

MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
September 7, 2006

Members and Administrative Officers Present:

Laurie Achenbach, Marcia Anderson, Paul Bates, Brad Colwell, John Dunn (ex-officio), Steven Esling, Susan Felleman (for Jyotika Ramaprasad), Chris Green, Ramesh Gupta, Dan Hechenberger, Andrew Hofling, Fred Isberner (for future CASA representative to the Graduate Council), Aslam Kassimali, Maryon King, Elizabeth Klaver, John Koropchak (ex-officio), Carey Krajewski, Scott McClurg (for William Turley), Shelly McGrath, Christian Moe (observer, Emeritus Faculty Organization), Laura Murphy, Donna Post, John Preece, Karen Renzaglia, Pru Rice (Office of VCR), Richard Rivers, Mary Rudasill, Sara Samson, Nathan Stucky, Spyros Tragoudas, Susan Tulis (observer, Faculty Senate), Alison Watts, Walter Wendler (ex-officio), Karl Williard, and David Wilson (Graduate School).

Absent: Michael Batinski, Will Reilly, Ed Shay.

Proxies: Susan Felleman for Jyotika Ramaprasad, and Scott McClurg for William Turley, for the Fall Semester, 2006, and Fred Isberner, Associate Dean, College of Applied Sciences and Arts, for future CASA representative to Graduate Council.

Prof. Colwell called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Kaskaskia/Missouri Rooms of the Student Center and welcomed members to the beginning of a new academic year. Council members then introduced themselves.

1. Consideration of the minutes of the May 4, 2006 Graduate Council meetings.

Prof. Colwell noted a correction to the first set of the May 4, 2006 Graduate Council minutes. Any reference that the Faculty Senate had taken a vote and approved the merger of Foreign Languages and Linguistics should be stricken from the minutes. The Senate has not addressed that issue formally by vote. After this correction, a motion was made, seconded, and approved for the first set of the May 4, 2006 minutes.

The second set of minutes for the May 4, 2006 Graduate Council meeting was then considered and approved as distributed.

2. Remarks—Chancellor Wendler

The Chancellor commented on the approved May 4 Graduate Council resolution to have, within each college, an associate dean responsible to assist in the development of information regarding research and scholarly activity. He felt that this idea was powerful because these individuals would bring not only that type of information to the faculty and scholars within each unit, but would also become part of a University-wide committee (chaired by the VCR) to consider consistent themes, opportunities, and concerns that exist across the campus.

Prof. Achenbach added that another major issue in the proposal was the decentralization of ORDA. With a collegiate representative for research and graduate education in place within each college, there would then be an individual familiar with advancing research for that particular college.

Prof. Kassimali understood that funding for these positions would be approximately \$100,000 each or \$1million/year for all colleges and asked about the source of funding for these positions. The Chancellor responded that these positions were intended to be an additional 1/4-time assignment for an associate dean already in place, therefore, reducing that amount to roughly \$250,000. The Chancellor added that one of the benefits of moving an existing appointment into this position is that the individual would know their colleagues and work of the college and understand the practices of ORDA and goals of the campus.

Prof Achenbach felt that, in some colleges, a 25% appointment might not be sufficient particularly for those colleges that have high productivity. The Chancellor said it was important to remember that we are not just talking about research funding, but also graduate enrollment. The University will not attain the goal of becoming a top 75 public research university without fundamentally changing the nature of the relationship of graduate students to undergraduate students which needs to be closer to 30% than to 20%. It is very important to find ways to increase graduate student enrollment and that will take more funding. The point is that an individual would be identified to work on these both of these issues at the college level with the deans and the chairs.

Prof. Stucky commented this issue was discussed in the College of Liberal Arts and there was concern about how one individual could deal with the various disciplines in the College and, also, whether that individual should be an associate dean for research or an individual with technical grant-writing skills. The Chancellor felt this individual should be of faculty stature to represent the College's scholarly and research interests, but the exact title would be determined within each college based on its needs.

