

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

Regular Meeting, 24 September 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Via Zoom and in Union Capitol Rooms

ACTION MINUTES

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

SENATORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: B. Brewer, E. Hamner, J. Hancks

SENATORS ABSENT: D. Allwardt, D. Brown, H. Elbe, B. McDonald, K. Wiseley

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

GUESTS: Andrea Alvashere, Lori Baker-Sperry, Tom Blackford, Zaire Bradsher, Amy Carr, Craig Conrad, Anita Hardeman, Sarah Lawson, Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Jennifer McKenzie, Holly Nikels, Lorette Oden, Linda Prorise, Christopher Pynes, Ketra Roselieb

I. Consideration of Minutes

A. September 10, 2024

Corrections:

- FAFSA was spelled wrong on page 5. (Bower Sharpe)
- “were” was duplicated in the second paragraph in section D. (Bowers Sharpe)

The minutes were approved as corrected.

In the Executive Committee minutes, “average” was misspelled in the third sentence of the fourth paragraph from the top. (Hunter)

II. Announcements

A. Provost's Report

[**Note:** A Zoombomber interrupted the Provost’s Report, but once this was address by Chair Robinett the report proceeded.]

Interim Provost Mossman reported that the Founder’s Day celebration yesterday had good attendance despite the rain, and the post-event was well attended by students. On Saturday, September 28 there will a Family Day barbeque sponsored by the School of Agriculture before the first home football game.

Interim Provost Mossman reported that some legislators almost annually push to have community colleges be allowed to offer baccalaureate degrees, and this is occurring again now. He said traditionally community colleges have wanted to be allowed to offer baccalaureate degrees in nursing, and now this has shifted a bit to wanting to also offer baccalaureate degrees in education. He noted that this push from two-year schools to be able to offer four-year degrees has occurred over the past decade. He added that Zach Messersmith, Director of Governmental Relations, is working with the legislative liaisons at all the other four-year public institutions in Illinois to oppose this suggestion.

Interim Provost Mossman reported that the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) plans to start considering accepting applications for three-year baccalaureate degrees. He does not think people know yet what the ramifications of this will be for four-year institutions, but he anticipates that there

will be significant opposition to this as well, probably from a very high level. Interim Provost Mossman related that 18 to 24 months ago, the Higher Learning Commission initiated a substantive change form which requires that any changes over a certain number of hours at any level has to be reported to the HLC and to the Department of Education. He said this HLC decision has the same kind of feel as the previous issue because their rationale is based on the recommendations of stakeholders' in the Department of Education, which is going to consider accepting three-year baccalaureate programs. Interim Provost Mossman said these three-year programs are common overseas but have not been allowed in the history of the United States and higher education. He thinks there will be significant opposition to this trajectory; in our region, the Big Ten schools oppose this substantive policy change. He said the Illinois Board of Higher Education has gotten involved in this discussion, and he suspects there will be the same sort of slow, years-long discussion, with higher education systems across the United States involved in the conversation. Interim Provost Mossman thinks Faculty Senate needs to know that these kinds of discussions are happening across the region and with the institution's accreditor.

Senator Albarracin asked if the three-year baccalaureate degrees are offered in any other states. Interim Provost Mossman replied that as far as he knows all baccalaureate degrees in the United States require 120 semester hours, which is the standard that all accrediting bodies and accrediting organizations recognize. He added that in India and some European countries this type of degree is much more common, so he suspects this is what HLC is trying to address.

Senator Hunter asked if the university is screening international students who apply with three-year bachelor's degrees before they are admitted to WIU. Interim Provost Mossman replied that WIU's policy is that if a student has a bachelor's degree, it is a bachelor's degree, but there could be a marked change in how bachelor's degrees are delivered in the U.S. in future. He thinks that WIU just needs to be aware that these are discussions that have gotten more traction than usual with accrediting bodies, who are trying to figure out how to give universities guidance, so it is something everyone needs to pay attention to.

Senator Gravitt asked if WIU is already basically offering three-year bachelor's degrees in some cases when it accepts so much dual credit for high school programs. She noted that these students still have to complete the same number of credit hours, but there is an accelerated time period for achieving the degree. Interim Provost Mossman explained that the difference would be that what is being proposed is a reduced amount of credit to achieve a three-year baccalaureate degree. He added that now students must achieve 120 hours or whatever the specific amount above that is for their majors, and historically it takes about four years (or up to six years statistically in many cases), but this proposal would reduce the number of credit hours.

