

# WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Regular Meeting, 27 August 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, H. Elbe, D. Gravitt, D. Hunter, A. Melkumian, B. Petracovici, J. Robinett, S. Turkelli, J. Walker, L. Wipperl, E. Woell

**SENATORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM:** E. Hamner, J. Hancks, K. Wiseley

**SENATORS ABSENT:** B. McDonald

**EX-OFFICIO:** Krista Bowers Sharpe, Parliamentarian; Interim Provost Mark Mossman

**GUESTS:** Andrea Alvashere, Dan Atherton, Tom Blackford, Amy Burke, Amy Carr, Sol Catala-Valentin, Young Gin Choi, Craig Conrad, Sean Cordes, Gloria Delany-Barmann, Dennis DeVolder, Hunt Dunlap, Rich Filipink, Keith Holz, Rob Kelly, Rick Kuracz, Sarah Lawson, Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Jennifer McKenzie, Rebel Mickelson, Holly Nikels, Lorette Oden, Katherine Perone, Kaycee Petermann, Renee Polubinsky, Linda Prosis, Christopher Pynes, Pam Rockwood, Dan Schmidt, Victoria Smith, Anna Valeva, Alisha White, Karen Zellmann

### I. Consideration of Minutes

- A. April 23, 2024
- B. April 30, 2024
- C. May 28, 2024
- D. July 10, 2024
- E. July 25, 2024

The minutes were all approved as distributed.

### II. Announcements

#### A. Provost's Report

Interim Provost Mossman recognizes that it is hot across the campuses, and the buildings' air conditioning units are strained. He is meeting tomorrow with Facilities Management to get more information on the situation, but he is not hopeful that Horrabin Hall will be coming back online quickly because it may be a long-term issue. He understands that the damage to the Horrabin chillers was caused by a lightning strike, which is something that can be specifically addressed rather than trying to get parts from other campus chillers. He said at this time Horrabin cannot achieve above a certain percentage of cold air in the building, so in the meantime the deans have helped to reschedule classes usually held in that building into other locations. Interim Provost Mossman related that Malpass Library is adjusting its hours due to the heat while its air conditioning unit is being repaired.

#### B. Student Government Association Report – None

Senator Albarracin remarked that SGA is in the process of selecting a representative. Chair Robinett meets with SGA President Emir Miranda on Friday. He thinks Mr. Miranda may join Faculty Senate meetings as his schedule allows.

#### C. Faculty Senate Chair's Report

Chair Robinett expressed a desire to communicate with Faculty Senate about those things that he does outside of the meetings. He noted that one thing it is important to recognize is that many situations currently being seen at WIU have been experienced at the institution before. He recalled that when he began at WIU in 2014, he took that year to get his feet under him, then started attending Faculty Senate meetings in 2015 when Christopher Pynes was Chair. In a short PowerPoint, he highlighted what the Senate's Constitution, the Board of Trustees (BOT) procedures, and a variety of other documents say about what responsibilities are delegated to Faculty Senate and its councils and committees. He thought that as the Senate councils and committees highlight in their annual reports what they have done over the past year, and as discussions begin about what may happen in the future, it would be beneficial to situate where that authority comes from and how it is delegated.

Chair Robinett pointed out that the Faculty Senate Constitution includes specific items that have been delegated to the Senate and things the Senate has responsibility for doing. He noted that some of these are also specified in the Board of Trustees "Delegation of Authority" document in their Board Procedures, including university curriculum; basic policies with regard to campus planning and facilities; creation of administrative positions at the level of Dean and Vice President, and selection of administrative officers, as well as the President; and academic planning and the determination of priorities for the conduct and development of the university. Chair Robinett noted that all of these are specifically delegated as being areas where faculty, though its governance system, have a right to participate in the decision-making of the university. He pointed out that the Board delegates this authority "in order to promote shared participation in responsible and wise decision-making and to ensure channels of communication." He noted that as the university's boards, councils, and committees move forward this year, making sure that they are communicating in all directions is important to Faculty Senate.