The Chancellor also remarked that the University does not adequately publicize the work of its faculty and felt that with these types of appointments within each college, that issue could be addressed more effectively. He added that while increased bureaucratic costs are a bad investment, increased effective administrative costs, goal-oriented and driven toward results are an excellent investment. If the University's research productivity, the quality and number of publications, faculty recognition both nationally and locally, and the number of graduate students all go up, then the increased costs to add these positions within the colleges to drive those results is a good investment.

3. Remarks—Provost Dunn

Personnel Updates/Deans' Searches

Tracy L. Cross, Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Research and Assessment at Ball State University, will be interviewing for the College of Education and Human Services.

COLA: The Committee has been formed and will be meeting soon. Alan Vaux is serving as interim dean while the search is being conducted this year.

COS: The position has been re-advertised. We will be meeting with the search committee soon and moving forward again to attract a quality individual.

COBA: Dean Dennis Cradit, formerly of Florida State University began his appointment on August 9.

Curricular issues

The Ph.D. in Computer Science—answers to IBHE questions regarding this program have been submitted; the Ph.D. in Agriculture is at IBHE undergoing their review process; the Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering is also awaiting IBHE review; the Maine Program in Health Education is in place and approved by the North Central Association; the MS in Physician Assistant Studies is approved and will begin in May, 2007, and the MARCH (the Master's in Architecture) has been revised and will soon be submitted to the IBHE.

Items of Interest:

Cancellation Policy: Following the recommendation of the Agility and Efficiency Task Force, the policy will be changed effective October 1, 2006 to reflect that students will have to be current before they register.

Honors Program: A review of the Honors Program is being undertaken. Rick Williams has recently retired. Jim Allen is serving as the interim director, assisted by Lori Merrill-Fink. Two consultants have been identified to visit the campus in the near future to provide guidance and direction as well as an Honors Committee. From there, a national search will be initiated for an Honors director.

Parsing the First Year Experience — the University submitted an application and was selected to participate along with 37 other institutions in a first-year experience program led by Penn State and funded by the Spencer Foundation. A University committee on the First Year Experience has been formulated.

Community Colleges: The University will soon announce a program that provides the third year of Elementary Education in Mt. Vernon at the Market Place in cooperation with Rend Lake College. The University will also be porting courses and experiences in Early Childhood Education to Shawnee Community College.

Enrollment: The University enrollment is down approximately 2% overall for the year at 21,003 students. This situation will require a continued collaborative effort to reverse this trend. Graduate enrollment held steady; off campus numbers are up, and international numbers continue to lag. Every college essentially is down with the exception of COLA. The Colleges of Agricultural Sciences and CASA are essentially flat. There are larger decreases in Education, Business, Science and MCMA. Summer term enrollment, however, was up which reflects evidence that marketing helped increase those numbers.

Good News Items:

US News and World Report— the University is now in Tier 3 — the perception score improved to 2.6 which is an important indicator.

Princeton Review — in 2007, SIUC will be identified as one of the Best in the Midwest and also as Best Value.

Y. Paul Chugh, Mining and Mineral Resources Engineering, will travel to India later this year as a Fulbright Senior Specialist.

The leading education support organization in the world, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), awarded the SIUC Foundation a top prize for SIUC's fund-raising campaign, "Opportunity Through Excellence." CASE awarded the SIUC Foundation a gold medal from its 2006 Circle of Excellence awards program. It was one of only five top awards given by CASE. There were 157 entries in the category. The other four gold medal winners are the University of Minnesota Foundation, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Washington, and the University of Virginia Athletics Foundation.

4. Announcements—Vice Chancellor Koropchak, Associate Vice Chancellor Rice, and Associate Deans

Vice Chancellor Koropchak

Vice Chancellor Koropchak welcomed Council members and looked forward to another productive year.

A good news item: Over the summer, a commitment was made to increase graduate assistant stipends by 4-1/2% compared to the 3% campus-wide increase that was approved by the Board of Trustees.

