

Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Minutes of the Graduate Council
February 7, 2013

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 February 7, 2013. Chair Scott Ishman called the meeting to order at 8:04 am.

Members in attendance were, Najjar Abdul-Musawwir, Craig Anz, Christopher Behan (Tom Britton), Ryan Ceresolo (GPSC), Scott Collins (Michael Grey), Bryan Crow, Judith Davie, Carl Flowers, Susan Ford (Ulrich Reichard), Katherine Frith (Peter Lemish), Reza Habib, Dale "Buck" Hale, Constantine Hatzadoniu, Kathy Hytten, Scott Ishman, Benny LeMaster (GPSC), Matthew McCarroll, Grant Miller (Christie McIntyre), Wanki Moon, Nathan Rice (GPSC), Ratna Sinha, Pamela Smoot, Brooke Talley (GPSC), Matthew Whiles (Eric Hellgren), Andrew Youpa.

Announcement of Proxies: Tom Britton for Christopher Behan; Michael Grey for Scott Collins; Ulrich Reichard for Susan Ford; Peter Lemish for Katherine Frith; Christie McIntyre for Grant Miller; and Eric Hellgren for Matthew Whiles.

Ex-Officio members in attendance: Rita Cheng, Chancellor; John Nicklow, Provost and Vice Chancellor; Susan Rimmer, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research; Susan M. Ford, Associate Dean and Director of the Graduate School; James Allen, Associate Provost for Academic Programs; Kimberly Kempf-Leonard, Deans' Council Representative.

Other attendees: Wayne Glass, Director of OSPA; Mark Morris, College of Business; Terry Clark, Faculty Senate Representative; Anne Moore, Dean of Library Affairs; Nathan Stucky, Speech Communication; Ron Pelias, Speech Communication; and Michelle Petrik, Recording Secretary.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2012 meeting of the Graduate Council duly made and seconded, and the minutes were approved.

REMARKS

Chancellor Cheng

About 460 scholarship letters went out yesterday to high achieving students who competed for the Chancellor's full-ride scholarship and several partial and full tuition scholarships. High school groups that are on campus on a daily basis are welcomed by many faculty and staff; those efforts are very appreciated. There will be an aggressive open house, admit days, and new student orientation schedules for the spring. The admit days are new opportunities in Chicago, St. Louis, and here on campus to market the university to prospective students who are still deciding where to attend.

Technology upgrades have begun. The laboratory upgrades will be completed one at a time. Classes may be asked to move rooms for a short period of time while labs are being renovated.

Work is progressing on recruitment and financial aid aspects of yield for new students (freshmen in particular). This is done through advertising and financial aid packaging. There is a new financial aid brochure as well as a cost sheet to help continue the university's efforts to reach students and families.

A new research publication is in the final stages of drafting. It was a first attempt to go out into the national market with a sampling of research on the campus: trying to make a difference in perceptions of the campus among donors, alumni, and peers. A final draft should be ready to print within the next week.

There is a new commencement brochure that provides useful information for students planning to graduate.

The financial status of the state of Illinois is a continued concern. Out of the 50 states, Illinois is at the bottom in bond rating. The Governor's office asked for a 4.62% reduction in this year's budget. The Illinois Board of Higher Education is preparing a flat budget for higher education. Performance funding is also a part of future allocations from the state.

UCOL 101, a course that began as a pilot and progressed to full-scale, allowed 90% of our freshmen to take part in this experience. Of the 90% who did participate we had an 86% retention rate from fall to spring. Planning for first-year advising continues.

The new building is on schedule. Moving offices is scheduled to take place during the beginning of August before classes begin. If that date is unattainable, offices will wait until after the first two weeks of the semester to move because of the importance of service to students.

The Chancellor has been involved in fund raising, music performances, and athletic events. She has been in discussion with veteran groups regarding support for undergraduate and graduate veterans. Housing discussions continue: the board has been asked for planning authorization for 1-2 residence halls. The Chancellor visited a coal mine with SIU coal researchers and has been in discussion, along with the Agriculture staff, with the U.S. Soybean Association and the Farm Bureau.

There have been six listening sessions, with 6 more scheduled, to continue the opportunity of meeting with a small group to find out what faculty members are thinking.

A leadership day is scheduled for today with a working session for Department Chairs, Directors, Deans and Associate Deans to address the strategic plan a final time before taking it to the board.

Discussion took place.

Provost Nicklow

In terms of enrollment, we currently have 6% more undergraduate applications at this time than this institution has ever had. The average quality of students has increase 1-2 ACT points.

The Instructor Course Evaluation (ICE) pilot has been completed and the report will be submitted soon. Overall, the general feedback was very positive. Some of the evaluation focuses on assessment, so it can also be used for HLC.

Over the holiday the Banner system was updated taking a total of 4,500 person hours. There is a significant increase in speed and the system is secure. The core network on campus was upgraded from 1GB to 10GB. Not every building has the fiber to support this upgrade, so the Fiber Project has been implemented to assess and work toward upgrading those buildings in need. Wireless is moving from building to building with priority on student areas and classrooms. Two Information Technology (IT) helpdesks have been merged into one helpdesk located within the library; Saluki Tech. The tablet project, Mobile Dawg, pilot will be launched this spring. Fifteen classes, ranging from first-year, senior, and graduate level, have agreed to participate in the pilot. If this project is successful, the plan is to supply tablets to all first-year incoming students and promote the use of E-texts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Associate Dean Ford

Spring registration is down by 130 Masters students and 19 Ph.D. students. Almost all of those losses are focused within a couple programs that were down in the fall for VISA issues. Also, there were a few enrollment/registration issues that surfaced and resulted in a lower 10-day count than really reflects the number of students on campus.

Currently applications are down by 13%, International applications, in particular. This is of great concern. At this point, one of the best ways to address this issue going into fall 2013 is to increase our efforts to admit a higher percentage of qualified students out of the smaller pool of applications and to also work toward a better yield for students who come to SIU. One of the biggest concerns is that departments on campus make many admissions decisions late. National data suggests that students choose the institution where they are accepted and offered funding first, even if it is not their first choice. International students choose the institution where they can obtain their VISA first. If SIU is admitting students in March/April, it will lose those students to other institutions that make decisions earlier.

At the suggestion of Lipman-Hearne, a Graduate School staff member, pretending to be a prospective student, made a number of mystery calls/emails to each department on campus to see the types of responses they would receive. The data are being compiled.

The graduation roll policy is a change in how many semesters students can “roll” their application for graduation. Currently, if a student does not graduate the semester in which they apply for graduation, the application will roll several semesters before the student would have to re-register. According to the newly revised graduation roll policy, within the Graduate School, the graduation application will only roll over one commencement before the student will need to re-register and pay a new graduation fee.

Discussion took place.

The Outstanding Dissertation Award will no longer be presented at spring commencement. The future presentation of the award has not yet been determined.

The Graduate School Assistantship/Fellowship Office has followed up on the requirement by the Graduate Council that fellowship application dates be moved up to be more effectively used for recruitment purposes. The entire process has been computerized. The Morris and Doctoral Fellowship Competitions are complete. Three Morris Fellowships and 18 Doctoral Fellowships will be awarded. The Masters Competition is now in full-swing. These fellowships will be announced at least a month earlier than in the past.

Tomorrow is the deadline for the PROMPT and Graduate Dean Fellowship Competitions. Please remind faculty. As of yesterday, applications for those fellowships were extremely low compared to prior years.

Discussion took place.

Associate Vice Chancellor Susan Rimmer

The Research Town Meeting will be April 16. Abstracts for this will be due March 1. This year the abstracts will be judged, a sub-set will be decided upon, and that sub-set will be judged at the meeting. There will be prizes for the students; this is possible due to the success of finding sponsors for the event. One co-sponsor is GPSC. The group will be running a morning of workshops for graduate students.

- Brooke Talley added that a committee was formed to insure that GPSC has a strong professional showing at the Research Town Meeting. The workshops will be, "CV and Resume Writing", "Publish or Perish", and "How to Prepare Yourself for Graduate School".

Please encourage your colleagues and students to attend.

Some re-organization is taking place within the VCR and OSPA offices to develop the Office for Research Career Advancement (ORCA). ORCA will combine things that focus on the individual/building a research career (workshops, mentoring, etc.). There is also conversation of building an online research community.

OSPA Director Wayne Glass

The end of year data for sponsored programs has been completed. The office is at 75.5M this year; 3% lower than last year. 2009 -2010 was a high watermark year for institutions due to the stimulus funding, so even though the numbers are showing lower than last year, the office is ahead of where it was prior to 2009-2010. Research funding was 40.9M and federal funds about 27M.

Associate Provost for Academic Programs Allen

The Higher Learning Commission will be visiting Monday, April 22 through Tuesday, April 23. They will be following up the strategic planning. A report to provide to the site team is due February 24. There is still a considerable amount of editing remaining on the report. Dr. Allen is planning to post the document after the weekend for public comment/feedback. Input is critical to the success of the site visit.

Another important and concerning component of the site visit is the assessment of student learning. The Campus-Wide Assessment Committee is in the process of being restructured. Meetings with the Deans are taking place to consider the creation of some College groups/committees/taskforces that would review assessment plans/reports on an annual basis to provide the expertise that the Campus-Wide Assessment Committee does not have.

Discussion took place.

Chair Scott Ishman

Be sure to remember the Research Town Meeting on April 16.

REPORTS

1. Report of New Programs Committee – Professor Flowers

Professor Flowers read the following:

Graduate Council Resolution in Support of RME for changing the name of Speech Communication to Communication Studies

Rationale

Whereas the Department Speech Communication proposes to change its name from Speech Communication to Communication Studies, and

Whereas, the proposed change comes following extensive study by the faculty, including research of peer and aspirational institutions, and

Whereas, the proposed name change responds to the ongoing trends of scholarship and help the department maintain currency with similar programs across the country, and

Whereas, departmental research shows that the name change could increase undergraduate enrollment, improve student retention, improve job prospects for program graduates and reduce on and off-campus confusion over the departments identify and mission; and

Whereas, the proposed change does not require new facilities, faculty, staff or dollars, with the exception of minor costs for stationary and catalog corrections.

Resolution

Therefore be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the proposed name change from Speech Communication to Communication Studies

Letters to support this resolution were received from other programs within the University (Rehabilitation Institute, Communication Disorders and Sciences, and Theater). The committee is in full support of this resolution.

Professor Flowers read the following:

Graduate Council Resolution in Support of a Proposed RME Online Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Civil Society, Communication, and Media Practices

Rationale

Whereas faculty in the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts (MCMA) have been moving toward distance education programming over the past several years, and are in the process of adapting six existing courses targeted at training media and communications professionals in civil society organizations (CSO), Non-Profit Organizations (NPO) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) to an online format, and

Whereas, the proposed post baccalaureate certificate will build both on existing departmental programs and on the strengths of the faculty, has the potential to reach potential students who would not be willing to relocate to Carbondale and will be delivered online, via the Office of Distance Education and the Center for Teaching Excellence, which has already provided training, consulting and some technical services for faculty members in adapting courses to the online environment, and

Whereas, the proposed certificate curriculum requires a minimum of 18 credit hours, and, at the international level, post-graduate certificates are a *highly valued means* of either qualifying for a job or upgrading existing status in an organization and there are no curricula or degrees at SIUC that overlap with this initiative,

Resolution

Therefore be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the proposed creation of an Online Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Civil Society, Communication, and Media Practices

The committee is in support of this resolution.

Discussion took place.

2. Faculty Senate – Professor Clark

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met this week, the regular Faculty Senate meeting will be next Tuesday. A big point of discussion concerned a report from the JLB in which the JLB communicated some frustration with the process of outcomes. There is a sense that a reassessment of the JLB (what it does, what its remedies are, etc.) needs to take place.

The faculty survey, from last year, has been intensely debated on and is going to be released at the Faculty Senate meeting on Tuesday. Not everyone on Faculty Senate agrees with that and it may or may not be controversial.

There is a number of RME's coming from the UEPC. The one that led to the most conversation was a minor in video game design and development. Many on Faculty Senate thought this was interesting and imaginative.

3. Deans Council – Dean Kempf-Leonard

Nothing to report.

4. Report from CPBAC – Professor Ishman

Nothing to report.

5. Nominations to Committees – Professor McCarroll

Nothing to report.

6. GPSC Report - Brooke Talley

The research award applications have been received and the application process is closed. Approximately 200 applications were submitted for the 60 awards.

In the last GPSC meeting a vote was made on the proposed student fee increases for 2014:

- Athletics fee increase: GPSC voted Not in favor
- Facilities fee increase: GPSC voted In favor
- Student Activity fee increase: GPSC voted Not in favor
- Insurance fee increase: GPSC voted Not in favor
- Information Technology fee increase: GPSC voted In favor

The GPSC is very appreciative of the 10 fees that did not have a proposed increase.

Discussion took place.

7. Report of Research Committee – Professor Davie

Nothing to report.

8. Report of Program Review Committee – Professor Hatziaioniu

The program review is almost complete; the M.A. and Ph.D. reviews in MCMA still remain. Once all reviews are complete the committee will collect reports from the reviews in which the Graduate Council has participated. After that, the committee will meet to discuss the reports and whether there is a need for any policy updates. This information is accessible online.

9. Report of Ed. Policies Committee – Professor Collins

Nothing to report

11. Old Business

Nothing to report.

12. New Business

Nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before the GC, the motion to adjourn was moved and seconded. March 7, 2013, and the Missouri and Kaskaskia Rooms of the Student Center were fixed as the date and place for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 am.

Michelle K. Petrik, Recording Secretary

Attachments:

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