

**MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL**  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
April 5, 2007

Members and Administrative Officers Present:

Paul Bates, George Brown (for Christian Moe, observer, Emeritus Faculty Organization), David Carlson (ex-officio), Brad Colwell, John Dunn (ex-officio), Steven Esling, Chris Green, Ramesh Gupta, Andrew Hofling, Aslam Kassimali, Maryon King, Elizabeth Klaver, John Koropchak (ex-officio), Jack Kremers, Janet Mayher (for Shelly McGrath), John Mead (Office of VCR), Bill Muhlach (for Carey Krajewski), Laura Murphy, Donna Post, John Preece, Jyotika Ramaprasad, Karen Renzaglia, Don Rice (ex-officio), Pru Rice (Office of VCR), Richard Rivers, Mary Rudasill, Sara Samson, Edward Shay, Cynthia Sims (for Marcia Anderson), Robert Sims (observer, A/P Council), Nathan Stucky, Spyros Tragoudas, Susan Tulis (observer, Faculty Senate), William Turley, Alison Watts, Bennett Whitaker, Karl Williard, and David Wilson (Graduate School).

Absent: Michael Batinski and Dan Hechenberger.

Guests: Susan Ford, (Chair, Chancellor's Search Committee); Glafkos Galanos and William Osborne (Engineering); Scott Collins and Fred Isberner (CASA); Cathleen May, (Director, Dissertations Publishing ProQuest Information & Learning), and Ratna Sinha, (Graduate School).

Prof. Colwell called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Corinth/Troy Rooms of the Student Center. Dean Wilson announced the following proxies: Prof. Cynthia Sims for Prof. Marcia Anderson; Prof. Bill Muhlach for Prof. Carey Krajewski, and Prof. George Brown for Prof. Christian Moe. Also, while not officially announced, Ms. Janet Mayher was serving as proxy for Ms. Shelly McGrath.

1. Consideration of the minutes of the March 8, 2007 Graduate Council meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2007 Graduate Council meeting. The motion passed.

Prof. Colwell then re-ordered the agenda so that Prof. Ford, Chairperson, SIUC Chancellor Search Committee, could report on the search process.

2. Susan Ford, Chairperson, SIUC Chancellor Search Committee Update

Prof. Ford commented that the Chancellor's Search Committee consisted of 16 members, representing a broad cross-section of campus committees. Other members of the Committee include a representative from the Alumni Association, the Director of the SIU Foundation, and the Mayor of Carbondale. She also noted that a search firm, the Hollins Group, was hired to assist with the search process. Continuing with her remarks, Prof. Ford said that, previously, the Search Committee had narrowed the original field of applicants for the position and had recently completed off-campus interviews with those individuals. That field has now been further narrowed and those names will be forwarded to President Poshard. The President will then select those individuals to be invited for campus

interviews before finals week. These individuals' names will be publicized at that time. Also, a schedule of meetings has been established for those candidates identified as finalists for campus interviews.

In response to a question from Prof. Colwell, Prof. Ford said that the Committee did not try to dovetail the Chancellor's search with other ongoing campus searches; i.e., deans' searches in some colleges.

Prof. Ford also commented on the importance of confidentiality at this point in the search process, however, once the finalists' names are made public, references for these individuals can be contacted. At that time, campus colleagues and members of the community are encouraged to seek out background information on the finalists.

3. Remarks—Interim Chancellor Dunn

IBHE Update

The Illinois Board of Higher Education met last week. The new Chair of the IBHE is Carrie Hightman, former president of Illinois AT&T. During the meeting, Chair Hightman made it clear that one of her goals would be a much sharper strategic plan for higher education in the State of Illinois. Also, at the IBHE meeting, a bipartisan panel of legislators spoke about their impressions of and funding for higher education. One of the dominant themes of this panel was that the IBHE needed to be stronger advocates for higher education. Another issue at the meeting was the fact that legislators are struggling with funding for education. Help is needed with the pre-primary through 20 initiative to make sure there are ample opportunities in this area for the people of the State of Illinois.

Budget Scenario

Assuming that the Governor's proposal of a 1.9% budget increase for the Carbondale campus holds, and assuming that the Board of Trustees approves the tuition increase proposal of 9.4%, the budget will still be out of balance by approximately \$4.5 million. The administration is working closely with the Chancellor's Planning and Budget Advisory Committee to deal with that imbalance. Nevertheless, the campus will take a budget hit, thus the need for the 2,4, 6% budget reduction scenarios. However, the Chancellor said the administration will do everything it can to mitigate the impact of those reductions.

Good News Items

The February and March issues of the *Chancellor's Communiqué* are available on the SIUC website. The *Communiqué* contains good news items and other important information about the campus.

Special kudos to two undergraduate students who were selected as Goldwater Scholar recipients—Jared Burde (Physics and Electrical Engineering major) and Erin Shanle (Chemistry and Plant Biology major). Congratulations also to the SIUC Debate Team that did a fine job in debating the Irish National Team, and the men's and women's basketball teams for their successful years.

### Enrollment Update

Comparing Fall 2006 undergraduate applications to Fall 2007, the University is up approximately 11.7% for true new freshmen and transfer students. Graduate applications are also up. However, even with that, because of weak enrollment years in the last two years, the University's pipeline still needs to be back-filled and that may take a few years to accomplish.

### Upcoming BOT Meeting

The Board of Trustees will meet on April 12. In addition to consideration of the tuition and fees proposal, the other major item will be formal ratification of the Faculty Association/Board of Trustees contract.

### Gateway Football Conference

South Dakota State and North Dakota State have now been added to the Gateway Football Conference. From an academic viewpoint, both schools are similar to SIUC.

### Miscellaneous

The Chancellor noted that the west half of the south tunnel of the Library would be closed Thursday to repair damage from a recent rainstorm.

Responding to a question from Prof. Preece regarding the Ph.D. proposal in Agricultural Sciences, the Chancellor said that the proposal was still under consideration by the IBHE.

#### 4. Remarks—Interim Provost Rice

##### Deans' searches:

Dr. Jay Means, candidate for the deanship in the College of Science, is making his second visit to campus. The Search Committee and others who interviewed him during the first visit recommended Dr. Means. In addition, the Search Committee for the deanship for the College of Liberal Arts has finalized its short list and those individuals will be invited to campus for interviews.

#### 5. Announcements—Vice Chancellor Koropchak, Associate Vice Chancellor Rice, and Associate Dean Wilson

##### Vice Chancellor Koropchak

The April 3rd Research Town Hall meeting was well-attended and included more than 75 exhibits and approximately 125 posters. The VCR thanked those who participated in the event and, in particular, noted the efforts of Sue Wirth and Debbie Fields for making arrangements for the meeting. He also thanked President Poshard for his supportive remarks and Rodney Jones for his poetry reading.

A task force committee is being established to work directly with the colleges to enhance graduate enrollment and recruitment. There will be a representative from each college on the committee that will address these issues.

The committee, chaired by the VCR, that addressed the issue of diversity in graduate education, has finalized its report. That report is now being forwarded by the Chancellor to the President.

The VCR distributed the latest issue of *Research Profile*. The publication contains information and data about various research measures and a sampling of research successes on campus. The VCR thanked the various individuals who work on this publication annually—Marilyn Davis, Pru Rice and staff, and Jay Bruce and staff.

Good News Items: a) Rodney Jones is one of four finalists for an international prize in poetry, the Griffin Award; b) Nick Whiting (Chemistry) was selected to attend the Lindau Meeting of Nobel Laureates in Germany this summer; c) Prof. Ling Zhang (Chemistry) was an NSF Career Award recipient; d) undergraduate student, Sara Reardon (Physiology), was one of 60 students nationwide selected by the Council on Undergraduate Research to attend the “Undergraduate Research Posters on the Hill” event, and e) Jemil Yesuf (Civil Engineering) not only won the SIUC Outstanding Thesis Award, but also the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) Outstanding Thesis Award. This is the third MAGS Outstanding Thesis Award that SIUC has won in the last six years. Dr. Chevalier was Mr. Yesuf’s adviser. MAGS has over 150 university members, including some of the best in the U.S. It is a great testament to the quality of our graduate students, and to their faculty advisors, that we have been so competitive for these awards.

#### Associate Vice Chancellor Rice

The AVCR said that the Faculty Seed Grant competition is complete. There were 52 proposals this year; 20 were approved for funding, 15 were recommended for revision and resubmission next year, and 17 were rejected. Both the AVCR and VCR noted that the quality of the proposals submitted for these awards, and the quality of the review panels, was improving each year.

#### Dean Wilson

Dean Wilson said that as a member of the MAGS Committee, it was a pleasure to see the excellent work done not only by graduate students on this campus, but across the Midwest. He expressed appreciation to the various panel members for their time and efforts in reviewing theses.

The fellowship competition is drawing to a close. There are 22 master’s fellowship offers; 21 doctoral offers, and three offers at the Morris level.

As a final comment, Dean Wilson noted that the annual Graduate Council elections are underway. The nomination ballots have been received and the election ballots will be mailed out soon.

6. Faculty Senate—Prof. Tulis

At the last Faculty Senate meeting, President Poshard presented a report on the feedback that he and Interim Chancellor Dunn had received as a result of campus meetings addressing declining enrollment.

In terms of business, the Senate had two resolutions come forward that were referred back to the Governance Committee. One resolution was a proposed revision to the Operating Paper of the Faculty Senate, which will change its membership. The change is that faculty members with greater than 50% administrative appointments are not eligible for election to the Senate. The other resolution concerns guidelines and procedures for faculty searches. Basically, the resolution requests the Provost to make sure that each academic unit has guidelines and procedures in place to appoint search committees and conduct faculty searches. The resolution also asks that academic units examine their operating papers to determine whether their procedures are current and up to date.

The Senate meeting concluded with a showing of the new marketing video called “One Place.”

Prof. Colwell then re-ordered the agenda again so the Educational Policies Committee could present its report.

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

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION**

Prof. King distributed a revised resolution regarding Turnitin for the Council’s consideration:

Whereas all graduate theses and dissertations must be turned in electronically, and

Whereas all theses and dissertations can be checked easily for plagiarism, and  
Whereas all teaching assistants are graduate students who are responsible for assessing plagiarism in courses that they teach,

Be it resolved that all SIUC graduate students be given free-of-charge access to software such as Turnitin (a.k.a., Turnitin.com) to check their own thesis or dissertation or to check class materials turned in by their students for plagiarism

and

Be it resolved that the Graduate School require that all theses and dissertations be checked by software such as Turnitin prior to submission to the graduate school, with the students’ major professors being encouraged to closely check their students’ theses and dissertations for plagiarism and other evidence/instances of academic dishonesty

and

Be it further resolved that all graduate students in degree programs which require a research paper, thesis or dissertation attend the Workshop on Academic Honesty sponsored by the Graduate School as well as the Workshop on the Responsible Conduct of Research sponsored by the ORDA. Students in departments which require their graduate students to attend departmental, or college workshops or orientations which incorporate these topics may be excepted from this rule upon departmental application to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School.

Prof. King then provided background information concerning the revised resolution. The reasons for the wording changes were to address concerns that the Committee had received regarding the original announcement of the resolution presented at the last Graduate Council meeting. One of these concerns was the wording that stated faculty were *responsible* for checking for students' theses and dissertations for plagiarism—this wording has now been changed to state that faculty are *encouraged* to check for students' theses and dissertations for plagiarism. Another concern regarded students in non-thesis option programs and this issue was addressed in the final paragraph of the revised resolution as follows: “Be it further resolved that all graduate students *in degree programs which require a research paper, thesis or dissertation* attend the Workshop on Academic Honesty...”

At this point, Prof. King distributed a handout from the Library's website that provided information on using Turnitin.

Continuing with her remarks about the revised resolution, Prof. King said that the Committee suggested that students be responsible for submitting the paper electronically to Turnitin, however, the electronically generated report from Turnitin should be sent directly to both the student and the major faculty member. (While wording to this effect was not included in the revised resolution, it was later added as a friendly amendment.) She also commented on the question of intellectual property vis-à-vis Turnitin that had arisen at the last Graduate Council meeting. The Committee felt that, at this point, this matter was not an issue. Regarding the language of the resolution that states theses and papers will be submitted to Turnitin prior to being submitted to the Graduate School, the Committee suggested incorporating a check-off box on the Graduate School form where the major professor could indicate that this process had been followed.

After a lengthy discussion and acceptance of several friendly amendments regarding wording in the resolution, the revised resolution that was voted on follows:

Whereas all graduate research papers, theses and dissertations must be turned in electronically, and

Whereas all research papers, theses and dissertations can be checked easily for plagiarism,

Be it resolved that all SIUC graduate students be given free-of-charge access to software such as Turnitin (a.k.a., Turnitin.com) to check their own research paper, thesis or dissertation

and

Be it resolved that the Graduate School require that all research papers, theses and dissertations be checked by software such as Turnitin prior to submission to the Graduate School, with the electronic report provided directly to their major professor, and with the students' major professors being encouraged to closely check their students' theses and dissertations for plagiarism and other evidence/instances of academic dishonesty

and

Be it further resolved that all graduate students in degree programs which require a research paper, thesis or dissertation attend the Workshop on Academic Honesty sponsored by the Graduate School as well as the Workshop on the Responsible Conduct of Research sponsored by the ORDA. Students in departments which require their graduate students to attend departmental or college workshops or orientations which incorporate these topics may be exempted from this rule upon approval of departmental application to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School.

Prof. Colwell called the question. The revised resolution with friendly amendments was approved in a voice vote.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESOLUTION**

Prof. King distributed, then read, the following Announcement of Resolution:

##### **Background**

In February 2006, the Executive Committee of the Graduate Council charged the Educational Policies Committee (EPC) to identify issues related to diversity in graduate studies at SIUC. The EPC identified four areas of concern, including graduate fellowships, assistantships, recruitment and mentoring/retention. With respect to graduate fellowships, the EPC was particularly generally concerned with:

1. the number/percentage of minority students who have applied for, been nominated for, been rejected for, or received fellowships;
2. identification of any systematic flaws in the nomination, application, evaluation or award processes which may explain why few minorities have received Master's/PhD/Morris fellowships; and
3. the role department-level Directors of Graduate Studies and screening committees in understanding and disseminating information regarding graduate fellowships to minority students as well as encouraging minority students to apply.

The EPC suggested that current policies should be examined to determine if changes would enhance minority access to fellowships. In particular, eligibility criteria and determination of training needs for faculty, and development of minority mentoring programs should be evaluated to determine if changes would increase minority applications. The goals of any changes would be to increase the

number of minority students applying for, and receiving, graduate fellowships as well as increasing enrollment and retention of minority students.

In the summer of 2006, a “Blue Ribbon Panel” (BRP) was convened. Although their initial charge was to evaluate and make recommendations on the four areas of concern identified by the EPC (i.e., fellowships, assistantships, recruitment and mentoring/retention), another committee was subsequently formed to evaluate the latter three areas, allowing the BRP to focus exclusively on the fellowship issue. The BRP identified Master’s/PhD/Morris fellowships as particularly problematic regarding diversity.

The BRP identified a number of issues involved with the application and evaluation processes which may be hindering both the application for, and awarding of, non-targeted fellowships to minority students. To remedy these procedural issues, the BRP recommended eliminating the ranking of applicants by departmental chairs, eliminating GRE/GMAT scores from the application, developing a centralized website for all fellowships, and verification of all GPAs by the Graduate School as well as recommending a number of specific modifications of the application form.

### **Recommendations**

The Educational Policies Committee would like to make the following suggestions:

- 1) The Report of the Blue Ribbon Panel should be accepted by the Graduate Council with our thanks for their efforts and insights.
- 2) Since fellowship decisions are normally based on students who are admitted to programs, we strongly encourage departments/colleges to make admission decisions as early as possible, particularly with regard to minority applicants.
- 3) Ideally, all applicants for Graduate Dean’s fellowships and PROMPT Assistantships who have not received awards should automatically be included in the pool of applicants for Master’s/PhD/Morris fellowships. Currently, decisions are made on Master’s/PhD/Morris fellowships before awarding of Graduate Dean’s fellowships and PROMPT Assistantships. We suggest that the Graduate School determine if the order of fellowship awards can be altered to allow automatic consideration.
- 4) The BRP recommends eliminating reporting of standardized test scores on evaluation forms. While the BRP’s rationale for this recommendation is sound, many faculty members have expressed the desire to have the GRE/GMAT available. Rather than eliminating reporting of these scores, we suggest that those evaluating applications should be strongly encouraged to consider a balanced set of criteria, including subjective information provided by the applicant and references, rather than relying disproportionately on standardized test scores. In addition, development of a weighted set of evaluative criteria might provide a beneficial guide for reviewing applications.
- 5) Realizing that we are only acting in the capacity of advisors to the process of reformulating the application and evaluation processes, we strongly recommend that the Graduate School carefully consider all of the recommendations of the BRP, as well as the suggestions presented above before undertaking the revision process.

Prof. Colwell asked Council members to look over both this Announcement of Resolution and the Blue Ribbon Panel report that is on the web and provide comments to Prof. King prior to the next Council meeting in May. There will be a full discussion of the Announcement of Resolution followed by a vote at that meeting.

Dean Wilson then commented that the fellowship panels had been asked for suggestions to improve the fellowship process. Suggestions that were offered included: 1) adding a student essay to the fellowship criteria, and 2) placing a limitation on the number of fellowship applications a department can submit for the competition.

8. Report of the Program Review Committee

In Prof. Anderson's absence, Prof. Colwell reported that summaries of the internal reviews would be presented at the May meeting. Those summaries will be available on the Graduate Council website with the May agenda.

9. Report of the Research Committee

Prof. Murphy said there was no report from the Committee.

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

**VOTE ON RESOLUTION**

**RATIONALE:** The College of Applied Sciences and Arts has proposed a new Master of Science degree program in Medical Dosimetry. The new program responds to an increasing national demand for medical dosimetrists and a new trend toward graduate programs in this field. Only two other master's degree programs in Medical Dosimetry exist in the United States. The proposed program will be taught at the Siteman Cancer Center in St. Louis, Missouri and other clinical educational centers in the area, with possible expansion to Chicago and Springfield, Illinois. The program requires 30 credit hours and applicants must also hold a baccalaureate degree. The program will advance the objectives of the *Southern at 150* plan and *The Illinois Commitment*. No new money is requested to establish the program.

**RESOLUTION:** Be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the establishment of a Master of Science degree program in Medical Dosimetry.

Associate Dean Fred Isberner and Prof. Scott Collins from CASA were present for questions regarding the program.

The question was called; the resolution was approved by the Council in a voice vote.

## **VOTE ON RESOLUTION**

**RATIONALE:** The College of Engineering has proposed new Master of Science and Master of Engineering degree programs in Biomedical Engineering, a high demand emerging field of study. The proposed programs, with relatively modest resources, will increase the number of graduate students on campus. The initiative will also create the opportunity for multidisciplinary research and graduate education involving faculty in the Colleges of Engineering, Science, Agricultural Sciences and the School of Medicine in a field of study with a strong potential for external funding. The program will advance the objectives of the *Southern at 150* plan and *The Illinois Commitment*. This program is expected to generate an increase in tuition revenue.

**RESOLUTION:** Be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the establishment of Master of Science and Master of Engineering degrees in Biomedical Engineering.

Dean William Osborne and Prof. Glafkos Galanos from Engineering were present to answer questions regarding the proposal.

The question was called; the resolution was approved by the Council in a voice vote.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESOLUTION**

**RATIONALE:** The College of Agricultural Sciences would like to change the name of the Center of Excellence for Soybean Research, Teaching and Outreach (CESRTO) to the Illinois Soybean Advancement Center (ISAC). The current program title and its acronym are awkward, leading to frequent misspelling and mispronunciation problems. The proposed new name is concise and sufficiently broad to represent the mission of the Center. No budgetary impacts are anticipated.

**RESOLUTION:** Be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves changing the name of the Center of Excellence for Soybean Research, Teaching and Outreach to the Illinois Soybean Advancement Center, a reasonable and moderate extension.

In the discussion that followed, comments were made that the new acronym for the Illinois Soybean Advancement Center (ISAC) might be confused with the acronym for Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) or the Illinois State Achievement Test (ISAT).

### 11. GPSC Report—Sara Samson

At its next meeting, GPSC will be accepting officer nominations for GPSC elections. The GPSC is also working with the undergraduates to finalize financing for the BOT Student Trustee election. Ms. Samson noted that it was important that all graduate students understand that they may vote for the Student Trustee representative.

12. Nominations to Committees—Prof. Tragoudas

No report.

13. Announcements—Prof. Colwell

Prof. Colwell provided an update of his activities during the month of March:

- a) Attended the Chancellor's Executive Committee meeting.
- b) Attended the monthly one-on-one meeting with Chancellor Dunn.
- c) Attended the Graduate Council Executive Committee meeting.
- d) Served as the master of ceremonies for the Research Town meeting.
- e) Next week, Prof. Colwell will attend the Board of Trustees meeting.

14. Old Business

Update on Serial Cancellation Procedures—Dean Carlson

Dean Carlson reported that the Library had received all departmental recommendations for serials cancellations. The Library is now preparing a list of those cancellations for the web that should be available by the end of next week. The web listing will also include a box to click if there are objections to the cancellation of a particular title. However, if this box is clicked, the Library will have to identify another title of equal value to eliminate. That process should take about two weeks. Once the process is complete, the Library will review and work with departments regarding cancellation objections. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, the final list of cancellations will be distributed and the cancellation process will be initiated.

15. New Business

Possible Summer Graduate Council Meeting Date

Prof. Colwell asked Council members to think about a possible summer meeting in order to provide an opportunity to meet with the new Chancellor and, additionally, to expedite any resolutions that might be sent forward to the Council over the summer.

Cathleen L. May, Director, Dissertations Publishing ProQuest Information & Learning

After an introduction by Dean Wilson, Dr. May proceeded with her remarks regarding UMI ProQuest.

Dr. May noted that UMI ProQuest has been publishing dissertations since 1938, but for most of that time, the company was microfilming the work that was representative of graduate productivity across the country. With the onset of the digital era, the company began digitizing dissertations and theses in 1997 and digital copies were made available to researchers. Then the company made a decision to move out of the academic environment by making theses and

dissertations available on the web through Amazon.com. However, because of various problems associated with students' work being placed on this website, the partnership with Amazon ended.

Continuing with her remarks, Dr. May said that ProQuest had recently been acquired by a new parent company, the Cambridge Information Group, which is a privately held company. The mission statement of the new company indicates that it is clearly academically oriented and values serious researchers.

Adding to her comments, Dr. May said that one of her goals was to increase awareness of the need for graduate faculties to talk to students early on, before they are ready to turn in their dissertations, about how scholarly publishing is changing in a digital era. There are concerns now about how digital dissertations, theses, and their potential for a more widespread distribution may affect a scholar's future ability to publish in a journal. In this regard, ProQuest has revised its publishing agreement so that students have the ability to suppress or embargo their work to allow time for publication. Dr. May said that another important issue is that faculty and students should be aware of their particular graduate school's policy regarding publication restriction and embargo and, additionally, they should be familiar with the culture of their particular discipline and where it is heading.

Regarding plagiarism, Dr. May said that ProQuest provides a service that, upon official notification from a university of such an occurrence, will expunge a student's work from ProQuest's records. She also added that ProQuest is now in the process of working with a plagiarism detection software company to develop a free tool that can be used by the graduate community to detect plagiarism in theses and dissertations. Hopefully, this tool will be available by next Spring and will be added to the front end of ProQuest's electronic submission system. At the conclusion of her presentation, Dr. May answered questions from Council members. Dean Wilson added that Dr. May would present a workshop today, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the University Museum.

Since there was no further business to bring before the Council, Prof. Colwell adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Ballestro  
Recording Secretary