

2014-2015 GRADUATE COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Dr. Judith Davie.

Members Present: Craig Anz, Amanda Barnard (GPSC), , Norman Carver, Bryan Crow, Sarah Curtis (GPSC), Judith Davie, Michael Eichholz, Wayne Glass, Boyd Goodson, Reza Habib, Constantine Hatziaodoniu, Sajal Lahiri (Faculty Senate), Eric Lenz, Jamie McNutt, Grant Miller, Natalie Nash (GPSC), , Andrew Pardieck, Julie Partridge, Corné Prozesky, Silvia Secchi, Cynthia Sims, Ratna Sinha, Kevin Taylor (GPSC), Jeremiah Unkefer (GPSC), Tomas Velasco

Members Absent: Randolph Burnside, David Conrad, Cinzia Padovani

Proxies: Mahbub Morshed for Allison Watts

Ex-Officio Members: Chancellor Paul Sarvela, Susan Ford, Acting Provost & Vice Chancellor; James Garvey, Vice Chancellor for Research; James Allen, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs; Andy Wang (proxy for Keith Wilson, Dean's Council)

1. Minutes

J. Davie asked for concerns and considerations of the October 2, 2014 Graduate Council minutes. Revisions were noted. Motion was made by J. Unkefer to approve minutes as revised and seconded by J. McNutt. Minutes approved with revisions.

2. Remarks – Interim Chancellor Sarvela

Chancellor Sarvela started by announcing that the Tuition on Grants policy has been rescinded. He continued by letting the Council know that the administration is listening to all comments and suggestions that have been made. Sarvela discussed the Board of Trustees pre-meeting. He stated that each campus was asked to present on three different areas; campus safety, budget, and retention. The safety presentation emphasized that the safety at SIUC is no more or no less safe than other campuses in Illinois. Sarvela noted that incidents that happen at our campus are not any different than other campuses and added that that is not an excuse. He stated that we need and have to do better. A committee was formed a few weeks ago which consists of faculty and staff members, community members, and police officers. 14 points were developed by the committee which are going to be added on to SIU's safety protocol. Some of the points are: adding more police officers during hours that are more active, increasing the presence of Saluki patrols, adding more lighting, limits on guests in student housing on certain weekends (Halloween), continuing to work with educating students about safety so that better decisions can be made, and strategic partnerships with the Carbondale police. Chancellor Sarvela asked if there were any questions.

N. Nash asked if the patrolled areas are going to be inside the dorms. Chancellor Sarvela responded that there will be an increased presence of RAs and that most of the patrols will be outside. Provost Ford added that having police presence inside the dorms is a good idea, but the majority of the criminal activities are alcohol related and the vast majority of sexual assaults are acquaintance related and occur behind closed doors. Ford added that even with more police presence, it is difficult to address those issues and increased education to better inform all students to help them make better decisions.

Chancellor Sarvela went on to talk about the budget. He stated that the Board of Trustees presentation included information to try and show the BOT all of the financial obligations that SIUC has. This was done in an effort to "set the stage" for an increase in tuition next year. He continued by saying that the challenges currently being faced are the uncertainty with the state funds, the need based tuition waivers, and the truth in tuition costs. Sarvela stated that if the minimum wage is increased to \$10 per hour, it will cost the university an additional \$2 million. Sarvela added that in response to these challenges, the Deans are working closely with Provost Ford to develop

budgets. Tuition packages are also being looked at. Unfunded projects are being addressed as well. The tablet program is an example of an unfunded project. Additional items being looked at are programs that were originally funded by the state for a short term that were supposed to become self-funded. These programs are costing the university millions of dollars because they have not become self-funded. An example of this type of program is Touch of Nature. Chancellor Sarvela asked if there were any questions.

R. Habib noted that a lot of students don't bring the tablets to class but use them outside of class. He added that some students don't have access to a computer outside of going to the library and having a tablet allows them to have the convenience of a computer without having to go to the library. Sarvela responded by saying that the level of tablet usage is being looked at to see if the program is justified.