Senator Hancks remarked that the only institution doing this in the United States currently is BYU-Idaho, whose accrediting body very recently approved them offering 94-96 credit hour bachelor's degrees. He agrees that, while this is not a huge trend yet, it is something WIU should be aware of.

1. Assessment of Student Learning, 2022-2023
(Lori Baker-Sperry, WIU Assessment Coordinator)

Dr. Baker-Sperry stated that Faculty Senate normally sees this report every year, but there was no report completed last year for 2021-2022. She noted that while the report shows many academic programs at "meets," she does not want anyone to think that these programs are just doing only what needs to be done because this matrix represents a lot of hard work. She noted that 2022-2023 corresponds to the third year since the pandemic; in March 2020, many departments were set to do their normal end-of-year assessment, but that process just went away. She noted that one example is the Biology major field test, which cannot be performed online. Dr. Baker-Sperry related that HLC provided a lot of good, but hard to follow, advice on how programs could continue to do assessment since it was still required. She recognizes that the assessments done in 2021 and 2022 were very tough, and programs worked very hard to complete them. She concluded that even though most programs are in the "meets" category

for this matrix, the administration agrees that it is a phenomenal thing that the report looks the way it does.

Dr. Baker-Sperry told senators the assessment reports were due July 1 to the Provost's office, and they have already been catalogued and are starting to be reviewed. She expects that these assessments will be as good on the whole, if not better, than the ones senators are reviewing today. She recognizes that assessment is difficult; WIU does not have a lot of money to fund external tests, so most of the assessments that programs do are developed in-house, and faculty, chairs, assistant deans, and assessment coordinators do all that work on the ground. She explained that the HLC requires that each program that offers a degree must have an acceptable assessment plan, and they must be in good standing, so most really work diligently to make that assessment meaningful.

Dr. Baker-Sperry admitted that the Provost's office is still working through what constitutes the difference between "meets" and "exceeds." She explained the fourth step is that HLC requires that programs use the data to improve student learning for each learning outcome in a continuous improvement model. She said what this means is that each program's report each year has to show that each learning outcome's data is being used, and that has to be documented, which is a big task. Dr. Baker-Sperry related the Provost's office works year-round with programs, and she is really proud of all the people who are involved in what has been submitted because there is a lot of unseen work behind it. She added that probably most senators are involved in their programs' assessment efforts.

Senator Gravitt asked what happens when a program is consistently in the "does not meet" category. Dr. Baker-Sperry responded that faculty, chairs, assistant deans, and program coordinators in each office work very closely with those programs that are struggling with assessment. She stated that if senators had seen the matrix a couple of months ago, it would have looked very different because there was still a lot of work being done with some programs. She noted that there is not a logical cut-off date for the assessment matrix because really assessment occurs year-round. Dr. Baker-Sperry said the answer to the question is that her office works closely with deans' offices that work with these programs because there has been an understanding for the past seven or eight years that it is difficult to get new curriculum through if a program's assessment plan and report is not up to speed.

Senator Gravitt remarked that it does not seem like there are any penalties for programs not getting to "exceeds." Dr. Baker-Sperry related she has worked some late nights with programs that want curriculum to be reflected in the catalog but do not have assessment processes firmly in place, so that is an effective deterrent for a lot of programs. Dr. Baker-Sperry noted that the four-year HLC review occurs in March, so there will be a truncated schedule, and programs will get a lot of emails from her and from their dean's offices if the reports that were just submitted by July 1 and are beginning to be processed are not up to speed, which is another deterrent. She remarked that yet another deterrent is simply that departments do not want their names to appear on this matrix in the "does not meet" category. Dr. Baker-Sperry said she noticed with the ten-year HLC review that programs seemed to kick things into gear, so she anticipates the four-year review will inspire the same.

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

Mr. Bradsher reported that SGA is creating a Town Hall to connect with students and get their feedback on WIU and what SGA can help make better. He said the SGA's Attorney General is currently reviewing their constitution to see if there are any inconsistencies or things that need to be changed.

Mr. Bradsher said SGA is planning events with the Office of Justice, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (JIDE) to engage with students as well. He has also been attending Interhall Council meetings for future collaborations with SGA. He added that SGA has had its first committee group meeting.

