

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 6, 2024

Western Illinois University
Macomb, Illinois
University Union, Capitol Room

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 8am on August 6, 2024 in the Western Illinois University Union, Capitol Room Carin Stutz presided.

August 6, 2024 – Western Illinois University Union, Capitol Room

Trustee moved to convene to open session at 8am.

Motion: Trustee Wise

Second: Trustee Lowe Mullins

Roll Call

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

The following Trustee was on-line:

Trustee Kisha Lang

Motion to allow Trustee Lang to appear remotely pursuant to Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/7(ii)

Motion: Trustee Dillard

Second: Trustee Cornell

Roll Call

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

6. David Wade
 - Here to represent WIU Donors
 - Cutting programs, this is not a new problem
 - I have ideas and will be here to help WIU rebuild

7. Paul Edwards
 - Here for two reasons – First to listen, I still support WIU and thank my team
 - Second to thank my staff, Ketra, Renea, Greg, Mary Kay, Bobbie, John and Cassandra for their support and the good work we did

8. Julia Albarracin
 - Will come back to her

9. Larry T. Balsamo
 - Spent 40 years as a faculty member
 - Wife was here 36 years
 - This will be a hard and long day
 - 2 Suggestion – 1) National searches here have been unsuccessful. I recommend keeping the current Acting President and Acting Provost if their work is satisfactory. We need stability in leadership.
 - 2) Create a Blue-Ribbon panel of 12 people – To address attraction of students, academic standards, image, and place in higher ed. They need to act quickly and report to the board.

10. Edward Woell
 - Faculty Senate member – At the meeting the Interim President and Interim Provost justified the rollout to fire faculty as a staff reduction
 - One statement – It doesn't do any good to look at the past I want to look forward.
 - This is what plagues governance and this condemns the board to make mistakes
 - Overlooking shared governance is reflected in this proposal
 - Dwindling faculty and bloated administration are not equitable
 - This decision will be devastating
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- We do this, students stop coming
- We are stabilizing the university and making hard decisions every time
- we make the same mistakes and have the same outcomes
- I ask that the board, instead of breaking this University build it up and vote no

Written Comments

1. Craig Tollini
 - A year ago, the overall message from administrators including the president was there would be no layoffs. The raise has obviously increased the deficit.
 - The University community was not directly informed about the unit B layoffs
 - Interim Provost and President did not directly address the faculty layoffs until the July 25th Faculty Senate meeting. At that meeting, the Interim Provost claimed something he intended to be an exercise was misunderstood as the actual decision-making process causing continuing communication issues
 - Why should we trust the Interim Provost and President when they say the proposed layoffs will follow the contract and right-size WIU.
 - A full commitment to complete open and honest communication is needed to rebuild trust and thereby unite us
 - I hope the Trustees have either already informed themselves about the topics relevant to today's meeting or don't vote until they get information.
 - WIU deserves Trustees who do their jobs well just as it deserves administrators and faculty who do their jobs well

In-Person Comment - Julia A4(de)4(d)-9(to re)5(buil)-3(d trust)JTJETQ0.00000912 0 612 792 reust

much to the Foundation for stepping up but even with that help it doesn't solve the problem of structural deficits.

- Administration has been working for months to find a way through this without layoffs and program cuts, but they've exhausted all measures that could be taken to cut costs. There're still not enough resources to address the operational needs of the University, cuts are necessary

Institutional Research Director, total Savings of close to 3/4 million.

- I want to acknowledge the gravity of these decisions and the profound impact they will have on our dedicated faculty, staff, and communities
- It is heartbreaking to come to this point in our institution's path where we have no choice but to make a significant financial shift for the ultimate sustainability of Western
- The future of Western Illinois University is one dependent upon a financially stable foundation this is the difficult year
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Trustee Derek Wise	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	No
Trustee Kirk Dillard	No
Trustee Erika Lowe Mullins	No
Trustee Doug Shaw	No
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes

Motion did not carry

Old Business

New Business

Change September BOT Meeting to the Macomb Campus

Motion: Trustee Lowe Mullins

Second: Trustee Wise

Roll Call