Chair Robinett observed that, similarly, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) "Assurance Argument" discusses the idea of communicating with the administration and outlines the ways those communications should occur. He noted that the Senate's Budget Transparency Committee (BTC) will be important in 2.A.2. of this document, making sure that Western is transparent in its financial functions. He pointed out that the Senate Council on Admissions, Graduation, and Academic Standards (CAGAS) is also discussed in this section in regard to its responsibility for "recommending and evaluating policies." Chair Robinett observed that Section 2.C. of the HLC Assurance Argument specifies that WIU faculty develop the curriculum and oversee academic matters.

Chair Robinett showed that Section 3 of the HLC Assurance Argument explains how some of these curricular procedures are done. He noted that it discusses how candidates for a baccalaureate degree at WIU complete the General Education, mentions that CAGAS is charged with overseeing academic standards and graduation requirements, and notes that the Council on General Education (CGE) is a vital part of that wise decision-making. He added that Section 3.D.4. talks about providing the infrastructure and resources necessary to support effective teaching and learning. Chair Robinett pointed out that Section 5.A.1. restates the Board policies and procedures and what Faculty Senate and faculty governance are empowered to work with, noting that using data to reach informed decisions is in the best interest of the university and its constituents. He noted that Section 5.A.3. states that "Western's administration ensures that faculty, and, when appropriate, staff and students, are involved in setting academic requirements."

Chair Robinett thinks this is important given how often faculty have heard about the HLC. He announced that Interim Provost Mossman has agreed to speak to Faculty Senate in October or November with an HLC follow up. Chair Robinett encouraged senators to check out some of the other documentation that was brought up in conversations this past summer; links to A Thriving Illinois, the Faculty Senate Constitution, the Board of Trustees Regulations, Higher Values in Higher Education 2022-2027, the Financial Sustainability Planning Document of Summer 2022, HLC requirements, and IAI Gen Ed requirements in the Faculty Senate shared drive. He pointed out that the BOT Regulations stipulate not only what is to be done in the academic arena but across campus in ways that are quite informative. He noted that Higher Values in Higher Education was developed with a great deal of feedback from people across the campus in order to serve as a plan for the

university. He added that the financial sustainability document put out in 2022 outlines what some of those goals were expected to be at that time. Chair Robinett recalled that both Interim Provost Mossman and Interim President Mindrup have referred several times to A Thriving Illinois, which is what the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) is envisioning for higher ed in Illinois.

Chair Robinett went through the list of meetings he has attended since stepping into the role of Faculty Senate Chair. These include meetings with new SGA President Emir Miranda, who he said is a very engaged student who is interested in constitutional law and in looking at ways he can improve the world, which seems very aligned with WIU's social mobility function. Chair Robinett has met several times with Ketra Roselieb, Executive Director of Financial Affairs, who, in order to live up to those statements in the HLC Assurance Document, will come to Faculty Senate in fall and spring semesters to talk about the state of the budget. He added that senators will be able to prepare specific questions ahead of time for her to address.

Chair Robinett also met with the Chief Information Officer (CIO) Group, comprised of Jeremy Merritt, Stacie Hunt, and Bob Emmert, who have stepped up to run University Technology cooperatively to fill the role formerly held by Greg Kain. He said this was a very informative and positive meeting which allowed him to understand a bit more about WIU's information technology. He added that the information communicated in June about changes to WIU's email policies, particularly as regards retirees and emeriti faculty, have been put on hold. He said the group is looking at policies and procedures as well as ways to facilitate opportunities for those who want to stay engaged with the university to be able to use some form of WIU email since many are still publishing, applying for grants, and doing different things using their WIU email addresses. He added the meeting was very productive, and the CIO group intends to visit with Faculty Senate as well.

Chair Robinett also spoke to the CIO group about last year's WesternOnline task force, comprised of faculty, staff, and students, to see how the platform is being utilized and its strengths, weaknesses, and technological issues. He said the task force provided some recommendations, then seemed to stall at that point. Chair Robinett will ask the Executive Committee next week if that information can be sent on to the Senate Council for Instructional Technology (CIT) for follow up.

Chair Robinett related that Stacie Hunt provided him with a thorough update of WIU's new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. He said the ERP will encompass everything currently done using MVS, WIUP, and STARS. He noted that the majority of interfaces with WIU's current mainframe are done with its ERP, and the university is in the process of overhauling that system, which is a pretty ambitious schedule considering the number of staff University Technology has and the number of people in offices such as Financial Aid, the Registrar's office, and similar spaces. Chair Robinett noted that some employees serve on up to five of the different project teams that are trying to implement some of the components that make up the new ERP. He noted that in some cases additional implementations are found to be required; in order for Financial Aid to be able to communicate with the Department of Education, for example, a system had to be introduced in the middle to get them through this year so that they can then roll out what their ERP can do moving forward. He hopes that people realize as they hear students talk about a delay in their financial aid, there is a step and another program that needs to take over in order for WIU to communicate with the Department of Ed, and a very small staff within the Financial Aid office that is trying to navigate this.

Chair Robinett told senators that in October, University Technology hopes to have the Slate customer relations management (CRM) system roll out for admissions and recruitment, student success, and advancement. He said this process will streamline some procedures and help with more regularly providing contact with students.

Chair Robinett said the final meetings he had this summer were with the Division of Student Success. He informed senators there have been changes in the people in some of these offices, including Student Rights and Responsibilities and some other spaces. He said there have been some policy reviews associated with these changes and discussions of where different policies reside. Chair Robinett noted that one of these policies has been referred to CAGAS for review, and he envisions

others will come forward over the course of the semester. He noted that over the past two weeks he has had rather a full calendar trying to figure out some of these different things.

Senator Albarracin related there was a request last year to populate the ERP Task Force; she was placed on it but never heard from anyone about it. Chair Robinett said the task force meets once a month, but he thinks that with Mr. Kain's duties being reassigned some of those meetings have been shifted around. He anticipates that Senator Albarracin will hear more from them as they get ready to move forward. He thinks the next meeting is September 11.

1. Motion Regarding Zoom Attendance

*Whereas the Western Illinois University Faculty Senate is subject to the requirements of the Illinois Open Meetings Act; and*

*Whereas Section 5 ILCS 120/7 outlines the procedures for attendance by means other than physical presence; and*

*Whereas, once a quorum of the members is physically present, a majority of the body may allow members of the body to attend by other means if they cannot physically attend because of personal illness or disability, employment purposes or the business of a public body, a family or other emergency, or unexpected childcare obligations;*

*Be it resolved that for the 2024-2025 academic year, once a quorum of the members is physically present, senators who have notified the Acting Secretary or Parliamentarian of their wish to attend by other means shall be allowed to attend remotely.*

Chair Robinett explained that Faculty Senate is subject to the Open Meetings Act, which has requirements for people attending meetings remotely. He said this motion is one that some other schools have also looked at doing so that this does not have to be voted on for every meeting. He explained that instead the motion states that if people meet the exceptions outlined in the Act, they are able to join and vote once a quorum is established, as is the case today. He added that if the proposal, which was motioned and seconded by the Executive Committee, were to be approved, it would enable the Senate to do business without having to go through this for every meeting.

Senator Petrocovič asked how far in advance it will be known whether Faculty Senate will have met quorum and whether the Google poll sent by the Chair is all that senators will receive. Chair Robinett replied that, according to the law, senators may text the Recording Secretary or the Chair prior to the beginning of the meeting to say they need to attend remotely as long as it meets one of the criteria in the Open Meetings Act. He added that as long as a physical quorum has been met, the senator would be able to attend remotely. Senator Petrocovič reiterated he wonders if senators can know ahead of time whether quorum has been met; he asked whether Chair Robinett could send out an email with this information. Chair Robinett said he can send this out on Mondays so that everyone knows where this stands, and then if anyone has not responded this can be a reminder to them to complete the form.

