

MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
April 3, 2008

Members and Administrative Officers Present:

Present: Marcia Anderson, Thomas Britton, Ronald Browning, David Carlson (ex-officio), Brad Colwell, Scott Gilbert, Ramesh Gupta, Eric Hellgren, Andrew Hofling, Scott Ishman, Elizabeth Klaver (Jeremy Wells), John Koropchak, Pat Manfredi, Scott McClurg (John Foster), Shelly McGrath, John Mead, Christian Moe, Manoj Mohanty, Donna Post, John Preece, Jyotika Ramaprasad (Susan Felleman), Jonathan Remo (GPSC), Karen Renzaglia, Don Rice, Prudence Rice, Peggy Stockdale, Spyros Tragoudas, Karl Williard, David Wilson and Michael Young.

Absent: Daniel Dyer, Ann Fletcher, Maryon King, Jack Kremers, Fernando Treviño, and Bennett Whitaker.

Prof. Tragoudas called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. in the Mississippi Room of the Student Center and welcomed members and guests, Karen Jennings, John Nicklow, Lizette Chevalier and Ratna Sinha.

Dean Wilson announced the following proxies: Susan Felleman for Jyotika Ramaprasad, John Foster for Scott McClurg who is on sabbatical for spring semester, Ben Rodriguez for Michael Young, and Jeremy Wells for Elizabeth Klaver.

1. Consideration of the minutes of the March 6, 2008 Graduate Council Meeting

Christian Moe and Scott Ishman were reported as not present in the minutes of the meeting of March 6, 2008, but announced they did attend. The omission was noted and amendments will be made to the minutes of March 6, 2008 to reflect the attendance of Professors Moe and Ishman at the meeting. With these changes, the motion to accept the minutes as recorded for March 6, 2008 was made by Prof. Post and seconded by Prof. Anderson.

2. Remarks – Chancellor Treviño

In the absence of Chancellor Trevino, Provost Rice reported that he and President Poshard participated in a conference call with John Filan, the state's chief operating officer on March 27. The call included other Presidents of Illinois colleges and universities. Mr. Filan indicated that Illinois is approximately \$750 million short of meeting its FY08 commitments and felt that the amount of money that might be owed by the end of the fiscal year would be close to \$800 million. He asked for the University Presidents' support in his proposal to allow the State to sweep a number of designated funds from state agencies. This sweep would not include higher education. The move has to be approved by the legislature and

there is no indication at this time that it will be approved. If not approved, they would look to higher education. There is discussion of up to 8% of current appropriated funds being pulled back. For the SIU system, it would mean approximately 11-12 million dollars. The immediate impact would be that release of contingency funds is unlikely. Provost Rice stated he had asked Vice President Stucky to release part of the contingency to departments. Taking back contingency from higher education has never been discussed in the past. He urged the Deans to have purchasing paperwork ready to go if the contingency money is released in order to meet purchasing deadlines. He added that, at this time, it is unknown what the state is going to do.

Good News: Freshman applications are up 20% and admissions are up 17%. Most of our budget projections are based on flat enrollment and there is some optimism that we will not have flat enrollment.

Provost Rice reported he has no news on the Chancellor situation except that the meeting previously scheduled for last Friday was asked to be rescheduled because Chancellor Treviño's attorney was in court. The meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

When asked about the amount of contingency held on campus, Provost Rice stated that it is approximately \$4 million. He was trying to get \$2 million released from Vice President Stucky. On the basis of past experience with rescissions, the state has never taken more than \$2 million.

John Koropchak asked about the ability to carry over funds. Provost Rice stated there is a meeting next week at the Stone Center to discuss this during the FY09 budget meetings. There is a state limit for carry-over but Carol Henry does not know what that is at this time.

When asked about registration fees and how it affects graduate students, Provost Rice stated the problem comes from admitting students right up until classes start. There are classes that freshmen need to take the first year. So, at the last minute, we find ourselves scrambling to find term instructors or graduate students competent to teach these courses. We are working to figure out a way to be able to better serve entering freshmen. One suggestion was to stop admitting students in July; and the other suggestion was to have students who have accepted make a commitment upon which we can base some projection. Even if the fee is only \$50, this will give us something to show that a student commits to walking through the door. This will not affect graduate students because that is not where our stress is.

Housing applications are down, which could be an indication that some students who have been admitted aren't quite sure they are going to come. Saluki Point and a number of other facilities are being built and we will probably lose

sophomores, juniors and seniors to those developments. That may be why we see the loss.

3. Remarks – Provost Rice

Nothing more to report.

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

Vice Chancellor Koropchak

Vice Chancellor Koropchak reported on the sad news of the death of Huaijun Meng, a doctoral student in Electrical Engineering. Our condolences are extended to Mr. Meng's family, friends and members of his department.

The Undergraduate Research Symposium held on Monday was a great success and continues to get better each year. This is the 7th year of this event.

The Research Town Meeting was held on Thursday, April 1. There were approximately 150 posters and 36 exhibits. The new activity this year, giving faculty the opportunity to attend sessions with program officers, was a success. Each one of the sessions was full and people were lined up to attend. This may be an activity we will do more frequently. He thanked Debbie Fields from Pru Rice's office and Linda Martin from his office who did an outstanding job coordinating the Research Town Hall Meeting this year. He asked if anybody has an idea about how to improve this event, he would be happy to take suggestions. Prof. Stockdale asked about having a parallel event for the arts to highlight theater, music and art. AVC Rice said those faculty are already invited to take part, but perhaps we need to provide more encouragement to attend. VC Koropchak said this was worth further discussion and we should talk to those departments to see what they think would be a good venue for them, whether it be coordinating the activities into the town meeting, having a parallel event, or a separate event. Another option would be to coordinate with the Museum that has the annual joint faculty meeting where artistic venues are displayed.

Negotiations have been completed regarding our federal indirect cost rate and we were successful in getting the federal government to agree to increase the rate by 1%. This still does not meet the data we present to the federal government which justifies a higher rate. Our IDC rate for July 1, 2008 will be 45.5% which is more in line with comparable research institutions around the country. This new rate will affect only proposals submitted on July 1, 2008 or later.

Prof. Mohanty asked about the protocol on campus to contact family regarding the death of a student. Provost Rice stated that the young man who

recently died on campus has a brother in the United States. The order of contact was the police and Pastor Gray talked to the deceased's roommate. The roommate had already notified the police he had not come home the night before. The contact information was retrieved from the university for the student's brother who lives in New Jersey and he was contacted. The brother advised the police that he did not want to contact his parents until he claimed his brother's body. He is coming on Monday and will be here for several days.

When asked about feedback and comments on the SIU Wind Ensemble's concert at Carnegie Center, Vice Chancellor Koropchak stated the students enjoyed the experience and there was very positive feedback from the organizers. Provost Rice added the organizers said that the performance by our ensemble was the best he had heard out of all those he had arranged for this year.

The Outstanding Scholar lecture for 2007 will take place at 4 p.m. this afternoon in Life Science III room 1059, by Dr. Izumi Shimada from the Department of Anthropology. Vice Chancellor Koropchak encouraged everyone to attend this lecture showcasing our highest award recognizing excellence of our faculty. Recently the Outstanding Scholar Award Committee selected the 2008 Outstanding Scholar winner, Dr. David Gibson, from the Department of Plant Biology. We will have a variety of events that surround that selection coming up during the next year as well.

We also had a series of outstanding scholars for each of the colleges that were announced: Greg Brewer from the School of Medicine; Joan Davis from CASA; John Downing from Mass Communications; Todd Headrick from Education; Ajay Mohagin from College of Engineering; Khalid Meksem from Agricultural Sciences; John Pearson from the College of Business; Nicholas Pinter from the College of Science; Mark Schultz from the School of Law; and Anthony Steinbock from the College of Liberal Arts. We congratulate all of these scholars for their accomplishments as well. The Outstanding Dissertation Award winner is David Goldstein who is also a graduate student of Dr. Shimada.

Hilla Medalia's master thesis "To Die in Jerusalem" made into a full length HBO film, has just won a Peabody Award and the Grand Prix at the Human Rights Film Festival for that documentary. Our students are continuing to accomplish great things.

Provost Rice added that we also have an undergraduate major in the Department of Geology who has just been named a Morris K. Udall scholar which is our second Morris Udall scholar.

Associate Vice Chancellor Rice

A fringe benefit rate was negotiated for SIUC which is a rate that is used by most universities. We have been trying to get this at a set rate for approximately 11 years. Faculty seed grants and completed and letters will go out this week.

When asked what the fringe benefit rate will be, Vice Chancellor Koropchak responded that it is 32% for salaries under \$200,000 and 31% over \$200,000.

Associate Dean Wilson

Fellowship season is drawing to a close and all offers have gone out. We made offers to 21 doctoral and 21 masters' fellowships and 7 graduate deans. We should know sometime after April 15 what our acceptance rate is.

Dr. Ratna Sinha has asked that I make an announcement about BANNER. Fall 2009 admissions will go live over Memorial Day weekend for graduate admissions. Financial Aid is scheduled to go live on February 2009 and registration is scheduled to go live on March 2009. At this point, we do not have a printable graduate application and it is unclear if we will ever have one. We are working to figure out how we are going to deal with this challenge. We have had considerable discussions with college and university campuses across the nation who have used BANNER and in all cases, the vast majority of graduate schools have had to go through a third party such as "Apply Yourself" or "CollegeNet" to get the information to programs in a way that is usable. BANNER was originally designed for small liberal arts colleges and focuses on undergraduate education. Graduate education very often becomes an afterthought.

Dr. Sinha is our lead person and we will begin training in summer 2008 as to how to use the system. The departments will need to be able to go to BANNER to retrieve and review information. This will be for new students beginning fall 2009. Current and re-entry students will remain in SIS until fall 2009, so we will have to use two systems at the same time. The final conversion for SIS into BANNER will take place in August 2009. All graduate programs must keep in mind that BANNER is a self-service registration system which means that graduate students will register themselves. Departments that want to control registration of their students are going to have to think this through. He announced that Dr. Sinha is in attendance to answer questions.

A question was asked if we are paying a subscription to change over to BANNER and, if so, why did we change over to a system that isn't made for what we do? Provost Rice answered that we are paying a subscription for BANNER, but he did not know why that system was chosen. Professor Colwell added there

was an exhaustive search for a system and there was not a lot to choose from. Due to the nature of what universities do, there is no perfect solution. BANNER is the leading application vendor for higher education. Dean Wilson stated that the University of Illinois System has converted totally to BANNER and we are just using it for our student information system because our current student information system is no longer supported. The cost for the University of Illinois system conversion was quoted at a little over \$200 million dollars. This conversion has put a high stress on our IT staff and we really cannot afford to bring in extra people. They are working hard and doing their best under the circumstances. They have tried to work with us on our application and are working with us to help us get through.

Provost Rice said the original go live date for BANNER was October 2008. It is a very complex system and we are maxed with respect to the individuals on this campus who can actually install and work with it.

A question was asked about Turnitin for thesis and dissertations. Associate Dean Wilson stated it was left up to the departments as to how they work with it. There is some discussion to possibly look at another vendor. Provost Rice said we have some systems already on line where the vendors actually have a product similar to Turnitin and the cost would be considerably less. He advised that everyone put some thought into it and we will continue to subscribe to Turnitin as long as that is the product that people want to use.

5. Faculty Senate – Professor Stockdale

Prof. Stockdale reported the Faculty Senate will hopefully have a meeting next Monday. She added the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee are continuing to determine why we have lost OTS over the last few years. It seems as if no one is hoarding any money, it's just gone. We will continue to urge the administration to restore OTS if there are any new funds provided.

