

2013-2014 GRADUATE COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Members Present: Craig Anz, Amanda Barnard (GPSC), Norman Carver, Judith Davie, Saran Donahoo, Michael Eichholz, Carl Flowers, Chair Graduate Council; Boyd Goodson, Reza Habib, Constantine Hatziaodoniu, Christopher Lant, Wanki Moon, Marc Morris, Prema Narayan, Andrew Pardieck, Ratna Sinha, John Stewart (GPSC), Margaret Sullivan (GPSC), Tomas Velasco, and Alison Watts.

Members Absent: Randolph Burnside, Ryan Ceresolo, Scott Collins, Susan Ford, Wayne Glass, James MacLean, Kimberly Kempf-Leonard, Derek Lehman, Grant Miller and Marc Morris.

Ex-Officio members in attendance: Chancellor Rita Cheng, John Nicklow, Provost; James Allen, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs; James Garvey, Vice Chancellor for Research

Proxies: Eric Lenz for Andrew Youpa, Michael Eichholz for Jim Garvey, Saran Donahoo for Kathy Hytten; Kavita Karan for Katherine Frith, Nathan Stucky proxy for Bryan Crow

1. Minutes

Approval of the March 6th meeting minutes was postponed until the May meeting to allow all Grad Council members time to read them.

2. Remarks – Chancellor Rita Cheng

Chancellor Cheng reported that Honors Day was scheduled for Saturday, April 5th and over 2,000 students and their parents responded. The format is a little different this year, there will be a meeting in the Ballroom before the break-outs to the individual colleges. Then there will be a dinner on Saturday night to give the graduating students their cords and medallions. There was a terrific meeting with 6 of the 7 regional community college partners. Discussions included partnerships and how to better serve students that start at community colleges; dual admission programs to dual degree programs and transfers to the university. Research Advisory Council is getting some very good traction under Jim Garvey's leadership. Chancellor reminded the council about upcoming events: Undergraduate Research Day on Monday, April 7 and the Research Town Hall forum on Tuesday. McLafferty Open House was a huge success and the Chancellor plans to get the architectural visuals to show to the Grad Council. New Student Services Building has new extended hours and will be open Mon-Fri until 7 p.m. to better serve students. Doris Kearns Goodwin, historian was phenomenal and look forward to another speaker in the fall. The SURS formula has changed and encouraged each individual to take a look at the data. There might have been mistakes made by SURS, waiting for corrections – so be careful. Good news – Paul Chu will head the Coal Development Park, College of Business was recognized in March for their service and support of the military, Rehab Institute's Counseling Program was 4th in the country, College of Education earned national recognition by U.S News and World Report. On April 25th there will be a Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony for 4 alums in Guyon Auditorium. The Debate team won the National title for the 2nd year in a row. Math week and Math Field Day was attended by 1,300 students and Matt Whiles has been named interim director of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab.

3. Remarks - Provost Nicklow

Provost Nicklow reported the focus of the Board of Trustees meeting on April 17th will be the presidential transition, tuition and fees will probably not be taken up at the meeting but this could change. A very successful meeting of Community Colleges presidents was held on campus. SIU will be working with the colleges to try and shift the dual admission program to a dual degree program with reverse articulation and reverse transfer. Students could be enrolled here, attend Community College for a year and then transfer over to SIU. If a couple credits short, they can come to SIU and transfer back to get their associates. Enrollment continues to make up ground each week, still down about 4 ½ % in admissions and applications at the undergraduate level. Scholarship letters and

financial aid packages are going out, which should help. Deans have a lot of campaigns going on too. Good news is transfers are up in apps for the first time in a long time. Housing contracts are up 25% for new students, and up 52% for transfer students. On the graduate enrollments, there is positive news - applications are up, both in master (27%) and doctorate (9%). Even though the applications are up, admissions are down 24%. This indicates that there is a large pool of applicants that are not getting admitted. Provost encouraged members to talk to their deans about that and full-pay students who might be waiting to be admitted. Teresa Farnum is back on campus April 8-11. The final 2-year rolling retention plan will be compiled and posted to be a guide for retention as a rolling plan. Good news around campus – Debate team won National Championship for the second year in a row; two dean searches are coming to a close. Provost open discussion to get feedback on his proposal to implement a Reading Period. This would be new to campus, it would be a 2-day study period during finals week. Nicklow wants to pilot this program in the fall, the 2 days would be Sunday-Monday, shifting finals a bit to 4:00 p.m. on Monday until 4:00 on Friday. Feedback is welcome through the deans or directly to the Provost. Faculty would be encouraged to be available for discussion, the facilities would be open, there would be tutoring, areas available for study, food, etc. The majority of the feedback so far has been positive. This will be monitored and either expanded on or revised in some way after the fall pilot. Open House at McLafferty was held and went extremely well. April 25th will be a Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony, 3 p.m. in the Library. Still waiting on the budget outcome, nothing is decided yet. Saturday, April 5th was Science's 40th Anniversary, it was also Honor's Day. Honor's Day is attended by freshman, sophomore undergraduates as well as some juniors and seniors. It is a full-packed day. Honor Latin seniors received their cords and medallions for graduation at dinner that night.

C. Flowers asked Nicklow about the structure of the two Reading Period days. Provost remarked that it is important for those days to include structured activities all around campus. Setting the bar high, low threat but high challenge for the students.

M. Eichholz wanted to know if the schedule could be adjusted so that students didn't have more than one final a day. Nicklow answered that since the exams are going into the evening hours – that should minimize overlap.

N. Carver pointed out that his college had 450 MS applications, unless there is more staff they can't admit anybody. Nicklow said it may have to be a stepped approach, admit the students, hire an NTT to teach the course and in some cases it will need to be a T-TT faculty. We are sharing the credit revenues, but the Chancellor's Planning and Budget Committee is still having conversations on how the revenue will be shared for next year. Nicklow suggested with the budget the way it is the best thing to do is grow students and credit hours, which is the most direct indicator of revenue.

C. Hatziadoni questioned if Engineering had 680 apps and admission is down 20% - where is the drop? Nicklow responded – there is 2 points to the drop. 1) GA budgets have been allocated, colleges know what they are; but they don't want to admit until they know how much revenue there will be; 2) second is funding; colleges should admit now and then the acceptances of the admissions will depend upon the funding. Chancellor's Planning and Budget Committee is having a discussion about the feasibility of sharing tuition revenues for full-paying grad students. This is just a discussion.

4. Remarks – Jim Garvey, Vice Chancellor for Research

J. Garvey reported there would be an Interdisciplinary Research Forum on April 8th from 9 am until noon. This event is to restart the Research Town Hall Forum idea and to generate ideas from the deans to come up with a better way of stimulating research activity on campus. There will be several speakers that day, talking about success stories and how to create interdisciplinary opportunities on campus. Garvey encouraged everyone to come. April 7th will be the Undergraduate Research Forum. There will be some posters presented and Sigma Si (the science organization on campus) will be taking abstracts for the poster program. Awards will be given for poster presentations, there is still time to get them in. McLafferty Annex Open House went really well. There are some tenants there and will be on line by fall, there are still room for more tenants. Talk to Jim Garvey if you have ideas on how to use the space at McLafferty Annex. Garvey said he is negotiating start-up packages right now. A lot of very qualified folks are coming to campus. Research Speed Dating went very well. There was a full house and very successful. Jeff Markowitz

(?) from the Illinois Science and Technology Forum will visit on Friday, to talk about some initiatives to get SIU more regional research. Lastly, Garvey and the Chancellor would like to get School of Medicine and Biomedical Researchers together on campus to have a forum for a one-or two day period. Anyone with ideas for that forum, let the VCR know.

J. Davie remarked that she is traveling back and forth to Springfield all the time. So she asked if there was anything that could be done to ease the travel issues. He reminded her that there is a plane going to Springfield every day and maybe that could be used to get researchers back and forth. Expensive for one person but if there is a group, not as expensive.

5. Graduate School – Susan Ford

No report

6. Remarks - Jim Allen, Associate Provost for Academic Programs

Dr. Allen spoke about a workshop that was held on the forms used to change the Catalog. The Graduate Catalog will be done this week, on-line and posted. Final proofing has been done on the catalog and they hope to have it available for students, by Friday April 7th. The catalog process is long and arduous, lots of forms and signatures required for changes. Catalog changes start with the faculty whose programs are changing, they need to be part of the process, same true for degree programs. Faculty need to be forthright and involved, no chairs and deans should be changing copy without involving faculty. The forms used to process the catalog have been modified to make them more user friendly. Thirty-five faculty/staff/chairs came to the meeting and asked for J. Allen's office to visit their departments to help with the new forms and changes. J. Allen remarked that he would be happy to visit and answer any questions that arise. This is also true for the changes that are tied to the October 1st deadline – catalog changes, RMEs, etc.

Dr. Allen/Provost/Deans have been reviewing metrics that are appropriate to be included in program review. There are a number of documents that are included with various questions, as well as other metrics such as those that come from the IBHE. There will be new information included in program review that are based on the state law and have those reviewed on a regular basis. Over the long term can monitor data trends, and be able to correct as downward trends happen. Another aspect – performance based funding - .5% of budget is held hostage to PBF and will be raised over time. The ability to keep track of the number of degrees, progress made on degrees, completion of degrees, all which can be problematic; we need to think about the quality of degrees, monitor time, costs, etc. and all this can be added to program review data and posted to the Office of Institutional Research and Studies Dashboard. These data are not meant as standards for every degree program to be met, with exception of the legislative measures and state law. When it comes to State Performance Based Funding, we would like to monitor to see what contributions are being made toward them so collectively can be more competitive as an institution when it comes to annual portion of our state allocation that is held hostage to these measures. Some programs don't have paying students but can still measure costs where appropriate and get recognized for it.

7. Remarks – Chair Flowers

Dr. Flowers announced the Grad Council Elections are underway. Nominations will be taken and then next week voting starts. Be sure to vote. Chairs of various committees make note that final reports are due May 1st. April 24th will be the next Executive committee meeting.

8. Dean's Council

No report.

9. Faculty Senate

No report.

10. Nominations to Committees/Announcements – Professor Craig Anz

Dr. Anz reported he is seeking three names to put forward to the Provost for the Position Advisory

Board. Provost explained that this group will advise on all hiring plans from deans, and is an opportunity for transparency in hiring processes. The committee will meet 2 – 3 times a year. Fran Harackiewicz, Saran Donahoo and Boyd Goodson were volunteered for the Position Advisory Board. Anz announced McLafferty, the Hub and the Downtown Design Center are three major points on campus for breaking down those interdisciplinary silos that was talked about earlier. The Downtown Design Center at the old Train Depot downtown is a great venue for people working in such social settings to use for workshops and other forms of community engagement, and research. Contact Dr. Anz or Carbondale Main Street to make arrangements.

11. Report of New Programs Committee

Dr. Habib read the Resolution on STEM Education and Research Center, College of Science for the second time. Without discussion a voice vote was taken, 21 yes, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions. The final Resolution for a MS in Agribusiness Economics was read for the second time. M. Eichholz asked whether the transcripts will reflect that this was an accelerated degree. Habib said S. Ford checked on that and the answer is no, but courses will be listed so they will have to look through the list. After discussion a voice vote was taken, 19 yes, 1 opposed and 1 abstentions. Both resolutions were passed. Habib gave an update on three other resolutions, waiting on reports from Faculty Association. Hopefully they will be brought up at the May meeting.

12. Report of Research Committee

Dr. Davie reported that the Research committee continues to work on revising Post Doc Policy. Working with HR on fee for service policy, will hopefully have for May meeting.

13. GPSC Report – John Stewart

J. Stewart reported the GPSC budget for travel is \$6,700, event fund is down to \$3.92. GPSC funded 18 events this year. 66% of the applicants were approved for money for events. The GPSC will be voting on a resolution in support of the ACA planned rule, basically a smaller version of the fee resolution to be ACA compliant. Forty out of seventy applicants have been selected for Research awards, thanks to the Chancellor for the extra money. They will be announced at next meeting. GPSC held nominations for elections, voting on new officers at next meeting. USC has proposed a name change to reflect that they are a student governing organization. A motion was made in support of a name change, but not having the word undergraduate would confuse constituents as to who represents them.

14. Report of Ed. Policies Committee

C. Lant reporting in S. Collin's absence, read the resolution for Plus/Minus Grading for the second time with corrections that had been discussed at the last Grad Council meeting. Discussion of the resolution included: 1) when would it start if passed; Fall of 2015; 2) Grad students polled were against this; biggest way to recruit students here is for them to be happy when they leave, and this will impact their satisfaction; 3) a poll was taken in GPSC and it had a negative outcome; 4) National study was done and it had no effect on an avg. GPA, however there was a decrease in 4.0s; 5) A students will continue to be A students, this should help B students get more As; 6) a lot of peer institutions use this; 7) take this to USG and get formal feedback from the students and the full council. After the discussion, there was a voice vote, 16 yes, 5 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Smoke-Free Campus Resolution was read for the first time. This resolution was sent by the Dean of Students and will be brought back in May for a vote. There was much discussion including: 1) uncomfortable with the policy, we're asking students to be adults and this is perfectly legal, but telling them they can't smoke at all is conflicting; 2) who is going to enforce the policy or how will it be enforced; 3) the plan does have designated areas, parking lots, cars and east and west housing will have designated areas; it was decided to make an addition to the resolution before bringing it back for a vote in May.

The Resolution in support of an increase in the Graduate School Application Fee was read for the first time by C. Lant. There was discussion after the reading. The average state-wide fee is \$100, the fee will go from \$50 to \$60. The extra \$10 will go to the Graduate School to help fund different needs. Discussion followed. This will be given back to Dr. Ford for changes and come back to May meeting.

Finally a resolution in support of Distance Education Delivery for Graduate Level Programs was read for the first time. Transfer credits will be vetted and not all credits are transferred. This is an old resolution and is being updated to reflect the online courses policy that is currently being used. This resolution will be voted on at the May meeting.

15. Report of Program Review Committee

W. Moon reported that the all Program Review reports have been received. Reports will be written and shared at the next meeting.

16. Old Business

No old business.

17. New Business

J. Stewart suggested that the resolutions, minutes and agenda be re-sent by email since some were not received.

The motion was made by J. Stewart to adjourn and seconded by M Eichholz. The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.