**MOTION APPROVED 20 YES – 0 NO – 0 ABSTENTIONS**

D. Other Announcements

1. Elections

- a. Committee on Provost and Presidential Performance (four senators from any college, plus an Executive Committee member, for one-year terms)

Senators Albarracin, Turkelli, Elbe, Melkumian, and Brewer volunteered to serve on this committee which collects data for the evaluation of the president and provost. Senator Brewer will serve as the Executive Committee representative.

b. Provost's Advisory Council (three senators for one-year terms)

Interim Provost Mossman stated that this council meets monthly. He said it is a discussion group; the interim provost will provide updates, take questions from council members, and provide explanations with the goal of greater communication. Interim Provost Mossman stated that potentially the council might focus on one particular item that the institution needs to work on, such as equity gaps and retention, but at its core it is an advisory council, so it will be about discussion questions.

Senators Asare, Gravitt, and Bellott volunteered to serve.

c. Student Learning Assessment Committee (one senator to serve a one-year term; should have assessment experience or be interested in learning more about assessment)

Senator Allwardt volunteered to serve on this committee.

d. Budget Transparency Committee (one senator from Arts and Sciences and one from Education and Human Services for two-year terms, one senator from Business and Technology and one senator from Fine Arts and Communication for one-year terms, plus an Executive Committee member)

Chair Robinett will represent the Executive Committee on this committee. Senator Walker volunteered to represent COFAC. Senator Petrocovi will fill the College of Arts and Sciences seat, and Senator Gravitt will represent the College of Business and Technology. There were no volunteers from the College of Education and Human Services at this time.

Senator Hunter observed that the university has less faculty so it may be harder to get 15 signatures on petition forms. He asked if Faculty Senate should look into requiring less signatures for nominations, such as ten. Following the meeting, Chair Robinett confirmed that the requirement for 15 signatures is part of the Faculty Senate Bylaws and an amendment would be required to revise this number.

Chair Robinett stated that the Executive Committee will be considering a charge to the Senate Nominating Committee to look into the numbers of faculty required for attendance on various councils and committees in order to determine if some of these need to be resized.

2. Amy Carr, WIU Representative to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) Faculty Advisory Council (FAC)

Dr. Carr informed those who might not know that she represents WIU on the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council, and Melissa Stinnett serves as alternative representative. She said the FAC meets for one day per month, ten months of the year; the group includes one representative from each of the state public universities plus rotating members from Illinois community colleges and private institutions, so it offers a unique opportunity to get together with faculty from many different spaces. Dr. Carr advised senators who are curious about the work FAC does to check out past meeting minutes and documents that they put together; these can be found on their website: <http://facibhe.org/index.php>.

Dr. Carr said the next meeting is in September, and while she does not know what this year's working groups will be, last year they were on higher education funding, artificial intelligence technology, mental health, prior learning assessment, and early college courses, which Dr. Carr serves on. She added the May minutes include links to resources for the equity working group, including the pedagogy around equity. Dr. Carr is co-chairing the public university caucus this year, so if anyone has issues they would like to raise in conversations with representatives from other universities, they can let her know.

Dr. Carr told senators she would report to Faculty Senate following meetings and will share a few highlights of the May and June IBHE FAC meetings. She stated that at the May IBHE FAC meeting, members heard a presentation from Jill Gebke, who works on FAFSA for the IBHE, and from Roger Eddy, who crafted the Dual Credit Quality Act in 2008. Dr. Carr recalled she has spoken at Faculty Senate before about dual credit, and these minutes discuss some of the concerns institutions have come across. She said Christi Chadwick spoke to the May IBHE FAC attendees about Current Initiatives in Early Childhood Programs. She related that one thing coming out of this conversation is that one of the disincentives for pursuing a bachelor's degree in early childhood education is that graduates still do not make a lot of money in this field – below \$50,000 per year. Dr. Carr added that the May meeting was held at the Illinois Association of School Boards offices, and she accompanied others who went up the day before to share with legislators some of the things the IBHE FAC working groups have done.

