

## **2019-2020 Grad Council**

**Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Members present:** Andrew Balkansky, Randolph Burnside, George Boulukos, Phillip Chu, Saran Donahoo, Haniotakis Themistoklis, Ben Hendrickson, Karen Jones, Usha Lakshmanan, Junghwa Lee, Liliana Lefticariu, Ruopu Li, Matt McCarroll, Trish McCubbin, Caleb McKinley, Marc Morris, Julie Partridge, Kyle Plunkett, Nicholas Sanislo, Thomas Shaw, Emily Vajjala, Lindy Wagner

**Ex-officio:** Lizette Chevalier, John Dunn, Gary Kinsel, Meera Komarraju, Stephen Shih

**Guests:** Kevin Collins, Otis Duncan, Adrienne Long, Jane Nichols, Rachel Nozicka, Robert Spahr

### **Meeting started at 8:01 AM**

**Morris:** Corrections to the minutes?

**Corrections were given**

**Morris:** Motion to approve minutes?

**Seconded**

**Minutes approved (8-0-0)**

### **REMARKS FROM THE CHANCELLOR**

**Dunn:** First off, let me start off with some very good news. From the accrediting body, we have positive feedback for our Nursing Program. We are very pleased about that. We want to talk about the CARES money the university has received, which is about 8.8 million. Half of this money must be used for direct support to students. It must go to students who have been evidenced to have experienced some disruptions in their education due to Covid-19. We analyze greatest need by the EFC. We have reached out to 4500 students who met this criteria. Based on the EFC, the students who were eligible could receive \$1000 or \$700. Currently, we have sent out over 1.8 million to students. The students who weren't eligible for CARES money can submit an application to receive up to \$500 from our Saluki Cares account, which we've had for years. This money is exclusive from room & board refunds. For the most part, people have appreciated the amount of money we've been able to refund. The other half of the CARES money allows the university to cover the loss of revenue and resources.

President Mahoney has formed a committee to look at our options for Fall. We could end anywhere between all online classes and all in person classes. We are thinking about a board variety of options that can be applicable to the system, even though Carbondale and Edwardsville may have different protocols. Our messages to current and prospective students is that we're moving as fast as we can and we want to be back to normal. According to the Restore Illinois document, we are out of phase 1, which is rapid spread. Right now, we are in phase 2, the flattening of the curve. Our goal is to get to phase 3, recovering, and eventually phase 4 for the Fall, the phase when higher education is ok to open back up. Phase 4 would still require masks and social distancing. Our low population density is an advantage for recovering more quickly. We are very fortunate to have great guidance from the School of

Medicine on the actions to take. I want to give kudos to our faculty, staff and students for making the pivot in March. I can't underestimate the impact that covid-19 has had on students. Beyond stress from the coursework, there's some onset of depression and stress for family needs.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, we got permission from the governor to start moving students out of their dorms for the summer. For the most part, our students have been following the guidelines for wearing masks. For instances where there is not the case, we need to be able to ask them to be accountable. We are currently reviewing the budget. We are running different budget scenarios. For example, what happens if enrollment is flat but the state budget is cut by 15%? We are regularly communicating with other state chancellors and President Mahoney. The Chancellors are meeting every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The students that have contracted Covid-19 have only shown mild symptoms. To my knowledge, that has only been 3 students, 2 on campus and 1 off-campus. They are following the 14-day quarantine. We've notified and engaged with their families. Sadly, there is no Spring commencement, but putting out a short video. Thank you to Mass Communications for helping with that. I'll stop here. Any questions?

### **QUESTIONS FOR THE CHANCELLOR**

**Boulukos:** I can understand why people want to hear that the university wants to get back to normal, but my daughter, a prospective student, wants to something else. She wants to hear that SIU is going to be fully committed to safety.

**Dunn:** When we say 'getting back to normal', there are still caveats to that. We are going to enforcing masks and social distancing. We are looking to restructure class sizes, possibly adding more sections. What we do want to get back to is the notion of a gathering. We want students to have an on-campus experience.

**Boulukos:** What will happen to faculty who are at high risk? Can they opt to have their classes online only?

**Dunn:** We know that there are faculty that need to be accommodated. As far as communicating needs, we still aren't sure how that will be achieved.

**Boulukos:** Lastly, I would like to say that the faculty need to be informed throughout the summer regarding the forecast of options for fall semester in order to better prepare for our classes.

**Lee:** Chancellor, last month you said you've advised against international students traveling out of the country. A student of mine has expressed interest in visiting her family in Korea. Do you have an update on your policy?

**Dunn:** We still express great concern of our international students traveling to and from campus. In regards to incoming students, we have tossed around the idea that some faculty can travel to meet them. Of course, this would be a voluntary effort by faculty. My worry is that if the students travels to Korea, she might not be able to get back in. My advice remains against traveling.

**Donahoo:** Can we work something out so that faculty can be allowed to start hosting virtual office hours?

**Dunn:** Forever?

**Donahoo:** At least for the next couple of years.

**Dunn:** I think that is a reasonable proposal, though I don't know if there's anything that precludes you from doing that.

**Komaraju:** I think it should be a balance between what works for the students and what works for the faculty.

**Dunn:** Yes, we need to take into account all preferences.

#### **REMARKS FROM THE PROVOST:**

**Komaraju:** Good Morning, everybody. I urge that all faculty submit their grades in a timely manner, so students will have time to decide their grading option. With that, I want to talk a little about the Pass/No Pass policy. Faculty Senate supported the Pass option for letter grades A, B, C, and D and No Pass for a failing grade which doesn't affect GPA. This is only for Spring Semester. The mode of instruction for summer classes is entirely online. We are discussing options for Fall semester. There are a lot of questions from prospective and transfer students regarding what fall will look like. We are looking at all possibilities that ensure safety but doesn't compromise the quality of an educational experience. I think the final decision will be made closer to the middle of June. One option we are considering is ending the semester at Thanksgiving break, so students that travel do have to come back. Another option is to move lower-level classes to online and have upper-level undergraduate classes and graduate classes in person. Prospective students are saying that they might not come if their classes are completely online. We need to consider the needs of the students. We will keep faculty updated as we consider all of the possibilities.

Though the Center for Teaching Excellence, we've conducted a faculty survey. We asked what challenges they've faced with the online mode and whether they would benefit from additional training sessions for using Zoom and such. Several faculty members have indicated 'yes', so we are going ahead with this. We have 4 ongoing Dean searches. For the School of Education, we have 2 finalists. For the proposed STTEM college, we have 5 finalists, with 2 interviews already completed. For the MCMA College, the interviews for the 4 finalists have been completed and final decisions are now being made. For the proposed College of Health and Human Sciences, we have 2 applicants and the interviews are ongoing. The Provost's Office has received the hiring plan for 2021. It will be approved after we have a budget. We have had about 36 instructors reach out to express interest in teaching the University 101 course. We hope that we'll have a strong freshmen class for fall. Last year, we have 1067 incoming freshmen. I have some enrollment numbers 16 weeks out of the fall semester. For freshmen, the applications are at 7755, representing a 16% percent increase from same time last year. In terms of admissions, we have at 5556, an increase of 61%. We are working hard to yield as many students as possible. In terms of new undergraduate transfers on campus, our applications are at 1716, a decrease of 5.14%. In terms of admissions, we have 1038, an increase of 2.9%. In terms of new undergraduate students off campus, our applications are at 237, a decrease of 13.2%. Our admissions are at 158, a decrease of 11.2%. In terms of graduate students, our applications are at 1431, a decrease of 6.8%. In terms of admissions, we have 475, a decrease of 6.6%. I would like to give an update on the reorganization. The RME for the College of Health and Human Sciences has been approved by both Grad Council and Faculty Senate. The RME for the College of Agriculture, Life & Physical Sciences has been approved by Grad Council, but did not pass in Faculty Senate. Those 2 RMEs are being forwarded to the President's Office, along with the RME for the School of Mathematical & Statistical Sciences. We are having Article 9 meetings for 3 proposed Liberal Arts schools. We've also had Article 9 meetings for the

School of Cinema, Radio & TV, and School of Mechanical Energy & Materials Engineering. We are also working on Physical Sciences, Theater & Dance, Automotive Technology and Aviation.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR THE PROVOST:**

**Haniotakis:** Is Aviation and Transportation going to be in separate schools or the same school?

**Komarraju:** Right now, we have them in separate schools.

**Haniotakis:** What about the college?

**Komarraju:** The RME has it that both will go into the proposed STTEM college.

**Burnside:** For the change of grade card, can all of this be done online?

**Komarraju:** Yes, it can be done by reaching out to the Registrar's.

**Boulukos:** An idea that's been thrown around is condensing classes to 8 weeks. Is it too late to make that change for Fall?

**Komarraju:** That will be brought in an upcoming meeting. We have to look at the feasibility of condensing 17 weeks worth of content into 8 weeks. What will students get from that?

**Boulukos:** What are your thoughts on faculty members at high risk for Covid-19 opting out of face-to-face classes? I'm also wondering if there's a plan to get better wifi support for staffers, because not everyone's internet connection is strong at home.

**Komarraju:** In regard to faculty at high risk, we haven't come up with an overall policy because there's the question of what the criteria is. When we need medical documentation before coming to a decision. We have to consider the scenario of an entire department wanting to opt out, which creates a balancing problem. Regarding staffers and wifi, this is the question of cost. How do we decide who gets the support? Both students and faculty have been asking for internet support and we have limited resources.

**Lee:** For the No Pass grade, are there guidelines for students that need to retake classes that would become available after their graduation date?

**Komarraju:** What would happen if the student failed the course?

**Lee:** It would be a case-by-case basis. Sometimes an independent study course can be taken in lieu of the failed course.

**Komarraju:** It's up to the individual programs. The Provost's Office can't override their decision.

#### **REMARKS FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH:**

**Kinsel:** Good Morning, everybody. I have a few things on my list today. First off, the REACH awards were announced last week. We had 38 applications and 33 of those requests for funding were granted. The list of award winners is on the VCR website. Second thing, the McNair Foundation is looking for some scholars to join a virtual summer institute this year. It would be held June 8 through July 31. Applications are being accepted until May 18<sup>th</sup>. The eligibility criteria is that the student has to be a sophomore or

junior with a 2.7 GPA, an interest in continuing education, be a U.S citizen, and be low-income, first-generation, or an URM. The last thing I want to mention is that we are working on a research reengagement plan. Under this plan, each faculty member that supervises students will have to come up with a plan that addresses how personal contact will be minimized. These plans shall be reviewed with the students and a copy should be submitted to the Chair.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR THE VCR:**

**Plunkett:** The graduate students need their contracts renewed for the summer. What is in place for making that happen?

**Komaraju:** The guidelines have been that if a student is on a grant and the work can be done remotely, then the contract will be written.

#### **REMARKS FROM THE DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL:**

**Shih:** Good morning, everyone. April and May are two of the busier months for my staff, with reviewing dissertations and theses for graduation. We are offering an information session for formatting dissertations and theses. As for our assistantship office, they have been working on DRA awards. Other fellowship announcements have been made this week. We will be offering virtual SLATE training throughout the month of May. At last month's meeting, I had mentioned that I had been working with the holistic grad admissions working group. We have met to discuss proposed changes to the graduate catalog, particularly to the English proficiency requirement. The final draft is being worked through. The first set of changes is to add the Duolingo English test along with the existing TOEFL test. The second set of changes involve exemptions to the English proficiency test. We've added 3 to 4 more pathways for exemption. For example, if a student has earned a degree from a country that SIUC has waived the requirement for. We've expanded the list of waived countries by over 50. I want to give you a heads up on some projects I've been working on. First, the impact of travel restrictions to international students. We may need to anticipate fewer international students arriving on time for beginning of fall semester. We need to work on admissions strategies- like deferred enrollment- for these students as well as incoming graduate students. Secondly, I've been researching how we can effectively use information programs like SLATE for the purpose of the internal graduate school operations and grad school analytics. I'm going to be compiling some data on grad enrollment.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR THE GRADUATE SCHOOL DEAN:**

**Morris:** Is India on the list of waived countries?

**Shih:** Yes

### **REPORT FROM COUNCIL CHAIR:**

**Morris:** First, I want to congratulate Bethany, Diane and Caleb for their new roles at GPSE. I also want to thank Emily, Clay, Diana, and Ben for serving on the council for this academic year. We've appreciated your input. I want to welcome new council members Otis, Adrienne and Rachel. Good luck to Lindy Wagner at her future work at SIUE and building the collegiate bond between the sister schools. Lastly, I would like to thank Chancellor Dunn for filling that leadership role that we've needed at SIU. It's been a privilege sitting next to you.

**Dunn:** It's been a pleasure.

### **REPORT FROM GPSE**

**Wagner:** Thank you, Marc. Our last GPSE meeting was last week. I would like to thank Emily in particular, as she has served on the council multiple times. I also want to thank Caleb, Nicholas, and Ben for serving as the representatives. Caleb will be taking over my position as the Vice President of Student Affairs, assuming that role shortly. Welcome to Otis, Adrienne and Rachel. I think they will add a lot to the council.

### **REPORT FROM VICE CHAIR:**

**Shaw:** Nothing to report.

### **REPORT FROM DEAN'S COUNCIL:**

**Balkansky:** I want to also echo the sentiment towards Chancellor Dunn. Since the online transition, we've asked faculty in our college to make Saluki Cares reports. This is in response to students who have seemingly fallen off the radar since the transition. We've gotten 70 of those reports and have followed up with each student individually. In doing so, we were able to intercept a few problems. If we are to do an online system in the fall, we will try to intervene earlier. On the systems task force, we have 6 from SIUC, 6 from SIUE and 3 from the School of Medicine. The representatives from the School of Medicine have been very informative on the health impact of Covid-19. Todd Bryson, Ray Goldsmith, Boy Goodson, Michael Vermen, and David Dilalla and myself are the representatives from Carbondale.

### **REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE:**

Nothing to report

**REPORT FROM RESEARCH COMMITTEE:**

**Jones:** Nothing to report.

**REPORT FROM PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE:**

**Donahoo:** Nothing to report

**REPORT FROM EDUCATION POLICIES COMMITTEE:**

**Partridge:** We have a first reading for a resolution regarding the use of certificate hours towards a degree program. Currently, the catalogue states that you can only use up to 15 certificate hours towards a degree. We want to increase the number of available hours with this resolution.

**REPORT FROM PROGRAMS COMMITTEE:**

**Haniotakis:** We have a new RME. This proposal has strong faculty support. It's a merger of MS Counseling Education and MS Rehabilitation. The merger addresses accreditation problems and insufficient faculty.

**Morris:** Do any of the guests want to speak on this?

**Nichols:** I would say that I hope this resolution gains the support of the council.

**Collins:** The faculty from both sides have worked together to make this happen. There's tremendous support from them.

**Donahoo:** I move that we suspend Robert's Rules and vote on the first reading.

**Morris:** Motion to suspend the rules. Is there a second?

**Seconded**

**Rules suspended (13-3-0)**

**Morris:** Motion to approve?

**Donahoo:** So moved

**Seconded**

**Motion to recommend approval of RME passed (14-5-2)**

**Morris:** Motion to reinstate the rules?

**Moved and Seconded**

**Rules reinstated (15-1-0)**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:51 AM**

### **Graduate Council 2020-2021 Nominations**

**Shih:** We're going to be asking for Chair nominations. I'm going to open the floor for nominations.

**Partridge:** I would like to nominate Marc Morris.

**Shaw:** I second that nomination.

**Shih:** Motion to vote on nomination?

**Seconded**

**Motion passed (12-2-0)**

**Shih:** Motion to elect Marc Morris as council chair?

**Seconded**

**Motion passed (12-1-0)**

**Morris:** Thank you. I'd like to nominate Thomas Shaw to be Vice Chair. Motion to approve this?

**Seconded**

**Motion approved (17-1-0)**



