

## **2016 GRADUATE COUNCIL**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**May 5, 2016**

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

**Members Present:** Ratna Sinha, Constantine Hatziaioniu, Alison Watts, Silvia Secchi, Prema Narayan, John Barnard, Natalie Nash, Amanda Barnard, Zhao Wanli, Andrew Pardieck, Richard McKinnies, Joseph Shapiro, Cinzia Padovani, Howard Motyl, Kenneth Stickers, Tomas Velasco, Julie Partridge, Boyd Goodson, Michael Eichholz, Cynthia Sims, Johnathan Flowers, Michael Brown, Norman Carver.

**Members Absent:** Greg Rose, David Conrad, Wayne Glass, Clay Nielsen, Richard Bradley, Sandy Kim, Randolph Burnside, Corné Prozesky.

**Proxies:** Charles Ruffner for Clay Nielsen.

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** James Garvey.

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Randy Dunn, Brad Colwell, Susan Ford, James Allen, Andy Wang, Yueh-Ting Lee.

#### **Consideration of minutes**

The minutes of the April meeting were passed without amendments.

The Chair mentioned that Interim Chancellor Colwell and Provost Ford are attending the Board of Trustees meeting.

#### **Remarks – Interim Vice Chancellor for Research, Dr Garvey**

Reported that research is doing fine and there is about \$11 million more in terms of research dollars than last year. The challenge facing the Research Office is Activity Insight, a tool used to keep track of faculty research activity (publications and presentations). There was confusion about how to use the system. He explained that there are faculty members who thought that there was going to be some sort of punishment if the April 15 deadline was not met. However, faculty is expected to load their activities by June 15. Academic Analytics, another system, was less user friendly, less useful and is being cancelled to save money.

He also reported that the Da Vinci Week was successful and more interdisciplinary activities will be planned early on for the next school year.

**M. Eichholz** commented that the Zoology Department's overhead recovery budget was taken away and that faculty including the Chair of the Department was not informed. He also added that start-up funds for junior faculty had been affected. Dr Garvey responded that the Administration can explain what happened but added that he was not aware of budgets being raided. He also explained that funds are often temporarily taken away when positions become vacant.

**N. Carver** commented that at the College of Science Chair's meeting it was announced that all overhead money cannot be used since it has been borrowed and will be returned later.

**S. Secchi** commented that reimbursements for travel have also been slow and the reason seems to be a cash flow problem. Dr Garvey responded that processing travel

reimbursements had been slow. He also explained that grant money cannot be used for shortfalls adding that ideally, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research should manage travel for external grants. He reiterated that start-ups that were offered will be honored but that it takes a while to get the money together. He also added that if start-ups are being taken away, that is a concern.

**K. Stickers** asked about the status of the Research Centers including the Dewey Center. Dr Garvey responded that Research Centers report to various units on campus. He explained that although he advocates for the Centers, he has no control over which centers get closed down as the Chancellor makes the ultimate decision. He stated that research centers under his office are being supported and are bringing in research dollars.

**M. Eichholz** commented that the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council is proposing a resolution because they are concerned that there is a lack of strategic planning at the top level on how the limited resources are going to be distributed among the Vice Chancellor units. In response, Dr Garvey apologized and noted that he has provided a plan, available on the website about the state of research for the next several years.

**Remarks – Graduate School, Dean Lee – Report presented by Dr Ratna Sinha**

Thanked faculty for serving on the Graduate Council during the 2015-2016 academic year. Noted that graduate enrollment faces a big challenge as a result of uncertainty brought about by the State budget. She added that the Graduate School is working hard to recruit graduate students.

Dr Sinha also commented that the acceptance rate of different fellowships is higher than in previous years. She reported that Dr Lee had visited the Springfield campus on April 21 and met with different faculty members and administrators and learned much about graduate programs at the Springfield campus. Dr Lee also met with Dr Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, Dean of the Graduate College from University of Illinois Urban-Champaign who visited the graduate school on April 25. Together, they shared ideas and experience related to graduate education.

