

**Faculty Council – WIU – Quad Cities  
Agenda – Feb 2024**

List of District Representatives on Executive Committee

- Everett Hamner (CAS, 2026), Co-Chair
- Dana Lindemann (CAS, 2025), 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

- Jose Pavez
- Carla Paciotto
- Jennifer von Kaenel
- Andre Du Plessis
- Michael Sheerin

Guest

- Dr. Clare Thompson (VP for Advancement, Alumni Relations, and Athletics)

**Friday, Feb. 2; 1:00 PM, QCC 3420 and via Zoom**

**Zoom Link: <https://wiu.zoom.us/j/92624813559>**

1. Call to order: 1:03 pm
2. Motion to approve minutes of Nov 2023 (please read thoroughly – lots of detail!)
  - Jeff Hancks moved to approve
  - Chris Carpenter 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Unanimous approval

New Business:

3. Presentation from and discussion with Dr. Clare Thompson.

- We have to think about our region as broad...from Rockford to Cairo, from Fort Madison to Peoria. That is our region and that's where we need to envision our region to be.
- "I think there's a big niche to serve here in the QC." We need to figure out how to present the QC campus to people and how we need to market ourselves.
- She shared some exciting things happening for WIU
  - Speech language program in Macomb
  - Law Enforcement program and new software and proposal for new building
  - The Performing Arts Center
  - Upgrades to Stipes Hall
- Historically we have raised money for scholarships. We need to start talking to people and sharing these new things that are making WIU stronger.
  - "Admissions, retention, and advancement are all of our jobs!"
- "If you haven't made a gift and committed financially to this university, rethink that. If we aren't going to invest in ourselves, how do we ask others?"
  - Currently about 50-60% of the faculty give
  - \$85/month suggested goal – Leadership Giving Society starting Fall 2024
- Bret Bogenschneider shared that he was paying students out of his own pocket for the VITAS Tax Clinic. Jennifer and Clare shared that the money is there and they will connect with Bret to be reimbursed from the grant.

From Faculty Council to Clare:

- What are our ideas about how to grow?
  - Il Seop-Shin – connections with alumni; shared that they invite alumni to the engineering week panels and invite alumni to their Wednesday lecture series.
    - Clare shared that she is starting an alumni database and is looking to actively engage with alumni. She asked that we let the alumni office (alumni@wiu.edu) know who is coming back to our classes/events to speak.
  - Ted Avtgis – wants information about alumni to invite them for events, to speak in class, etc. If Ted makes the connection with an alumni and they speak in his class, he needs to share that information with the alumni relations.
    - Clare shared that if we want to have an event, we can tell her what we're doing, the audience we want to capture, and she will help us get people here.

- Everett – shared the QC campus faculty perspectives (from what was shared with him for the BOT retreat):
  - Fix longstanding problems
    - QC based – “serious academic leadership” – probably eventually needs to be someone at the Provost’s office level to work with dean and chairs from the various colleges
    - QC based Engineering academic advising – this is likely costing us students because there are hurdles that are not being overcome
    - Communication faculty across campuses – teaching classes at Spoon River that our students need, but we do not offer enough sections for our WIU students to take.
    - Use feasibility study structure already in place to identify areas of revenue-generating growth.
    - More administration positions exist than we might need.
    - QC faculty protections from unfair treatment
    - QC faculty are executing what they are supposed to do, but aren’t seeing the funding we need.
  - Invest anew
    - Advertising, recruitment, and on-campus public events
    - Build high school faculty relationships
    - Offer microqualifications and other nontraditional programs
    - Partner with more QC organizations and try new educational formats

Clare closed with: The more we can do to work together and not be adversarial, will make the hard process better. How can we help raise more money for the university? The more we celebrate the positive things that are happening on both campuses - we can’t be in competition with each other. There are better days ahead for WIU if we all work together!

4. As shared via email and discussed in Monday 1/29’s Zoom drop-in (10-11:30, <https://wiu.zoom.us/j/98472636847>), the BOT requested faculty input at their retreat on Thursday 2/8. While slides indicating Everett’s focal areas are/were due before our Friday 2/2 meeting, additional conversation about QC faculty’s ideas for increasing enrollment and revenue may be possible, time allowing.

Updates:

5. Our April meeting guest remains TBD, but a leading candidate will be the new Associate Provost (who may or may not be announced by the time we meet).
  - Russ Morgan is stepping back into faculty so there will be a new Associate Provost that will starting February 16<sup>th</sup>

6. The Faculty Senate's AI Task Force report (essentially an initial faculty guide to generative AI) is now approved and available.
  - Everett will send this back out again
7. We need a QC-At-Large person to run for Faculty Senate – it's a 3-year term. [3 cheers for Jeff Hancks: volunteered after our meeting, he did]
8. Upcoming: as recorded in our November minutes, WIU has contracted with EAB, a major education consulting firm based in Washington, D.C. [launched 2007; ~1500 employees, last sold for \$1.55 billion in 2017], to assess the university's strengths and weaknesses. This will include separate analyses by campus, and it's likely that the first stage of the company's work will happen swiftly in the next few months and prove influential in WIU's direction. Please be on the lookout for and prioritize as possible what could be short-notice meetings to gather input. As with genAI, such outside reports' insightfulness depends on the quality and extent of the input and the assumptions reflected in their models' "training data."
  - Likely will be making initial recommendations in the very near future
  - When they say they are coming to the QC campus, we need to be ready to give feedback when they ask.
  - Kristi is optimistic that this group will see the QC campus favorably
9. QC Faculty Council Spring 2024 social gatherings
  - Roughly every other Friday there will be a business meeting or an informal meeting
  - Locations: Jennie's Boxcar; Café Fresh, Bent River, Siracha Thai, Atlas Collective
  - [Full schedule from subsequent email:
    - Friday, February 2nd - Business Meeting, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
    - Friday, February 16th - Jennie's Boxcar, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
    - Friday, March 1st - The Atlas Collective, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
    - Tuesday, March 19th - Cafe Fresh, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
    - Friday, April 5th - Business Meeting, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
    - Friday, April 19th - Cafe De Marie, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
    - May - Final/End of year event (Nest Cafe, if timing works - scheduling poll will be sent out closer to May)]

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm