CIUS) on Friday, October 18. He found it really eye opening to hear the good and bad things that are happening around the state. He related that WIU is the only university that has linked General Education so closely with the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI), and some other state senate chairs expressed surprised that IAI is the first requirement of WIU's Gen Ed. He said one chair asked why WIU would give control of its curriculum to an outside group. Chair Robinett related that Illinois State University is currently using a different process for their General Education review; they are bringing task forces together to look at different aspects. He added that IAI has been a part of their discussion; Illinois State's goal is to get their General Education hours down to 33.

Chair Robinett was surprised at the amount of time spent talking about “policies on policies” at the CIUS meeting. He said Illinois State had the most comprehensive policy on policies, which was eye opening for him. Chair Robinett has shared ISU’s policy with WIU’s Legal Counsel Victoria Smith, who is coordinating a similar discussion at WIU. He offered to share this policy on policies with anyone who might be interested.

Chair Robinett pointed out that the shared drive for today’s meeting contains a resolution in support of WIU faculty that was brought forward to the CIUS meeting by a faculty member from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He noted that CIUS amended the resolution to include a call for collaboration to seek additional higher education funding across the state; this is a reality for all the institutions who were present, who agreed that lack of sufficient state appropriations is making it much more difficult for universities to do the kinds of things that they need to do. He added that the amendment was supported unanimously by CIUS chairs, and the resolution was ratified.

Chair Robinett related that the IAI Social and Behavioral Science panel has met. They approved WIU’s requests that AAS 100, RPTA 110, and WS 190 receive IAI designation; COMM 130 was returned with suggestions. He noted that some of these groups will now need to follow Council on General Education (CGE) processes to try to get their courses included in various areas of General Education. He noted that this represents a return to shared governance. Chair Robinett added that the IAI Mathematics panel will meet on October 25 to consider MATH 206.

Chair Robinett reported that a request has been received related to the discontinuation of Y courses. He related that the Executive Committee is waiting for an amended document clarifying that Y courses no longer be included as a graduation requirement starting in Fall 2025, not in the spring; once the amended document is received, it will go forward to CAGAS for review.

Senator Hunter asked what MATH 206 involves. Senator Petracovici, who is a professor of mathematics, responded it is a mathematics course for Education majors, specifically for elementary and middle school education. He added that MATH 106 and 206 is a sequence of courses required for their licensure. Senator Petracovici explained that the department decided to only submit MATH 206 for the IAI designation for Gen Ed, adding that this was the way it was established about a decade ago and now the department is coming back to only having 206 be included in Gen Ed. He added that community colleges still use the two-course sequence.

Linda Prosis, Administrative Assistant to the Provost, clarified that IAI has said the designation will only be applied to MATH 206, but they are reviewing the syllabi for 106 and 206; they review it as a sequence but will only apply the designation to the second course in the sequence.

Senator Wipperling asked if the Y graduation requirement change is proposed for Fall 2024 or Fall 2025; Chair Robinett clarified it would begin, if approved, in Fall 2025.

Chair Robinett announced that a special session of the Mental Health First Aid program will be offered on November 1 and 8 for faculty and graduate students. The flyer for this is in the shared drive.

D. Other Announcements

1. Paul Bubb, Director, Athletics

Mr. Bubb remarked it is an interesting time for college athletics; he participated in a two-hour zoom call earlier today with other athletics directors and the Commissioner from the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) to talk about the impact that a lawsuit, known as the House Settlement, is having on college athletics. He explained this lawsuit, brought by student-athletes against the institutions in the NCAA, alleges that their names, images, and likenesses are being used to generate money for the institutions rather than for the student-athletes’ personal gain. He said the courts have found that this allegation is true, which will impact the NCAA to billions of dollars and will impact WIU Athletics in regard to the revenues received

from the NCAA annually. He explained that his colleagues in the Ohio Valley Conference estimate this will result in a loss of revenue of about \$250,000-\$280,000 per year for the next ten years for Division I schools.

Mr. Bubb recognizes that this is money that could certainly help WIU's budget. He noted, however, that when WIU made the move from the Summit League to the OVC, WIU Athletics chose to renounce revenue sharing with the Summit League and did not receive any revenue funding from the OVC during the first year, as he knew they would not. He related that in WIU's second year with the OVC, that conference helped WIU pay its exit fees from the Summit League, so WIU did not participate in revenue sharing with the OVC this year either. Mr. Bubb noted that WIU Athletics will begin receiving revenue sharing from the Ohio Valley Conference at about the same time the NCAA is decreasing their money. He explained this means that when WIU's OVC colleague schools will be seeing a decrease in their money from the NCAA, WIU will actually be seeing an increase coming in from revenue sharing. He noted that while it will not be \$250,000, it will be close to \$180,000-\$200,000, so the timing of this will mean a less significant impact on WIU than on other OVC institutions.

Mr. Bubb stated that institutions that are considered "mid-major universities," such as WIU, Illinois State, and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, do not see the name-image-likeness (NIL) rules impacting them a lot in terms of student-athletes cashing in on this, but there is a platform for WIU student-athletes to use if they want to take advantage of it. He said most of the deals WIU Athletics is seeing with student-athletes involves them endorsing products on social media. He said WIU student-athletes might get a free travel bag from a company that is promoting them or a free t-shirt from an apparel company rather than the million dollar deals available to the quarterback at the University of Alabama, for example. He noted that Northern Illinois University is paying their quarterback \$100,000 this year as part of an NIL package. Mr. Bubb noted that some schools within the OVC are considering some small deals; Southeast Missouri State is one of those that is looking at what they can do, particularly in terms of their basketball players. He reiterated that WIU is providing a platform that student-athletes can use, but it is up to them to find what deals they can and use that to promote themselves; if they can earn money off of their name, image, or likeness, that is allowable, but NIL has not had the impact at WIU's level as it has at the Power Four conference level.

Mr. Bubb told senators that now that WIU is in its second year as part of the Ohio Valley Conference, all of the university's teams are now part of that conference; last year, the football team was still part of the Missouri Valley Conference, and the men's soccer team was still in the Summit League. He said the reason these two sports were slower to become part of the OVC is because their schedules are very reliant upon a lot of other campus activities; other teams were able to transition their schedules without any problem. He added that it would not have been fair to the Missouri Valley Conference or the Summit League to make the transition as late as it would had to have occurred last year. Mr. Bubb noted that now that all of WIU's teams are part of the OVC, travel time has decreased significantly; the average trip in the Summit League was about nine hours by bus, but motor coach trips have now decreased to an average of five and a half hours. He said the football team used to fly to North Dakota, North Dakota State, South Dakota, and South Dakota State, but in the OVC they only have one flight per year; this year the team flew to Charleston, South Carolina, and next year they will fly to play Gardner Webb in Boiling Springs, North Carolina.

Mr. Bubb told senators another thing that has been a positive with the move to the OVC is to see WIU's athletes recognized as Athlete of the Week on a regular basis. He remarked it was a rarity to see this type of recognition come to WIU's athletes when the university was in the Summit League, but it is a regular occurrence now. He noted that in the first week of the athletic season, two WIU cross-country runners were named OVC Runner of the Week, and last week WIU's quarterback was named OVC Offensive Player of the Week. He related that last year three WIU athletic teams – women's tennis, women's golf, and women's basketball

-- were recognized as having the highest GPAs in the OVC. He added that women's basketball last year had the second highest GPA for a Division 1 team in the nation. Mr. Bubb is very proud of those recognitions that WIU student-athletes are receiving from a competitive standpoint. He thinks that now WIU's teams feel like any time they step on the playing field, they have a chance to win, which is important because WIU teams got beat up on consistently for the past decade; now they feel like they have the opportunity to be competitive.

Mr. Bubb told senators the women's cross-country team is having an outstanding season, and he looks for big things to come from them with the conference championships occurring on November 1. He said the men's cross-country team is still down a bit in numbers and struggling somewhat but is still doing well. He related that women's volleyball just went on the road and is having a good season so far; they played at Southern Indiana last Friday and Saturday. Mr. Bubb related that earlier in the year he had the women's volleyball team over to his house for dinner on a weeknight and told them if they swept Southern Indiana, he would have them back again, and they ended up beating them 3-0 and 3-0. He noted that this team was not competitive for the past several years, but this year, they are; he encourages everyone to watch them play at home this Friday, October 24 at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 25 at 2:00 p.m. because they are very fun to watch.

