

## **Graduate Council 2023-2024**

**Dec 7, 2023**

**Members present:** Robin Warne, Nwamaka Anaza, Khaled Ahmed, Kelly Benden, Heidi Bacon, Lisa Brooten, Hale Yilmaz, Benjamin Richardson, Iraklis Anagnostopoulos, Andrew C Wilber, Liliana Lefticariu, Tomas Velasco, Myla Burton, Liliana Lefticariu, Jennifer Spreng, Ahmad Fakhoury, Ayodeji (Ayo) Oyekunle, Benjamin Richardson, Chris Wienke, Courtney Simpkins, Hale Yilmaz, Courtney Simpkins, Mandeep Redhu, Matthew Young, Rhonda Kowalchuk, Rolando Gonzalez, M Cecil Smith, Karen Jones

**Executive-Officio:** Juliane Wallace, Julie Dunston

**Guests:** Elaine Jurkowski, Jennifer Horton, Michelle Kibby

**Meeting started at 8:00 AM**

### **Consideration of the minutes of the previous meetings:**

#### **The minutes of November 02, 2023, meeting Vote:**

Approved (Majority-0-0)

### **Remarks from the Chancellor: Austin Lane**

#### **Remarks from Provost: Sheryl A. Tucker:**

- absent

### **Remarks from Vice-Chancellor for Research/Dean of the Graduate School: Costas Tsatsoulis**

- absent

### **First done Remarks from Associate Dean and director of the Graduate School Karen Jones**

#### **Reported Changes:**

- Only one significant report for the month: Changes in fellowship rates for the upcoming spring competitions.
- Reasoning behind the change: Reflecting the trend seen in most academic units, which are increasing their rates.

#### **Proposed Fellowship Rate Changes:**

- Intention to alter fellowship rates:
- Masters: Proposed rate of \$1650 per month.
- 50% Master's: Not specified in exact amount.
- PhDs: Proposed rate of \$1750 per month.

- These rates align with the increases seen in academic units, positioning the university on the higher end of current rates.

### **Remarks from Assitant Dean of Library, Jennifer Horton in behalf of Dean of Library, John Pollitz**

#### **Updates:**

- Announces the arrival of a new humanities librarian starting on January 8th. Available to assist in humanities-related classes and consultations from that date onward.
- Offers support for classes involving research components or grad student teaching. Library assistance is available upon request.

#### **Library Resources Announcement:**

- Highlights the availability of librarians for teaching assistance, specifically mentioning a new social science librarian who recently joined the team.
- Emphasizes the increased support for teaching classes with the aid of these additional librarians.

### **Remarks from Scott Collins**

- Absent

### **Remarks from GPSC: Myla Burton**

- No updates

### **Remarks from Council Vice-Chair: Tomas Velasco**

- Velasco addresses the conclusion of the academic grievance appeal.
- Expresses gratitude towards the members of the grievance committee for their contributions.
- Acknowledges committee members efforts and thanks them for their contributions,

### **Remarks from the Dean's Council Cecil Smith**

#### **Summary of Susan Smith's Presentation:**

- presented on the payback of internal loans, discussing various budget recommendations.

#### **Budget Recommendations:**

##### **Student Budget Management:**

- Suggested careful management of undergraduate student wages and emphasized the use of federal work-study students when possible.

##### **New Contractual Services:**

- Recommended postponing new contractual services like office photocopiers to the following year to prevent overspending the current budget.

##### **Campus-wide Energy Savings Announcement:**

- Planned a campus-wide announcement regarding energy savings, intending to provide reminders and recommendations for energy conservation measures (e.g., turning off lights, powering down equipment).

### **Cost-saving Measures:**

- Emphasized cost-saving measures like prudent purchase of office supplies, restricting equipment purchases except for faculty startups, and holding off on buying new library books and subscriptions.

### **Capital Projects Freeze:**

- Announced a freeze on new capital projects for the year, with exceptions for ongoing projects.

