

Faculty Council – WIU – Quad Cities Agenda – Apr 2024

List of District Representatives on Executive Committee

- Everett Hamner (CAS, 2026), Co-Chair
- Haley Wikoff, (COEHS, 2026), Secretary
- Md. Shahin Alam (CBT, 2025)
- Ted Avtgis (COFAC, 2026)
- Bret Bogenschneider (CBT, 2025)
- Christopher Carpenter (COFAC, 2025)
- Jeff Hancks (Library, 2025)
- Daniel Malachuk (CAS, 2026)
- Angela McClanahan-Simmons (COFAC, 2025)
- Monica Rouse (COEHS, 2025)
- Il-Seop Shin (CBT, 2026)

Others in attendance:

- Michael Sheerin
- Andre Du Plessis
- Jose Pavez
- Garima Mishra

Guests

- Audrey Adamson (Executive Director, Outreach & QC Operations)

Friday, Apr. 5; 1:00 PM, QCC 3420 and via Zoom

1. Called to order at 1:00 pm
2. Motion to approve minutes of Feb 2024
 - Chris motioned
 - Dan seconded
 - Unanimous approval

New Business:

3. Presentation from and discussion with Audrey Adamson
 - As of Monday, April 1st – Executive Director of Outreach and QC Operations
 - Operations:
 - Supervision of a majority of the non-academic staff on the QC campus
 - She referred to the [FY 2024 Functional Organization Chart for WIU](#) – so most of the organizations on the QC campus, with the exception of academic affairs

- There will still be hiring of academic affairs personnel on the QC campus to complete this transition.
 - [Center for Career Preparation and Employer Engagement](#) will likely continue to fall under Academic Affairs.
 - WIU Career Center Engagement Menu
 - Will partner with faculty on assignments
 - Many tools: Handshake, Candid Career, Stepping Blocks, Parker Dewey Micro-internships, Big Interview, Forage.
 - Example syllabus statements for the Career Center
- Questions from faculty
 - Bret: Local employers are contacting faculty to advertise positions and get names of students that might be a good fit. Bret asked if we can follow “normal business practices” and achieve a 48-hour response time for employer inquiries?
 - Audrey suggested that we direct the employers to list their position on Handshake (which democratizes opportunity) and then we can talk to the employer about students that we are going to encourage to apply for the position. Professors are welcome to recommend particular students, even as the Career Center is responsible for enabling broad access. As for response timelines, Audrey noted that the Career Center is working hard with limited staff and will continue aiming for prompt response times.
 - Monica: How is this used at the graduate level?
 - Grad programs/students do connect with the career center.
 - Il-Seop: Is there any notification feature and opportunities for certain areas if positions are posted in Handshake?
 - Not at this point, but the career center is trying to do a weekly or bi-weekly newsletter to programs to highlight positions that have been recently added.
 - Handshake can now be downloaded as an app and it will highlight the jobs that connect to your searches
 - Dan: Do you now have your job plus Kristi’s former job?
 - In some ways, but Kristi was also partly handling academic affairs, and that is a separate QC position in process.
 - There is also a hope that someone will take over day-to-day Career Center work and then Outreach and QC Operations will be more fully her focus.
 - Audrey hopes to shift from weekly to alternate-weekly travel to the Macomb campus.
 - Audrey reports to the Provost now.
 - Bret: Today the Dean of the CBT distributed a CBT strategic plan indicating that if there are layoffs on one campus, appropriate faculty will be identified to transfer to the other campus. Thoughts?
 - Audrey has not been privy to meetings discussing this.
 - Everett shared that based on recent BOT meetings, his sense – while emphasizing that nothing is for sure and many serious conversations are in process – has been that we are not looking at near-term layoffs of people so much as

restructuring of things. The emphasis has been on keeping people and being smarter in investing resources.