C. Faculty Senate Chair's Report

Chair Robinett promised to follow up with University Technology and the university's legal counsel as soon as he can to determine options regarding the Zoombombing episode.

Chair Robinett expressed his thanks to Financial Aid, Administrative Services, Student Services, and a wide array of offices that have been very busy trying to resolve issues related to financial aid for WIU students. He said there have been regular communications going out to students as these offices continue to try to address the issues. Chair Robinett also expressed his thanks to Facilities Management, who have been doing a lot related to heating and cooling, making sure students have hot water, and keeping buildings where they need to be.

Chair Robinett pointed out that the shared drive includes information on Mental Health First Aid, which teaches how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health issues, substance abuse, and other challenges among adults. Chair Robinett attended this program and believes so strongly in it that he became a facilitator for it. He noted that there are a variety of these types of programs being offered, and with everything that is happening around the campus he thinks they are beneficial to explore. He encouraged senators to look at those materials.

Chair Robinett pointed out that there is a Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting this week. The Board has changed the order of its agenda: general and advisory group reports have been moved to the beginning, immediately after the President's remarks. He noted that the Board Book has not yet been posted and encouraged senators to take a look at it prior to the Friday, September 27 meeting so that they can get an understanding of the types of things that will be discussed. Chair Robinett told senators that his report to the Board will highlight concerns that have been discussed with Faculty Senate and how the Senate is attempting to contribute toward moving the institution forward. He said his report will discuss the Senate priorities of facilitating collaboration, endeavoring to effectively communicate in collaborative ways, and working to rebuild the confidence that everyone wants to have in shared governance.

Chair Robinett has had the opportunity to meet with Interim President Mindrup and Interim Provost Mossman recently and related that their conversations centered heavily on looking at ways to enhance transparency and communication. He asked senators to reach out to him if they have ideas for ways they think transparency and communication can be enhanced. Chair Robinett said Interim President Mindrup has been very forthcoming in her conversations with him on this topic; also, Chair Robinett and Interim Provost Mossman are working together to develop an ad hoc committee that might work toward alleviating some of these issues.

Chair Robinett told senators that charges approved by the Executive Committee have been distributed to Senate councils. He has met with the Council on General Education, and the Budget Transparency Committee attended the last ExCo meeting and held their first meeting last Friday in order to set priorities and discuss what information they would like to receive. Chair Robinett told senators that some proposed changes to admissions standards have gone to CAGAS, and reports will be brought back to Faculty Senate at a later date.

D. Other Announcements

1. Ketra Roselieb, Executive Director for Financial Affairs

Ms. Roselieb said that she plans to give a lighter presentation since senators can read in the Executive Committee minutes the more in-depth presentation she gave to ExCo and the Budget Transparency Committee last week. She said she is happy to take questions and will bring back answers for anything that she may need more data in front of her before responding to. Ms. Roselieb's PowerPoint presentation was shown to the BOT in August and highlights the financial picture of the university leading up to the current point from a budget perspective and from a cash perspective. She explained the three income sources – Income Fund, Other/Local

Fund, and Auxiliary Facilities System (AFS/Revenue Bonds/Restricted) Funds – represent the way that WIU budgets using these three “buckets.”

Ms. Roselieb noted that the Income Fund is mostly funded by state appropriations, which were about \$56 million this year, as well as tuition income. She said expenses paid by this fund must be related to educational expenses for WIU students; this fund is where the deficit is that efforts have been made to eliminate. Ms. Roselieb explained the Other/Local Fund, also called 3-accounts, includes mandatory student fees, such as for Beu Health Center, facilities enhancements, athletics, talent grants, and transit. She said this account also includes commissions, indirect cost recovery dollars from grants, and actual grants that are deposited on a reimbursement basis. Ms. Roselieb explained the third tier, Auxiliary or AFS, consists of three main entities: University Housing and Dining, the University Union, and Campus Recreation, which includes the golf course. She noted that these three entities are bonded together through covenants and have the ability to issue debt and pledge their revenues, which are received through housing and dining charges, student activity fees that go toward campus recreation or the University Union, and things similar to this. She told senators these three entities do not receive state money to build their facilities, nor can the revenues they receive go toward expenses that are related to educational opportunities. Ms. Roselieb added that when senators see the Board Book, it will include the All-Funds Budget, which is budgeted into these three separate categories.