### **Status of Loan Payback:**

- Mentioned the outstanding amount of the payback, standing at around \$12 million.
- Aimed to recoup \$9.1 million in the coming year, leaving approximately \$2.9 million internally owed for the loan payback.

### **Additional Recommendations and Topics Raised:**

#### **Encouragement for Summer Camp Offerings:**

- Encouragement for colleges and faculty to develop new summer camp programs for elementary, middle, and high school students to stimulate interest in attending SIU.

#### **New Faculty Orientation and Meetings:**

- Proposed making new faculty attendance at a new faculty orientation mandatory and integrating information about it into the offer letter.
- Mentioned plans for Vice Provost Julie Wallace to commence monthly meetings with associate deans from various colleges and schools starting next month.

### **Remarks from Elaine Jurkowski**

#### **Faculty Senate Resolution for Late Colleague John Davy:**

- Jurkowski reports on the Faculty Senate's development of a resolution to honor their late colleague, John Davy.
- John Davy, a professor in the architecture department, passed away unexpectedly during the fall semester.
- Acknowledges Davy's significant contributions to various campus efforts, including the Graduate Council, Faculty Senate, and TRB (Transportation Research Board).
- Highlights his impact on inspiring architecture students locally, nationally, and internationally across diverse fronts.

#### **Resolution Approval and Sharing:**

- Mentions that once the resolution is approved by the whole Faculty Senate, it will be shared with Dr. Collins and the Graduate Council for their awareness.
- Indicates that colleagues on the Graduate Council might find it of interest.

#### **Reflection on Loss and Tribute:**

- Describes the loss to the academic community due to John Davy's passing but expresses that the resolution serves as a testament to his impactful work.

## **Remarks from the standing committee reports and our committee information:**

### **Remarks from program review committee, chair Iraklis Anagnostopoulos**

- No Updates

### **Remarks from new programs committee Heidi Bacon**

#### **Teacher Leadership Concentration RME Resolution**

- Indicates the increasing demand for online programs due to technological advancements, especially among graduate students.
- The proposal aligns with an external review of curriculum and instruction programs conducted in 2019 and reflects similar successful programs at other universities (Baylor and Abilene Christian University) with considerable enrollments.
- The concentration aims to cater to the needs of students planning to apply their degree in K-12 education, emphasizing instructional coaching and addressing the teacher shortage.
- Focuses on enhancing instruction, implementing curriculum, and improving student learning outcomes.
- The concentration includes 12 core hours in curriculum and instruction. Additionally, an endorsement course (ERS 500) is offered for those seeking the teacher leader endorsement.
- Minimal impact on units and budget, mainly related to advertising, advisement, and assessment.
- Shares voting outcomes and support: School of Education faculty vote (4 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain), School of Education curriculum committee vote (3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain), and unanimous support from the Graduate Council committee (6 yes, 0 no).

#### **Resolution / Voting:**

**Resolution Approved (Majority-0-0)**

### **Expand Accelerated Master's Programs Resolution– Modified**

- Postponed

## **Remarks from Andy Wilber**

### **Degree Pathway Resolution**

- Wilber presents a resolution proposing the creation of a course-only non-terminal graduate degree across all degree options.
- Highlights the need for improved flexibility in degree completion, allowing for a larger number of master's students to be served and to remain competitive with other existing programs.
- Addresses doctoral students unable to complete their doctoral degree who might seek a master's degree based on completed coursework credits.

- Acknowledges graduate students who start degrees in person but later relocate, lacking in-person access to campus resources.
- Proposes that 6 coursework credit hours substitute for the final project for master's students, excluding the Master of Fine Arts (already a terminal degree).
- Ensures students fulfill all additional requirements for graduation.

### **Voting:**

**Resolution approved (Majority-0-0)**

### **Remarks from Kelly Bender on behalf of research committee and chair Liliana Lefticariu.**

- No updates