Dr. Carr stated that the June minutes will not be available until they are approved in September. She said in June the council met at Truman College, part of the city college system in Chicago, and heard from Truman's Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. She related the FAC also heard a presentation from Mike Abrahamson, the Senior Manager of Research and Policy for the Partnership for College Completion. Dr. Carr related that they are working on the higher education funding legislation that is starting to come forward and on the funding formula that came out last year from the Commission on Equitable University Funding. She said one thing that stood out from his presentation is that nationally the percentage of state revenue spent on higher education is 15 percent, but in Illinois it is only about 2 percent. She added that tuition in Illinois has tripled in less than ten years as the state appropriations have dropped. Dr. Carr said another fact which stood out from this presentation was that regional universities in Illinois collectively receive less than half of the state's appropriations for public universities.

Senator Albarracin asked where the equitable funding formula stands currently. Dr. Carr responded that apparently state Senators Carol Ammons and Kimberly Lightfoot have put out Senate Bill 3965, but she does not know if it is publicly visible yet. She said there has been a press release about the bill, which basically tries to work with the recommendations for the funding formula. She is not sure the bill is going anywhere, but Interim Provost Mossman said there was earlier talk that it would go to the veto session, although he does not know if that will happen. Dr. Carr added that there is only a Senate bill presently, not a House bill.

### III. Reports of Committees and Councils

#### A. Budget Transparency Committee (BTC) (TBD, Chair, 2024-2025)

##### 1. Annual Report (Dan Atherton, Chair, 2023-2024)

Dr. Atherton reported that the committee got a late start in the middle of February and developed the list of topics which were included in his report. He said the committee's initial meeting with the Budget Director went very well, but she subsequently would not respond to further multiple attempts to reach her. Dr. Atherton said this resulted in the committee being forced to resort to the use of FOIAs to obtain desired information, and they got pretty good at these.

Dr. Atherton related the BTC was told that the university does not make calculations that includes the income generated by tuition, which Dr. Atherton thinks is rather strange and worth exploring. He encourages the new BTC to work through the data the previous one collected and to use their list of suggestions, included in their report, this year.

Dr. Atherton said his suggestions include for the BTC to take a more aggressive oversight role, regardless of pushback, because this is something the BTC should be doing. He would also recommend that the BTC become experts in the FOIA process, which is not as easy as it seems because the FOIA has to include very precise verbiage. Dr. Atherton said another suggestion is for the BTC to develop a process for handling the data sets once they are received because once the data sets are provided, the BTC has to work through them. He said one final suggestion is to develop a process for distributing that information because it does not do a lot of good if the committee gets the information and then sits on it. He suggests the BTC may want to start with Faculty Senate – go over the data and talk about the findings first with senators, then decide how the committee and Senate wants the information disseminated through the rest of the faculty or university.

### **NO OBJECTIONS TO THE REPORT**

#### **B. Council on Admission, Graduation and Academic Standards (CAGAS) (Rich Filipink, Chair, 2024-2025)**

##### **1. Annual Report (Rich Filipink, Chair, 2024-2025)**

Dr. Filipink told senators that when CAGAS approved the dual enrollment policy in 2018-19, it also requested an annual report because one of the justifications for the policy was to hook students to come to WIU. He said the data shows that, through 2022-23, at least 23.62 percent of students who take dual enrollment courses end up enrolling at WIU as freshmen.

The CAGAS report indicates that the CAGAS Chair received 17 reports of academic integrity incidents from across the campus this year compared to 50 the previous year.

The council approved a Policy on Student Bereavement and a Freshman Admissions Policy update, which raised the floor for REACH admissions to a 2.25 GPA. The report states that CAGAS approved a blanket waiver for IMSA summer students this past year; a new waiver request will need to be submitted next year.

The report states that CAGAS discussed the General Education Policy Update and indicated that any changes in graduation requirements needed to be submitted to and approved by CAGAS.

Dr. Filipink expressed his thanks to Registrar Sarah Lawson and Susie Fowler in the Registrar's office for moving things through the council. He looks forward this year to seeing the submission from every university department of their Multicultural Perspectives graduation requirement options.

Chair Robinett asked if Dr. Filipink has any thoughts on why there was such a significant decline in academic integrity violations last year. Dr. Filipink responded there could have actually been fewer academic integrity incidents, or there could have been fewer reports submitted because people did not go through the proper procedure. He said CAGAS plans to see this year if the numbers remain the same and will probably send out a reminder on the process sometime in September.

### **NO OBJECTIONS TO THE REPORT**

#### **C. Council on Campus Planning and Usage (CCPU)**

(Dan Schmidt, Chair, 2024-2025)

1. Annual Report (Dan Schmidt, Chair, 2023-2024)

Mr. Schmidt reported that CCPU met once a month throughout the academic year so that faculty representatives could learn about current campus projects as well as upcoming projects from Facilities Management representatives. He said the council's goal is to meet with Facilities Management representatives to find out how these projects will affect the personnel, buildings, and areas of the campuses so that the members can better disseminate information and help to answer questions from building representatives, faculty, and others in those buildings and areas. He said CCPU will continue with this process moving into the 24-25 academic year.

**NO OBJECTIONS TO THE REPORT**

D. Council on Curricular Programs and Instruction (CCPI)  
(Amy Burke, Chair, 2024-2025)

1. Annual Report (Amy Burke, 2023-2024)

Ms. Burke reported CCPI did not have as busy of a year as they had the last couple of years, so they decided to revamp all of the curricular request forms. She said the council's efforts to make these forms more uniform was a huge task. CCPI will be posting a PowerPoint presentation on their website and a video with instructions regarding the updated forms. Additionally, the report indicates that CCPI considered 25 new course requests last year, 20 changes to existing courses, 13 changes to majors, four changes to minors, seven changes to options, and one change to an emphasis. The report indicates that CCPI approved one new major, Public Relations, and one new minor, Latinx Studies.

Senator Gravitt asked if CCPI has considered the General Education changes over the summer or how programs will accomplish this new graduation requirement. She wonders if the Provost's office has provided definitive criteria. Ms. Burke responded that CCPI has not had its first meeting yet for this academic year, so no one has discussed any of this with them.

Chair Robinett stated that there will be a variety of charges to Senate councils and committees that the Executive Committee will be discussing, so if senators have any ideas for things they believe the councils and committees should be looking at, they can let him know. Chair Robinett plans to also reach out to the 2023-24 council and committee chairs about this; if there are specific charges they think should go forward for this year, ExCo will ask the correct council or committee to pursue them.

Dr. Filipink reminded everyone that with the change to General Education, every department will have to account for 6 s.h. in all of their options, so CCPI will be considerably busier this year than last. Ms. Burke responded that CCPI is expecting that.

**NO OBJECTIONS TO THE REPORT**

E. Council on General Education (CGE)  
(Alisha White, Chair, 2024-2025)

1. Annual Report (Robert Kelly, Chair, 2023-2024)

Mr. Kelly reported that three articulation requests and one change request were submitted last year; two of the articulation requests were rejected and one approved. He added that all three of the articulation requests were submitted from Southern New Hampshire University. He noted that the change request, which was approved, was to change a Music class from 300-



level to 100-level. He added that last year's activities were lighter than the previous year on the council.

### **NO OBJECTIONS TO THE REPORT**

F. Council for Instructional Technology (CIT)  
(Andrea Alveshere, Chair, 2024-2025)

1. Annual Report (Rebel Mickelson, Chair, 2023-2024)

Ms. Mickelson reported that last year CIT rewrote their bylaws and policies and procedures to include a new AI subcommittee. CIT last year invited former University Technology CIO Greg Kain as well as Dawn Sweet and Ian Szechowycz from University Technology to speak to the council. They also heard a report from Michael Lorenzen and Everett Hamner, who co-chaired the Faculty Senate's ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence.

