

**2014-2015 GRADUATE COUNCIL**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 4, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Dr. Judith Davie. Dr. Davie then asked that there be a brief moment of silence in respect and remembrance of Dr. Paul Sarvela.

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

Members Absent: David Conrad, Sajal Lahiri (Faculty Senate), Clayton Nielson, Cynthia Sims

Proxies: Mahbub Morshed for Allison Watts, Buffy Ellsworth for Prema Narayan

Ex-Officio Members: Susan Ford, Acting Provost & Vice Chancellor; James Allen, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs; Keith Wilson, Dean's Council

**1. Minutes**

J. Davie asked for concerns and considerations of the November 6, 2014 Graduate Council minutes. J. Allen requested that the reference to Professor Wilson on page 3 be changed to Dean Wilson. Motion was made by J. Unkefer to approve minutes with revisions and seconded by J. McNutt. Minutes approved with revisions.

**2. Remarks – President and Acting Chancellor Dunn**

Could not attend. No remarks.

**3. Remarks – – Provost Ford**

Provost Ford started by informing the Council that President Dunn regrets not being able to attend today's meeting and that it is his intention to attend both Graduate Council and Faculty Senate meetings in the future. Ford continued by saying that the Board of Directors meeting is next week at SIUC and is planning to formalize the nature of President Dunn's position and services in terms of trying to fulfil the duties of the Chancellor. She stated that he is not adopting the title of Acting Chancellor. The search for a new chancellor will begin immediately. It is yet to be determined as to whether a search firm will be used or an in-house committee. Ford stated that the data production issues are still being resolved. She reported that the number of applications and enrollments for fall 2016 are up. Enrollment for spring is up. Ford went on to talk about the budget. She informed the Council that Governor Elect Rauner's transition team asked state agencies to provide some information on what the impact would be if the income tax was not continued. If the income tax were not continued, that would mean a 10% cut in state dollars this year and an additional 20% cut in state dollars next year. Administration does not know why this information was requested or what it will be used for. Ford stated that at this point in time it is business as usual at SIU.

**B. Goodson** noted that the longer the state waits to inform us of the cuts, the harder it will be, especially since 91% of the state budget goes to salaries. Ford responded by saying that for decades now, SIU has been required to hold back a contingency fund. That fund is sitting there as a pool. It is not enough to cover a 10% cut between now and the end of this fiscal year, but it does help. Ford stated that it will be very difficult to cover a 10% cut in the budget because the majority of that money is tied up in personnel and contracts that are legally binding and cannot be broken.

**S. Secchi** stated that during a meeting with a candidate, the question was asked about the state of Illinois. She noted that there is worry about the current faculty searches that are going on because money has to be spent on bringing those people in. Ford responded by saying that she had a meeting yesterday with President Dunn and it was decided that at this point in time, open faculty

searches will not be closed.

**C. Hatziadoni** commented that it would be beneficial to have a strategic discussion prior to being informed about the budget cuts. Ford responded by saying that President Dunn has already started a conversation and data collection of nonacademic units and agrees that this needs to be addressed now.

**M. Eichholz** asked if research is considered an academic activity. Ford responded "I do." Eichholz asked if Dr. Dunn considers research an academic activity. Ford responded "I have not had that conversation with him."

**A. Barnard** asked if athletic programs are considered nonacademic programs. Ford responded by saying that because the university may be facing a 10% budget cut this year and a 20% budget cut next year, it is fair to say that everything will be open for discussion.

**N. Nash** asked consideration has been made for reducing the salaries of upper administrative positions. Ford responded by saying that currently there are a lot of vacancies and that is saving us money. Ford went on to say that those serving in interim or acting roles are already being paid considerably less than their predecessors and SIU administrators are not being paid competitive rates with administrative positions at equivalent institutions elsewhere.

**J. McNutt** added that based on his research in commercial banking, cutting the salaries of administrators who are already being paid less than others in equivalent positions would not be the best move to make. Ford responded by agreeing and stating that there are several critical openings that need to be filled. Offering a competitive salary is crucial to getting the best people for those positions.

**C. Padovani** asked who makes the decision of who and what gets cut. Ford responded by saying part of those decisions depends on the time frame that is given. She explained by saying that if a 24 hour notice given on January 1<sup>st</sup> means that there will be a limited number of people at the table for that conversation. The Budget Advisory Committee which is composed of all the constituencies on campus will be consulted and part of any conversation for this kind of decision.

**S. Secchi** voiced concerns about how quickly these decisions will have to be made and if legal counsel has been consulted. Ford responded by saying that there are very few targets of opportunity that are open to us when it comes to a 10% budget cut for this fiscal year. More options are available for next fiscal year.

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

Could not attend. No remarks.

