

MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

November 29, 2007

Members and Administrative Officers Present:

Marcia Anderson, Thomas Britton, Ronald Browning, David Carlson (ex-officio), Brad Colwell, Steve Esling (for Scott Ishman), Ann Fletcher, Scott Gilbert, Ramesh Gupta, Eric Hellgren, Jason Hammond (GPSC), Maryon King, Elizabeth Klaver, John Koropchak (ex-officio), Jack Kremers, Pat Manfredi, Janet Maher, Scott McClurg, Shelly McGrath, Manoj Mohanty, Donna Post, John Preece, Jyotika Ramaprasad, Jonathan Remo (GPSC), Karen Renzaglia, Peggy Stockdale, Spyros Tragoudas, Fernando Treviño (ex-officio), Karl Williard, David Wilson, and Michael Young.

Absent: Daniel Dyer, Andrew Hofling, John Mead, Don Rice, Prudence Rice, Bennett Whitaker,

Guests: Mr. Rob Ricks, Research Assistant in Education Psychology and Special Education; Prof. Yanyan Sheng, Education Psychology and Special Education.

Prof. Tragoudas called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. in the Kaskaskia/Missouri Rooms of the Student Center and welcomed members. Dean Wilson announced the following proxies: George Brown representing Christian Moe; Scott Gilbert representing Allison Watts, and Maryon King representing Andrew Hofling.

1. Consideration of the minutes of the November 1, 2007 Graduate Council Meeting

A motion was made by Professor King and seconded by Professor Stockdale to approve the minutes of November 1, 2007.

2. Remarks – Chancellor Treviño

Chancellor Treviño had nothing to report.

3. Remarks – Provost Rice

Provost Rice was not in attendance.

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

Vice Chancellor Koropchak

VC Koropchak recently attended the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) meeting where he serves on

the Executive Committee for the Council for Research Policy and Graduate Education. Topics discussed at the meeting included the American Competitiveness Initiative and science, engineering and mathematics education. Lunch meetings focused on educational initiatives for Africa in collaboration with USAID. Africa still remains behind other third world countries in terms of educational opportunities for their citizens. NASULGC is partnering with USAID to develop new research approaches for universities. This will create research opportunities for faculty. There was also significant discussion regarding cyber infrastructure -- advanced computing and computing capabilities, such as increased broadband capability for universities. Many universities are increasing their bandwidth to the gigabyte per second level. Increasing the bandwidth had an obvious impact on the sciences, engineering, performing arts, education, teaching, and athletics at these universities. As part of the Connect SI Initiative, he has been working with representatives to enhance the capabilities on campus. At this time, SIU is limited to a bandwidth of 200 megabytes per second. In response to VC Koropchak's report to the Executive Committee, the Chancellor organized a meeting of representatives of Connect SI, SIUC Information Technology and others to discuss the possibility of increasing the bandwidth on campus and the costs associated with the increase.

VC Koropchak reported that the long-awaited doctorate in Agricultural Science will be on the agenda for a board vote at the next IBHE meeting on December 4.

The research town meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2008. He asked for volunteers who wish to assist in planning efforts for the research town meeting to contact him. Rob Ricks and Dr. Yanyan Sheng representing the Measurements and Statistics Club were recognized by VC Koropchak. He announced the club is proposing a graduate student conference in conjunction with the research town meeting and reported that the GPSC is receptive to this idea. Their intent is to have some presentations focusing on an interdisciplinary approach to students' research, in addition to the poster sessions associated with the current research town meeting. The Measurements and Statistics Club, also known as the Graduate Student's Research Club, has 100 members representing 6 colleges. Their focus is on professional development to prepare graduates to be good consumers and producers of research. The club encourages other groups on campus to develop activities that will also center on research activities.

The graduate enrollment working group has been meeting since last spring and one of the outcomes has been the identification of a need to develop strategic plans for graduate enrollment at the program level. Recent planning meetings have been held with chairs and directors of graduate programs to discuss strategic planning.

A tentative agreement has been reached on the Graduate Assistant Contract. Negotiations have been very collegial and collaborative and hopefully

will result in a contract that will help us move forward in a positive way in graduate research activities. VC Koropchak thanked everyone for their work in this regard.

Good News

The proposal for the McNair Program, reported at last meeting as having been a fraction of a point short of being approved, has been funded through an appeal process. In response to a question by Chancellor Treviño regarding loss of staffing due to the gap in financing, VC Koropchak reported that the Provost and his office put together some funds to keep a bare-bones level of staffing. Some were moved to other open positions and he felt from a staff perspective, this project is in good shape. VC Koropchak congratulated Karen Renzaglia, the PI on this grant, Julia Spears, Pru Rice and others who assisted with putting together this massive proposal.

The National Science Foundation has published the latest rankings for R&D expenditures which show SIU moving up from 107th in FY05 to 101st in FY06. At the federal R&D level, we were 139th in FY05 and moved to 133rd in FY06.

Bryan Stinchfield, a doctoral student in Management, was one of only 15 candidates worldwide chosen to attend the Climate Change Strategic Management Seminar in Zurich Switzerland. Paul Guest, a 1999 MFA Creative Writing Graduate, was one of 10 fellowship winners for the 2007 Whiting Foundation award of \$50,000 for emerging writers showing exceptional talent and promise. Benjamin Percy, MFA 2004 Creative Writing Graduate, was featured in the November-December Issue of Poets and Writers. Scott Ishman was selected to participate in an international group of scientists working in the Antarctic on the global environment. The 2007 Alumni Association Outstanding Master's Thesis award winner was Forest Brand, Department of Biology. His Advisor is Dr. Karen Lips from the Department of Zoology.