S. Secchi added that perhaps a computer voucher program may be looked in to. Provost Ford responded by saying that all options are being considered.

S. Lahiri asked if the Board of Trustees can be persuaded to adjust the tuition; adjusting for cost of living and inflation. Chancellor Sarvela responded by saying that they will do their best to persuade the BOT and that a lot of this will depend on who will be on the BOT since there is a new governor.

3. Remarks –Provost Ford

Provost Ford started by giving a brief update. Overall enrollment was steady; new freshman, transfer student, Hispanic student, and International student enrollments were up; African American enrollment was down for the third straight year (possibly due to the retirement of Seymour Bryson who spent a lot of time recruiting in the Chicago area, no one has taken on that role in the way he did). The average ACT score was up again; over 1.5 point gain over a two year period. The retention number for first time full time students is up 8.3%. Retention was up in all categories including provisional students with ACTs of 18 or below. Ford continued by saying that they are continuing to work with an external consultant on the retention efforts. Ford stated that only part of the suggestions from the retention task force have been put in to place. A lot of effort is being put in to intrusive advisement and better advisement platforms. Ford continued by saying that efforts are moving forward to realign First Year Advisement. A more de-centralized model is being looked at and should be in place by the spring semester. She concluded by saying the UCOL 101 working group has worked very hard to come up with a better model to teach UCOL 101 effectively so that every section is a positive experience for students and within our realistic financial limits.

S. Secchi asked Provost Ford to talk about grades. Provost Ford responded by saying that there are a few colleges and athletics who have independently spent the money to purchase software to allow them to track the success of their students. These programs are not on the same platform and do not link in to the banner system and does not feed in to the student information system at all. Options are being evaluated that would consolidate all of the actions that are being used to provide grades.

S Lahiri noted that if freshman enrollment is up and retention is up, then why is the total enrollment flat. Provost Ford responded by saying that part of the flat enrollment is due to graduate school enrollment and also the loss of students between junior and senior years.

B. Goodson asked what the average ACT score is. Provost Ford replied 22.57. He also noted that students may leave SIU for various reasons such as financial, "greener pastures", "washing out", or personal reasons and asked where the most gains can be made in regards to these reasons. Provost Ford responded by saying that she has not seen data that reflect that answer and agrees that all of those reasons contribute to the concern of retention. Ford added that better advisement would help with all of those retention concerns.

J. McNutt noted that having midterm grades would help “flag” at-risk students and give advisors the opportunity to personally address that concern with students. Provost Ford agreed and added that they are trying to also “flag” students who have not chosen a major so that those students may also be reached by advisors.

4. Remarks – Interim Vice Chancellor for Research & Graduate Dean Garvey

Garvey reported that they are exploring the option of moving the Teaching Assistant Allocation program (TAA) from the VCR to the Graduate School. By doing this, the Dean of the Graduate School will have the discretion, with the Provost’s input, to allocate those funds to the various colleges on campus. Garvey added that the amount of research dollars that are being brought in this year are almost equal to the amount from last year. He noted that this means that everyone is working hard to bring in funding. Garvey continued by saying that the department is going to be stretched this for the rest of this fiscal year. Garvey went on to talk about the new faculty coming in next year, the amount of start-up money for each of them, and the concerns he has about anticipating those obligations. He then spoke about the Seed Grant Program and announced that there will not be a Seed Grant Program for this year because of budget uncertainties. He added that the number one priority is to invest in new faculty and making sure they have what they need to be successful.

B. Goodson made a comment about the increasing cost of physical plant renovations. Garvey responded by saying this is an issue and he is looking in to.

M. Eichholz commented about a request a few years ago to provide individuals a portion of the overhead costs that came in as a way to motivate people to increase grant activity and asked if there was a possibility to consider that. Garvey replied yes. He continued by saying that an additional 5% of the overhead that comes to VCR is given directly to research centers on campus.