Dr Sinha also reported that SIU will have the highest number of Ph.Ds. (79) in the May graduation, which means the university will lose a large body of students.

**Remarks – Council Chair, Eichholz**

The Chair asked for a suspension of the Robert's Rules. The rules were suspended with 23 in favor, no oppositions and abstentions before the Chair read a *Resolution on Budgetary Planning*. He explained that the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council had drafted the resolution motivated by an observation that there is no strategic planning at the university leadership level about how resources should be distributed within the Vice Chancellor units. The Executive Committee found it worrisome that all programs including academics, research, and athletics are being treated the same. The resolution requests that the Chancellor initiates strategic planning at the leadership level.

**J. Garvey** commented that based on an email from one of the members of the Non-Academic Program Prioritization Committee, savings identified by the Committee would not be immediate.

**B. Goodson** commented that it would be easier to get cost savings from the non-academic units than from the academic units but would take years to implement.

**C. Hatziadoni** stressed that the resolution should make it clear that funds for academic programs should not be used and that any savings from academic units should stay within academic programs.

**Charles Ruffner** added that any savings from non-academic programs would only accrue to the university from three to five years rather than the immediate period, a point underscored by J. Flowers.

**J. Flowers** commented that the Non-Academic Program Prioritization Program Committee was given several accounts from which to identify savings. He stated that the volume of committee's work, which included asking staff members to appear before the committee and limited resources to collect data are some of the reasons the committee could not meet the deadline.

**J. Garvey** commented that the issue of a lack of data collection has been ongoing for years and that the Graduate Council needs to think of ways to help the Administration collect data.

**J. Barnard** commented that the proposed resolution still allows the Provost and the Chancellor to cut as they see fit without much input.

**B. Goodson** observed that the objectives between the Academic and Non-Academic Program Prioritization committees seem to be different.

**M. Eichholz** explained that the objective of the resolution is to call attention to the lack of strategic planning for budgetary reductions and to seek redress. He also asked for input on making the resolution clearer. Recommendations for improving the resolutions followed.

**M. Eichholz** undertook to edit the resolution as discussed in the meeting, emphasizing the period within which strategic planning should occur and with a mention about transparency and communication about budgeting. He also called for a vote for the friendly amendment to the resolution. The members voted 20 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstentions. The resolution passed.

A motion was made to reinstate the Rules and they were reinstated.

**M. Eichholz** mentioned that he hopes the new Graduate Council will establish an ad-hoc committee to work on faculty training and mentoring. He explained that there is no formal faculty mentoring program whereas there is a need to train new faculty hires on a number of issues, including diversity.

**S. Secchi** mentioned that the University of Women used to have a mentoring program for new women faculty and suggested that the ad hoc committee to be initiated should check the University of Women's program.

**M. Eichholz** also mentioned that he had hoped to share the criteria for program prioritization with the Council. He undertook to send the criteria to all faculty for review and comments once finalized at the committee's next meeting.

#### **Remarks – Faculty Senate, Professor Motyl**

Reported that at its last meeting, the Faculty Senate received a presentation from the Committee on Program Prioritization.

**M. Eichholz** commented that the criteria presented to the Faculty Senate was well received and supported.

### **GPSC Report, A. Barnard**

Thanked the GPSC members who represented students in the Graduate Council. She reported that GPSC held elections on April 19 and that Jonathan Flowers will be her replacement on the Council, along with four new representatives. She also reported that Research Awards were successful. A total of 49 applications were received and five awards of \$1000 each have been presented to students. Ms Barnard also reported that GPSC was active at the May 2 event and handed over 200 *No Racism* T-shirts. She also mentioned that there are still travel funds available for students to attend and present at conferences.

**S. Secchi** congratulated Ms Barnard on her service on the Council and stated that it was a pleasure having her as a Council member.

### **Nominations to Committees/Announcements – Council Vice Chair, Goodson**

No report.

Moved to have the Rules suspended. Motion passed and B. Goodson read a resolution to express gratitude to M. Eichholz, the Chair for his service and leadership in the Council. The resolution was welcomed.

A motion was made and approved for the Rules to be reinstated.

**M. Eichholz** apologized to B. Goodson for not having a resolution for him as he had intended. He promised to get the resolution to B. Goodson once he receives it back from the Dean of Graduate School, Dr Lee.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

#### **New Programs Committee Report – Professor Watts**

Reported that the committee introduced 12 resolutions during the 2015-2016 academic year; 10 were voted on and approved and two were introduced at the May 5 meeting.

A motion was made and passed to suspend the Rules for the first readings.

**S. Secchi** stated that she does not appreciate the committee sending resolutions late.

#### **First reading:**

#### **Graduate Council Resolution in support of the addition of a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Quantitative Methods.**

**J. Flowers** asked why it had taken so long to get the resolution to the Council. He also asked about the anticipated benefits of the program. The departmental representative explained that the process took a long time and involved consultations with the Graduate School. He also explained that the program is being added for a number of reasons including requests from students who want to advance their quantitative methods skills and with the intention to increase enrollment numbers.

The Graduate Council voted to approve the resolution - 22 in favor, 3 opposed, 0 abstentions. **Resolution passed.**

#### **Graduate Council Resolution in support of the Addition of a Professional Science Master's Degree Track in Wildlife Management.**

A spirited debate followed with Council members voicing concerns about how the program would be funded since tuition does not return to the college, where the Director's salary

would be sourced specifically over summer break, the program's necessity, how the internship will be structured, how other similar proposals had previously been rejected with the lack of funds cited by the Provost as the reason for the rejection and why it seemed that this particular program was being treated differently. The objection was that there would be a paid Director and the opaqueness about the source of the money. The Council members felt that the rules should be uniform and consistent, and that tuition should go back to the units.

**M. Eichholz** explained the anticipated roles of the Director and that the responsibilities will be massive, why the program is being proposed, that its name has been changed since it was felt that it originally seemed closer to classes that already exist and that there are organizations that have already asked for intern students. He proposed a vote even if the program is voted down.

**J. Flowers** made a motion for the resolution to be tabled at the September 2016 Graduate Council meeting. Members voted 19 in favor, 4 opposed and 0 abstentions.

A motion was made and passed to reinstate the Rules.

#### **Program Review Committee Report, Professor Velasco**

Reported that the committee proposed and passed two resolutions, *Resolution Recommending Approval of the Accreditation Review Process as described in the Accreditation Review Overview* and *Resolution Recommending Approval of the Program Review Process as described in the Revised Program Review Overview*. Both resolutions were approved.

#### **Research Committee Report, Professor Narayan**

Reported that the committee proposed and passed one resolution, *Graduate Council Resolution to Rescind Previous Resolution on a Postdoctoral Fellow Classification* during the 2015-2016 academic year.

A policy regarding tuition on grants was not pursued following a review of the previous report and a lack of interest on the part of the Administration.

#### **Education Policies Committee Report, Professor Shapiro**

The committee proposed two resolutions that were approved by the Council. These are, *Resolution on Graduate Student Academic Grievance Procedure* and *Resolution to Recommend Approval of a Policy and Definition to Grant Emeritus Status to Retired SIUC Faculty and Administrators*. Two other resolutions proposed were voted down. The first relates to the Graduate School's policy on transfer credit and the second concerned policies about admissions decisions deadlines for graduate programs.

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **New Business**

**M. Eichholz** noted that the year had been long and stressful. He thanked the Council members for their insightful discussions and hoped that the Administration has taken note of the concerns and that there has been an improvement because of the Council's work.

**J. Garvey** commented that the Council makes a difference specifically through the resolutions the Council passes. He also mentioned that there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes such as B. Goodson helping students with grievances.

**C. Ruffer** commented that as a proxy he learned a lot about how the Council works and congratulated M. Eichholz for a fine job and for getting the Program Prioritization running.

**M. Eichholz** handed out certificates to Council members in recognition of their service to the Council.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 09:49.