Ms. Roselieb showed senators a bar graph of the historical revenues and expenses for the Income Fund. She noted that in FY 2021 this fund showed income of about \$102 million, and expenses were a similar amount, with revenue exceeding expenses by \$376,000. She pointed out that the deficit grew from \$4 million in FY 22 to \$12.4 million in FY 23, with an \$8.2 million deficit in FY 24. Ms. Roselieb explained that although she highlighted only these four years, she could take the graph much further back to show that the university has had a structural problem for quite some time, knowing that projections showed declining enrollments and not adjusting expenses quickly enough, which is very hard to do. She pointed out that WIU received some Covid relief funds, and during the pandemic it was difficult to project what WIU’s enrollment and the state support would look like in the future. She thinks that now there is a better trajectory that shows the need to turn the ship around.

Ms. Roselieb showed senators a chart illustrating the historical cash flow from FY 18 through FY 24. She explained that the budget provides guiding principles and should directly align with the university’s mission; the urgency to address issues is based on the cash flow. She noted that the cash in the Other/Unrestricted Fund and the Income Fund can be used interchangeably; things are accounted for individually in each of the two accounts, so from a financial reporting standpoint the university is in compliance, and there is some flexibility to use the cash in both of these accounts to pay for day-to-day expenditures. She pointed out that the Income Fund line dipped below the 0 point in FY 22 while the Unrestricted Fund line only dipped down slightly on the chart. She showed senators that the Income Fund was in deficit at the end of FY 2023, but the line showing the Income and Other/Unrestricted Funds combined remained just slightly above the 0 point for FY 23 and FY 24. She stressed, though, that the university does not have a significant amount of cash to begin operations for the new fiscal year, which has created the sense of urgency in the decision-making process.

Senator Gravitt related that it has been shared with her that the university’s cash flow is mostly identified and secure for this semester, but work is being done for next semester since it is unknown how many students will return in the spring. Ms. Roselieb confirmed that the administration believes enough mitigating measures have been put into place to get through the fall semester. She said at one point it was believed there would be some financial difficulties at the end of September, so some challenging times are still being worked through. Ms. Roselieb explained the university bills the state of Illinois for the Monetary Assistance Program (MAP) grants received by students because those have already been applied to student accounts, but there have been difficulties encountered in actually creating the bill that goes to the state due to Financial Aid challenges, so \$5 million dollars to pay the

university back for those MAP funds has not yet been received. She said that the university continues to navigate through these types of financial challenges and, although WIU is not flush with cash, it is believed that the university will make it through the fall.

Senator Petracovici asked if the deficits for FY 22, 23, and 24, as shown on the Historical Income Fund Revenues and Expenses bar graph, were for those years specifically so that someone would have to add them to see how much in the red the university is currently or whether the FY 23 deficit included FY 22, etc. Ms. Roselieb responded that those are each independent. Senator Petracovici asked if, based on the graph, the deficit came to about \$25 million; Ms. Roselieb confirmed that is correct.

Senator Albarracin asked if, since the university is reducing the number of faculty and they are funded with appropriated dollars, it is reasonable to assume the state will give WIU less funding next year when it has laid off a quarter of its faculty, or whatever that number is. Ms. Roselieb explained that \$113 million was spend in FY 24, and if, for purposes of this discussion, the university receives \$100 million in FY 25 between state appropriations and income from tuition, WIU would need to come up with \$13 million practically overnight to adjust the previous year's expenditures. She noted that Senator Albarracin is correct in that 80 percent of the Income Fund expenses come from personnel, so the approximately \$50 million received from state appropriations is vouchered to the state for payroll expenditures. She added that there are additional expenditures as well, from tuition dollars in the Income Fund, that will need to be adjusted, but from a holistic perspective, approximately \$13 million will need to be adjusted with new enrollment numbers moving forward.

Senator Albarracin asked if WIU is at risk that the state could diminish its appropriated funds if the university has fewer expenditures, such as because it has fewer faculty. Ms. Roselieb responded that would not happen because, although WIU vouchers for its personnel expenditures, state appropriations are not tied to the number of students or faculty a university has, and she does not anticipate the state would reduce WIU's appropriations. Senator Gravitt asked what state appropriations are based on if not the number of students or employees. Ms. Roselieb explained that it is based on historical appropriations, which is why the state created the Illinois Commission on Equitable Funding, which has tried to put forth a new funding formula that is driven not only by student enrollment but also by the needs of those students and the facilities needs of the state's public institutions. She said the legislature is still working on getting that through, but the administration thinks that this would increase funding for WIU based on our student population and the needs that they have. She added that WIU students show a significant funding gap using the proposed equity formula.