S. Secchi voiced strong disapproval of the model that is used to determine the amount of money given to research centers. Garvey responded by saying that new centers need to be developed so that the money is more evenly dispersed.

Provost Ford added that how the money is distributed within the colleges is determined by that college. She continued by encouraging the Council members to ask their Deans to share the information they received from a recent presentation about State contracts. She noted that the majority of that contract money is going to U of I because of the personal relationships built with State contacts.

5. Remarks – Associate Provost for Academic Programs Allen

Provost Allen updated the Council about upcoming deadlines; ethics training deadline is November 7th, November 7th is the deadline for the applications for the spring Provost Fellow as well as applications for an Assessment Fellow. Allen noted that the Associate Deans will be meeting on November 7th to discuss readings courses, student course evaluations, and performance funding.

6. Remarks – Council Chair Dr. Davie

J. Davie started by saying that she would personally like to thank the Chancellor, Provost, and the VCR for the resending of the Policy on Tuition on Grants. She added that it has been asked of the Graduate Council to find another to create a pool of money to school graduate students.

7. Faculty Senate, Professor Lahiri

S. Lahiri noted a few concerns that were brought to the attention of the Faculty Senate; students arriving late for class and lecture and faculty not finishing class on time. Lahiri commented briefly about a statement of concern at Chicago State University in regards to its Faculty Senate being derecognized by their Board of Trustees. This is an ongoing issue and updates will be forthcoming.

8. Deans Council – Dean Wilson

A. Wang, proxy for Dean Wilson, commented about the increasing concerns about the late

reporting of course grades. He also added to the comments made by Provost Ford regarding the external funding from the federal and state level and stressed the importance of relationship building to obtain grants.

9. GPSC Report – Amanda Barnard

Barnard reported that so far this year the GPSC has paid for 40 graduate and professional students to attend various conferences. In terms of research awards, the Chancellor's office has offered the GPSC matching funds in the amount of \$5000 making it possible to give a larger number of awards. Barnard extended sincere thanks to the Chancellor's office for their generosity. Barnard reported that the selection of a new student health insurance program is moving forward. She continued by saying that a special election is being held for the Vice President of Administrative Affairs position due to the VP graduating in December. In conclusion, Barnard reported that a resolution regarding voting privileges for the SIU student trustees was voted on at the last GPSC meeting and passed unanimously.

10. Nominations to Committees / Announcements – Council Vice Chair Burnside

No Report

11. Standing Committee Reports

a. Education Policies Committee Report – Professor Carver

Resolution:

Graduate Council Resolution in Support of Revising the doctoral GPA Admission Requirements

The resolution was read (Attachment A) and discussed. J. Davie noted that this is the first reading of the resolution and will be revisited at the next Council meeting.

b. New Programs Committee Report – Professor Habib

Resolution:

Addition of a Non-Thesis option to the MA in Applied Linguistics

Habib noted that this is the second reading of the resolution and continued by reading the resolution (Attachment B). J. McNutt noted objections to the resolution. Vicki Carstens, Linguistics Chairperson, addressed the objections. J. Davie called for a vote. One obtaining with the rest in favor. Resolution passed.

c. Program Review Committee Report – Professor Miller

Miller reviewed the names of program review committee members: M.A. in History, Ph.D in Historical Studies – Anne Fletcher; M.A., Ph.D. in Anthropology – Grant Miller; M.A., Ph.D. in Criminology & Criminal Justice – Fran Harackiewicz; M.A., Ph.D. in Political Science – Wanli Zhao; M.A, Ph.D. in Sociology – Bryan Crow; M.A. in Art History and Visual Culture – Craig Gingrich-Philbrook; Ph.d. in Geosciences – Tomas Velasco and Kevin Taylor (graduate student observer).

d. Research Committee Report – Professor Eichholz

Eichholz noted that the resolution regarding the reporting of external grants did not make it on this agenda. J. Davie apologized for this and noted that it would be on the next agenda.

12. Old Business

None

13. New Business

None

14. Adjournment

The motion was made to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.