

Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Minutes of the Graduate Council
September 6, 2012

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 September 6, 2012. Chair Matthew McCarroll called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Members in attendance were, Najjar Abdul-Musawwir, Craig Anz (John Dobbins), Scott Collins, Bryan Crow, Judith Davie, Carl Flowers, Susan Ford, Katherine Frith, Reza Habib, Dale "Buck" Hales, Constantine Hatziaioniu, Kathy Hytten (Terri Wilson), Cheryl Jarvis, Benny LeMaster (GPSC), Matthew McCarroll, Manoj Mohanty, Wanki Moon, Nathan Rice (GPSC), Rhetta Seymour, Pamela Smoot, Brooke Talley (GPSC), Matthew Whiles.

Announcement of Proxies: John Dobbins for Craig Anz; and Terri Wilson for Kathy Hytten.

Ex-Officio members in attendance: Rita Cheng, Chancellor; John Nicklow, Provost and Vice Chancellor; John A. Koropchak, Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Dean; Susan Rimmer, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research; Dafna Lemish, Deans' Council Representative.

Other attendees: James Allen, Associate Provost for Academic Programs; Ratna Sinha, Associate Director, Graduate School; and Michelle Petrik, Recording Secretary.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2012 meeting of the Graduate Council duly made and seconded, and the minutes were approved.

REMARKS

Chancellor Cheng

The Chancellor mentioned some items covered in the State of the University Address, which took place the previous day:

- The importance and the expense of our research mission. The importance of moving forward together to secure a sustainable future so that our mission for quality research and graduate programs can be secured and grow.
- The image of the institution, and how together we have to continuously tell our story.
- Colleges and departments need to make sure that webpages showcase the strength of faculty and that they are navigatable. Taking care of dead links and incorrect information that exists. Young people today, graduate students in particular, are looking through the strengths of the faculty; we have a lot of work to do on our front door, particularly the webpage.

In addition, the Chancellor stated that enrollment in many graduate programs has been a part of a turn-around. We have some strong enrollments. We also have some pockets of the campus that have had a precipitous decline and we have to work with the departments and the faculty concerning the issue. Specifically thinking of the Electrical and Computer Engineering issues with the Indian students, what that has done to your program and how we can then turn that around. In Education, a lot of the issue is that teachers are not rewarded for additional education at the Masters level; they are not coming to school in the same pattern they were in the past, so we have to think about what we are doing there as well.

There have been some really good conversations around interdisciplinary research efforts; scholarly activity across the campus that crosses departments/disciplines. John Koropchak, John Nicklow and I want to see more of that activity. We want to be able to support it, and we want graduate programs to develop out of faculty initiatives.

The Vice Chancellor for Development & Alumni Relations is a key position that we are working very hard to fill. One candidate is on campus today, and there will be two additional candidates coming in the future. We were unable to find the right fit with the two candidates who were here this past spring, but are hopeful for the potential within the current candidates. Why is this important? We also need to fundraise. We need to find ways that our supporters can help us, not only in scholarships for students, but also programmatic support. Operational support today is going to be dependent on other sources of income, because the State is not going to do that.

The Chancellor addressed the fact that a lot of changes have been implemented which effect research and graduate education, and explained that these are done to be able to continue to operate in a quality way. The university needs to find ways we can use other sources of funding to support our graduate students, hence the tuition on grants. We need to work on overhead of all contracts so that we are not supporting only some areas; fairness issue. A work has been submitted to the federal agencies to try to increase our indirect rate, so we can secure more money into the campus.

In addition, strategizing on the remodeling of McLafferty into a dedicated research facility to also help us with our indirect rates is taking place. Our institution has very low rates due to the age and depreciation of our research areas, and therefore they factor negatively into the rate. That does not mean we do not have to fix up what we have. The Chancellor indicated that there have been tours of campus facilities. The conditions of some labs are recognized; we need to work together to tackle those one by one. The projection is for about 60 classroom upgrades this year, 12 teaching lab upgrades and equipment upgrades for a list of research labs.

Provost John W. Nicklow

Renovations and the installation of technology will begin with a pool of 20 classrooms where technology will be installed, followed by another 12 and then later this fall we are looking at 60 classroom renovations. Those will involve anywhere from a coat of paint, new flooring to new technology in the classroom. Your patience in this process is appreciated. The effort is to get into the classroom 2-3 days, make the changes and move on.

No meetings concerning the Associate Provost for Academic Administration search have taken place since Susan Logue announced her retirement. That search started earlier this month. We are in a

screening phase and will likely have interviews starting next week or the week after. Please come and engage in those interviews. There will be an open forum opportunity.

An instructor course evaluation redesign effort has been initiated. The Senate has put together a taskforce to redesign the ICE based on another taskforce's recommendation. It is a smaller group, a working group, which is putting together a pilot. They are currently looking at piloting that ICE possibly mid-semester, if not at the end of this term. This is small scale, not campus-wide. We want a modern ICE as opposed to some things we have been using.

Another announcement, we are going to launch two RFP's for course development. These will come from the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Office of Distance Education & Off-Campus Programs. One is going to focus on online course development for core courses and gateway courses. Another will focus on online course development for Masters programs. Masters degrees in particular present a great option particularly for the working professional to come back and get a degree. Those RFP's will hopefully be coming within the next few weeks. If you have an interest or any questions, please let me know.

The Provost convened a talking/listening session with the deans relating to interdisciplinary research. One thing that has come out of the session is that the deans are very interested in working together and creating new interdisciplinary programs. The charge for the next meeting is to get together in small groups and bring forward several new interdisciplinary programs (3-5), and then talk about them as a group. If you have ideas for new interdisciplinary programs, talk to your dean so we can get them on the table and start the discussion.

In response to a question on the expected outcome of interdisciplinary programs, the Provost answered, that one outcome could be to create a Masters degree. The idea is to refresh the curriculum. The Chancellor also commented, stating there is interest in Gaming, MCMA, Computer Science and Electrical & Computer Engineering. Another interest is Logistics. The university has a significant donor who has challenged the campus to think in terms of a degree/certificate/Masters experience in Logistics. That would include Business, Engineering and perhaps CASA. We have great potential to use the strength of the faculty and existing programmatic strength to leverage the new programs that will draw new students.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chancellor John A. Koropchak

In terms of graduate enrollment, the tenth day figures show that our graduate enrollment was 4,023, that is 62 students (1.5%) lower than in fall 2011. Those of you who were here in the spring may recall that we had a huge graduating class, 111 more students received Masters or Ph.D. degrees. Our final application figures were 220 more (+6%) than last year, but admissions were 39 less (2.7%) than last year. We admitted 1,387 students, and 736 registered, for a 53% yield, which is about our historic average. In addition, 226 of these admitted students (26%) deferred admission to a later semester due to financial, visa, or personal reasons. We may see some of those students later on.

The Research Productivity Report for 2011 was just finalized:

- Total R&D expenditures rose 2% to \$71.1M.

- Federal R&D expenditures rose to a record level of \$23.7M, a 7% increase over 2010 and three times the 2003 level.
- Total external grants were \$79.4M, a 2% decline from 2010, which reflects the phase-out of the federal stimulus program. Most other universities saw 5-10% decreases in 2011.
- We also saw a drop in faculty numbers, which led to a 1% increase in external awards per FTE T/TT faculty to about \$100,000 per FTE.
- Similarly, publication numbers dropped, but rose on an FTE basis.

Regarding staffing, the new Director for OSPA, Wayne Glass, will start on September 24th. We are in the midst of a search for the Associate Dean and Director of the Graduate School; interviews should begin soon. We have promoted a number of staff and hired replacements in the Graduate School for a number of positions. Staff morale is high and the situation stabilized.

To report on some campus-wide accolades:

- US News and World Report ranked us as one of the top Graduate Schools.
- The St. Louis Business Journal again ranked us among the top three research universities in the Missouri and southern Illinois area, along with Washington University and the University of Missouri Columbia.
- The Illinois Science and Technology Council assessed technology commercialization in the state, including the formation of start-up companies from university inventions. They indicated that last year was a record for start-ups in the state (27) and that the University of Illinois, Northwestern, the University of Chicago and SIU were the top start-up creating schools, which puts us in good company.

Associate Vice Chancellor Susan Rimmer

In addition to the series of faculty workshops for new assistant professors, we have another workshop scheduled for October 2nd and 3rd. This would be for faculty interested in submitting a seed grant. A reminder email will be sent; please spread the word.

Vice Chancellor Koropchak added information about other workshops that will be offered this year. One workshop is a series primarily for new faculty members, where they will join an experienced faculty member from the campus to talk about various topics (ex: Getting Your Book Out, Balancing Teaching and Research, Mentoring and Recruiting Graduate Students, Building Intra- and Extra-Campus Collaborations). Also, this fall the School of Medicine has organized a whole series of workshops devoted to writing grants to the National Institutes of Health; open for anyone to attend.

Chair Matthew McCarroll

No further announcements.

REPORTS

1. **Faculty Senate – Professor Clark**

No report.

2. Deans Council – Dean Lemish

A very valuable discussion was had in the Deans Council about students with special needs (mental or behavioral). Behavioral issues include aggression and medication issues. A question of how that affects their performance was raised. The issues were discussed both in terms of treatment and crisis situation. This started a conversation about further effects students may encounter with requirements, curriculum, etc.

3. Report from CPBAC – Professor McCarroll

Professor McCarroll reported to the Graduate Council of the Chancellors Planning and Budget Committee.

- The last meeting was held on August 20.
- The Chancellor reported on the Strategic Plan which is in the process of coming out. This was discussed briefly.
- Reported that the ongoing campus capital projects that are being discussed.
- There was some discussion on the tuition on grants policy that is in place and potential reconsideration of IDC rates for private grants that are currently under a different IDC rate.
- There was some discussion with the issue of state regulation on retirees and the effect of retirees working within the state system. It has a potential significant effect on the University.
- Discussed the 5/10/15 rule and evaluating different approaches for that. A subcommittee has been appointed within that committee to address that. The Graduate Council representative is a member of that committee to look at that issue.
- Differential budget cuts to be implemented in the current year
 - Based on credit hour generation (50%), number of majors (30%) and degrees granted (20%), all based on a percent change.
 - Ongoing discussion. Have not received the informal recommendation.

4. Nominations to Committees – Professor McCarroll

- Several nominations were filled from the Graduate Council.
- Complementary Practices and Academic Efficiencies Taskforce
 - Matt Whiles (accepted)
- Financial Conflict of Interest Committee
 - Grant Miller (accepted)
 - Judy Davie (accepted)
 - Craig Anz (accepted)
 - Reza Habib (accepted)
- Search Committee for Associate Provost for Academic Administration
 - Susan Ford (accepted)
 - Scott Collins (accepted)
 - Brian Crow (accepted)

These are the nominations that were done through the summer and over the last month.

Thank you to those of you who are willing to serve on nominations.

5. **GPSC Report – Brooke Talley**

The first full GPSC council meeting was last week on August 28th. We are still looking for presentations from underrepresented groups/departments. For example, the College of Science only has three representatives for the whole college; each department is allowed at least one representative, if not two. If you know of anyone interested in coming to GPSC, have them talk to me.

Also this year, we are really making an effort to speak with the students and get them more involved. We have already created a Facebook page and this year we will be on Twitter as well. Two hashtags you can follow are:

- #gpscmtg (for posting during meetings)
- #gpscrep (for posting when publicly representing GPSC).

Finally, we have filled a committee for the Constitutional Review. Our constitution includes some items that are not quite accurate. We are working to rectify those items.

6. **Report of Research Committee – Professor Davie**

The Research Committee was tasked with determining the anticipated effect of the new tuition on grants policy. The stated goal of that policy is to increase graduate enrollment and also to enhance graduate research opportunities. The policy applies to any research grant that totals over \$50,000 in direct cost per year. The tuition cost will be exempt from indirect rates, so any money that is charged to tuition will not receive indirect compensation. The investigator is asked to put nine hours a semester for the spring/fall and three hours for the summer. Funded students are expected to register for those hours. The tuition rate will be appropriate, either the in state or out of state rate; our international students will qualify for the out of state rate.

If the grant is funded, the tuition dollars will be returned to an income fund, of which 25% will be returned directly to the P.I., 50% will be returned to the generating department and 25% will be returned to the Graduate School to enhance additional graduate fellowships and graduate activities.

The Research Committee has examined this policy and we recognize the goal, but have identified several areas of concern. We are currently trying to assess the impact of these concerns on the faculty, the graduate students and the research mission here at SIU. Our specific concerns include: potential loss in indirect cost recovery on grants and significantly a reduction in the number of graduate students that can be supported by grants, especially international graduate students. We are also gathering data from peer institutions to assess how similar tuition policies are administered. Last year we were asked to examine how peer institutions did this, and we found that many of our peer institutions (13 out of 17) had these policies. That was justification for moving forward.

Our goal within the committee is to try to develop recommendations to this policy that will allow the policy to achieve the stated goals. It should be noted that the School of Medicine, which holds many grants that are affected by this policy, is concerned. The Faculty Council, the Research Policy Committee and the Associate Dean of Research all recommended that this policy be reviewed by the full Graduate Council. This was not done before the policy was implemented. This stresses the importance for a full Graduate Council review of the impact of this policy. We are happy to discuss

further concerns, but if anyone on the council does have additional concerns or recommendations for the policy, please share those with the Research Committee so we can develop the best possible response to this policy.

7. **Report of New Programs Committee – Professor Flowers**

We have two RME's from this summer. Our committee will bring those to the Graduate Council for discussion at the October meeting. One is an RME for a post baccalaureate certificate in Magnetic Residence Energy & Radiological Sciences and the second is for the potential move of the Physician Assistant Program from the College of Applied Science and Arts to the School of Medicine.

We have received materials from the Deans of the two colleges regarding the Ph.D. program and the RME for the post baccalaureate certificate that will be distributed to our committee. I will ask the Graduate Council to consider a suspension of the rules at the October meeting to allow introducing and voting at the same time.

In response to a question on the availability of the full proposals for review within the coming month, it was stated that the intention is to have the proposals available very soon for review. Also mentioned was the possibility of using a separate mechanism, other than the GC meeting minutes, for notifying members to review specific items prior to the next meeting when voting will occur.

8. **Report of Program Review Committee – Professor Hatziaodniu**

This year there are ten programs that need to be reviewed. The Graduate Council needs to appoint one representative on each of these programs. We have already filled this list. Five of these representatives will come from the Program Review Committee, and the additional five will be selected from the Graduate Faculty. The programs under review are posted on the Graduate Council website and information will be updated as things move along. Also, I would like to ask the members of the Program Review Committee to stay at the end of the meeting; I have some materials to hand out.

9. **Report of Ed. Policies Committee – Professor Collins**

Professor Collins read the following:

RESOLUTION

**Resolution Recommending Changes to Allow
Acceptance of Unofficial Transcripts for Admission Purposes**

Whereas, many departments only have unofficial transcripts available when timely admission decisions must be made; and

Whereas, a number of our peers are now processing admissions decisions based on unofficial transcripts and only requiring official transcripts after admission (or if there is a question about the unofficial transcripts); and

Whereas, this procedure will reduce the number of official transcripts that need to be managed during the admission process which will free up staff time; and

Whereas, allowing departments to make admission decisions based on information from unofficial transcripts will expedite the admission process and possibly increase graduate school enrollment; and

Whereas, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale has a university-wide commitment to increasing graduate enrollments;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Graduate Council recommends to the Graduate School that admission decisions may be made with unofficial transcripts as long as official transcripts are received before the admitted student's second registration.

The official vote will take place during the October meeting. Professor Collins stated that he has worked with Dr. Wilson, Dr. McCarroll and the Committee on this resolution.

Discussion took place between council members concerning certain issues (funding, course credit, international students, etc.) to be aware of when reviewing and voting on this resolution.

Professor Collins mentioned that the committee was also asked to start looking at a forgiveness policy; developing something similar to the existing undergraduate forgiveness policy for the Graduate School.

10. **Old Business**

Nothing to report.

11. **New Business**

Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before the GC, the motion to adjourn was moved and seconded. October 4, 2012, and the Missouri and Kaskaskia Rooms of the Student Center were fixed as the date and place for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 am.

Michelle K. Petrik, Recording Secretary

Attachments:

Resolution Recommending Changes to Allow Acceptance of Unofficial Transcripts for Admission Purposes