It has come to our attention that John A. Logan is now providing a bachelor's degree in business management through a secondary vendor out of Kentucky. Rep. Bost has been contacted and she asked him to look into the matter. He responded immediately and we were told that the Illinois Community Colleges Board wants to separate from the IBHE and therefore not have to have IBHE approval for their activities. We think it should remain under IBHE and we renew our joint commitment that we provide the bachelors and they provide associates and related degrees. Provost Rice said that John A. Logan's argument is that Mid Continent is actually offering the degree and they (John A. Logan) are just providing the rooms. As such, they are not in violation of what is called the "covenant between colleges and universities" where they take care of the first two years and we take care of the rest. The relationship between Mid Continent and community colleges is becoming quite strong.

6. Announcements – Professor Tragoudas

The Executive Committee met two weeks ago and Provost Rice represented the Chancellors Office. During that meeting, it was decided that we contact the President's Office to ask President Poshard to come to a meeting of the Graduate Council to answer questions with respect to the Chancellor's development. Dr. Poshard is out of town in Springfield for a hearing and hopefully he will be able to visit for the last meeting in May and answer any questions we may have at that time.

7. Nominations to Committees – Professor Colwell

Appointed two graduate faculty and one graduate student to a student appeals panel, in accordance with the student grievance policy. In response to a request for an appointment to the Ombudsman's Office advisory panel, Tom Alexander from COLA was appointed.

8. GPSC Report – Shelly McGrath

Ms. McGrath reported that the GPSC is having a difficult time getting quorums. Our President will be actively working to get people to come to the next meeting because we have nominations for officers for the next year.

Dr. Koropchak attended the Graduate and Professional Student Council meeting to speak on an agenda item regarding the GPSC position she currently holds. This issue is no longer viable and we will work with Dr. Koropchak as to how to fund this position if a person is not eligible for the assistantship. We are working on an amendment to our constitution disqualifying students who are not in good standing in their program to run for any of the three positions on GPSC. We believe this will solve the problem with the position.

9. Report of Programs Committee – Professor Hofling

Several resolutions are being announced to be voted upon at the next meeting. The first resolution was read by Prof. Hofling:

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESOLUTION

RATIONALE: At their regular fall meeting, a quorum of the faculty of the College of Business and Administration unanimously approved empowering the Dean of the College to request a change in the name of the College from "College of Business and Administration" to "College of Business." The reason for the change is that the current name is outdated and does not accurately reflect the

academic offerings at the college. There are no costs associated with the name change.

RESOLUTION: Be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the change of the name of the College of Business and Administration to the College of Business.

Professor Hofling stated the committee felt this was very straight forward and if there are any problems, let him know. Prof. Colwell stated there are some costs associated with this change and requested it be changed to “no significant costs” associated with this resolution, since business cards and letterheads, etc. must be changed. Professor Hofling agreed and the resolution will be changed to state “There are no significant costs associated with the name change.”

The second resolution was read by Professor Hofling.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESOLUTION

RATIONALE: The members of the Center for Systematic Biology voted unanimously to disband the center, and to fold its membership largely into the new Center for Ecology. With the dissolution of the center, there will no longer be an entity to oversee the Certificate Program in Systematic Biology. No students are currently enrolled in the certificate program and there are no costs associated with the change.

RESOLUTION: Be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the elimination of the Certificate in Systematic Biology in the College of Science and the elimination of the Center for Systematic Biology under the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Dean.

Vice Chancellor Koropchak noted that this change occurred, except on paper, about a year ago.

Professor Hofling read the third resolution:

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESOLUTION

RATIONALE: The purpose of the Master of Engineering Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering is to offer a non-research master’s degree in order to fulfill the new requirement implemented by the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors that 30 credit hours of course work beyond the BS degree be required for licensure as a professional engineer. The program can be completed in one calendar year and should attract practicing engineers as well as new students interested in practice. No costs are associated with creating the new degree.

RESOLUTION: Be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the establishment of a new Master of Engineering Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering in the College of Engineering.

Prof. Hofling stated that Dr. Chevalier and others from the College of Engineering are here to answer any questions that you may have.

Prof. Colwell asked about personnel costs as well as increased loads for faculty. Prof. Chevalier stated we can absorb the additional enrollment and she didn't think that was an issue.

When asked about the Master's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering already in place, she replied that this is a research oriented degree. What we are proposing is a practice oriented degree, so there is no thesis component. There is a project but it is practical and is geared toward the practice of engineering. We are going to see that engineers are going to want this degree for licensure. When asked how this distinguishes itself from a research oriented master's degree, she stated there is no master thesis required and we are proposing an ME instead of an MS degree. It is a terminal degree. If a student wanted to go on to receive a Ph.D., they would have to complete the MS degree.

10. Report of Research Committee – Professor Renzaglia

Professor Renzaglia stated that the Research Committee met and we continue to talk about several issues including the increase in vivarium costs. We have nothing to report at this time. We are also considering evaluations of research shops and will report on that at the next meeting.

11. Report of Program Review Committee – Professor Anderson

Prof. Anderson reported that all final internal and external review reports have been received and have been distributed to the units that were reviewed this year. The summary reports are in process and will be on the website within a week and presented formally at the next meeting.

12. Report of Educational Policies Committee – Professor Manfredi

Professor Manfredi handed out copies of a resolution which was not available in advance. He read the resolution.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESOLUTION

Whereas attaching a research/creative activity service component to fellowship stipends will advance the professional development of fellowship recipients and will help to ensure that they are well integrated into their academic programs;

And whereas the research or creative activity performed by fellowship recipients benefits other graduate students, the programs to which fellowship recipients belong, and the research mission of SIUC;

And whereas paying fellowship stipends as salary through payroll will enable such stipends to keep pace with graduate assistant salary increments;

Be It Resolved that

As soon as is practically feasible, the Graduate School remodel graduate school fellowships as “research fellowships” wherein:

(a) the research/creative activities undertaken by graduate student fellows and any presentations of, or reports on, such activities be regarded as a service to the programs in which the fellows are enrolled; and consequently that

(b) “research fellowship” stipends become salary dispersed monthly through the Payroll Office less any required withholdings.

RATIONALE: Current practice, until the fall of 2007, has held that fellowship stipends be paid as living expenses and have been disbursed on a voucher by Accounts Payable on monthly basis. In contrast to the fellowship stipend, the scholarship award was treated as financial aid. Early last fall there was a ruling out of the President’s Office that in order to comply with the Department of Education requirements, both the tuition award and the stipend be treated as financial aid. That has a number of downsides.

The first downside is that it will immediately decrease the amount of money that graduate fellows can borrow. The amount of money that a graduate student can borrow is based upon the estimated total cost of attending SIUC; that amount is \$23000. When you add their stipend to their financial aid package, the amount they can borrow decreases.

The second downside would appear that if the money is paid out of financial aid it might be paid as a lump sum. That is, the graduate student would get the money up front and this could cause budgeting problems for the student.

A third downside is that the fellowship stipends, when paid that way do not keep pace with automatic salary increases, because they come out of a different pot. In the past, the number of fellowships we offer has been

diminished to keep pace with stipend increases. Three years ago, the Chancellor agreed to make up the difference but there is no guarantee that this will continue.

The Ed Policies Committee met and decided that the best option would be to have the research fellowship stipends be treated as salary which means the student will have to provide a service to the department. We pay for research at this university as research is one of the missions. If graduate students are doing research for their program, that should be considered as a service to the program. This will mean that the money students are paid will be paid through payroll and will be paid monthly. There will be withholdings from that salary, but it will not be likely that the students will have to pay substantial taxes.

A further downside for the student of having the money disbursed through Financial Aid is that any dollars owed to the university come right off the top. Although it is a good thing that the university gets paid, it is not a particularly good thing if the graduate students do not have the opportunity to manage their own budgets. That is why the resolution as it stands before you transfers/changes the program from research fellowships and begins to treat them as salaries.

Discussions/Questions:

Prof. Gupta stated that there are some fellowships that are paid less than the assistantship is paid and the difference has generally been paid by the department. For international students, they cannot exceed a 50% appointment. Associate Dean Wilson stated that we would figure out a way to continue the practice because the fellowship rate is below what many assistantship rates are and we've always allowed departments who would like to do so, to top that up to whatever their departmental rate is.

Associate Dean Wilson stated Karen Jennings is present to answer questions. He also added that we are working with financial aid and there may be ways to work it out where there might be some way of paying on a monthly basis. It would come as a refund check. Any dollars that are charged to their account will automatically come out of whatever they are owed for that month. However, they would not be able to predict in a rational way what their stipends or accounts will be if that is the way we have to go.

Christian Moe asked if there are safeguards in place whereby a fellowship student paid less than a graduate student couldn't be pushed by the department to assume as much teaching as his colleagues are doing for less money. Prof. Manfredi stated that what the motion says is that departments should treat what the research student does as the service component. Associate Dean Wilson stated that there are programs on campus that, as an academic requirement, the students provide service to their program no matter what kind of appointment they have.

Prof. Gupta asked about the income tax liability and the response was that if fellowships are paid as a salary, there will be some withholding. Hopefully the students involved will not be making enough money that they will have to pay any income taxes. They will have to file to get back any withholding. On the flip side, if it goes through financial aid it decreases the amount that students can borrow. The very students that we are trying to attract will be hurt the most – students who come from lower socio-economic classes whose parents or families cannot come up with extra money, or students who already have families and their expenses are greater and need to borrow money. When their ability to borrow is limited, those students suffer the most.

The question was asked as to when this will be implemented and, if so, will it be shared with the graduate students because this may affect whether or not they accept a masters or doctoral fellowship? Associate Dean Wilson stated that he does not think we can do anything until it is decided whether this is going to become policy. The earliest would be sometime in June since the May meeting does not fully establish this as policy since it will have to go on up the ladder for the approval process. As soon as it is official, we would treat this as a program change in the catalog. Students would be given the option of taking the fellowship as it is or switching to the research fellowship. If some decide to continue their non-service fellowship for a year, we will wind up with two kinds of reporting.

Another issue involved is the 1098T for the IRS which has to do with certain tax credits you can get in a lifetime for writing off educational expenses. We are being asked to report all of that in the 1098T box. At that point, it is up to the student to then work it out with the IRS as to what is education and related expenses and what is living expenses which is taxable under current fellowship guidelines. SIUCV does not issue a 1099 form for the student, but all financial aid received by the student is reported on the 1098T form. One of the problems is our system and how we pay people. The University of Illinois has a non-service category to pay fellows through their payroll system and UIUC has a traineeship research category along the lines of what we are doing. If we are going to withhold any money, we have to change that.

Karen Jennings said that the Director of Finance is looking at changing board policy on employee status to get some of our fellowships that have future service paid through our payroll service with no current service. There are some things in the works such as traineeships.

A question was asked what happens to fellowships through federal agencies that require some sort of service component like GK12 where we put fellows in the school system. Associate Dean Wilson stated he did not know but thinks it should be handled the same way.

Associate Dean Wilson cautioned that we are still trying to figure this out. These are actually federal grant funds that are mandated to be disbursed in certain ways. If you turn over and run this through financial aid you can't meet your mandates on the grants.

Provost Rice said there is a meeting with Risk Management and the Director of Finance on this issue next week.

If you think of other questions or comments, contact Professor Manfredi. This resolution will be up on the website for viewing for the next few weeks.

13. Old Business:

There was no old business.

14. New Business:

There was no new business.

Motion to Adjourn was made to 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Reynolds
Recording Secretary