Senator Hunter asked if there is consideration of turning WIU into a "system" of Quad Cities and Macomb, similar to the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University systems. Ms. Roselieb responded she has not heard of any conversations about moving WIU to a "system."

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

Dr. Carr noted that, regarding the push for community colleges to be able to offer four-year degrees, the community college representatives on the IBHE FAC do not support this at all and made a short statement to that regard last year. She provided highlights from the IBHE FAC meeting at the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC) on Friday, September 20:

- Karen Colley, the Provost at UIC, said that university saw a drop of 4.9 percent in first-time students this fall but an overall enrollment increase of 1.8 percent due to retention and transfers.
- UIC, in partnership with city colleges, is developing a personalized degree planning tool for students with early college course credits as a pilot program, and the state is very interested in this.

- UIC is considering developing a university-wide requirement involving civic discourse, training, and dialogue. Dr. Carr said they currently offer a 4 credit hour course which is not required except for one major, and UIC is thinking about how to integrate that into a requirement for all students.
- Dr. Carr asked Dr. Colley about UIC's approach to General Education, the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) approach to Gen Ed, and whether relating those two limits what an institution can do, especially with early college courses, which come in through IAI. Dr. Carr was told that UIC's equivalent to WIU's Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences has come up with an interesting Gen Ed proposal, but it is not clear how early college credit would integrate with it; they are just starting to think about how IAI/early college courses and UIC's own Gen Ed structures relate. Dr. Carr does not think there has been a lot of consideration among provosts systemwide about whether any universities can have unique Gen Ed programs [given the growth of courses students transfer to universities via IAI].
- Robert Barish, UIC Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and a professor of Emergency Medicine, gave a talk about the kinds of medical programs being done at UIC. Dr. Carr related that UIC is doing robotic surgery in Chicago that is actually being performed on ships. She said UIC has a one square mile health center that they opened in 2022 in an area with one of the worst health outcomes in Chicago, and along with that they have substantially increased underrepresented minorities in clinical trials. She added that UIC educates many people in the medical field in Illinois.
- Yuri Polikenov, UIC Biological Sciences, spoke to the IBHE FAC about dual-action antibacterials that target ribosomes. Dr. Carr said this offers new potential for antibiotics to block mutations in two ways. She added that she also learned that drug companies tend not to develop antibiotics because they must take a loss on them.
- The Partnership for College Completion is working on a community college funding bill. Dr. Carr has heard that community colleges only receive 20-25 percent of what they should be getting from the state.
- Dr. Carr will provide a draft of Senate Bill 3965 to anyone who wants to see it. She said this higher education funding bill, which would provide an adequate and equitable funding formula for universities, will not be formally released until the Senate legislative sessions starts. She suspects it may be paired with a House bill down the road. She is not sure whether this bill will be very successful, but it does build on a report that was submitted last year. Dr. Carr related that both the unions and the IBHE FAC working group that is attending to the funding bill would like to see faculty included on the implementation oversight team.
- A statewide AI task force is expected to put out its report by December. Dr. Carr said the IBHE FAC has a smaller higher ed technology working group that will also be presenting a short report. Dr. Carr has shared the draft of this report with Senator Hamner and encouraged anyone else interested in seeing it to let her know as the group is looking for feedback.
- Dr. Carr is Chair of the IBHE FAC Public University Caucus this year. She said they talked about a lot of issues, including a position paper to support librarians, an idea that was initiated by the Illinois State University faculty rep.
- Dr. Carr related that community college retirees tend not to retain access to their employee email accounts nor interlibrary loan access because it is too expensive for their institutions, but all public university IBHE FAC reps said retirees retain their university emails and can do interlibrary loans.
- IBHE FAC established a working group on faculty mental health last year that they have decided to continue. Dr. Carr said that WIU faculty will probably receive a survey from them at some point. She added they have prepared some information on faculty mental health for the IBHE FAC website.