Professor Mohanty asked about the capital bill for the proposed energy center. VC Koropchak stated that at this point there is no news about the capital bill but the good news is it has not been voted down at this time.

Dean Wilson

Dean Wilson stated that it is SIU's practice to nominate the winner of the SIUC Outstanding Thesis Award for the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools Outstanding Thesis Award. In addition, as in past years, SIUC faculty agreed to serve as judges for this award. Over the years, our faculty found this experience to be interesting and valuable as well as a way of getting a measure of what is going on in their own programs.

Dean Wilson spoke on the issue of fellowships and the interpretation of guidelines as to how these awards are calculated by the Department of Education to determine a financial package. He explained that this practice was changed in early fall resulting in problems for a number of students. This has now been resolved and none of the students will be held liable for this term. Dean Wilson said he and others are working to create a level playing field. A graduate assistantship is considered to be a service; therefore the stipend is not used in the calculation for financial aid. Fellowships on the other hand have both the tuition scholarship and the stipend calculated. This can restrict any additional funding they can receive. Many of the University of Illinois major fellowships are listed as traineeships. There is an educationally mandated training part of the students' graduate program which could include mentoring undergraduates, teaching, or research. It is an educationally related assignment and the stipend is not counted in calculating the financial aid package. We will be discussing if we can slightly alter the language of our fellowships for all students next year to accommodate this situation.

Dean Wilson reported that there have been very good turnouts in meetings with Chairs and Records to discuss graduate enrollment planning. Departments were provided with information and data and we hope this will lead to creating conversations within departments, between departments, and across college lines to increase and enhance the applicant pool.

As VC Koropchak reported earlier, a tentative agreement with Graduate Assistants United was reached. Dean Wilson stated he believes this to be a fair contract that advantages both the institution and the students and he expects the contract to be ratified by both the students and the Board. The contract calls for the students to get a 3% stipend increase retroactive to July 1 for FY08. In the second year of the contract, they will get a 6% stipend increase in addition to 25% of the primary care fee on campus to be paid by the institution. The third year calls for a 4% stipend increase and 50% of the primary care fee to be paid. There are a number of other things in the contract and once it is ratified, we will be holding meetings across campus to explain the contract. There is a clause in the contract that protects PI's with grant dollars that are budgeted at a certain level. PI's may be allowed to pay less but will have to open their grant documents to prove their case. VC Koropchak stated an advantage of this contract is that once it is ratified, we will know what stipends will be in the coming academic years and can start preparing budgets accordingly. This may also have a benefit from a recruiting perspective. Prof. Anderson asked if data is available on the number of students paid out of state dollars. It was stated that yes, that information is available.

5. Faculty Senate – Professor Stockdale

Professor Stockdale reported that the Faculty Senate passed resolutions to recommend approval for the RME to establish minors in both Rehab Services and Native American Studies.

Chancellor Treviño announced that Faculty Senate President, Dr. Viswanathan, has been elected as a Fellow to the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Less than one tenth of one percent of the membership can be designated as a Fellow. .

6. Announcements – Professor Tragoudas

Professor Tragoudas had nothing to announce.

7. Nominations to Committees – Professor Colwell

Professor Colwell had no nominations to report.

8. GPSC Report – Shelly McGrath

Ms. McGrath reported that fee increases were a subject of discussion at the GPSC meeting and actions in regard to fee increases will be discussed at the next meeting. She further stated that a compromise was made with the Fine Arts Committee. Resolutions were passed to keep costs down at public institutions and supporting the process of the Committee that reviewed the Poshard dissertation.

9. Report of Programs Committee – Professor Hofling

In the absence of Professor Hofling, Professor King reported that the Center for Delta Studies directed by Dr. Jane Adams is moving forward. More RME's are anticipated this spring.

Chancellor Treviño announced that Prof. Stockdale was elected a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and congratulated her on this honor.

Professor Colwell asked VC Koropchak about the position of the Council or Graduate School on establishing Centers that have only one faculty member. Also, what plans are in place if the faculty member that serves as Director or Head of a center resigns? VC Koropchak stated that most centers have a nucleus of faculty support, not just one person. He further stated the agenda for the next meeting of the IBHE shows UIC as having three Centers for approval. In response to Prof. Colwell's question about a monitoring system for centers, VC Koropchak stated that centers go through a program review process like other programs.

10. Report of Research Committee – Professor Renzaglia

Professor Renzaglia reported the research committee is considering an award program for faculty who receive outside funding similar to the award program that is in place at the School of Medicine. One challenge is to determine how to handle awards that are at a significantly lower level, such as 1% or 2% indirect cost. The committee is working on how much is appropriate and reviewing similar programs across the country. This matter is still in the discussion stage.

Professor Renzaglia also reported the Research Committee is considering whether or not to include a percentage of the tuition for graduate students into grant budgets. A 10% amount was discussed that would go into a fund that would be competitive for which students could apply for research awards or support for travel to meetings. After discussion from members, Dr. Koropchak stated this is in the discussion stage and nothing has been finalized at this time.

11. Report of Program Review Committee – Professor Anderson

Professor Anderson reported that the reviews are moving forward. At this time, there are still two external reviews forthcoming.

12. Report of Educational Policies Committee – Professor McClurg

Professor McClurg had nothing to report.

13. Old Business: There were no old business items to discuss.

14. New Business: There were no new business items to discuss.

As there was no further business to report, Professor Tragoudas declared the meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Reynolds
Recording Secretary