### **NO OBJECTIONS TO THE REPORT**

G. Council on Intercollegiate Athletics (CIA)  
(Todd Lough, Chair, 2024-2025)

1. Annual Report (Jeff Hancks, Chair, 2023-2024)

Dr. Hancks informed senators that historically CIA focuses on the number of classes students must miss in order to participate in intercollegiate athletics, and this year students missed fewer classes, primarily due to the university's move to the Ohio Valley Conference. He noted that this conference requires less distant travel for students so they can be away and home much quicker and miss fewer classes.

Dr. Hancks related that CIA talked a lot about policies that are impacting intercollegiate athletics. He noted that name-image-likeness concerns are not as big of a concern for WIU as they are for larger institutions, but it has come up. He said CIA also talked a lot about the transition to the Ohio Valley Conference and how it is going so far. Dr. Hancks thinks it has been a pretty good experience for WIU student-athletes.

Dr. Hancks thinks CIA did not do enough looking at the Intercollegiate Athletics budgets this year; he noted that CIA has not done much of this historically but believes the council should do more in future. He noted that the university community learned over the summer that the budgeting system for Athletics is kind of a mystery, as well as focusing on how large the Athletics deficits have become and how that has impacted the entire institution.

Dr. Hancks concluded that for the most part CIA had a productive year, and the new conference has been a good thing for the institution.

### **NO OBJECTIONS TO THE REPORT**

H. Council for International Education (CIE)  
(TBD, Chair, 2024-2025)

1. Annual Report (Gloria Delany-Barmann, Chair, 2023-2024)

Dr. Delany-Barmann reported that CIE got a late start and met twice in the spring semester. She said the council reviewed one FLGI form for the new Public Relations major. She said items discussed at the CIE meetings included Fulbright applications for faculty and students, the visit of Dr. Ibram Kendi, various international festivals, and raising tuition for international students.

## NO OBJECTIONS TO THE REPORT

### I. Writing Instruction in the Disciplines (WID) Council (TBD, Chair, 2023-2024)

#### 1. Annual Report (Anna Valeva, Chair, 2023-2024)

Dr. Valeva reported that the council's discussions were dominated by the rapid development, use, and misuse of artificial intelligence as it applies to WID courses. She related that this motivated the council's revision of the existing course review policy. She said they felt there should be consistency in moving all courses forward, which is why they modified the previous policy to require review of all sections of WID courses and all syllabi, not only for the current but also those for the previous semester.

Dr. Valeva reported that the council did not actually conduct any reviews this year because they thought people needed time to absorb the new policy and implement or modify their course delivery and evaluation of student performance in light of AI developments. She thinks in hindsight this decision was quite reasonable because otherwise the WID Council would have reviewed syllabi which will not in the future be used. Dr. Valeva recommends that the council look at how WID courses have been impacted by recent personnel changes and modify the rotation of their reviews accordingly.

Dr. Valeva pointed out that AI developments motivated the yearly workshop that the WID Council organizes. A link to the workshop was sent at the time to the faculty body to watch and is included in the WID Council report. She noted that the workshop includes additional resources that Writing Center Director Ashley Beardsley created for faculty to take into consideration in course delivery and student evaluation of WID courses.

Dr. Valeva noted that this year WID courses did not experience overenrollment issues with the exception of just a couple of courses which were overenrolled by one or two students. She noted, however, that there were a dozen WID courses which only had one or two students enrolled in them. She related the council thinks this may be a problem in terms of meeting some of the objectives of a WID course and council plans in the future to reach out to these instructors to see how they plan to meet the WID objectives.

Dr. Valeva noted that there was one request for a new WID course last year, which was not moved forward.

Senator Wipperling asked when the workshop was offered; Dr. Valeva responded it was offered on April 23. Dr. Valeva said there was a notification sent to faculty through WIU announcements and through the Faculty Senate (listproc) email, and individual council members lobbied their colleagues. Chair Robinett added that there is a recording of the workshop that he would be happy to share. Dr. Valeva reiterated that the link to the recording is in the annual report.

## NO OBJECTIONS TO THE REPORT

### J. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC) (Julia Albarracin, Chair, 2024-2025)

#### 1. Annual Report (Katherine Perone, Chair, 2023-2024)

Dr. Perone expressed her thanks to the committee members and to Ms. Hamm, who provided a lot of help and guidance over the last academic year. Dr. Perone related that the SNC met via Zoom and corresponded via email last year and presented 92 faculty nominations to the Faculty Senate, which was five more than the previous year. She told senators they also distributed the faculty interest survey, to which 86 faculty members responded, 15 fewer than

the previous year. Dr. Perone remarked that her term on Faculty Senate has ended, so she wishes Senator Albarracin well as SNC Chair this year. She also expressed thanks to the many faculty who responded affirmatively when asked to serve on various councils and committees throughout the year.

## **NO OBJECTIONS TO THE REPORT**

Chair Robinett expressed his thanks to all of the chairs who led these Senate councils and committees and to the faculty who served on them. He noted that there is a tremendous amount of work that goes on in these spaces, which represents the responsibilities the Senate has for faculty governance at its different levels and the wise decision-making authority that has been delegated. Chair Robinett also expressed his thanks to the faculty who are already serving on councils and committees as they get ready to move into what will be an incredibly busy year.

### IV. Old Business – None

### V. New Business

#### A. For the Good of the Body

Senator Gravitt asked if, based on the reductions in staff, the Executive Committee will need to revisit the number of representatives on Faculty Senate. Chair Robinett responded that Faculty Senate reapportionment is completed in the fall of odd years, so it will not be something that Senate will have to visit this year; however, senators may wish to look at the overall composition of the Senate. He suggested that looking at the overall size of the body in relation to the overall size of the faculty and take into account the efforts to establish quorum may be a topic for discussion as the Senate moves forward.

Senator Hunter recalled that Faculty Senate last year established an ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence. He asked whether the Executive Committee might want to discuss establishing a permanent committee on AI because this will be a developing system, at least in the near future. He suspects that as things change rapidly, there may be the need to revisit existing policies and procedures. Chair Robinett responded that the Senate Council for Instructional Technology has looked into this and would like to establish a subcommittee within that council that would look at those issues. He asked if Senator Hunter also wants ExCo to discuss this. Senator Hunter replied that if CIT already is exploring this, he is fine deferring to them. Chair Robinett added that Ms. Hamm has informed him this proposal will come before Faculty Senate at the next meeting.

Senator Gravitt remarked she used to use the Guava system to send mass emails to her students, but that system is entirely gone now. She thought that sometime last year someone had noted there is a system that can be used to send mass emails to classes. She wonders if this information can be provided or sent out to faculty again. Chair Robinett recalled that last year a discussion included the information that one of the widgets related to attendance within WesternOnline has the capacity to send text messages as well as emails. He said that WesternOnline subsequently turned that email feature off because it was not being used often, and this summer the texting feature also disappeared. He thinks Faculty Senate may want to talk to the University Technology CIO Group about this and determine the feasibility of bringing this back. He suggested this could also be a charge for CIT to look into as well because right now it does not exist.

Senator Bellott pointed out that faculty can still group email their students using the attendance tracker. He said it provides for a text file that is tab separated or comma separated, and he uses this twice a semester. Chair Robinett asked if this is only for emails; Senator Bellott responded it can be used to text students, and he used this feature yesterday. Registrar Sarah Lawson added that the university is working on getting the Slate system up and running, which can be used for communication management. She stated that at some point Slate, which is part of the university's upcoming technology enhancements, will be able to be used to send out batch messages. Chair Robinett expressed his apologies because when he last met with the University Technology CIO he

was under the impression that the text feature was gone, but if there is a way to still do that this is fantastic.

Dr. Filipink reminded everyone that academic activity reporting is due tomorrow for the eight day of classes. He encouraged everyone who has not yet done this to complete it in order for the university to be in compliance with the requirements for federal student aid.

**Motion:** To adjourn (Hunter)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary