

MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

October 1, 2009

Members and Administrative Officers Present:

Sara Baer; Thomas Britton; Gargi Bhattacharya (GPSC); Jody Huggenvik; David Carlson; Judith Davie; Ann Fletcher; Sam Goldman; John Groninger; Eric Hellgren; Nicholas Hoffman; Phil Howze (Faculty Senate); Holly Hurlburt; Scott Ishman; Kimberly Kempf-Leonard; Mark Kittleson; John A. Koropchak; Leslie Lloyd; Pat Manfredi (Kenneth Stickers); Jay Means (Deans Council); Scott McClurg; Shauna McDonald (GPSC); Christian Moe; Manoj Mohanty; Nancy Mundschenk; Ryan Netzley; Mark Peterson; Elyse Pineau; Don Rice; William Stevens; Alicia Swan (GPSC); Alex Van Saghi (GPSC); Keith Waugh, David Wilson; Bryan Young

Members and Administrative Officers Absent

Judith Davie; Daniel Dyer; Anne Fletcher; John Groninger; Eileen Meehan; Mark Peterson; Don Rice; Prudence Rice; William Stevens; Tomasz Wiltkowski

Chairman Hellgren called the meeting of the Graduate Council to order on October 1, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. in the Missouri/Kaskaskia Room of the Student Center.

Announcement of Proxies – There were no proxies to announce.

1. **Consideration of minutes of the September 3, 2009 Graduate Council meeting.**

Motion was made, seconded and passed for approval of the previous meeting minutes with noted corrections of starting time from 9 to 8 a.m.; notation that Leslie Lloyd was not present and the spelling of the name of Sara Baer's proxy was Steven Ebbs.

2. **Remarks – Chancellor Goldman**

Chancellor Goldman announced that Provost Rice will not be in attendance at today's meeting due to other business. He also announced that flu shots are still available.

Other announcements included the following topics:

MAP Funding: Chancellor Goldman gave an update on the October 15th rally scheduled in Springfield. Busloads of students and faculty will be going to Springfield for the purpose of addressing the loss of MAP funding. Chancellor Goldman encouraged faculty to let students go but will leave the decision up to the

faculty. He also noted that if faculty and staff want to attend, they must have permission from their supervisor and arrange for all necessary business be attended to before taking off. He announced that 51,000 emails to friends and alumni have been sent addressing the loss of MAP funding and how it affects the needs of students. A decision on the funding must be made by the October veto session. The shortfall for SIUC is \$8 million. He hopes the MAP funding will be fully restored and has concerns for the future if that does not happen. Chancellor Goldman expressed his appreciation for the work that everyone has done and the support in the form of the resolution from the Faculty Senate and Graduate Council.

Enrollment Issues: The Chancellor gave an update on enrollment stating that there were big losses at the junior and senior level. Freshman enrollment is up 1.5%; sophomore enrollment is up 4.7%; graduate student enrollment is up 2%; the College of Agriculture is up 7.3%; and the College of Science is up 2.3%. He added that we are moving in the right direction and the colleges have responded well. There is a need to continue what we are doing with greater concentration on recruiting in our border states and focusing on retention. He emphasized that we must hold onto our freshman and sophomore class, stating that often we lose close to 600-700 students at the junior and senior level. A weekly report on dropouts and the reason for the dropouts is provided to him; however this is just a report with no action taken. At the recommendation of the Deans and others about how to perhaps resolve the rate of drop outs at SIUC, a decision was made that a student not be allowed to drop out without first talking to an advisor. At this meeting, it was also suggested that Peter Gitau, Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students, be appointed to talk with potential drop-outs.

He also announced that international student enrollment is up at the graduate level and down at the undergraduate level. At the discretion of the President, tuition rates may be adjusted to in-state tuition for international students from institutions or countries with which SIUC has an MOU.

Hiring Freeze: He announced that guidelines have been issued to colleges and departments about the hiring freeze, adding that all requests for hiring will be reviewed to make sure they are contributing to the main mission of the university. Chancellor Goldman warned that SIUC is facing a huge financial problem in the future. At this time, 7% of our budget is underwritten by the federal stimulus program, but that will not last. We are also facing a shortfall of \$4.7 million dollars and that does not account for the Illinois Veterans Program, which is an unfunded mandate from the State of Illinois.

Accreditation: We are diligently working on the editing phase of the accreditation document that will be posted on the web shortly. He also reminded the Graduate Council that it is very important for everyone to be aware that the Accreditation Team will be here to determine whether SIUC is worthy of accreditation for the next 10 years. The Chancellor emphasized that we have many things to be proud of

over the last several years at SIUC and if this is put together properly we will be okay.

Chancellor stated that Banner is working reasonably well and is now able to receive transcripts, which has been one of the reasons for slowing down the application process.

The Chancellor was asked to speak on the status of the Associate Provost position which was mentioned in the Daily Egyptian recently. Chancellor Goldman responded that we need to take a hard look at this office, which is incredibly overburdened with too many responsibilities. With the vacancy we have the opportunity to do that. A group of chancellors from all over the country have been serving as an advisory group to provide input as to what the function of this office needs to be. We hope to have the position filled by the spring semester.

3. **Remarks – Interim Provost Rice**

Interim Provost Rice was not in attendance.

4. **Announcements**

Vice Chancellor for Research John Koropchak

VCR Koropchak thanked everyone for their efforts in contributing to the increase in the graduate student enrollment.

A recent press release stated we have \$3,000,000 from stimulus funds and it continues to grow; at this point we are well over \$4,000,000.

He noted that he recently attended a meeting of the National Science Foundation Industry University Cooperative Research Center in Embedded Systems. We are partners with Arizona State in running that center. It is an industry collaborative and representatives from Toyota, Intel, Raytheon and other industries were in attendance as well as representatives from NSF and Arizona State. Dr. Spyros Tragoudas is co-director of the Center. He announced that during the meeting there were very positive comments about SIUC from members of the NSF and the advisory board. NSF also had an evaluator from the University of Washington and he made multiple comments about SIUC being a great university.

VCR Koropchak announced that the Technology Innovation Expo will be next week and includes Alumni making presentations. One alumnus, Curt Jones, President of Dippin Dots, will be unveiling a new product line at this event. He encouraged everyone to attend and to let their colleagues know of this activity.

Good News Items

This summer the Center for Ecology sponsored a cohort of 6 undergraduate interns who presented poster presentations on their research at the Natural Areas Association Conference in Vancouver, Washington. Two of the students, Ms. Radonna McKinney (PSGA) and Ms. Kimberly Elsenbrock (PLB) together won first prize in the student group. This is notable since these undergraduates were the only undergraduates competing in the category that was otherwise graduate students from other institutions. Professor Sara Baer advised that Kimberly Elsenbrock started in the Research Rookies program and is now taking advantage of other programs offered at SIUC. Professors Baer and Loretta Battaglia were their mentors.

Ms. Nishanth Visagaratnam won first place in the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association's 2009 Graduate Student Paper Competition. She'll receive her award at the MCJA's annual meetings in Chicago later this week. Dr. Rachel Wahley was her sponsor on this work.

Associate Dean Wilson

Dean Wilson reminded the Graduate Council that UIBE (Beijing) is not only interested in exchanging students between their colleges and SIUC, but they are particularly interested in SIU Faculty going there to teach. Faculty could choose to teach a short term course or have a semester arrangement. He encouraged anyone interested to contact Professor Max Yen for more information.

The Graduate School is in the process of evaluating the responses to the RFP for graduate application software. Mark Kittleson is an evaluator for the proposals received. Three proposals were received and we hope to have them reviewed and evaluated by next week. We will then work with the Purchasing office to establish a contract and get going.

5. Discussion of Draft Sexual Harassment Complaint and Investigation Procedures – Susan Logue and Phyleccia Cole

Ms. Susan Logue from the Office of Academic Affairs and Provost area and Ms. Phyleccia Cole from the Office of Legal Council were in attendance to answer questions submitted in advance from the Educational Policy Committee of the Graduate Council regarding the draft sexual harassment complaint and investigation procedures. Chairman Hellgren noted this was posted on the website for everyone's review. Ms. Logue thanked the Graduate Council for their comments and appreciated being given the time to resolve some of the concerns of the Graduate Council regarding this procedures. She read each individual question provided by the Graduate Council and responded to each question or comment. There were additional questions, suggestions for change or clarification and comments posed by members of the Council and Ms Logue and/or Ms. Cole responded to those as well.

Chairman Hellgren thanked Ms. Logue and Ms. Cole for attending the meeting. Chairman Hellgren noted that these procedures must also be reviewed by the bargaining units at SIUC.

6. **Announcements – Professor Hellgren**

Joint Resolution to Approve Supporting Efforts on Behalf of Students to Restore MAP Grant Funding

Chairman Hellgren thanked Professor Howze and the Executive Council of the Faculty Senate for their work in co-writing the MAP resolution. He also announced that because this resolution was available 3 days in advance of the meeting, it was eligible to be voted upon today. Chairman Hellgren then read the resolution.

READING OF THE RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS SIUC has a tradition of serving students from first-generation, blue collar families and underrepresented groups; and

WHEREAS these students depend on the need-based Monetary Award Program (MAP) to make it possible in the state of Illinois because of its unique mission; and

WHEREAS these students who will be most affected by the enacted budget cut to MAP exceed 5000 on the Carbondale campus alone; and

WHEREAS according to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, without legislative action to restore funding, the state will offer no MAP grants for college students this spring (Source: www.saveillinoismapgrants.org);

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate and Graduate Council of SIUC supports and encourages the restoration of full funding to the Monetary Award Program by the State of Illinois.

A friendly amendment was made to change the “blue collar” located in the first sentence in the resolution to “low income.” With this amendment, a motion to approve the resolution was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Professor Howze stated this resolution will be bound for the Governor’s Office for the October 15th rally in Springfield. He added that there has been a tremendous amount of traffic going on in the last few days that we should all be aware of. The Executive Council is anxiously awaiting your comments and all of the senate presidents from Illinois will be in attendance at the rally with similar resolutions.

7. **Faculty Senate – Professor Howze**

Professor Howze stated the Faculty Senate will meet on October 13 and they have been working very hard on the MAP resolution and “getting the word out” about the hardship this will be to students if this funding is not continued. He added that he has had several meetings with legislators and other groups regarding this. He cautioned that students eligible for the MAP must be notified by the middle of October if they are going to receive a MAP grant for the spring. If they don’t learn something in October, students will have to make decisions based on the loss of funding. He urged council members to allow their students to attend the rally if at all possible, adding that it is very impressive to watch 30,000-40,000 students converge on the capitol. In response to where students can get more information, he said information booths have been set up at the Student Center all week. He added this is student-driven and a tremendous amount of effort has gone into putting this together.

8. **Nominations to Committees – Professor Mundschenk**

Professor Mundschenk announced the following assignments and stated her appreciation for the willingness to serve:

- Professor Mark Peterson and Professor Tonny Oyana have been assigned to the Computing Affairs Advisory Committee.
- Professor Kim Asner-Self from Educational Psychology and Special Education has been assigned to the Library Affairs.
- Professor Sara Baer from Plant Biology has been assigned to the University Ombudsman.
- Professor Manoj Mohanty from Mining Engineering has been assigned to the Outstanding Scholar Selection Committee.
- Professor Bryan Young from the Department of Plant, Soil and Agricultural Systems, has been assigned to the University Joint Benefits Committee.

9. **GPSC Report**

The GPSC has been working to get the word out about the loss of MAP funding and to urge the Deans and faculty to allow students to attend the rally.

10. **Chancellor Search Committee – Professor Tom Britton**

Professor Britton reported that the committee is in the process of completing screenings of each candidate. He announced that the pool of candidates has been narrowed from 30 to 15. The committee will soon be making final determinations for somewhere between 5 and 8 semi-finalists to be interviewed in late October in St. Louis. Professor Britton spoke about the committee process and their training to use Lexis Nexis and other public information to check on the background of candidates. The committee will be making determinations for finalists to bring to campus for public sessions during the month of November. The committee would like this to be done prior to Thanksgiving. One-on-one sessions with the President,

Chancellor, Vice Chancellors, and possibly others will be scheduled. The biggest event will be the public presentations wherein the candidates will speak for approximately 30-35 minutes about how they believe they will fit into the Carbondale community, how they would lead the university community and how their ideas would move the university forward. The public presentations will be posted on the web site to give all groups ample time to prepare for questions later. We are arranging for joint sessions with the Graduate Council and Faculty Senate and other groups with each individual candidate. Professor Britton stated that the Committee hopes to be completed by the end of December.

11. **Report of New Programs Committee – Professor Scott Ishman**

Professor Scott Ishman stated there was nothing to report at this time.

12. **Report of Research Committee – Professor Manoj Mohanty**

Members of the Research Committee are in the process of revisiting the subject of IDC (F&A). The Committee collected data from seven universities and is in the process of reviewing that information. Professor Mohanty stated he hopes to bring a resolution to the Graduate Council at the next meeting.

13. **Report of Program Review Committee – Professor Mark Kittleson**

Professor Kittleson announced that 16 volunteer representatives have been identified to complete this year's program reviews. There are about 23 programs to be reviewed this year. The committee's work should be completed by the end of this semester and the final paperwork is scheduled to be done sometime in January. Professor Kittleson stated that the group has worked very hard and commented he felt very fortunate to have the number of volunteers serve on this committee.

14. **Report of Ed Policies Committee – Professor McClurg**

Professor McClurg stated the Committee has been working on the Sexual Policy Procedures and added if anybody wants to see the comments presented to Susan Logue, to contact him by email and he will share those comments. The Committee will be meeting in the near future to consider the issue of having all research papers posted on the Open Access website.

15. **Old Business**

Dr. Baer requested clarification about federally funded traineeships and fellowships at SIUC and asked if these traineeships and fellowships come with a cost of education for the student? In the case of the recently funded IGERT, each student received a cost of education allowance of \$10,500. She stated this issue arose from a discussion amongst the P.I's on the IGERT. That group was wondering how that money can be spent. It was their understanding that the students never actually

receive the money and that it is all used to pay tuition. It is also their understanding that this issue has come up before in meetings of the Graduate Council and they wanted to know if there was a resolution or conversation about this subject in the past. Dr. Wilson explained that the institution has costs involved in these kinds of issues. It has been common practice for SIUC to not require PI's requesting graduate assistants for grants to ask for tuition; most of our peers do. We lose out on a revenue stream in not doing that and that issue has been discussed. From the cost of education allowance, we pay fees for the students and leave up to \$1500 in the grant to pay for travel, books, and additional expenses they might have with their research. The remainder is applied to tuition at the resident rate. Given the recent increases in tuition, we often take less than full tuition on a case-by-case basis. The reason we pay fees first out of the fund is because fees benefits the students most. It's like putting \$2500 a year in their pocket. This is not documented but it is the way it has been handled. NSF set up the educational expense fund to go directly to the institution and Dr. Wilson added it was up to the institution to determine how the funds will be used.

16. **New Business**

There was no new business to report.

There being no further business to bring before the council, meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Donna L. Reynolds
Recording Secretary