The VCR, along with John Mead and Tomasz Wiltowski from the Coal Research Center, were selected to be part of a trade mission focusing on energy that traveled to China for the State of Illinois. The VCR felt it was important to mention that SIUC was the only university in the State selected to go on this trade mission which sets it apart among state institutions in the field of energy.

Another good news item that occurred during the summer was that the State legislature made a commitment of funds of \$700,000 to the University for the Walker Graduate Scholarships. These are additional dollars to support graduate students on campus and that is primarily thanks to efforts of Sen. Emil Jones and the President's Office.

Another good news item: Bakul Dave (Chemistry) had his research highlighted in the *New York Times* this week.

As a final announcement, the VCR said that there would be a reception today at his house at 4:30 p.m. to kick off the Graduate Council for this year.

Associate Vice Chancellor Rice

The Associate Vice Chancellor welcomed the Council members and noted that she is looking forward to working with Prof. Achenbach and the Research Committee again this year.

ORDA has been conducting workshops this Fall Semester. There have been three workshops for new faculty, and there will be two workshops on Faculty Seed grants coming up.

Additionally, ORDA has developed an undergraduate research brochure that highlights all of the various undergraduate research activities on campus. This publication is due out on September 15.

Dean Wilson

The Graduate School staff will be meeting with directors of graduate studies early in October to discuss policies and procedures.

The National Research Council (NRC) study on the Research Doctorate is being undertaken again this year and Dean Wilson has been asked to serve as institutional coordinator. Later this week, a spreadsheet will be sent out by Dean Wilson that has been supplied by NRC's contractor to include faculty names. In addition, there will be a web-based NCR faculty questionnaire. There is also an extensive program questionnaire as well as an institutional questionnaire that Dean Wilson and Larry Schilling will handle. Dean Wilson encouraged departments to work closely with his office and Larry Schilling's office for data for these questionnaires.

The application fee of \$40 was implemented on July 1. The Graduate School is in the process of going on line with the credit card and hopes to have it available by October 1.

5. Faculty Senate—Associate Dean Tulis

The Faculty Senate will meet for the first time next Tuesday. Issues for discussion by the Senate over the next few months include the Judicial Review Board, the large number of Incomplete grades given each year, and a concern as to where money would come from to cover lost funding to SIUC because of decreased enrollment.

As a final comment, Dean Tulis said that the Fall Faculty meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19, from 12 Noon – 1:30 p.m. with an emphasis on marketing.

6. Announcements—Prof. Colwell

In an effort to go paperless, the Graduate Council agenda and minutes will be available only on the Graduate Council web site and not in hard copy. The Council web site has been completely revamped and Prof. Colwell credited Jan Hamilton of the Graduate School for taking the lead in that effort. Comments/concerns regarding the web site should be forwarded to Prof. Colwell.

Also, future meetings of the Graduate Council will be held in the room in which the Council is meeting today, the Kaskaskia/Missouri Room, rather than the Mississippi Room.

The blue ribbon panel that the Educational Policies Committee recommended last year has been set up, chaired by Prof. Kittleson (Health Education). There is a four-part charge to that panel, the first of which concerns graduate fellowships. The panel hopes to bring information for the Council's review at the October meeting. The VCR added that he is chairing another committee regarding diversity issues in graduate programs and he anticipates that both committees would work closely together on related issues.

Regarding the Fall Faculty meeting on October 19, it will be sponsored jointly by the Faculty Senate and Graduate Council with the Faculty Senate primarily looking at marketing issues and the Graduate Council looking at issues of enrollment.

Lastly, in an effort to make the first meeting of the Graduate Council more productive, the Executive Committee met in a half-day retreat over the summer to establish committees so Council members would have that information in advance. The efforts of Prof. Tragoudas were especially acknowledged in making committee appointments over the summer.