- E.g. department combinations, eliminating a chair.
- Encouraged all faculty to listen in to the June BOT meeting and hear VP Paul Edwards on the budget.
- Follow-up question – have the consultants already provided some information on what needs to be done?
 - The initial preliminary report from EBA has not been shared with faculty. It's been shared with some people at the chair level; it was created quickly after the contract was signed.
 - IBHE will be sending out a survey and Audrey encouraged faculty to send it out; their additional study is focused on the Quad Cities region and especially relevant to our campus.
 - Everett has some “cautious optimism” about where we are and where we are going. E.g., the IBHE's new funding formula is still unfolding, but it will prioritize first-gen students and underrepresented groups, and that can only help WIU.
- Are we locked into the contract with EBA for 3 full years?
 - Everett: I have not seen the contract, but my memory is that we are not. There certainly was significant faculty pushback about this contract, but it was approved and our job at the moment is to push for it to be as high-quality as possible.
- Everett: What should be among our highest, near-term, and/or low-hanging-fruit priorities for improving the QC campus student experience this fall?
 - Michael: How do we create events that does outreach into the community? Leverage partners in the community that can bring students to us. Partner with community members to help them understand career paths and how that can fit here at WIU.
 - Everett: What are things that we think we could do to make this place live more fully?
 - Chris: This campus is a confusing space.
 - Could we have students posted near the entrances at the beginning of the semester to help other students find their way around?
 - Everett: TikTok-style mini-video of the campus layout and use of wayfinding tools?
 - Could we also have the classroom usage calendars outside of the classrooms again? (Audrey: yes.)
 - Everett: Can we make the campus more aesthetically welcoming with more art on walls, etc.? We share classrooms too, but could we agree on pieces that would be widely appreciated?
 - Angela: Museum studies students always need projects and maybe we

could rotate collections between the QC and Macomb.

- Michael: “Campus takeover” days from local businesses? (Audrey’s term; she also emphasized the value in external funding partnerships.)

4. Review this year’s QC Faculty Council structure and plan for next year
 - a. Dana will update us on informal gatherings via email, but next on calendar is April 19 and there may be something else closer to finals week.
 - b. Are we happy with this year’s new structure (2 business meetings per semester in tandem with a set of informal gatherings off campus)? Yes: unanimous agreement with little discussion.
 - c. Invitation to submit names to be considered for a QCFC officer role next year (please reach out to Everett and Dana).
 - d. Are we comfortable with a plan similar to that employed last summer, wherein we held optional/informal discussions leading up to the semester, then approved a plan at our first business meeting in September? Unanimous agreement.

Updates:

5. WIU’s annual giving day is April 24
 - a. What might a good WIU-QC faculty participation percentage goal be? What would it take to get there?
 - i. Everett: I think it would say *A LOT* if we were to approach 100% here, whatever the amounts. It says, “we are committed” in another important way.
6. A huge thank you to outgoing QC-based Faculty Senator Suzanne Bailey, ongoing QC-based Faculty Senator Kristin Wiseley, and new QC-based Faculty Senators Jeff Hancks and Blair McDonald. To Everett’s knowledge, next year’s senate will feature the most Faculty Senators from the QC that this campus has ever provided.
7. An equally huge thank you to new Quad Cities representative on the UPI Executive Committee, Angela McClanahan-Simmons, replacing Everett Hamner.
8. A Conversation with Professor Ibram X. Kendi, Thursday, April 11, 7:00-8:15 PM, Zoom connection to Riverfront 111 from Macomb. See more details in my campus-wide email and pre-register here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd5MXictelV3ukYKLRwrFn-J7hj_pxodL7roRKT1YySA6K LDA/viewform
 - a. Brief look at an example of Dr. Kendi in conversation online.
9. Please consider signing up soon to volunteer this summer and/or early next fall: faculty participation in these events is a big encouragement to all concerned.

Current opportunities: Children's Therapy Bike Camp, the John Deere Classic (July 4-7), and the QC Marathon 5k (through campus, Sept. 22).
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/14z4uNIQFiGmVIpDBNgEaUXIIA6LsPLEzMqNPaiOBWxs/edit?usp=sharing>

10. Other items for the good of the body? (No.)

Constituency reports:

Faculty Senate – Suzanne Bailey

Note: The sequence on the agenda is subject to change based on the availability of the individual that discusses the agenda item