#### **5. Remarks – Associate Provost for Academic Programs Allen**

Provost Allen started by thanking Randy Burnside, the graduating Provost Fellow for this fall and stated that he is looking forward to working with Dr. Mandara Savage who has been invited to be the Provost Fellow for spring. Allen announced that for the first time there are two Assessment Fellows; Ruth Ann Rehfeldt, Rehabilitation Institute and Christina McIntyre, Curriculum and Instruction. Allen continued with a few reminders; assessment plans are due December 15<sup>th</sup> as well as grades. Allen went on to remind Council members about incomplete grades and the use of the incomplete form available on Salukinet; the student, instructor, and chair all get copies of this form.

**Provost Ford** followed up with Provost Allen's reminder about turning in grades. She noted that submitting grades in to D2L is not submitting them in to the official system. Grades have to be submitted in to Salukinet. Reminders will be sent.

**6. Remarks – Council Chair Dr. Davie**

J. Davie commented on the Open Access Research Articles Act information that she had circulated. Davie stated that she feels this was handled in a very reasonable way that respects publisher rights. She noted that the role of the Graduate Council was just as a point of information. The report on the Open Access Research Articles Act will be submitted to the board and then to the state.

**7. Faculty Senate, Professor Lahiri**

No Report

**8. Deans Council – Dean Wilson**

Wilson reported that the Dean's Council is looking in to increasing proficiency with summer school 2015 and exploring different models that the colleges have used.

**9. GPSC Report – Amanda Barnard**

Barnard reported that so far this year, the GPSC has funded 10 events across campus and provided funding for 59 graduate and professional students to attend conferences. The GPSC unanimously elected Brandon Woudenberg as the new Vice President of Administrative Affairs. Barnard continued by saying that the Student Health Insurance Task Force in moving forward and should have a recommendation for administration by the end of January 2015. Lastly, the GPSC voted unanimously to donate \$100 to Dr. Sarvela's scholarship foundation.

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

Burnside announced that Council members should be expecting emails regarding nominations to committees.

**11. Standing Committee Reports**

**a. Education Policies Committee Report – Professor Carver**

Resolution: Graduate Council Resolution in Support of Revising the Doctoral GPA Admission Requirements

Second reading. Carver announced that he took in to account some suggestions made at the previous Council meeting and added another "whereas" to the resolution.

The resolution was read (Attachment A). After the reading, J. Davie asked if there were any comments or questions.

**J. McNutt** stated that he appreciates the side of those in favor of the resolution but couldn't disagree more with the fourth whereas. McNutt went on to say that this resolution erodes the value and product that SIUC produces by lowering its standards.

**J. McNutt** made a motion to vote for the Graduate Council Resolution in Support of Revising the Doctoral GPA Admission Requirements by the use of ballots and not by show of hands. C. Hatziadoniu seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**N. Carver** noted that he feels that this resolution is an administrative change and will not "water down" the programs.

More discussion followed by various members of the Council. Concerns voiced about sending the wrong message by lowering the standards, making exceptions and accepting too many people. Council members in favor stated that these exceptions are already being made and that this resolution makes it possible for the decisions of doctoral admissions to be made by the departments and not the Dean of the Graduate School.

Ballots were distributed, collected and counted by R. Sinha and Provost Ford. Results read by J. Davie. 21 yes, 3 no, 0 abstained. Resolution passed.

**b. New Programs Committee Report – Professor Habib**

No Report

**c. Program Review Committee Report – Professor Miller**

Miller asked Council members for the input on how their departments deal with international students whose host countries require them to finish their PhD in three years. He noted that, in his department, this issue is not noticed until the student is already at SIU.

**Provost Ford** responded by saying that in Europe, students are guaranteed that they will receive their Masters degree in on year and PhD in three years. She added that European countries do not understand the difference between a European college education versus and American college education.

**G. Miller** noted that there are students in this situation that are from Iraq and not meeting the three year PhD requirement has dire consequences.

**Provost Ford** suggested that Miller speak with Suzanne Babbitt. Ford also noted that these terms may be negotiable with the host countries.

**G. Miller** asked that since SIUC cannot guarantee that someone will get their PhD in three years, does that then translate to programs not admitting those students.

**N. Carver** replied yes, those students do not get admitted because a PhD cannot be guaranteed.

**J. Davie** verified that Carver is correct and to verify that information with Suzanne Babbitt.

**d. Research Committee Report – Professor Eichholz**

Resolution: Graduate Council Resolution on Policy on Faculty and Graduate Assistants Receiving Non-SIU Grants

First reading. Eichholz read the resolution and asked if there were any questions.

**B. Goodson** asked what problem is this resolution solving.

**M. Eichholz** responded by saying that this would provide a way to record who is receiving external grants and what they are being used for.

**J. Davie** noted that this is the first reading and there would be a second reading in February.

Resolution: Graduate Council Resolution on a new Postdoctoral Fellow Classification  
First reading. Eichholz read the resolution and brief discussion followed.

**J. Davie** noted that this is the first reading and there would be a second reading in February.

**12. Old Business**

None

**13. New Business**

None

**14. Adjournment**

N. Carver made a motion to adjourn the meeting. R. Habib seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.