Mr. Bubb pointed out that with the move to the OVC, WIU is aligned with schools that are much more like us. He stated that schools in the Ohio Valley Conference are similar to Macomb in size, budget, and geographic location. He likes that people now will travel with the teams to see them play away games; they travel to Eastern Illinois University and SIU-Edwardsville, and when the football team plays in St. Charles, Missouri this weekend, Mr. Bubb expects as many parents to attend as he saw at the last home game. He added that it is encouraging to see that kind of support when teams go on the road.

Mr. Bubb told senators that the recent cuts have had an impact on WIU Athletics as well; in terms of personnel, three people have been lost, and because of the uncertainty that is present right now another employee left this week who will be difficult to replace. He promised to continue to work to get things done with whatever the available resources are, and there are coaches at WIU who have the same belief. He appreciates that there are student-athletes who are buying in to what WIU Athletics is trying to do.

Mr. Bubb stated that WIU Athletics continues to work with various groups; local first responders and military personnel will be recognized during the home football game on November 9 (Protect and Serve Day), and volleyball is participating in Big Pink, a recognition for women's cancer efforts, this weekend and doing some special promotions related to that. He noted that a Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day football game will be held on November 23; four complimentary tickets will be offered to every faculty member. Mr. Bubb stated that since the weather that late in November is sometimes not the best, arrangements are being made to tailgate inside the east end of Western Hall that day.

Mr. Bubb said WIU Athletics continues to make sure that athletics is an asset to WIU in the ways they connect with alumni and friends to build support for the university. Mr. Bubb has worked with a number of universities with dogs as mascots – from the Salukis, to the Bulldogs, to the Leathernecks – and he likes to say that athletics is the bark that gets everyone to look at the rest of the university. He believes WIU is a great university which needs and deserves support, and if Athletics can play a small role in that, he wants to see that happen. He noted that this past weekend was Hall of Fame weekend when four individuals were inducted, one posthumously, including the women's field hockey team from 1978. He is touched at each of these events by alumni expressing their thanks for the recognition of what they accomplished while at WIU. He is glad that WIU Athletics is able to have that kind of impact on people's lives, which is so rewarding.

Senator Albarracin said she oversees a scholarship and wonders why students have to get permission from Athletics before accepting scholarships from other areas. Mr. Bubb responded that the NCAA has placed limits on the amount of aid student-athletes can receive, although that may be changing in light of the House Settlement impact. He said athletic directors spent about 20 minutes of their conference call today talking about how creative student-athletes can be in terms of getting scholarships. He explained that since at the present time there is a limit to how much aid a student-athlete can receive, if the student-athlete receives academic aid, which takes precedence, their athletic aid will be reduced to make sure they stay under the NCAA limit. Senator Albarracin asked what happens if the student-athlete is not receiving athletic aid. Mr. Bubb responded that the scholarship would still need to be approved by Athletics so that they have a record of it, but if the student-athlete is not receiving athletic aid it should not be a problem. He anticipates that with what is changing now, there will soon not be any limit on the amount of aid student-athletes can receive, and some will be able to receive far beyond the cost of their university attendance, although he does not anticipate that WIU student-athletes will be in that category.

Athletics Director Bubb concluded that he is a proud graduate of WIU. He realizes the university is going through some tough times and appreciates everything faculty do. He said Athletics is talking about having a Mental Health Week and inviting in therapy dogs, and he plans to open this up for faculty as well as for students. He recognizes that these are challenging times for WIU and hopes that Athletics can play a role in helping to make things better as everyone goes through this together.

III. Reports of Committees and Councils

A. Council on Admission, Graduation, and Academic Standards (CAGAS) (Rich Filipink, Chair)

1. Proposed Revisions to Disruptive Student Behavior Procedure

Dr. Filipink stated the revisions involve mostly cosmetic changes based on input from the Senate Chair and from Kelly Severs, Director of Student Rights and Responsibilities. He said these include changing the report that the Student Development and Success Center (SDSC) uses and updating the name and phone number of the SDSC.

NO OBJECTIONS

2. Proposed Revisions to Transfer Policy

Dr. Filipink told senators that CAGAS recommends eliminating the phrase “and be in good standing at the last college or university attended.” He pointed out that 19 students have been in a situation where they had above a 2.0 GPA when transferring into WIU but were not in good standing at their last institution. He said CAGAS has approved all of these appeals historically, so this revision is meant to streamline that policy.

