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Faculty, Illinois Wesleyan University

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Special Meeting of the Faculty
Friday, December 4, 2020
12:00 pm

Zoom conferencing [link](#)

Meeting ID: 826 0545 0553

Passcode: 872655

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,82605450553#,,,,,0#,,872655# US (Chicago)

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1. Call to Order
2. Approval of [November 18 Special Faculty Meeting minutes](#)
3. COVID Instructional Group Motions

a. Motion 1

In response to the unusual challenges of the fall 2020 semester, the Illinois Wesleyan faculty is implementing extra measures to help students maintain progress toward their degrees.

1) For fall 2020, all course grades of F, except those assigned as penalties for academic dishonesty, will automatically be converted to a grade of no credit (NC). No paperwork or consultation with an advisor is needed.

b. Motion 2

Additionally, with consent of the academic advisor, students may exercise the following option for courses taken during Fall 2020. This option may be exercised through Friday, January 22, 2021 using a special form. This option may not be available or advisable for courses that students need for professional accreditation, pre-professional preparation, or degree completion.

2) For fall 2020, a student with a D can elect for the grade to be converted to a grade of NC. If a student exercises this option, the course will not count toward any requirements nor count as a prerequisite.

c. Motion 3

Additionally, with consent of the academic advisor, students may exercise the following option for courses taken during Fall 2020. This option may be exercised through Friday, January 22, 2021 using a special form. This option may not be available or advisable for courses that students need for professional accreditation, pre-professional preparation, or degree completion.

3) For fall 2020, a student with a D, or an F that has been automatically converted to NC, can elect to withdraw from the course retroactively. The transcript would show a withdrawal (W) rather than D or NC.

4. Rationale:

- a. The Instructional Work Group recognizes and appreciates the extra efforts and flexibility that faculty and staff have exercised to help students through the fall semester, but we also know 1.) that not all students were equally able to avail themselves of help, and 2.) that some challenges faced by students were beyond the university's reach. Recognizing this and wanting our students to have good paths forward, we are recommending these additional grade relief measures.
- b. NOTE: Limitations on the amount of "D" work outlined in the Catalog will stand. No more than four units of "D" work may be counted toward the degree. No more than one unit of "D" work can be counted toward the major or the minor. No more than two units of "D" work may be counted toward Shared Curriculum requirements.
- c. NOTE: If one or more of these motions passes, the Instructional Group will prepare, for the January 11 faculty meeting, a similar motion (or motions) pertaining to the Spring 2021 semester.

5. Adjournment

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE IWU GENERAL FACULTY

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 over video conferencing. Voting was performed after the meeting via electronic ballot.

Summary of business conducted:

- CC Motion 1: Addition of Bachelor of Arts degree, addition of a Major sequence in Art, addition of a Graphic Design Concentration within the Art Major. Motion **passed**.
- CC Motion 2: Addition of Concentrations to the Art Major within the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree: Two-dimensional Studio Art and Three-Dimensional Studio Art. Addition of a Studio Art Concentration to the Art Major within the Bachelor of Arts degree. Addition of a Minor sequence in Studio Art. Motion **passed**.
- CC Motion 3: Addition of a Minor Sequence in Art History. Motion **passed**.

1. **Call to Order.** President Nugent called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm. The President noted that CUPP, CC, and RAG have all met on this issue since the November 4 meeting.
2. **Curriculum Council,** Prof. D. Marvin.

The motions presented by the council are given in the summary above.

As background, recall that the faculty voted at the April 27, 2020 meeting to eliminate all of the following: the Bachelor of Arts degree in Art, the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Two-dimensional Studio Art, and the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Three-dimensional Studio Art. The Board of Trustees at their July meeting voted to eliminate all School of Art degrees except the BFA in Graphic Design. The Board of Trustees then reversed this decision at their October meeting. Curriculum Council now brings these motions to the faculty; in all cases Curriculum Council recommends approval (signifying unanimous approval). If passed, they would place the curriculum back to its status before Spring of 2020. This special meeting is happening because the admissions cycle is in full swing, prospective students need resolution on the majors and degrees offered, and some have expressed interest in art degrees.

The core rationale for these motions is as follows. The result of the faculty votes in spring would be for the School of Art (now a Department of Art) to deliver general education classes (including in studio art) and to deliver a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design. This gives minimal cost savings compared to the previous curriculum. Furthermore, while the BFA degree is important for the overall quality of the program, a much larger body of students are interested in a Bachelor of Arts degree. Thus these motions represent a chance to add (i.e. reinstate) credentials that can be offered without an addition of faculty resources. The primary mechanism is through course stacking, where students in the same studio art class are taking it at different levels, some for general education and others for a credential. Academic affairs, the Resource Allocation Group, and CC all judge that passing these motions will not represent a significant increase in resources required for the program.

Questions:

- Did any non-financial considerations play into the decision of the council? A: Curricular changes in the school of art played a role, but financial data and decision making played the largest role.
- Have the faculty had a chance to review budgets? More generally, what data backs the recommendation by the council? A: The council did not see budgets or dollar amounts. Rather, the decision was based on relative judgements, i.e. what are the resource implications of this curricular change. In particular, it was judged that no new sections, nor any new faculty would be required. There is the data gathered as part of the PETF process, found at <https://libguides.iwu.edu/petf>. Password: petf.
- What were the harmful consequences of the mistaken decision in the spring? A: no particular problems yet because there hasn't been a full recruitment cycle. But certainly there is a concern that without the students provided by the BA credentials, the BFA will not have enough support to continue.

3. The meeting was **adjourned** at 12:50 pm.

Appendix A – vote totals.

- CC Motion 1. Motion passed. Yes – 85, No – 3.
- CC Motion 2. Motion passed. Yes – 80, No – 7.
- CC Motion 3. Motion passed. Yes – 83, No – 5.