

**MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL**  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
May 3, 2007

Members and Administrative Officers Present:

Marcia Anderson, Paul Bates, Michael Batinski, Brad Colwell, John Dunn (ex-officio), Steven Esling, Chris Green, Ramesh Gupta, Andrew Hofling, Elizabeth Klaver, John Koropchak (ex-officio), Jack Kremers, Shelly McGrath, Christian Moe (observer, Emeritus Faculty Organization), Laura Murphy, Donna Post, John Preece, Jyotika Ramaprasad, Karen Renzaglia, Don Rice (ex-officio), Pru Rice (Office of VCR), Richard Rivers, Mary Rudasill, Edward Shay, Nathan Stucky, Spyros Tragoudas, Susan Tulis (for David Carlson, ex-officio), William Turley (for Maryon King), Alison Watts, Karl Williard, David Wilson (Graduate School) and David Worrells (for Susan Tulis, observer, Faculty Senate).

Absent: Dan Hechenberger, Aslam Kassimali, Carey Krajewski, Sara Samson, and Bennett Whitaker.

Guests: Ratna Sinha (Graduate School) and several members of the new 2007-2008 Graduate Council were in attendance.

Prof. Colwell called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Kaskaskia/Missouri Rooms of the Student Center. Dean Wilson announced the following proxies: Prof. William Turley for Prof. Maryon King, Prof. Susan Tulis for Dean David Carlson (ex-officio), and Prof. David Worrells for Prof. Susan Tulis (observer, Faculty Senate).

1. Consideration of the minutes of the April 5, 2007 Graduate Council meeting.

Prof. Hofling said that on Item 14, Update on Serial Cancellation Procedures, several of his comments regarding this issue were not reflected in the minutes. (Note: To correct this omission, a summary of Prof. Hofling's comments follows. These corrections will be posted directly to the April 5 minutes on the Graduate Council website.)

“Prof. Hofling felt that the serials cancellation procedure had not worked well because it was based on economic criteria that punished departments whose serials had increased in cost. The procedure should have included other criteria such as programmatic needs or other academic criteria. Moreover, those criteria should have come earlier in the process to allow departments/colleges an opportunity to address this issue in a more timely manner.”

A motion was then made and seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed.

2. Remarks—Interim Chancellor Dunn

Prof. Colwell noted that the Chancellor was meeting with one of the Chancellor candidates at this time and, therefore, would be delayed in arriving for the Council meeting.

3. Remarks—Interim Provost Rice

Deans' searches:

Dr. Jay Means from Western Michigan has accepted the University's offer to be the next dean of the College of Science, effective July 1. In addition, Dr. Kenneth Teitelbaum, Kent State University, has been visiting as a candidate for the dean of the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS). Dr. David Birch, SIUC, is interviewing today and tomorrow and there will be two more candidate interviews next week for the COEHS dean's position. Regarding the COLA dean's search, Dr. Alan Vaux, SIUC, and Dr. Dorothy Ige, Indiana University Northwest, have interviewed for the position; the final two candidate interviews will be held next week.

In response to a question from Prof. Colwell regarding the MCMA interim dean's search, Provost Rice said that Dean Pendakur will begin a one-year leave on June 1 and Prof. Gary Kolb will serve as interim dean during that leave.

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

Vice Chancellor Koropchak

The VCR expressed appreciation to the 2006-2007 members of Graduate Council for their efforts that resulted in a very productive year.

Good news items:

An article regarding Prof. Ron Naverson's work with masks has appeared in the April issue of the *National Geographic*.

Prof. Larry Hickman from the Dewey Center was selected as the 2007 Scholar by the National Selection Committee of Phi Kappa Phi. There is one award given by that group every three years. Prof. Hickman is the second person from SIUC to win that award and no other university in the country can make that claim. Prof. Andrzej Bartke won the award six years ago, so now the University has had two winners of this national award, which is a great indication of the quality of people on this campus.

Another indicator of the quality at SIUC is that undergraduate students recently participated in the St. Louis Undergraduate Research Symposium. This symposium included students from excellent schools such as Washington University, St. Louis University, the University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Missouri-Rolla, and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. SIUC's students won four out of the eight prizes given at that symposium. They were: First place

posters, Jeremy Pierce, Psychology (Michael Hoane, mentor); Second place posters, Dave Dalzotto, Plant Biology (Sara Baer, mentor); Third Place Posters, Brett Timmons, Zoology/Fisheries and Aquaculture Center (Anita Kelley, mentor), and First Place Oral Presentations, Sean Goodin, Physiology (April Strader, mentor). These awards indicate the growing success of the undergraduate research competition held at SIUC over the past few years as part of the efforts of AVPR Rice and the Provost's Office. Undergraduate students are becoming more involved in research efforts under excellent faculty mentoring.

As a final good news item, a graduate student, Kassie Chaffee (Chemistry and Biochemistry) has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in France next year. This is yet another indicator that the University's students are competing very well at the regional, national, and international level.

Associate Vice Chancellor Rice

No report.

Dean Wilson

No report.

5. Faculty Senate—Prof. Worrells

At the last meeting of the Faculty Senate, there was discussion regarding a previously approved resolution concerning guidelines for faculty searches. In addition, the Senate heard the final reports of the committees and elected new leadership—R. Viswanathan, President; Peggy Stockdale, Vice President, and David Worrells, Secretary.

6. Announcements—Prof. Colwell

Prof. Colwell commented that, via copies of memos received from Chancellor Dunn to President Poshard, two NPR's that had been approved by the Council were awaiting final approval by the President's Office. One NPR was the Master of Science and Master of Engineering degrees in Biomedical Engineering and the other was the Master of Science degree in Medical Dosimetry.

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

- a) Attended the Graduate Council Executive Committee meeting.
- b) Attended the April meeting with Interim Chancellor Dunn.
- c) Attended the Board of Trustees meeting in Edwardsville.
- d) Attended ten luncheons since Spring break for Chancellor or dean candidates. (There are four Graduate Council representatives who attend the Chancellor candidate luncheons: Profs. Colwell, Tragoudas, Hofling, and Renzaglia.)
- e) Attended the Student Affairs Recognition Breakfast.

7. Nominations to Committees—Prof. Tragoudas

No report.

8. GPSC Report

Ms. Shelly McGrath reported that at its last meeting, the GPSC elected new officers: President, Steve Middleton; Vice President, Sara Samson; and Vice President for Graduate School Affairs, Shelly McGrath. GPSC representatives to the Graduate Council are Janet Mayher, Bennett Whitaker, and Jonathan Remo. One additional representative to the Graduate Council has yet to be appointed.

9. Report of Programs Committee—Prof. Esling

Prof. Esling thanked the members of the Committee for their work during the year: Michael Batinski, Jyotika Ramaprasad, Carey Krajewski, Richard Rivers, Nathan Stucky, and Dan Hechenberger. He also thanked James Kelley who served part-time during the year for Jyotika Ramaprasad.

Prof. Esling then read the following resolution:

**VOTE ON 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 Center (ISC). 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 Center, a reasonable and moderate extension.

Prof. Esling noted the original resolution raised concern at last month's Council because of the resulting acronym (ISAC). The concern was that ISAC might be confused with other State program acronyms. Thus, the revised resolution requests that the Center's name be changed to the Illinois Soybean Center with a resulting acronym of ISC.

Prof Colwell called the question. The resolution was approved in a voice vote.

10. Report of the Research Committee—Prof. Bates

Prof. Bates expressed appreciation to the members of the Research Committee for their efforts during year: Laurie Achenbach (Chair, Fall Semester), Laura Murphy, Karl Williard, and Chris Green. This year's Committee sponsored one resolution that was approved by the Graduate Council—the endorsement of the Faculty Excellence Concept Team Report. This resolution is posted on the Council's website as approved, pending action. The

Committee recommends that resolutions posted on the website be updated as soon as possible with an appropriate action.

As a final comment, Prof. Bates said that the Research Committee had discussed the Library's serial cancellation process. The Committee applauds the Library's efforts to involve as many people as possible in the decision-making process. Dean Carlson and his staff were very responsive to the Council's request to make information available across colleges and departments regarding costs and the need to make cuts. However, as this round of cuts in serials publications is being completed, the Research Committee is concerned about further reductions in the Library's resources and the potential impact on graduate education and research. Therefore, the Committee's recommendation is that next year's Research Committee continue to work with Dean Carlson and his staff to discuss strategies for sharing and maintaining SIUC's status as one of the top research libraries in the country.

At this point, Prof. Colwell asked Prof. Tulis to provide an update on construction at the Library. Prof. Tulis responded that the contractor has indicated that the Library will take possession of the upper floors at the end of November. When that occurs, current operations housed in the basement and half of the first floor will be vacated. Some of the operations in those areas will move to their final resting home on the upper floors and some will move to a temporary location on floors 3 and 4 until the space in the basement and first floor is renovated. Once that work is completed, there will be a move back into those areas. The anticipated completion date is June/July 2008.

Prof. Colwell also asked Prof. Tulis about the serials cancellation process. Prof. Tulis said that the University-wide cancellation list is posted on the website, but the deadline for the campus community to make comments regarding that list is quickly approaching.

In response to a budget question from Prof. Moe regarding Library construction, Prof. Tulis said that the Library would not finish off floors 6 and 7 at the current time. Provost Rice added that there was currently \$6 million in the Governor's budget for the Library. There is a need for approximately \$5-6 million for furniture, fixtures, and electrical items. Therefore, the University will soon be facing a situation of having to either borrow money to continue the project or to float bonds. The question of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floor is still undecided because it would cost about \$750,000 each to complete those floors and an additional \$400,000 to complete the Auditorium. Regarding the construction schedule, the Provost said that, while the University is on schedule with the contractor for the Library, it is not on schedule for putting out RFP's for such items as furniture and fixtures. The University hopes to resolve that problem within the next few weeks.

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

Prof. Anderson said that nine programs were reviewed this year. She thanked the members of the Committee for their work in participating on the internal review teams as well as writing the summaries of the internal and external review reports which can be found on the Graduate Council website. Prof.

Anderson recognized the Committee members and the programs on which they served as internal review team members: Anthropology—Ramesh Gupta; Museum Studies—Ed Shay; History— Marcia Anderson; Black American Studies—Donna Post; Public Policy Institute— Mary Rudasill; Political Science— Donna Post; Administration of Justice—Mary Rudasill; Center for Health Law and Policy—Andrew Hofling, and Geography— Alison Watts.

Regarding the Public Policy Institute program review, Prof. Colwell asked about a recommendation from the reviewers to include Senator Paul Simon's name in the title in an effort to gain more recognition for the Institute. The Provost responded that his office had not yet met with the Public Policy Institute, but that recommendation will be discussed when that meeting occurs.

Regarding the review of the Political Science Department, Prof. Post commented that the external reviewers for the Department of Political Science were appalled at the physical facilities in Faner Hall. They made a statement directly in their report recommending students not come to SIUC because of the condition of the building.

Before turning to the resolution from the Educational Policies Committee, Prof. Colwell noted that while the resolution had been somewhat contentious, it was time to start the discussion and develop recommendations so that appropriate fellowship plans could be put in place by the Graduate School.

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

Prof. Turley expressed appreciation to the members of the Educational Policies Committee for their service during the year: Maryon King (Chair), John Preece, Karen Renzaglia, Aslam Kassimali, Elizabeth Klaver, and Bennett Whitaker. Prof. Turley then turned to the resolution to be voted on.

## **VOTE ON 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 non-targeted fellowships; and
3. the role college-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 non-targeted fellowships as a 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 based on students who are admitted to programs, we strongly encourage departments/colleges to make admission decisions as early as possible.
- 3) 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 principally on standardized test scores.
- 4) We recommend the addition of an essay component to the student’s application. This could be consistent with such required in the PROMPT application materials.

Prof. Turley moved to accept the above recommendations.  
The motion was seconded and approved.

Prof. Turley then offered a substitute motion to put the above recommendations in resolution format:

**Whereas** the Blue Ribbon Panel has submitted comprehensive and detailed recommendations concerning procedures for awarding graduate fellowships; and

**Whereas** changes to these procedures must be in place in time for the 2008 round of fellowship awards; and

**Whereas** the Panel's recommendations deserve fuller consideration than time has permitted the Council to give them;

**Be it resolved** that the Graduate Council thanks the Blue Ribbon Panel for its hard work and endorses the general principles contained in its Report; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Graduate School should make whatever adjustments and revisions to the Panel's recommendations are necessary to implement them in the forthcoming round of fellowship awards; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Council review and if necessary recommend adjustments and revisions to fellowship award procedures after the forthcoming round but no later than its May 2008 meeting.

Prof. Turley moved to adopt the substitute resolution; the motion was seconded. Prof. Turley then moved to waive the rules so the Council could discuss and vote on the substitute resolution. This motion was seconded and approved in a voice vote.

Prof. Turley commented that the resolution needed much more discussion and time than could be provided at today's meeting. Nonetheless, the Graduate School is under a federal mandate to put new fellowship procedures in place addressing the issue of equity in racial and ethnic groups in the awarding of fellowships. Therefore, Prof. Turley felt it was important to provide guidance to the Graduate School at this time so work could begin on those changes. Those changes could be reported back to the Council at a later time and further changes made, if necessary.

In the ensuing discussion, several comments were made by Council members on how best to address the fellowship issue. One comment suggested the addition of an essay to the fellowship criteria; another comment concerned the use of standardized test scores such as the GRE in the fellowship process. Regarding the latter, specific remarks included that while the GRE is a predictor of success in many disciplines, that may not be the case in some disciplines such as Fine Arts. Another issue raised was that while it was difficult to compare grade point averages for international students from different countries, the GRE was at least one measure of comparison. A suggestion was also made to use a ranking scale whereby a certain number of points would be assigned to the various categories— grade point average, standardized test scores, and letters of recommendation and those points would then be tallied to determine the winners. There was also discussion by Council members that the entire fellowship process be decentralized from the Graduate School and given to the colleges/departments who are more familiar with the applicants.

Prof. Turley noted that the primary charge of the Blue Ribbon Panel was to address the issue of equity between ethnic and racial groups in the awarding of



fellowships and, thus far, none of the comments had directly addressed that issue. As far as centralizing or decentralizing the process, Prof. Turley felt that today's discussion seemed to bump up against the charge of the Panel. As a counter argument to the comments regarding decentralization, he felt that keeping the process centralized helped to minimize the likelihood of it being skewed at lower levels of the University.

At the conclusion of the debate, the VCR felt it would be difficult to resolve this matter entirely at today's meeting. He noted that the resolution suggests that the Graduate School begin to implement changes to address the issues of the Department of Justice. Thus, approval of the resolution would allow the Graduate School to do so. The Educational Policies then could closely monitor the issue in the Fall, have additional discussion, and make appropriate changes as necessary.

Prof. Rivers called the question. The resolution was approved in a voice vote.

13. Old Business

Prof. Colwell asked for feedback on the new process established this year of posting Graduate Council items (agenda, minutes, and reports) on the website. In response, several members said they liked the new arrangement because it was faster and easily accessible. Prof. Preece felt, however, that the process shifted the cost of printing the documents to Council members. Prof. Moe commented that he used an older computer that could not bring up the documents on the website. In response to these concerns, the VCR said that the Graduate School would be happy to provide hard copies upon request. Prof. Colwell also asked for feedback on the switch of meeting rooms from the Mississippi Room to the Kaskaskia/Missouri Rooms this year. On this issue, most of the comments from Council members spoke to the difficulty in hearing the discussion in either room. To address this issue, there were suggestions of implementing a microphone system.

14. New Business

Thesis/Dissertation Defenses During the Deposit Deadline Week

Prof. Colwell said that the above item of new business was proposed for discussion at today's meeting with the possibility of becoming a committee item next year. He then provided background information on the matter. The Graduate School is besieged by students turning in papers at the last minute during the deposit deadline week because many of them also have oral defenses during that week. This situation not only places a burden on Graduate School personnel, but on students as well. Students may be caught in an unexpected situation because changes required by the student's committee or the Graduate School may take longer than anticipated, thus jeopardizing the deposit deadline date.

In the ensuing debate, suggestions to address this problem included setting the deposit date earlier thereby allowing Graduate School personnel more time to

handle last minute submissions; setting a deadline for the oral defense that would allow two or three weeks for corrections to be made before submission to the Graduate School, or establishing more time between the deposit deadline and graduation. At the conclusion of the discussion, Prof. Rivers moved to refer the issue to the Educational Policies Committee for consideration over the summer. His motion was seconded.

#### Summer Meeting Date

Prof. Rivers felt this matter was an issue for consideration by the new 2007-2008 Council. Prof. Colwell urged the new Council to hold a summer meeting to provide an opportunity to meet with the new Chancellor and to expedite any resolutions that might come forward to the Council.

#### Certificates of Appreciation

Prof. Colwell presented certificates of appreciation to outgoing members of the Council: Bennett Whitaker, Sara Samson, Dan Hechenberger, Shelly McGrath, Chris Green, Mary Rudasill, Richard Rivers, Laura Murphy, Bill Turley, Carey Krajewski, Aslam Kassimali, Nathan Stucky, Steve Esling, Michael Batinski, Paul Bates, and Laurie Achenbach.

Prof. Colwell also read the names of the newly-elected members of the 2007-2008 Graduate Council: Dan Dyer (Chemistry), Eric Hellgren (Zoology), Scott Ishman (Geology), Ron Browning (Physiology), Tom Britton (Law), Pat Manfredi (Philosophy), Ann Fletcher (Theater), Scott McClurg (Political Science), and Manoj Mohanty (Mining Engineering).

Prof. Tragoudas presented the following resolution of appreciation to Prof. Colwell:

**Whereas, Brad Colwell** has served as Chair of the Graduate Council for the 2006-2007 academic year, and also having served as Vice-Chair of the previous council, and

**Whereas,** he has well represented graduate education and research to the various university constituencies and

**Whereas,** he has provided valuable service to the Graduate Council by his direction, wisdom and resourcefulness, and

**Whereas,** he has accomplished all of the above with composure and style, therefore

**Be it resolved that,**  
the Graduate Council, representing the Graduate Faculty expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to **Brad Colwell** for his excellent leadership of the Graduate Council.

Prof. Colwell then presented the following resolution of appreciation to Prof. Tragoudas:

**Whereas, Spyros Tragoudas** has served as Vice-Chair of the Graduate Council for the 2006-2007 academic year, and

**Whereas,** he has well represented graduate education and research to the various university constituencies for many years, and

**Whereas,** he has provided valuable service to the Graduate Council by his wisdom, and

**Whereas,** he has participated actively in discussions on the future direction of graduate education and research, therefore

**Be it resolved that,**  
the Graduate Council, representing the Graduate Faculty expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to **Spyros Tragoudas** for his unique contributions to the Graduate Council.

At this time, Chancellor Dunn arrived at the meeting and proceeded with his remarks. They included: a) the outstanding presentation by Maya Angelou last night on campus; b) information regarding a meeting with the Senate Appropriations Committee (along with Drs. Poshard and Vandergrift) to discuss budgeting for higher education. Members on that Committee acknowledged that higher education needs more funding; c) information on the special events held recently honoring the Excellence Through Commitment awardees and academic successes of students in the Honors Program and in Residential Living; d) asked for input on the NCAA certification process posted on the Faculty Senate website; e) provided an update on the new student information system called Banner, and f) encouraged participation in both the Chancellor's search process and the upcoming Commencement activities.

There being no further business to bring before the Council, Prof. Colwell adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Ballestro  
Recording Secretary