NO OBJECTIONS

3. Proposed Revisions to Dual Enrollment Policy

Dr. Filipink explained that this revision would increase the number of credit hours accepted from six to ten. He noted that there have already been some exceptions to the six-hour rule, and CAGAS has approved those, depending upon students’ performance at their high school or in other dual enrollment classes. He pointed out that the six-hour limitation had to be automatically appealed by any student who wanted to take a lab course, so this change is another attempt at streamlining the process.

NO OBJECTIONS

4. Proposed New Policy on Adult Student Admissions

Dr. Filipink explained this policy would allow WIU to admit any student who is five years out of high school provided the student had graduated from high school or obtained a GED. He said this is intended to attract non-traditional students without having them go through the traditional admissions process or have to look back for their high school GPA, which by the time students are in their 20s is probably not as relevant.

NO OBJECTIONS

Chair Robinett expressed his thanks to Dr. Filipink and to CAGAS for the incredible amount of work they do.

B. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI)
(Amy Burke, Chair)

1. Requests for New Courses

a. CS 217, Artificial Intelligence Exploration, 3 s.h.

Senator Hamner asked if this course or the proposed new minor might be seen as precluding other departments from using their own expertise in artificial intelligence, generative AI, or textual composition to design curriculum that addresses Gen AI in their fields, or whether this course and new minor can be seen as distinct. Computer Sciences professor Jim McQuillan replied that the School of Education has already created an experimental course where they are looking at this related very specifically to education. He thinks Instructional Design and Technology created an AI course for graduate students in their field last spring. Dr. McQuillan thinks it will depend on what makes sense for particular areas – whether it makes sense to take one of these courses or something very focused on their field. Senator Hamner asked if this means these courses and minor would not necessarily preclude other disciplines from developing other appropriate AI-related courses. Dr. McQuillan responded that it would depend on what the focus it is; it would presumably not be a computer science focus if the course came from a different department but would be some other type of focus. Senator Hamner remarked that the connections between generative AI and composition practices are developing very broadly all over industry and education. He thinks it is important that there be room (as the university's capacities allow) for writing studies or digital humanities coursework that would engage this topic. He thinks there would be real interest in collaboration with Computer Sciences in order to make this as vibrant as it could be.

Senator Gravitt remarked her concern is not so much with the content of these two courses and the minor but with the effect of the reduction in staff in the School of Computer Sciences. She noted that Computer Sciences has a lot of classes already on the books, and she wonders what a realistic rotation schedule for these new additional elective classes looks like which will enable the minor to be completed in a reasonable amount of time with the available staff. She also asked if the two new courses will be added to other programs besides the new minor, which would increase the need for them to be offered in a fairly trusted sequence. Computer Sciences Director Dennis DeVolder replied that is a fair question because the school is in a situation now where if they put in something new it almost requires them to stop offering something else. He noted that Computer Sciences has elective courses they do not have to offer all of the time, and they plan to reduce the frequency of such courses as their mobile application development course, which has already not been offered for awhile. Dr. DeVolder does the scheduling for Computer Sciences

and assured senators that there are areas where a reduction in the frequency of offerings will enable these new courses to be accommodated.

CS 217 APPROVED

- b. CS 463, Deep Learning with Applications, 3 s.h.

CS 463 APPROVED

- 2. Request for New Minor
 - a. Applied Artificial Intelligence

NEW MINOR APPROVED

C. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)
(Julia Albarracin, Chair)

Senator Albarracin related she has spoken to Interim Associate Provost Pynes and Ms. Hamm about a philosophy professor filling a vacancy on the Council on General Education in the Math and Natural Sciences category but neither of them thought this was acceptable for this category. Chair Robinett clarified that once the service opportunity is extended to all eligible faculty members, there is a provision in the CGE operating papers allowing that other faculty members can serve if there is a lack of faculty who fit the specific category. He added that if a faculty member is looking for a service opportunity, the bylaws do not deny them the opportunity to do so, which enables the facilitation of service whenever possible.

Chair Robinett related that another question that was raised was whether serving on a subcouncil of a Faculty Senate council is the same as serving on a council because there are regulations related to how many senate councils an individual is allowed to serve on. He clarified that there is no limit that would bar an individual from serving on both a Senate council and a subcouncil if they choose.

SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Council for Instructional Technology AI Subcouncil

Rashmi Sharma, Education	new	2027	AT-LARGE
Michael Lorenzen, Libraries	new	2025	AT-LARGE

UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) Advisory Committee

Bret Bogenschneider, AFED	replacing	Michelle Howe	2025	B&T
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University Technology Advisory Group (UTAG)

Curtis Simonson, Education	replacing	Jim Sarra	2027	E&HS
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There were no further candidates, and the slate of nominees was declared elected.

IV. Old Business

A. Election of Faculty Senate Vice Chair

Motion: To nominate Senator Brewer (Brewer)

Senator Brewer explained that he is willing to take on the extra responsibilities of Vice Chair if no one else is able to do so, although if he is elected someone else would need to replace him as Senate Secretary. There were no further nominations, and Senator Brewer was elected as Vice Chair.

Chair Robinett told senators that he will entertain nominations to serve as Senate Secretary at the next meeting. Senator Hunter asked if a description of the duties of Senate Secretary could be provided to senators with the other materials for that meeting. Chair Robinett responded that the Senate Constitution and Bylaws do not include lengthy job descriptions for any of the executive positions. He added that the Secretary's role is working with the Faculty Senate Office Manager, Annette Hamm, to proof the Senate and Executive Committee minutes; additionally, if Ms. Hamm were not able to take the minutes, it would be the Secretary's responsibility to do so. Senator Gravitt pointed out that the Secretary is expected to attend all Executive Committee meetings in addition to Senate meetings. Chair Robinett added that there is no commitment for the Senate Secretary to take on additional committee duties since Senator Brewer and Chair Robinett already represent ExCo on the Senate committees.

Senator Brewer remarked that Ms. Hamm's work is impeccable, and he usually has no corrections to the minutes she prepares. Chair Robinett expressed his thanks to Ms. Hamm, who has not missed a Faculty Senate or Executive Committee meeting in over 20 years; he added that when he had to take minutes one time during the year she was retired, it was horrific. He stated that she is very appreciated.

V. New Business

A. Motion to Endorse CARLI Statement on the Importance of Librarians in Academic Libraries

Chair Robinett told senators that this motion was approved and seconded by ExCo at its last meeting:

Whereas the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) has authored a statement that "emphatically proclaims the importance of librarians in higher education libraries"; and,

Whereas the Western Illinois University Faculty Senate has been asked to endorse the CARLI Statement on the Importance of Librarians in Academic Libraries,

Be it resolved that the Western Illinois University Faculty Senate endorses the CARLI Statement on the Importance of Librarians in Academic Libraries.

Chair Robinett said Faculty Senate was asked by a faculty librarian to endorse the CARLI statement that has been distributed across the state of Illinois and more broadly. He noted that the statement has been endorsed by a variety of different groups.

Senator Gravitt asked who will receive this endorsement. She noted that all the school libraries in Illinois have endorsed it and asked if has gone to all universities and public institutions in the state. She asked what would happen next if Faculty Senate endorses the statement. Chair Robinett responded that the document would then simply indicate that the Faculty Senate of Western Illinois University endorsed this statement. He explained that CARLI is the consortium that represents Illinois libraries, and their website includes a list of the endorsers, as well as including them at the end of the statement. Senator Gravitt asked if WIU's Faculty Senate's endorsement would just add weight to that of everyone else's. Chair Robinett confirmed that it just says that Faculty Senate endorses the statements that were made in the document. He stressed that an endorsement by Faculty Senate would not bind WIU's administration in any way.

MOTION APPROVED 20 YES (17 in-person and 3 Zoom) – 0 NO – 0 ABSTENIONS

B. For the Good of the Body

Senator Albarracin asked if Heather McIlvaine-Newsad has replaced Krista Bowers Sharpe as Parliamentarian. Chair Robinett responded that Parliamentarian Bowers Sharpe was unable to be present today, so he asked former Parliamentarian McIlvaine-Newsad if she would step in, adding that it is always good to see her at Senate.

Chair Robinett told senators that the new version of the faculty survey on the Assessment of Presidential Appointment will be uploaded soon. He offered to open it for any senators who want to see it before its distribution.

Motion: To adjourn (Gravitt)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary