

2014-2015 GRADUATE COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Dr. Judith Davie.

Members Present: Amanda Barnard (GPSC), Randolph Burnside, Norman Carver, Bryan Crow, Judith Davie, Michael Eichholz, Wayne Glass, Boyd Goodson, Reza Habib, Constantine Hatziaioniu, Eric Lenz, Grant Miller, Prema Narayan, Clayton Nielson, Silvia Secchi, Cynthia Sims, Ratna Sinha, Kevin Taylor (GPSC), Jeremiah Unkefer (GPSC),

Members Absent: Craig Anz, David Conrad, Jamie McNutt, Cinzia Padovani, Corné Prozesky, Tomas Velasco, Alison Watts

Proxies: John Flowers for Sarah Curtis, Willie Lyles for Natalie Nash, Trish McCubbin for Andrew Pardieck, Phil Anton for Julie Partridge

Ex-Officio Members Present: James Allen, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs; Susan Ford, Acting Provost & Vice Chancellor

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Randy Dunn, SIU President/Acting Chancellor; James Garvey, Acting Graduate Dean

1. Minutes

J. Davie asked for concerns and considerations of the February 5, 2015 Graduate Council minutes. A revision was noted on page 2 under Provost Ford's remarks. Motion was made by M. Eichholz to approve minutes with revisions. R. Burnside seconded. Minutes approved with revisions.

2. Remarks – Provost Ford

Ford started by saying that if the BOT student trustee is designated as having a vote, which means that 50% of the BOT will be new members. Ford continued by talking about a report that is made available to the university which shows the number of enrollments for all Illinois universities. Ford noted that the most significant piece of information was the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana and University of Illinois at Chicago have both seriously increased the percentage of their applicants that they are accepting. Ford added that this draws directly from SIUC's pool of students that would be applying here. It is also noted in the report that other Graduate Programs in the state are far ahead of SIUC in the number of applications they have made decisions on. Ford continued by introducing a request for faculty to prioritize programs across campus. Ford stated that this has not been done since the late 1980's and added that the state was going to do the prioritizing but the Graduate Council at that time stepped in and did it themselves. Ford stressed the importance of the prioritizing being done by the faculty; it should be a process owned, created and run by the faculty. The timeline for this request to be completed is within one year.

3. Remarks – Associate Provost for Academic Programs Allen

Provost Allen expressed his envy to those present who are currently on Spring Break. Allen went on to report that the School of Medicine has just finished its site visit from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). He noted that this is the gold plate of medical school's accreditation and added that the preliminary results are looking very positive. Allen continued by saying that this is the second time that the SIU School of Medicine has had this opportunity. Allen announced that Mandara Savage has been named Acting Director of Extended Campus. Allen reminded the Council that every other week faculty are meeting to discuss how formal assessment can be used to improve teaching. This event is known as Conversations About Student Learning and Engagement (CASTLE). The next meeting starts at Noon on Wednesday, March 18th at Morris Library in room 752.

4. Remarks – Interim Vice Chancellor for Research & Graduate Dean Garvey

Not present, no remarks

5. Remarks – Council Chair Dr. Davie

J. Davie stated that the next Planning and Budget Committee meeting is next week and noted that the President intends to use this committee for a sounding board and for information distribution. Davie continued by addressing the Graduate School and Faculty Senate joint resolution about the potential change to the reporting structure for the first professional schools. Davie noted that the Graduate Council and Faculty Senate Executive Committees have approved this document at this point. Davie read the Executive Committee Resolution urging the SIU Board of Trustees to take under advisement the published report of the joint Faculty Senate-Graduate Council task force before it acts on any change to the reporting structure for the first professional schools. Davie noted that a timeline is not included in the resolution pending discussion.

Provost Ford commented that President Dunn has stated that he thinks it is important to have a timeline for this task force and added that individual statements will make an impact.

T. McCubbin commented that this resolution is primarily focused on the School of Medicine and offered to answer questions regarding the School of Law. She continued by stating that the School of Law strongly supports the change in reporting structure as proposed by the BOT.

J. Davie commented that the majority of the discussion has been about the School of Medicine and asked McCubbin to elaborate on how the change will affect the School of Law.

T. McCubbin stated that currently the School of Law reports to the Provost; the proposed change would be for the School of Law to report to the Chancellor.

J. Davie clarify that right now it is just a re-examination of reporting lines and stated that the idea is that the School of Medicine would report directly to the President and the School of Law would report directly to the Chancellor.

T. McCubbin stated that the School of Law does not want to seek reporting to the President and added that she understands how that kind of change in reporting line would raise so many questions. McCubbin continued by saying that the School of Law reporting to the Chancellor does not raise those types of questions.

M. Eichholz commented that there has been no information shared about why this potential change in reporting structure is positive and asked why the School of Law is seeking this change.

T. McCubbin stated that she could definitely speak as to why the School of Law is for this change. McCubbin started by saying that School of Law has been exploring this change for about 20 years with its accrediting body which is the American Bar Association (ABA). She added that they (School of Law) are very much committed to being a part of the Carbondale campus. McCubbin explained that the School of Law is structured unlike other units on campus; it has its own registrar, admissions, student services, career services, and a library. These things as well as a fair degree of autonomy are required by the ABA. McCubbin stated that changing the reporting line to the Chancellor would improve administrative efficiency. McCubbin explained that Law schools across the nation are facing challenges and over the last four or five years, Law school applicant numbers have dropped about 40%. She went on to say that some Law schools are closing and/or merging. She added that the SIU Law School is in good shape and is thankful for being a part of the University. McCubbin stated that reporting to the Chancellor would allow for more flexibility and autonomy.

M. Eichholz asked how reporting to the Provost differs from reporting to the Chancellor.

T. McCubbin stated that a lot of time is spent explaining the various roles of the School of Law to

the Provost's office. The School of Law feels that there would be more administrative efficiency by reporting to the Chancellor because of the Chancellor's office already oversees those roles.

R. Habib asked about the reporting lines of peer institutions and if they report to the Provost or Chancellor. Habib also asked if reporting to the Chancellor is a requirement of the ABA.

T. McCubbin responded by affirming the last part of Habib's statement by saying that the ABA expects a fair degree of autonomy. McCubbin added that she does not know the structure of reporting lines for peer institutions.

Provost Ford interjected and clarified that for the majority of SIU's peer and aspirational institutions with professional schools, including the medical school, report to the Chief Academic Officer on their campus which is the Provost. Ford added that SIU structure is already out of line as compared to other institutions and the moves that are being suggested would increase the uniqueness of the structures at SIU. Ford continued by saying that she has spent a considerable amount of time exploring this potential change with the dean of the Law School. During these discussions it was concluded that there are things that do occur in the Provost's area for the Law School. Ford went on to say that one of the most serious levels of concern is that a level of review would be lost for faculty promotion and tenure decisions.

T. McCubbin responded by saying that the Law School is aware of those concerns and feels very strongly about taking on the same role that the School of Medicine currently has.

R. Burnside commented about joint degree programs with the Law School and asked if the proposed change would have any impact.

T. McCubbin replied by saying that she does not think that there are any drawbacks and went on to say that there are many joint degree programs across campus and it is the goal of the Law School that these changes will strengthen the relationships with joint degrees.

B. Goodson commented that he does not find it convincing that a unit can pull themselves out of a chain of command just for the right to do it.

T. McCubbin responded by saying that she has stated the Law School's view and pointed out her observation that the Law School as a unit is different than other units on campus. She added that they (Law School) sees their difference as a difference that matters.

C. Hatziaioniu commented about the lack of stability on campus due to not having a Chancellor and stated that he feels less concern about the Law School reporting to the Chancellor and more concerned about the School of Medicine reporting to the President. Hatziaioniu stated that he feels it is important to focus on urging the BOT not to proceed with this potential change until a Chancellor is in place. Hatziaioniu stated the importance of reaching out to the local community and legislature in order to create interest about what is at stake.

Provost Ford reiterated the importance of the timing and added that it is believed that the BOT is going to make a decision about this issue at its April meeting.

S. Secchi voiced concern that changing the structure of the Law School would limit the power of the Provost and added that these changes would create more problems because more staff would have to be hired to accommodate the change. Secchi also added that there is no money in the budget for creating new positions.

J. Davie commented that perhaps the School of Law's position regarding the potential change in reporting lines is probably most justified. Davie explained that the reason the School of Law is included in the resolution is because the BOT is addressing all first professional schools as one and not individually. Davie pointed out that the purpose of the resolution is to have time for review

before a final decision is made. Davie stated that the Law School has done exactly what this resolution is for; an opportunity to review and understand the consequences of changing the structure of the reporting lines for first professional schools.

J. MacLean commented that it is obvious that there is not enough time for the proposed task force to complete its review before the BOT April meeting. MacLean pointed out that he is on the Chancellor's Search Committee and the job description that is being advertised states that the School of Medicine reports to the Chancellor. MacLean added that this raises a red flag. He noted that the resolution is an effort to stop the BOT from moving forward without faculty input. MacLean asked if making the Dean of the Law School a Provost has been discussed.

T. McCubbin responded by saying that she does not believe the BOT has discussed making the Dean of the Law School a Provost.

Provost Ford commented that there is major concern that nobody knows what is being discussed by the BOT in regards to this issue and added that very little is known about what is involved with the potential change in reporting lines. Ford pointed out that there is even less knowledge and conversation about this issue on the Edwardsville and Springfield campus.

M. Eichholz pointed out that the reason he is in favor of this resolution is that it does not say we are against the change in reporting lines, it just says we want more information.

A. Barnard stated that from the Graduate Student point of view, it would be beneficial for this proposed task force to look further in to how this change will affect students enrolled in joint programs.

J. Davie commented that the effect on joint programs is also a huge concern of the School of Medicine.

R. Habib commented about the advertisement for the Chancellor and asked how that would be impacted if the BOT makes the decision to move forward with this change at the April meeting.

Provost Ford responded by saying that the concern about the impact on the Chancellor's search is a concern and has been discussed.

R. Habib suggested that perhaps a report from legal counsel should be included with information provided to the board for the April meeting.

Provost Ford added that if this resolution can slow down the BOT decision regarding this issue, a report from legal counsel about the Chancellor's search would be an important part to add to the task force report.

R. Burnside noted that this issue creates instability at a time when instability does not need to be associated with any of the campuses in the SIU system. Burnside added that there is a potential for a long-term impact on enrollment. Burnside also noted that consideration has not been given to how the media is going to act on this and interjected that it will definitely not be positive. Burnside went on to say that negative reports from the media will have a negative impact on legislature and added that perhaps the BOT has not taken that in to effect, especially when the new governor is proposing a 31% budget cut. Burnside continued by saying that it is important for SIU to show stability and unity and that this proposed change does not present that at all.

J. Davie stated that having information ready for the BOT April meeting is not possible.

J. MacLean added that in regards to the timeline, we aren't necessarily obligated to have all of the professional schools report at the same time. MacLean pointed out that since the April meeting is out of the question, the next available meetings are May and July, since the BOT does not meet in June.

Provost Ford reminded those present that materials for BOT meetings need to be at the President's office three weeks prior to the meeting.

J. Allen pointed out that the Faculty Senate does not meet in June and the Graduate Council does not meet in June or July. Allen added that some faculty are not on contract during the summer which would affect their participation. He concluded that both constituency's Operating Papers and contracts need to be reviewed when considering a timeline for this task force.

Discussion continued about a reasonable timeline.

Provost Ford interjected that the timeline is somewhat immaterial because the BOT is going to make a decision with or without the report from the task force. Ford continued by noting that in her many years of experience on the SIUC campus, there has never been a BOT that has reached into the operations of a campus to the degree that this current board has done. Ford stated that she has never seen a BOT initial something this dramatic in regards to the impact it will have on all SIU campuses and for that reason alone, she feels it is important for people on the SIU campus to express concern.

J. Davie asked if there was further discussion on the matter and made a request for a motion to suspend the rules to vote on the resolution today. R. Habib first. G. Miller second.

T. McCubbin asked if there could be discussion about the suspension of the rules and asked if this is normal procedure. McCubbin added that she finds it shocking about how short the short time frame was for the resolution to be considered.

Provost Ford explained that it is not common to suspend the rules but it does happen especially when there is something as unprecedented as this issue that is being voted on today.

