

Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
Minutes of the Graduate Council  
November 3, 2011

**CALL TO ORDER**

A meeting of the SIU Carbondale Graduate Council (GC) was held in the Kaskaskia and Missouri Rooms of the Student Center, Carbondale, Illinois on November 3, 2011. The meeting convened at 8:06 am, Chair Scott Ishman presiding. Members and administrative officers in attendance were Sara Baer, Christopher Behan, David Carlson, Rita Cheng, Scott Collins, Judith Davie, Carl Flowers, Susan Ford, Katherine Frith, John Groninger, Jodi Huggenvik, Holly Hurlburt (Scott Ishman), Scott Ishman, Levi Jost (GPSC), Kimberly Kempf-Leonard (Alison Watts), John A. Koropchak, Matthew McCarroll, Wanki Moon, Monica Newby (GPSC), John Nicklow, Joshua Potter (GPSC), Travis Pour (GPSC), Ratna Sinha, Pamela Smoot, Suresh Tadisina, Keith Waugh, Matthew Whiles and David Wilson. Members not in attendance were Najjar Abdul-Musawwir, Gary Apgar, John Dobbins, Constantine Hatziadoniu, Delwar Hossain (GPSC), Kathy Hytten, Jay Means, Manoj Mohanty and Ryan Netzley.

Proxies for the meeting were Scott Ishman for Holly Hurlburt, and Alison Watts (Kimberly Kempf-Leonard).

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

The Chair opened the floor to corrections or edits to the minutes of October 6, 2011. There was a brief discussion and consensus to remove, and discontinue use of, the word “regular” when identifying the type of meeting. Susan Ford made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion seconded. The minutes were approved as edited.

**REMARKS**

Provost John W. Nicklow

A tentative agreement was reached with the Association of Civil Service Employees, the ACsE group; the Graduate Assistants United (GAU); and the Non-Tenured Track Faculty Association (NTT). Work will continue diligently to reach an agreement with the Faculty Association (FA).

Thanks to all who participated in and attended the Teaching and Learning Symposium on October 20. Attendees offered feedback and had many questions. There was considerable interest in distance education.

Regarding searches, the Associate Provost for the Academic Programs, and Associate Provost and Dean of the University College are in the decision phase. We received feedback on those positions and are currently going through them to make a recommendation.

In response to the question of whether the tentative agreements with the unions included a no-strike clause, Dr. Wilson responded in the affirmative.

At a later time during the meeting, the Provost interjected, stating that he has met with the Deans to devise plans to minimize the impact to students and their educational experience.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Vice Chancellor for Research John A. Koropchak**

End of the first third of this fiscal year updates:

- Total awards processed for the month of October were approximately \$12M, bringing us to over \$37M; we are down less than a million dollars from the total at the same time last year. These figures are encouraging because we lost the federal stimulus dollars.
- Research dollars are up 7% compared to the same time last year.
- However, we are significantly down in the category of state dollars.

A group of engineering and science students won the P3 Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. P3 stands for people, prosperity and planet. The entry was titled, "Sustainable Utilization of Coal Combustion Byproducts through the Production of High Grade Minerals and Cement-less Green Concrete." The team included graduate students Hamid Akbari and Baojie Zhang, from mining engineering; Sang Shin, from civil engineering; Mohammad Rahman, from geology; and Emilia Zargham, who is now a doctoral student at the University of Missouri-Columbia. They were led by Dr. Mohanty, who is a member of the Graduate Council.

The visit on November 2 by Dr. Arlene Garrison, Vice President of the University Partnerships Office, the Oak Ridge Associated University, was productive. A series of action items were established that are likely to provide benefits to a number of faculty across the campus.

Congratulations to the negotiating team for their success with the GAU agreement. The members included David Wilson, Gary Kinsel, David DiLalla, John Benshoff, Deborah Nelson, and Susan Ford, an important member before she became Interim Chairperson. Congratulations as well to those students who were involved in conducting those negotiations.

Dr. Koropchak asked that any questions regarding searches be deferred to a later time.

### **Associate Dean David Wilson**

We have an outstanding thesis winner in mechanical engineering: Anish Poudel, "An Intelligent Systems Approach for Detecting Defects in Aircraft Composites by Using Air-Coupled Ultrasonic Testing." Dr. Tsochin Philip Chu served as his advisor. The committee was impressed with the thesis, and it has been nominated for the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools Competition.

Dr. Wilson commended the work efforts of the graduate students who participated in the GAU bargaining team negotiations.

There were no further announcements.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Faculty Senate—Professor Apgar**

In the absence of Professor Apgar, the Chair reported. The Faculty Senate returned the Core Curriculum and Lab Sciences proposal to Core Curriculum for further consideration. It has been taken off the table for an indefinite period of time.

## **2. CPBAC—Professor Ishman**

The Position Control Committee is making progress in consideration of putting together a committee that will be part of the evaluation team.

The Program Review Committee is making progress in what should be considered the top five quantitative and top five qualitative criteria for a matrix; scholarly activity will be included in those measures.

The Chancellor arrived and was given the opportunity to present remarks.

### **REMARKS**

#### **Chancellor Rita Cheng**

The ACsE group, the NTT and the GAU successfully completed contract negotiations today during the early morning hours. She expressed a commitment to getting people back to the bargaining table to resolve the labor issues.

- There is potential for a significant Open House on Saturday, November 5; 500 students are expected to attend.
- Pension Bill 12 is expected to come back next week for discussion. The bill is being discussed and watched very carefully. It puts a burden on the individual employee, and there is significant awareness that something will happen with pensions, probably next spring. It is expected that employees may pay a portion and employers will pay a portion to protect the benefits.
- We have an opportunity to advocate for performance funding in an environment of new money or grant money, rather than a carve-out from existing funds. The budget details will not be known until spring.
- The Strategic Planning Process will again pick up momentum.

The Chancellor inquired if there were any questions or topics the GC members wished to discuss. There was a brief discussion during which the Chancellor stated that

- The proposal our bargaining team received from the FA regressed back to their original position because of the inclusion of a paragraph requiring the Board of Trustees to accept binding arbitration.
- There were no plans for further discussions today.
- The contract agreements have a No Strike Clause.
- The IEA representative for the FA will be contacting our team to find out when they are comfortable continuing discussions.
- The consultants working with IBHE have suggested a close look at the Tennessee model metrics for performance funding which is in its sixth iteration. There are variables that are selected depending on the mission, and different weighting to those. This is an opportunity to capture some research variables in the model:
  - The number of students graduating;
  - Additional points for underrepresented students;
  - Looking at whether the metric is for underserved and underrepresented students;
  - Financial aid, Pell, race, ethnicity, gender in certain fields, or all of the above.
  - Metrics on how many students complete a number of credits.

- Research expenditures have been in most of the models and are easy to capture.

Those interested were asked to send an email to the Chancellor for the website link.

There were no further questions or remarks.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)**

#### **3. Nominations Committee—Professor Ford**

In light of the current events and her recent return to campus, Professor Ford had no announcements. The committee is in the process of finishing the nomination lists.

The Chair assumed Professor Ford's responsibility during her absence. His involvement with the committee resulted in Mingqing Xao being selected to the search committee for the Dean of Agriculture.

#### **4. GPSC—Joshua Potter**

The GPSC passed a resolution last time urging the administration to bargain with the units.

Plans to set up an All Campus Conference for graduate students are ongoing with a tentative date of March 27-28, 2012. The primary goal is to encourage undergraduates from this university who are graduating to consider graduate schools, specifically, at SIU.

In response to the question of whether the focus will solely be on SIU, it was his belief that it is open to the larger community, but the primarily focus is SIU.

#### **5. Research Committee—Professor Baer**

There were no significant items to report. The committee is meeting.

#### **6. New Programs Committee—Professor Hurlburt**

The Chair read the Graduate Council Resolution in Support of RME to Revise Names of MS Concentrations in Geography, which was presented at the September 6, 2011, meeting of the GC.

### **RATIONALE**

**Whereas**, the Department of Geography currently offers three MS concentrations – “Environmental Resources,” “Geographic Information Science,” and “Water Resources Management.” The Department proposes to change “Environmental Resources” to “Environmental Sustainability,” and “Water Resources Management” to “Climate and Water Resources.” And

**Whereas**, these changes in terminology will more accurately reflect the research and teaching emphases of the department; and

**Whereas**, department members voted unanimously in favor of these changes, which require only the addition of two courses, and does not require new faculty, facilities, staff or dollars;

## **RESOLUTION**

**Therefore**, be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the proposed RME for Revised MS Concentration Names in Geography.

There being no abstentions or questions, and no comments were received from the ER&P Department regarding the proposal, Professor Ford called for a vote. There being none opposed the resolution passed unanimously.

The Chair read the Graduate Council Resolution in support of RME to Discontinue Certificate in Conflict Resolution in College of Education and Human Services

## **RATIONALE**

Whereas, The College of Education and Human Services currently offers a certificate in Conflict Resolution, an interdisciplinary program cross listed in Health Education, Higher Education, Educational Administration, Educational Psychology and Social Work.

And whereas the College proposes the elimination of this certificate program due to low enrollment and lack of faculty resources.

## **RESOLUTION**

Therefore, be it resolved that, although it inherently recognizes the value inherent in interdisciplinary programs, the Graduate Council approves the proposed RME for Elimination of the certificate program.

In response to a question about program trends, Dr. Wilson stated that there had not been a student in the program.

The Chair advised that a vote on the resolution will take place at the next meeting of the GC.

7. Program Review Committee—Professor Huggenvik

No report.

8. Education Policies Committee—Professor Collins

No report.

9. Old Business:

No report.

10. New Business:

No report.

***Adjournment:***

There being no further business to bring before the council, the motion to adjourn was moved and seconded. December 1, 2011, and the Missouri and Kaskaskia Rooms of the Student Center were fixed as the time and place of the next regular meeting, and the November 3, 2011, meeting was adjourned at 8:37 am.

Tina M. Price  
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

RME to Revise Names of MS Concentrations in Geography  
RME to Discontinue Certificate in Conflict Resolution