Senator Hunter asked what costs are incurred by keeping retirees on a library account. Dr. Carr responded a librarian could better answer that question. Parliamentarian Bowers Sharpe,

faculty librarian at Malpass Library, clarified that libraries pay for the number of people who are actually accessing their services, which is why they cannot afford for all alumni, for instance, to have access. She added that generally pricing is done on a tiered basis based on how many are using the services, so a smaller library would not pay the same amount as one at UIUC. Senator Gravitt asked if this refers to access to interlibrary loan or access to the library as a whole. Parliamentarian Bowers Sharpe responded she is referring to access to the database; anyone in Illinois can come into the library and check something out, but the issue is off-campus access. She explained that in order to access the database off campus, an individual needs an active ecom account, and the discussion of that possibly going away would not simply involve losing an email account but also would result in retirees or emeritus faculty members losing their ability to continue their research because they would not be able to access the databases unless they came to the library in person. Senator Gravitt asked if this would apply even if the retiree was teaching as an adjunct faculty member. Chair Robinett responded these are things the University Technology CIO Group is looking at; they have identified ways that anyone with a WIU ID number would be able to continue accessing library resources. He added the CIO group is developing a policy that would allow emeriti faculty and retirees to be sponsored by their home departments or units. He understands that once University Technology gets past the financial aid issues the university is currently experiencing, they will get back to exploring these topics so that they can share something with Faculty Senate.

Dr. Carr said she did not get a sense that any other universities are cutting off email accounts to faculty and asked what other universities are doing this. Chair Robinett responded that is one of the things that the State University Annuitants Association is researching, so he does not know that answer yet. Chair Robinett said he was brought into this discussion by emeriti faculty, who had a great deal to say about these proposed changes, which led to him having a discussion with the CIO Group. He added that most of these conversations emerged in June and July as a result of audit findings which led to a policy which raised a lot of questions; this led to a slowdown of implementation of the policies and procedures related to email access. He told Dr. Carr that security issues prompted these changes, and CIO Group talking points point out that many other universities have much more staffing on their security teams in order to be able to navigate things such as the Zoom bombing that was experienced in today's meeting. Dr. Carr remarked that the policies seem to be turning WIU more toward a community college model; Chair Robinett said he does not have sufficient knowledge about that to respond. He added that the CIO Group have offered to attend a Faculty Senate meeting to answer questions.

Senator Gravitt asked how much money the university would save if it shrunk the number of people with access to their email accounts; she wonders if this is a budget issue or strictly a security issue. Parliamentarian Bowers Sharpe responded her understanding is that this came up because of the security audit; it did not come from University Libraries. Chair Robinett related he has been told there are insurance issues; University Technology pays more for cybersecurity based on the number of users, both in terms of insurance as well as some other expenditures. He thinks when the CIO Group visits Faculty Senate, they will be able to answer some of these questions.

3. Election of Senator to Serve on Committee on First Year Experience (CFYE)

Chair Robinett said a senator is needed to serve on the Committee on First Year Experience; that person should preferably be someone with FYE experience, such as by having taught a Y course, worked with first-year students in their department, sat on an FYE committee, worked with retention, etc. He asked Dr. Baker-Sperry, FYE Faculty Associate, approximately how much time this would involve. Dr. Baker-Sperry responded there will be two meetings in the fall and two in the spring. She said this is an advisory committee which would send out various things as they come up.

Dr. Baker-Sperry noted there is a kind of parallel example in the Student Learning Assessment Committee, a university-wide committee with representation from individuals across the campus who are very involved in assessment, including one Senate rep. She noted that the matrix which senators saw earlier is prepared by a group of about ten people, and it is provided to Faculty Senate, the Graduate Council, the Council on General Education, the Provost, and the President.

Dr. Baker-Sperry related that when she began working with FYE in 2018, there were two FYE committees – the Committee on Classes and the Leadership Committee – both of which had Faculty Senate representation. She said the two individuals who trained her in the position, Stacey Macchi and Nancy Parsons, recommended these two be merged because one committee would develop something that then had to be approved by the other, and sometimes initiatives died during this process. She added that shortly after merging the two committees, the pandemic occurred.

Dr. Baker-Sperry told senators the new CFYE will be co-chaired by her and Justin Schuch, Interim Vice President for Student Success. She said the intention is to pull people from across the campus who do FYE work and have a stake in it to serve on an advisory committee, because FYE and FYE students change every year so things have to be very nimble. She thinks the position is an important one and that Faculty Senate has an important role on this committee in terms of a voice in this process.