T. McCubbin replied by saying that she understands why the rules are being suspended and added that if there is such a sense of urgency, why was this not acted on sooner. McCubbin stated that President Dunn email asking for comment was issued in January and it seems as though this should have been addressed in a more official process rather than suspending the rules.

J. Davie explained that the Graduate Council does not meet in January and that this was discussed at the February meeting.

R. Habib reiterated that today is the first meeting after the issue of the reporting lines was discussed.

M. Eichholz interjected that this process could have not been completed any faster.

J. Davie added that unlike the Faculty Senate, the Graduate Council has to have two readings, which is why the rules have to be suspended today.

J. MacLean added that the same resolution will be presented to the Faculty Senate at its next meeting on March 17th.

J. Allen interjected as a point of information that the suspension of the rules is in the Graduate Council Operating Paper and is not in violation of such nor is it in violation of Roberts Rules of Order. Allen concluded the discussion by saying that there is ample precedence for this having been done before.

J. Davie called for a vote on suspension of the rules. 18 yea, 1 nay, 1 abstain

J. Davie called for a vote on the Resolution urging the SIU Board of Trustees to take under advisement the published report of the joint Faculty Senate-Graduate Council task force before it acts on any change to the reporting structure for the first professional schools. 18 yea, 1 nay, 1 abstain.

J. Davie called for a motion to reinstate the rules. R. Habib first. G. Miller second. Vote taken; 19 yea, 1 nay, 0 abstain. Rules reinstated.

6. Faculty Senate, Professor Lahiri

Lahiri reported that the Faculty Senate is currently wrapping up JRB election and Faculty Senate nominations will start soon.

7. Deans Council – Dean Wilson

Not present, no remarks

8. GPSC Report – Amanda Barnard

Barnard reported on three main topics. 1) The application deadline for the GPSC Research Awards is Sunday, March 15th. She encouraged faculty members to have their students apply and to write letters of recommendation if asked. 2) The abstract deadline for the Graduate Students Creative Activities and Research Forum has been extended until Friday, March 20th. The Forum is a poster session being held on Tuesday, April 7th and cash prizes, some sponsored by GPSC, will be awarded for best presentations. 3) GPSC recently voted on proposed fee increases. Fees for facilities maintenance, housing and student health insurance were passed/approved. Barnard gave a brief update on the standing of student health insurance at SIUC; the BOT will consider and hear arguments for bringing in a new, ACA compliant student health insurance plan at their March meeting and vote on it at the April meeting. GPSC and Undergraduate Student Government have a postcard campaign underway to gather student signatures in support of the proposed plan from Aetna to send to the BOT before the vote at the April meeting.

9. Nominations to Committees / Announcements – Council Vice Chair Burnside

No report

10. Standing Committee Reports

a. Education Policies Committee Report – Professor Carver

Resolution for discussion: Graduate Council Resolution in Support of Increasing the Graduate Application Fee. It was decided to delay the vote on this until April.

b. New Programs Committee Report – Professor Habib

Resolution: Graduate Council Resolution in Support of a Reasonable and Moderate Extension for the Addition of a Design Concentration of the Master of Fine Arts in the School of Art & Design.

R. Habib read the resolution for a second time. No discussion. Vote taken. 17 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstained.

Resolution: Graduate Council Resolution in support of a Reasonable and Moderate Extension for the addition of an Accelerated MA in Foreign Languages and Literatures in the Department of Languages, Cultures, and International Trade within the College of Liberal Arts.

R. Habib read the resolution for the first time. Provost Ford noted that this program is for internal SIU students only; it is not intended to apply to transfer students. M. Eichholz asked if the information that Provost Ford noted could be added to the resolution.

Resolution: Graduate Council Resolution in Support of a Reasonable and Moderate Extension for the Department of Languages, Cultures, and International Trade within the

College of Liberal Arts to Replace the Research Option with a Comprehensive Exam and Rename the Master of Arts Degree from Foreign Languages and Literatures to Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. R. Habib read the resolution for the first time. Faculty from the Department of Languages, Cultures, and International Trade will be invited to the next Council meeting to answer questions about this change.

c. Program Review Committee Report – Professor Miller

No report

d. Research Committee Report – Professor Eichholz

No report

12. Old Business

None

13. New Business

None

14. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned.