

2016 GRADUATE COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2016

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 08:00.

Members Present: Ratna Sinha, Boyd Goodson, Randolph Burnside, Richard McKinnies, Joseph Shapiro, Andrew Pardieck, Amanda Barnard, Natalie Nash, John Barnard, Corné Prozesky, Tomas Velasco, Prema Narayan, Michael Brown, Silvia Secchi, Alison Watts, Norman Carver, Constantine Hatziaioniu, Johnathan Flowers, Cynthia Sims, Sandy Kim, Julie Partridge, Kenneth Stickers

Members Absent: Michael Eichholz, Cinzia Padovani, Zhao Wanli, Greg Rose, Gray Whaley, Conrad David, Dick Bradley, Wayne Glass.

Proxies: Charles Ruffner for Clay Nielsen

Ex-Officio Members Present: James Garvey, Susan Ford, Brad Colwell, James Allen, Andy Wang, Yueh-Ting Lee.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Randy Dunn.

Consideration of minutes

The minutes of the December meeting passed with amendments.

Amendment on page 1: J. Partridge was incorrectly noted as having been absent from the December meeting.

Amendment on page 4: B. Goodson inserted the word 'usually' on his previous comment about paying undergraduate students for research.

Amendment on page 8: B. Goodson changed the word 'abuse' to 'use' on J. Nichols' previous comment about substance abuse.

Remarks – Interim Chancellor B. Colwell

Commented about the negative impact of the State budget situation on university. And, in reference to an email sent out by President Dunn, Dr Colwell commented that SIU should plan for all contingences. Further, he spoke about Community Colleges and Universities that are going to announce layoffs and added that he is aware that within SIU morale is low and that people are worried. However, Dr Colwell was confident that the university will not have to close its doors. He also remarked that given the Bills being filled, it seems that the State is paying attention to addressing the budget issue. Some of the Bills being filled provide for MAP grants. He explained that for the 2015 financial year the Carbondale campus had received \$105 million in State funds (which is likely to be cut by 20% when funds eventually flow). He further stated that from the combination of one-time and recurring cuts that occurred earlier in the Fall semester the university was able to capture \$13.5 million for financial year 2016.

Dr Colwell reported that together with leaders from Edwardsville and from the School of Medicine, he will attend an all university education summit in Edwardsville on February 22 to figure out next steps about the budget situation. Also, Presidents are working hard and have a conference call every Wednesday to figure out as a group ways to manage the budget situation. He also explained that the SIU ratio of administrators to students is small

(3.8:100) compared to the University of Illinois with a 18:100 ratio. As such, SIU does not have a bloated administration.

Dr Colwell also mentioned that SIU is a system and can look to other branches within the system to where funds can be leveraged. He explained that there is a unit within the SIU system that has surplus funds from which the university can temporarily borrow against. He also added that SIU will come out of its current financial situation leaner and more efficient since the university is forced to review things it has not had to discuss in years e.g. sabbaticals, p-cards and others.

S. Secchi asked Dr Colwell to comment on changes about reporting lines since the Graduate Council had previously stated that reporting line changes are not a good idea. She emphasized that the Graduate Council is not being listened to since input given is not considered. The issue was discussed at length and Dr Colwell responded that the changes were decided by the Board of Trustees with Dr Ford adding that there was not an opportunity for a discussion at the meeting and that only one Board member voted against the change in reporting lines.

Dr Ford also explained that although constituencies within SIU provide input, the Board sets policy and determine tuition rates, and the budget. She also clarified that SIU School of Medicine remains part of SIU Carbondale structurally and in reporting purposes. There are lines of communication that include reporting to both the President and the Chancellor and the details will be worked out. Regarding the School of Law, Dr Ford mentioned that legal aspects are still being sorted out since the School no longer reports to the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. She added that for the School of Medicine the official reporting in terms of grants, contracts and productivity remains the same. Dr Allen also added that he had spoken to President Dunn about how to proceed with the reading of the by-laws, policy and guidelines that are published for the system and how those will affect university policy on both campuses. President Dunn has asked a small group of people to begin a reading of policy beginning at the system level to provide guidance for the readings of policy at the campus level and to finish the work at the system level by March 1. The rest of the readings will take about two months to complete and refer any changes that need to be made to the Board during their meeting in July. Dr Allen also added that President Dunn's charge was that very little should be changed in terms of the impact of the reporting lines.

C. Prozesky asked about the impending visit by President Obama to the Springfield campus and whether SIU was sending a delegation. Dr Colwell responded that SIU will be sending appropriate representation and Dr Allen added that John Charles will be in charge of organizing it for the university system.

B. Goodson asked for clarification regarding the Republican Bills for State funding since the numbers mentioned are dissimilar. Dr Colwell responded that the Bill that SIU is following is the Bill that mentions 80%.

K. Stickers asked whether there is consensus on what it means to be a university so that decisions are made with respect to the integrity of the vision and not just what is convenient at the moment. Dr Colwell responded that there is awareness that SIU is a research institution and explained that the academic core is protected, but does not mean that there will not be cuts if warranted.

Remarks – Interim Provost, Dr Ford

Gave a report about the status of ongoing searches. She mentioned that for the Dean of Education and Human Services she is expecting comments will soon make a decision on the

position. She is also expecting a final shortlist for candidates on Dean of College of Business by the following week. For the position of Director for the Centre for International Education, Dr Ford is also expecting a list of finalists and interviews will be arranged shortly. Dr Carver from the College of Agricultural Sciences has agreed to serve as the Interim overseer for the Centre for International Education. The search for the Dean of Library Affairs was suspended since the search committee determined that none of the candidates met the minimum qualifications as laid out in the advertisement. There is a discussion about ways to revise the advertisement so that the search can be opened. And, the position for the Executive Director of Extended Campus was offered to Dr Mandara Savage who already started work in January 2016.

Dr Ford also reported that student enrollment is down noting that there is a drop of about 878 students. The drops can be categorized into three:

- About 190 unclassified/exchange students, a majority of whom are Brazilian students who were at SIU last year but because of policy changes on the part of the Brazilian government the students are not at SIU this year and may not be here in the future.
- About 420 graduate students –305 are Masters students; 109 are Doctoral students and six are Law and MEDPREP. The drop is larger than expected and is largely made up of international students. Dr Ford deduced that the delay in making a decision about when to give GAs and how many GAs to release until very late impacted the enrollment.
- About 263 undergraduates, a little less than the number SIU was done by in the Fall, an indication that the retention efforts are paying off.

Besides the drop in enrollment, SIU is up about 300 students in the junior class. This is the first group of students who came in under the new scholarship program that provides 4-year rather than 2-year merit offers, a good retention strategy. She also commented that the university has ramped up the early warning system to capture freshmen who are having difficulties. Preliminary data suggests that the system is having a huge impact in helping students improve their ability to succeed in foundational courses, which allows students to continue with their studies. As such, the early warning model is being expanded to more students in Math and other foundational courses.

B. Goodson asked whether other universities within Illinois were more conservative in giving out assistantships. Dr Ford responded that other institutions did not delay making decisions about assistantships.

A. Barnard commented that delaying taking decisions affects enrollments and also decreases the quality of graduate students SIU is able to attract and retain. Dr Ford agreed and added that by not making offers early SIU loses on recruiting the best graduate students.

A. Wang commented that SIUC does not only compete with other Illinois universities but also with its sister institution, SIUE. Also, SIUE is aggressively marketing its programs and aggressively recruiting graduate students. So, there is a need to think about how SIUC effectively markets its programs and recruits students within the context of competing with a sister institution. Dr Ford responded that SIUE has recently employed one of SIUC's top undergraduate recruiter, a loss to SIUC. She encouraged faculty to improve how they present their profiles on the websites including research and teaching activities such that websites provide proper information about graduate programs and application processes. Better presented profiles function as marketing tools to attract prospective graduate students. She

also spoke about the benefits of having increased the application fee since the application fee is used for recruitment activities.

Y. Lee commented that recruitment does not only relate to one factor but includes budget availability, websites, social media, faculty involvement and taking decisions on applications. Yet, there are 1006 applications with a no decision. Delays in making decisions on applications impact enrollment.

Remarks – Interim Vice Chancellor for Research, Dr Garvey

Reported that relative to the past years, grant activity is up to the tune of \$10 million. The grants range from research to training. He encouraged faculty to continue submitting grant proposals. Dr Garvey also reported that the university is pulling back on faculty start-ups on hires that have not happened. He commented that he asked Deans about how much they would need for start-up commitments and the amount came to \$1.6 million. A decision was made to pull back on offering start-ups since there are no funds and there is \$2.4 million that has already been committed to the faculty already employed.

Dr Garvey also reported that his office sent out a survey about the use of drones and only received a handful of responses. He stressed that should anything happen, the liability is for the person using the drone. With the aim of considering new research initiatives, his office will in March send out a survey asking people about how they see research on campus currently and in the future.

Finally, he reported that construction at the McLafferty Annex has been completed and that there are about four colleges using the building for classes and research purposes. He said that the remainder of the building can be used for anything on campus and asked for input on how to allocate space. He also added that there is no expectation that anyone will be asked to pay for using the space.

B. Goodson asked whether the decision about pulling back on start-ups is based on the fact that the State has not allocated funds or other issues. Dr Garvey responded that it is a combination of issues. He explained that the State owed SIU \$1 million for start-ups, which is being spent as if it was received. As such, the university is careful about making future commitments.

J. Barnard asked for clarification about whether there will be oral presentations at the Graduate Research Forum. Dr Garvey responded that slots for oral presentations will be determined on a competitive basis.

Remarks – Graduate School, Dean Lee

Reported that at the Council of Graduate School conference held in Seattle in December 2015 he learned that within the U.S. international graduate enrollment grew by 10% in the past 10 years. Too, that some graduate schools use academic analytics to assess their graduate programs to ensure program quality and academic excellence. Also, many deans agreed that graduate schools should effectively prepare graduate students for the workplace.

Dr Lee also reiterated Dr Ford's report about graduate enrollment figures. He reported that SIU's graduate enrollment for the Spring semester is 11.5% or 420 students down compared to the Spring 2015 semester. Of the decline of 420 graduate students, three colleges with a big drop are Electrical and Computer Engineering (103 students), Education and Human Services (48 students) and Liberal Arts (53). All these are Masters level students. Concerning Doctoral Students, the top four colleges with substantial declines are Education and Human Services (42), Science (23), Liberal Arts (16) and Engineering (15). Dr Lee also reiterated that there are about 1 600 applications with no decision. He added that the drop in enrollment

will be discussed during the next meeting of the Graduate Enrollment Task Force on February 18.

The University Foundation Office and Alumni Association office will designate a development officer on a half-time basis to help the Graduate School with fundraising and alumni relationship development. The Development Officer will also help to develop international alumni associations, which will also support recruitment efforts. Dr Lee made an example about the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) that has approximately 11 000 graduate students, 5 000 being international graduate students. UIUC does not do much recruitment but relies on its alumni associations for help.

Dr Lee also reported that the *Graduate Saluki Stories* was distributed early in February. The publication attempts to connect current graduate students with graduate alumni and to recruit prospective students into graduate school.

On March 7, the graduate school is organizing a financial literacy symposium for graduate students. He also mentioned that the 2016/17 catalog is being updated and will be electronically ready before spring break.

R. Burnside asked whether Dr Lee has statistics on the number of non-continuing Masters students who are not continuing for lack of academic performance. Dr Lee undertook to check the numbers.

Remarks – Associate Provost for Academic Programs, Dr Allen

Dr. Allen reported that the College of Business had an accreditation site visit from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), and the preliminary feedback was positive. It was encouraging to see the co-ordination across campus for the site team. Dr Allen also reported that Fire Science Management had a successful site visit and that the preliminary feedback received was also positive. Accreditation site visits are events involving many different people, not just the program under review, to ensure that the quality of SIU programs is documented and shared with the right people in the right way.

Dr Allen also reported that across campus there was a strong response to the call for assessment reports on degree programs. Only about 10 departments did not submit assessment reports. He explained that assessments should meet accreditation requirements at degree and university levels. His office is working with IT to see if the process of completing assessments on Sharepoint can be made easier and more efficient.

Remarks – Council Vice Chair, Dr Goodson

Update on program prioritization – reported that the three sub-committees that are working to provide quantitative and qualitative metrics as well as topics of uniqueness both at program and university level have met separately and together. He added that there are three documents that summarize what each subcommittee is doing to come up with data. Also, there will be regular meetings and the subcommittees and members will continue to refine the metrics.

C. Hatziaodoniu asked when the committee on program prioritization anticipates to conclude the work. Dr Goodson responded that the committee is attempting to have the metrics done by March, collect data and report by May.

A. Wang asked whether the metrics are developed and also refined by the committee on program prioritization or whether the committee will involve departments. Dr Goodson responded that the first round will be done by the committee on program prioritization (since

the group represents Graduate Council and Faculty Senate). Individual programs will provide feedback on tests of the system.

C. Hatziaioniu asked that the report be presented to the Graduate Council before it is finalized. Dr Goodson responded that the idea within the committee on program prioritization is to test the program before rolling it out campus-wide. He hoped that the Graduate Council will in April receive feedback that is based on the preliminary tests.

J. Barnard asked about the possibility of admitting students in March into a program that may potentially be closed by Fall because of the program prioritization. Dr Ford responded that the university has a responsibility to teach students out. The program prioritization is a provision for planning for future distribution of resources that can be guided by a faculty driven view of what the university should look like and what the academic priorities should be.

Remarks – Deans Council, Dr Wang

Reported that all the Deans attended the SIU enrollment summit. The summit was attended by the Provost, recruitment teams from each college, members from the admission office, and the financial aid office. The summit was successful and each college is expected to have a recruitment plan with goals and action items. Dr Wang also reported that the format of the Deans Council meeting will be changed. Currently there are two Deans council meetings each month with everyone who reports to the Provost. The future format will split up the meetings such that the first meeting has everyone while the second will only include academic Deans to achieve better focus and discussions.

GPSC Report, A. Barnard

Reported that the first meeting of the Spring semester was also attended by Chancellor Colwell and Provost Ford who answered questions around the budget issue and GA contracts. Speaking about GA contracts, she reminded the Graduate Council members that GAs ease the load on faculty by teaching classes and performing many other important duties. She also reported that GPSC hopes to start a series of town hall meetings so that graduate students can talk about their concerns. Finally, she mentioned that GPSC has about \$5 000 left in the budget to fund events and about \$10 000 left to help students who travel to either present or attend conferences.

Nominations to Committees/Announcements – Council Vice Chair, Goodson

No nominations and announcements.

Standing Committee Reports

New Programs Committee Report – Professor Watts

Second reading:

Graduate Council Resolution in support of Renaming the Master of Science in Fire Service and Homeland Security Management. The Graduate Council voted to approve the resolution – 23 in favor, 0 abstention, 0 opposed. **Resolution passed.**

First reading:

Resolution in support of Renaming the Master of Arts Degree in Applied Linguistics.

Resolution in support of the Proposed Elimination of the Master of Laws Degree in the School of Law.

Resolution in support of the Proposed Elimination of the Master of Legal Studies Degree in the School of Law.

C. Prozesky was concerned that the School of Law would not have a Masters program and also commented that it would be hard to create the program again in the future.

A. Pardieck responded that it has become difficult to sustain scholarships for the programs and that the LLM program was not accomplishing the goals originally intended. He explained that the decision was to cancel the Masters programs and focus on the Juris Doctor program. He also agreed that it would be difficult to create the program again but added that the concern is the amount of funding to sustain the LLM and MLS programs. He explained that there are also concerns about the lack of specialized LLM curriculum, apart from the Health Law LLM. A general LLM often does not offer the same value as an LLM focusing on a specific subject matter, such as tax.

S. Secchi asked about the number of students still enrolled in the program. A. Pardieck responded that for the MLS program there are about 10 and about five will finish this year. For the LLM program there are about four or five. The MLS classes are also very similar to those taught under the JD program. So, MLS students can be accommodated under the JD program and introductory classes have already been taught to the current students.

J. Barnard commented that at a GPSC meeting students expressed concerns that the MLS program is like a safety valve for underperforming JD students to get something out of it and then go back to law school later. A. Pardieck responded that the concern is valid since there are students who have dropped out of the JD program and enrolled in the MLS program and later went back to the JD program. However, he clarified that the number of students who take the MLS program and go back to JD program is very small. He further explained that since the State of Illinois has increased the minimum requirements for passing the bar there is a concern about encouraging students who may have difficulty passing the bar to extend their studies, and take on more debt, in the MLS program and then try law school again. This increased concern about bar passage exists not just in Illinois but also nationwide as part of a change in law school application numbers and demographics.

Program Review Committee Report, Professor Velasco

Second reading:

Graduate Council Resolution recommending approval of the program review process described in the Revised Program Review Overview Document. The Graduate Council voted to approve the resolution – 23 in favor, 0 abstention, 0 opposed. **Resolution passed.**

Research Committee Report, Professor Narayan

Second Reading:

Graduate Council resolution to rescind the previous Post-Doctoral resolution.

The Graduate Council voted to approve the resolution – 23 in favor, 0 abstention, 0 opposed. **Resolution passed.**

Education Policies Committee Report, Professor Shapiro

No report.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 09:50