Senator Albarracin asked if the position could be for a faculty member in general rather than specifically for a senator because senators are often overburdened with requests for service. She suggested that if it were open to a faculty member at-large, the Senate Nominating Committee could help find a faculty member with these characteristics. Dr. Baker-Sperry replied she would be open to this.

Senator Bellott volunteered for the position. There were no other volunteers, and he was elected by acclamation.

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

1. Faculty Nominations

SENATE COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Council on Admission, Graduation, and Academic Standards (CAGAS)

Dan Malachuk, English	replacing	Stacey Macchi	2027	AT-LARGE
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Council on General Education (CGE)

Josh Averbeck, Communication	replacing	David Zanolla	2026	BASIC SKILLS/ PUBLIC SPEAKNG
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UNIVERSITY COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Bureau of Cultural Affairs (BCA)

Beth Hansen, Math & Philosophy	replacing	Anna Valeva	Fall 24	AT-LARGE
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Honors College

Bret Bogenschneider, AFED	replacing	Tammy Werner	2025	WIUQC
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Provost’s Awards Committee

Jiyoung Park, RPTH	new		2025	E&HS
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There were no further nominations, and the slate of candidates was declared elected.

IV. Old Business

A. Proposed Bylaws Amendment from Council for Instructional Technology (CIT)

CIT Chair Andrea Alveshere explained the bylaws changes will allow the council to create a subcommittee on AI technology. She added the Faculty Senate would appoint 4-6 members outside of CIT, and CIT would populate the subcommittee with four members from that council.

Motion: To approve the bylaws change (Hunter/Melkumian)

MOTION APPROVED 13 YES (9 of those on Zoom) – 0 NO – 0 ABSTENTIONS

V. New Business

A. For the Good of the Body

Senator Melkumian said during the discussion at the last Senate meeting of the vote of no confidence referendums, she suspects senators were all thinking that they would not get the university to a better place than where it currently is and even might hurt future enrollments. She has observed that at the same time, faculty still feel strongly that cutting faculty positions was done in an inhumane way which is still upsetting to everyone. She pointed out that there are other ways of expressing how faculty feel about the recent layoffs besides a vote of no confidence, including a censure, which is directed at the people who implemented the cuts, or a protest resolution, directed at the way the process was implemented. Senator Melkumian believes that Faculty Senate, as a representative of the faculty, should create and bring these two to documents to vote as a record of the faculty's opinion.

Senator Melkumian said she feels strongly about this and would like for other senators to help her with this process; Senator Wipperlind has agreed to help, and she would like one or two more senators who agree that this needs to be done to volunteer to help. She added that this matter is not being tabled; it is here and not going anywhere. Senators Hunter and Woell volunteered. Chair Robinett asked if it would be okay for senators to contact Senator Melkumian if they want to be a part of this. Senator Melkumian said this would be fine, adding that they will probably work on Zoom rather than in a physical space.

She said another idea might be to create an open letter which could be signed by the Faculty Senate and directed to the Governor asking for help in a general way. She thinks that, given the recent layoffs, the BOT is not going to help, support, or protect faculty, so they need to find some other way to protect themselves, perhaps by asking for help for the university moving forward to regroup or rearrange in both the Quad Cities and Macomb. She observed that while state appropriated funds are great, they barely cover expenditures, including maintenance of the buildings used on a daily basis. She thinks the more minds creating these documents, the better, because faculty cannot rely on the administration and the BOT, and there is no shared governance the way things stand right now. She thinks a letter to the Governor could represent a cry for help going straight to the source, asking for additional funding right now rather than waiting for a bill to be passed. She suggested the open letter could also be published in the local newspaper, on Facebook, and perhaps even in *The Chicago Tribune* because everyone is invited to contribute to make things better. She added that Chair Robinett suggested that an open letter could also include the Interim President because it will deal with the future of the institution. Senator Hunter asked if it would include other universities; Senator Melkumian responded that it will not. Senator Melkumian said the idea of an open letter was brought to her by a faculty member who thought it would be the easiest way to deliver news, which might not be reaching the source, of how much WIU is struggling and how much everyone wants to support the university and grow from where we are.

Motion: To adjourn (Gravitt)

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Hamm, Faculty Senate Recording Secretary