

2014-2015 GRADUATE COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2014

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

Members Present: Craig Anz, Amanda Barnard (GPSC), Randolph Burnside, Norman Carver, Bryan Crow, Sarah Curtis (GPSC), Judith Davie, Michael Eichholz, Wayne Glass, Boyd Goodson, Reza Habib, Constantine Hatziaioniu, Sajal Lahiri (Faculty Senate), Eric Lenz, Jamie McNutt, Grant Miller, Natalie Nash (GPSC), Cinzia Padovani, Andrew Pardieck, Julie Partridge, Corné Prozesky, Silvia Secchi, Ratna Sinha, Jeremiah Unkefer (GPSC), Tomas Velasco

Members Absent: David Conrad, Kevin Taylor (GPSC)

Proxies: Mahbub Morshed for Allison Watts, Buffy Ellsworth for Prema Narayan, Sosanya Jones for Cynthia Sims

Ex-Officio Members: Chancellor Paul Sarvela, Susan Ford, Acting Provost & Vice Chancellor; James Garvey, Vice Chancellor for Research; Keith Wilson, Dean's Council

1. Minutes

J. Davie asked for concerns and considerations of the September 4, 2014 Graduate Council minutes. Revisions were noted. Motion was made to approve minutes as revised and seconded. Minutes approved.

2. Remarks – Interim Chancellor Sarvela

Chancellor Sarvela stated that he will speak briefly about what has been going on all over the campus and focus more about this past weekend which was SIU Family Weekend. Sarvela stated the Donor Scholarship Brunch was on Saturday morning and was attended by approximately 250 people. This gave the scholarship donors an opportunity to meet the scholarship recipients. Sarvela praised the fundraising staff for the effort they put in to connecting the donors with the students who receive the scholarships. The high school prospective freshman session followed brunch. The number of students attending this session was so large that it had to be split in to two rooms. This is a reflection of the quality of SIU's education programs and the efforts of the SIU recruiters. Sarvela went on to comment on the large number of people all over the campus. The SIU football game recorded the fourth largest attendance which reflected a large revenue. There was a brunch for all of the students on Sunday. Sarvela stated that the entire campus was filled with a sense of well-being and commended the faculty and staff for making that possible. Sarvela went on to say that the reorganization of the Student Services process has started. He added that another item of emphasis is looking for programs that have the potential for growth in both research and students. An example of that is Fermentation Sciences. He urged the Council along with their colleagues to think of other programs that will contribute to both research and increased students. Sarvela noted that Pullium Hall is nearing completion, Lindegran has new windows, roofing projects are almost completed, and renovations in the museum auditorium are almost finished. Also noted is the upcoming change of the coin operated parking meters to meters that use debit/credit cards. Sarvela stated that the marketing costs have gone down significantly but a great deal of marketing is still proceeding at a reduced cost. Marketing and Communications people are working with the Deans to develop a monthly newsletters so that there is better communication between alumni and donors. Sarvela concluded by saying that communication is very important as preparations are being made for the fundraising campaign in a couple of years. There was a 43% increase in fundraising since last year. Sarvela asked if there were any comments or questions.

M. Eichholz commented on the weekly column that was published in the Southern Illinoisan that Dr. Cheng used to write regarding some of the ongoing research at SIU and asked if that was going to continue. Sarvela replied that they are working with marketing in order to continue that in some form. Eichholz added that it provided a lot of positive "PR" for the university.

C. Padovani asked what the university is doing as far as informing parents about compromised safety concerns on campus. Sarvela responded by saying that the Clery Act provides the university with guidance as to what is or is not communicated and they certainly follow that. He added that he does not believe that there are emails being sent directly to parents.

Provost Ford added that there are not emails going directly to parents but that is not a bad idea. She will talk with the admissions and registrar's office to see if there is a way to reach out to parents. Ford stated that it is important to let families know what is happening on campus.

Multiple members of the Council discuss the issue of the need for open communication to parents regarding instances of compromised safety on the campus and all agreed that it is something that needs to be addressed.

J. McNutt commented that beyond effecting the students and parents that are already a part of SIU, this is effecting his ability to recruit quality students in the PhD program. He asked if there were any websites that he could direct them to that would show how the university is addressing this problem.

Provost Ford responded by saying that the university does have a specific website that says this is a safe community (safe.siu.edu) and these are the ways that we address these kinds of situations and added that this kind of communication is very important.

J. Garvey added that the crime statistics are based on theft; mostly of laptops, computers, and cell phones, so it really makes it look like our crime statistics are high. He went on to say that if you take those data out, it really is a safe place and that is the information that needs to be "out there".

N. Nash commented that it would be helpful to not only have a website that communicates how SIU is safer compared to other universities their size but to also have information as to how Carbondale responds to allegations of rape and other crimes and to make sure that we do have a policy of responding well to those.

Chancellor Sarvela commented that SIU moves very quickly to allegations of rape and other crimes and noted that in the report that come out this week, SIU police responded to 40,500 calls last year.

3. Remarks – Acting Provost Ford

Provost Ford commented about the ongoing searches. The Director of Undergraduate Admissions search committee has provided a short list of four candidates. They are waiting for approval to interview these people. An open forum address will be part of the candidate's visit when they come to the campus. The Registrar's search is ongoing. The Dean of Graduate School search is now closed. That committee should be providing a short list within the next few weeks. The Deans of the College of Liberal Arts and Business are ongoing. Ford continued by reminding the Council that the budget is tight this year and is due to a tuition short-fall. The tuition short-fall is primarily caused from the way financial aid packages were done. Ford explained that they are working with an external consultant to come up with wiser financial aid offers. These offers reflect a tuition profile and a recruitment effort that will better fit the resources our campus has to offer. Ford stated that admissions is on track. Advisors from various community colleges visited SIU on October 1st to learn about what SIU has to offer their students when they transfer to SIU. Ford reported that retention from Fall 2013 to Fall 2014 is up 6.8%. There are a lot of task forces and working groups that are addressing different aspects of the retention picture. Ford stated that students with ACT scores of 18 or lower represent the largest retention rate of over 12%. An emphasis was made regarding the retention of masters students. A recent study showed that, in institutions across the country, masters students are leaving because they did not know or were unclear as to what the requirements were. Ford stated that this is an issue that all institutions can address and make a difference in the retention of masters students. Ford encouraged the Council

to take a look at how the masters students are being advised and find ways to keep those students on track. Ford mentioned the many articles being written about how financing higher education in the United States is in a crisis and asked the question, "How can we as an institution take the lead in trying to figure out how we can reform higher education to address these problems in the future?". Ford noted that there are a lot of people on this campus that have a background in finance and economics and hopes they will help address this problem. Ford went on to talk about the creation of University College as it is related to the retention issue. The creation of University College was based on national models that were very successful. The model for UCOL 101 that was developed and approved by Faculty Senate is a model for delivering that course. This model is resource expensive in ways that we have never been able to support adequately and certainly in these times of resource restriction, we cannot reach the level of support that that particular model would require. Ford noted that there is nothing wrong with the model, but there has to be sufficient resources to make it work. The committee is working on revising UCOL 101 for next fall so that it is within our financial capabilities to deliver an excellent course to every student who takes it. How first year students are being advised is also being reshaped so that it is within our resources and does a better job than the old model and current model. Ford concluded by saying that one of her primary targets of this year is to develop a base line model to make inter-disciplinary programs succeed long-term on this campus.

S. Secchi asked Provost Ford if she could speak to budget problems in regards to active searches for this year. Ford responded by saying that all commitments that were made in the past are being honored. The positions that were approved for search are going forward. Ford continued by saying that in 2008 the state stopped giving institutions money to cover salary raises. Since then, those raises have to be funded internally by redistribution of resources. This makes an impact on college level planning because it effects college level budgets.

J. McNutt commented that when redistribution of wealth is discussed, he gets very concerned that colleges who have done well with their budget will get punished. Provost Ford clarified that what she means by "redistribution" is internally colleges managed their budgets. They have to figure out how to cover raises within their college. Currently, colleges are making the decision to sacrifice a position a year in order to cover all of the raises and increases are needed. Centrally, 10% of each contract is held back from individuals who leave the institution. Most of the money that will come from Fiscal Year 15 has already been promised to purchase programs for growth programs by the prior administration.

B. Goodson commented on the cuts that are to be made in the individual units to accommodate raises because the state hasn't been following suit and asked if the administrative units are being cut also. Provost Ford replied yes, all units have to deal with that issue.

B. Goodson commented on the possibility of the income tax not being continued. Provost Ford added that the impact of the income tax not being continued will be an issue for any state funded unit.

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

Garvey started by saying that the Faculty and Staff are doing a good job with getting funding. Over the past years there has been a decline in the amount of funding. This year there is an increase of \$4 million. To put it in perspective, last year at this time we had 73 proposals that had been funded this year we have 93 proposals that have been funded. Speaking as the Vice Chancellor for Research, Garvey reported that as far as the budget goes, there are very few things left to cut in terms of state dollars. The previous administration had made some very large commitments to overhead that he is now absorbing. It will take a couple years to be out from under those commitments. The two areas to cut from are the TA program and the start-up money. The decision was made to make the cut with the TA program. Garvey went on to talk about safety issues and how administration is working on a solution for the storage of flammable and combustible chemicals.

Chancellor Sarvela added that this problem has been ignored for a long time and it is now time to finally deal with it.

J. Garvey added that taking a proactive approach to dangerous chemicals is the goal. Garvey continued his remarks by noting that he went to China a couple weeks ago and signed a lot of agreements with universities for faculty exchanges. He stated that this will be a good way of recruiting new scientists and graduate students. Garvey noted the McLafferty Annex is moving forward and encouraged the Council to come and see it. An Advisory Committee for the VCR is being assembled. This committee does not take away from the importance of the Council. It will provide advice as to how to spend discretionary money. Garvey stated that there are still plans to have a week of research and activity during the first week in April. Garvey requested that all of the Council be proactive about working with the Foundation in terms of development and trying to find other inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional research opportunities.

B. Goodson asked how much the TA funds were going to be reduced. Garvey responded approximately \$30,000 or about 1 ½ TA's.

S. Secchi asked how the TA funds are allocated across colleges. Is it a fixed formula? Garvey responded yes, it was decided by using the same allocation formula that has been used in the past. This year a decision needs to be made as to how it is to be allocated across the departments.

J. Garvey continued by saying that graduate school enrollment is declining and we need to work on ways to increase admissions. A large part of our students are international which means that domestic recruiting needs to be improved. The best advertising for recruiting graduate students is media. Garvey stated that he wanted to make it clear that we are in a "dip" in terms of graduate education and we need to change that.

B. Goodman asked if there is money currently being taken out of grants because of the policy on tuition on grants. Garvey replied no, that policy is currently on hold and is being reviewed.

5. Remarks – Associate Provost for Academic Programs Allen

R. Burnside, proxy for J. Allen, reported the following. 1.) J. Allen will be serving on the Student Affairs Task Force, chaired by Mickey Latour, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. This Task Force will be reviewing the activities and effectiveness of the present administrative configuration of student services dispersed across three units: University College, Auxiliary Services, and the Dean of Students. If you have any concerns or interests in this group's work, for whatever reason, please let me know. Graduate School faculty certainly cannot be indifferent to how their students are served outside the classroom. 2.) Changes to the Graduate and Undergraduate Catalogs for the 2015-16 academic year must be proposed on the proper forms (90's for courses, 90As for catalog copy, and 100s for course fees). These forms were due in the Transfer Student Services Office (Suzanne Goad) on Wednesday, October 1. If you and your departmental colleagues have not completed work on these catalog changes, please let J. Allen know right away. It is critically important that we have an accurate and timely publication for students, including those who are contemplating an application to programs at SIU. Your cooperation is very important. 3.) At the request of faculty who attended the sessions offered last Spring by Drew Bergerson and Nathan Lindsay from the University of Missouri, Kansas City, J. Allen's office is hosting the first annual Assessment Day Conference today, Thursday, October 2, on the 7th floor in Morris Library. The Campus-Wide Assessment Committee (with representation from each college) and the Co-Curricular Assessment Committee (chaired by Anne Cooper Moore, Dean of Library Affairs) have partnered to recruit faculty and staff to participate with posters, presentations, and panels. If you have anything to do with the assessment of student learning outcomes in your department, please drop by to see what your colleagues are doing that might be of use to you.

6. Remarks – Council Chair Dr. Davie

J. Davie reported that she attended the Chancellor's Budget and Planning committee and had nothing to add to what Provost Ford had already reported. The Graduate Council's representative

on the Student Affairs Task Force is Pat Manfredi. Please contact him if there are any comments or concerns for him to take to the task force. J. Davie is the Council's representative for the search for the Graduate Dean. This committee is moving very quickly to submit the final list of nominees to the Provost by the end of October.

7. Faculty Senate, Professor Lahiri

Reported that the Senate's last meeting was on September 9th. President Dunn addressed the Senate at that meeting. Lahiri reminded the Council that the Fall Faculty Luncheon is on October 16th. President Dunn will be the speaker at the luncheon.

8. Deans Council – Professor Wilson

Wilson reported that the Deans Council has spent a lot of time looking at possible models for budget recycling. Nothing has been decided.

9. GSPC Report – Amanda Barnard

Barnard reported that the GSPC has a budget of \$76,072.40 for this year. It is a decrease from last year. A vote will be taken next week to decide where cuts are to be made. Barnard stated that there are two issues that repeatedly come up during meetings. One is the cap on assistantships being at 50% and the other is the Law student's tuition cap which left the students with a tuition bill that they were not anticipating. Barnard stated that bids for the new potential student health insurance policy are due by October 21st.

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

Burnside requested that when Council members are asked to serve on various committees, please respond either yes or no. He reminded the Council that all should participate.

11. Standing Committee Reports

a. Education Policies Committee Report – Professor Carver

No Report

b. New Programs Committee Report – Professor Habib

Resolution:

Renaming the Coal Extraction and Utilization Center to the Advanced Coal and Energy Research Center

Habib read the resolution (Attachment A). M. Eichholz made a motion to suspend the rules and J. McNutt seconded. Rules suspended. Discussion of the resolution followed. It was noted that it was important for the word "Energy" to be added to the name due to the state funding. Resolution passed. A motion to reinstate the rules was made and approved.

Resolution:

Addition of a Non-Thesis option to the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics

Habib read the resolution (Attachment B). B. Crow commented that there is a small number of faculty and a large number of graduate students that need to do a thesis. This resolution would free up some faculty. J. Davie added that this would be voted on at the next Graduate Council Meeting.

c. Program Review Committee Report – Professor Miller

Miller stated that the committee is getting ready to review several programs.

d. Research Committee Report – Professor Eichholz

Eichholz stated that the committee should have a resolution prepared on the reporting of external grants for the next Graduate Council meeting. He asked about the progress of a resolution from last semester regarding the Advisory Committee for IT. Provost Ford said that she would follow up with it.

Provost Ford clarified the comment made during the GPSC report regarding the change in student funding to allow greater than 50% funding when school is not in session. She stated that policy change was made to affect all forms of student funding, including GA funding. In the summer, students who are not enrolled in classes can do internships that go up to full pay and when school is not in session, students can be employed up to 100% in any of the various way that students are employed. A Council member asked if the GA would then be able to get 1 to 3 credits for an internship. Ford replied by saying in the past, when it is a targeted internship that has special requirements that include both enrollment and certain kinds of payment, we make special exceptions.

12.Old Business

None

13.New Business

None

14.Adjournment

The motion was made to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.