7. Nominations to Committees—Prof. Tragoudas

There has one appointment thus far for the Fall Semester. Prof. Stucky has been appointed as the Graduate Council's nominee to the search committee for the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

8. GPSC Report—Sara Samson

The Graduate Professional and Student Council is the represented body of graduate and professional students. GPSC addresses the concerns and University policies affecting graduate students. At the end of last year, GPSC held its elections and re-elected Jon Pressley as President, Ed Ford as Vice President for Administrative Affairs, and Sara Samson as Vice President for Graduate School Affairs.

At the beginning of the year, GPSC held a social that had a turnout of approximately 200 people. This event was organized to introduce people to the GPSC and what it can do for graduate students.

The primary focus this year for GPSC is to continue to maintain student government control of the activity fee and to maintain the ability of graduate students to select their representatives.

9. Report of the New Programs Committee—Prof. Esling

No report.

10. Report of the Research Committee—Prof. Achenbach

No report.

11. Report of the Program Review Committee—Prof. Anderson

All committee assignments have been made to the nine units that will be reviewed this year. Since there are only seven members on the Program Review Committee, Profs. Mary Rudasill and Donna Post have agreed to serve on two review committees. Prof. Anderson felt the Committee made good progress in getting organized this year, and, in addition, the orientation meeting held by Dr. Calhoun's office was very helpful.

12. Report of the Educational Policies Committee—Prof. King

The Educational Policies Committee has met and discussed some of the initiatives that the Graduate Council will be examining this year.

Prof. Colwell commented that there was a recent article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* regarding plagiarism. Prof. King said this was a key issue for the Committee at its meeting and generated much debate. Briefly summing up Prof. King's remarks, the Educational Committee will be looking at the full gamut of plagiarism including its definition, how different departments define plagiarism, prevention (how to best educate graduate students so that they will not engage either intentionally or unintentionally in this practice), and possible punitive consequences if this practice is identified. Dean Wilson added that since the University subscribes to TurnItIn.com, it would be a relatively easy process to run theses and dissertations through that process as part of a final checkup. The Educational Policies Committee will also examine that matter and how it should be done.

The Provost recommended that students be informed to submit their work to TurnItIn.com before the work is turned in. In that way, students could learn from the experience by correcting their own papers. The VCR added that it is in the students' best interest that they are provided the tools, mechanisms, and training so that the problem of plagiarism is avoided.

AVCR Rice said the issue of plagiarism is part of a much broader concern with academic misconduct and responsible conduct of research, which affects not only graduate students, but faculty as well. Many universities require faculty to take responsible conduct of research (RCR) training before accepting external awards. There is also a requirement that is in effect that all university research misconduct policies are to be updated every 3-1/2 years. The AVCR has updated the University's research misconduct policy and it will be given to the Research Committee for review. On the issue of plagiarism, she felt it would be helpful if it was considered in this broader context and involved the Research Committee. She added that her office offers an RCR workshop for research assistants at the beginning of the year where plagiarism is discussed. It might be helpful if this RCR training were held for all graduate assistants since they all do research. Vice Chancellor Koropchak noted that recommendations could also come back in other ways, such as through the graduate assistants training held at the beginning of the year.

Prof. King said that, in addition to the *Chronicle* article, there was an article from the *Wall Street Journal* on plagiarism. The article dealt with graduate students' degrees being pulled, sometimes years later, because of plagiarism. Prof. King felt that this type of situation is easily preventable because many students plagiarize inadvertently. She recommended that both articles be read. Links for both articles will be placed on the Graduate Council web site.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Dean Wilson noted there is a policy in place, noted in the Graduate Catalog, for rescission of degrees.

13. Old Business

None.

At this point, Prof. Colwell distributed an updated list of Graduate Council membership as well as committee assignments. This information is also available on web.

14. New Business—Unionization Election of Graduate Assistants

Prof. Colwell said that the unionization election of graduate assistants would be held on September 13. In that regard, he asked the Council to engage in debate as to what role the Council should play in this matter, not as an advocacy group, but as a group that would 1) heighten awareness that the election is upcoming and encourage students to get out to vote and 2) from the graduate faculty side, the impact that this election could have on budgets. Prof. Colwell felt that while most graduate assistants were aware of the election, many faculty were not. Thus, he felt it was important that the Council discuss how best to share facts and information with colleagues so they will be fully informed on the issues. While the Council cannot take an official position on the election, it can make sure that people are aware and have all available information. Prof. Colwell also mentioned that a sheet of information was sent out to deans, chairs, and graduate students entitled "Facts about Graduate Assistants, Unions and SIUC" from the VCR's office that provided unbiased information and contained no advocacy position. In addition, he noted that while the administration cannot talk about the issue to students because of labor relations law, he felt it would be quite appropriate for individual faculty to have an open honest discourse with graduate assistants so students can make an informed decision. Later in the discussion, the VCR followed up on the last comment. He noted that we were all here to provide the best advice we can to students in general. Therefore, in his opinion, it was important that graduate students have all of the available information on this issue and there was no gag order that prevents students from talking to the administration to assist in making an informed decision.

Other comments from the discussion follow:

It was noted that, in addition to the Facts sheet distributed from the VCR's office, and in an effort to provide information on both sides of the issue, there was information on the IEA's web site (IEA.org) regarding concerns of GA United.

Prof. Post said that regardless of the vote outcome, the consideration of the union at any level is an indication of dissatisfaction with working conditions. In this case, what we are hearing is that graduate assistants do not feel heard about their working conditions and that they need to unionize to be heard and have an impact. Therefore, regardless of the outcome of the election, some sort of forum should be provided for graduate students to voice their concerns. If the union is voted down this time, it will come back until the issues are resolved. The VCR said there are five graduate students represented on the Graduate Council, they serve on every committee, and we are always open to what graduate students have to say. Prof. Post responded that sometimes students feel intimidated at such meetings, do not speak up, or feel that they are not heard when they do. Moreover, graduate students in different colleges have different concerns and when selected to serve on particular committees, may not necessarily represent the concerns of the entire graduate group.

A question was raised about where information could be found regarding the impact of a union on the number of assistantships and, additionally, other concerns of students. The VCR said that since a union has not been established yet, the issues are uncertain. However, GA United has been publishing a bulletin which has voiced some of its concerns. One of the issues was stipend levels and, as mentioned earlier, the Graduate School took some action to address that problem. Prof. Colwell added that while no one can speak with certainty at this time about how the number of assistantships might be affected, it was his feeling that if salaries go up, there is a possibility that the number of positions will decrease.

Following up on Prof. Post's remarks, Prof. Achenbach suggested that one of the venues for graduate students' issues and concerns could be the associate dean for research and scholarly activity within each college. Students might feel more comfortable speaking to that individual who is familiar with the graduate issues.

In response to Chancellor Wendler, Ms. McGrath spoke to the concerns of graduate assistants and noted that one concern was the need for higher stipends. Also, there was a concern about the fee increases which actually resulted in a net loss for graduate assistants even with the recent 4.5% stipend increase. Other issues were the slow processing of contracts, appointments cut from 50% to 25% for the same amount of work, and inadequate office space. Mr. Hechenberger added that he felt that the biggest issue for graduate students, and one that is probably underlying many of their concerns, is sensitivity to another perspective.

Other discussion included how other universities were impacted that had graduate assistants unionize; negotiation of fair-share, and the excellent job that GA United has done in getting information out to students. Following up on the last point, Prof. Colwell felt that, similarly, the Graduate Council, as elected representatives, has a responsibility to provide graduate faculty the necessary information about the upcoming election and, additionally, to make sure that students have all of the information and be encouraged to get out and vote. This can be done in multiple directions—discussions, word-of-mouth, web site postings, printed materials, and electronic communication. The Chancellor added that it was also important that any information that is disseminated be unbiased.

At the end of the discussion, there was no further business to bring before the Council and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Ballestro
Recording Secretary