

GRADUATE COUNCIL 2020-21

November 5, 2020

Members present: Randolph Burnside, George Boulukos, Phillip Chu, Saran Donahoo, Otis Duncan, Buffy Ellsworth, Themistoklis Haniotakis, Karen Jones, Usha Lakshmanan, Junghwa Lee, Lilian Lefticariu, Ruopu Li, Adrienne Long, Matt McCarroll, Trish McCubbin, Caleb Mckinley, Grant Miller, Marc Morris, Rachel Nozicka, Julie Partridge, Kyle Plunkett, Yuhosua Ryoo, Nicholas Sanislo, Thomas Shaw

Ex-Officio: Lizette Chevalier, Scott Collins, Gary Kinsel, Meera Komarraju, Stephen Shih

Guests: Chloe Goldbach, Yuqing Hou, Justin McDaniel, Walter Metz

Meeting started at 8:01 AM

Morris: Corrections to the minutes?

Corrections were given

Morris: Motion to approve the minutes?

Moved

Seconded

Minutes approved (21-0-0)

Remarks from the Provost:

Komarraju: Good morning, everyone. I would like to begin by thanking all of our faculty, staff, and students for keeping the semester going. I appreciate everyone's efforts in regards to complying with the safety protocols. For today, I have updates on 5 topics. The first one is on our current semester. As a reminder, we will have one week of instruction and finals week, following Thanksgiving Break. Those last two weeks will be largely virtual. We need every instructor to submit grades on time, especially since students need time to see their letter grade before potentially opting into the Pass/NoPass grading option.

The second topic is regarding the Spring schedule. Registration is now open. We recommend that students enroll before the winter break, because this gives academic units a clearer idea of what the enrollment will be. Since Spring will run continuously for 16 weeks, there has been

some discussion regarding a mid-semester week of activities meant for students to destress and relax. The Office of Student Engagement is planning these activities, but any feedback is welcome.

The next update is on the budget. All units have submitted the repayment that is part of the give-back amount spread across 7 years. We had borrowed from ourselves, so now we are paying back into that account. Regarding the 6% percent budget reduction, we have broken the focus down into two parts: our current year and all following years, starting with Fall 2021. We are asking for flexibility in regards to state/no-state funds in meeting the cuts for this year, because a lot of commitments have already been made. Related to this, as an exercise, we've been asked to imagine a scenario for Fall 2021 where the state appropriation was cut by 5% or 10%. How would this impact us?

In regards to the reorganization, we are working on 13 different RMEs for school formations and 3 for the college level. Some of these may have already reached Grad Council. The last item pertains to enrollment. We are 41 weeks away from Fall 2021. Our undergraduate numbers are higher than what they were last year at this time. Graduate numbers have increased 150% in terms of applications and admits. I would like to emphasize that graduate admission work is done at the academic unit level. It is important for these units to be more vigilant and intentional in reviewing applicants more regularly, and reaching out to applicants who are missing some of their materials. Deon Thompson at the Graduate School will be checking in with the academic units regarding the ease and speed of this processing.

Questions for the Provost:

McCubbin: Who is asking us to do the budget exercise? Is it the Governor or the Board of Trustees?

Komaraju: The Governor's Office asks us to do this every year. It's a typical exercise.

McCubbin: Are you doing this at the unit level or macro-level?

Komaraju: Macro-level, but we want to make sure that this information is passed down. Through his Listening and Learning Tour, Chancellor Lane has found that some people are not aware of our budgetary problems.

Burnside: How are we planning for the cut? If we are thinking realistically about enrollment in addition to the state appropriation, do you see it being steeper than 10%?

Komaraju: For this year, we are cautiously optimistic because we don't envision the Governor's Office asking us for money back. Looking ahead, we want to focus on what is in our control, which is enrollment. We are taking every action in regards to recruitment, including reaching out to local high school principals. The target enrollment number for Fall 2021 set by

Enrollment Management Committee is 12000 students. This year's is around 11300. In order to achieve this, we need to compensate for our large outgoing class by bringing in a large freshmen class, as well as retention. With higher enrollment, we can maybe be in the same place even if the state appropriation rate goes down.

Lakshmanan: I have a comment on graduate admissions. The faculty that review the applications are constrained by the processing. We cannot reach out to applicants until after this stage, when information is visible. Guidelines set by the university would be helpful to academic units.

Ellsworth: In our department, the faculty is able to see the applications before completion of the processing.

Remarks from the Vice Chancellor of Research:

Kinsel: Good morning, everybody. I have a few updates today. As you may have heard, the Office of Sponsored Projects Administration has had some retirements, and we are currently trying to refill those positions. We have filled the position on staff support for HSC. The hire is an alumnus of SIU. He is in the process of learning to work on this committee and with the Intuitional Review Board. We are in the middle of filling the position for the Chief Accountant. We are also in the middle of the search for the Director of Sponsored Projects Administration Office. At this point, we have identified our top choice for the position.

We have released the Dean's Report of awards received for the first quarter of the fiscal year 2021, as well as the grants submitted. We've received 22 million dollars worth of new awards and have submitted 17 million dollars worth of grants. This number is encouraging. The Fall Research and Creativity Expo was held on November 4th. I would like to thank Karen Jones, Caleb McKinley and Rhetta Seymour for taking charge of planning this event. We had 30 virtual rooms and 367 participant logins. We've been asked to do this event every semester, which is likely a testament to how successful this one was. I can say that we were nervous planning and going into this event, because we weren't sure about the interest levels from presenters and faculty and running it without technical difficulties.

Jones: I would like to give a shoutout to all of the presenters. This would not have gone off as well as it did without great topics.

Questions for the VCR:

Miller: It may be helpful to give a follow-up survey to get an accurate picture of how many people attended each presentation.

Kinsel: That sounds like a good idea. I'll give this information to Rhetta.

McKinley: Please let me know if you would like help with this event in the future. This year, I reached out to every advisor from junior colleges and high schools that I knew, as well as posting on social media.

Komaraju: I wanted to commend the efforts to include the high school students. This is a great example of being innovative with the resources that we have. On another note, virtual events can be a blessing in disguise, because of the ability to engage with long-distance prospective students.

Kinsel: Thank you for that comment. In order to reach out to students from junior colleges and high schools, we may want to keep doing this event virtually. The odds of these students traveling to SIU for one day are pretty low.

Lefticariu: I have a suggestion. In order to reach a wider audience, we should consider going live with events like this on YouTube. On this platform, those who cannot make the live streaming will have the option of watching it later. Additionally, there is no hassle with logging in.

Kinsel: I appreciate the suggestion. We've also had the suggestion of recording through Zoom. The advantage of live events, though, are the real-time interactions.

Lefticariu: But, I think there is a real problem with students not being able to login to Zoom. I've had a class with 27 students and only 3 live participants. I suspect that the low number was due to trouble with logging in.

Kinsel: You are right; there's always going to be the potential of technical difficulties. Why don't you send me your suggestion in writing?

Remarks from the Dean of the Graduate School:

Shih: Good morning, everyone. I have a few quick updates. As the Provost mentioned, the Graduate School has hired Deon Thompson as the new Assistant Director of Grad Recruitment Admissions. He has been working in the Assistantship and Fellowship Office for over 8 years. Therefore, Deon possesses a wealth of knowledge in regards to the Grad School's processes, policies, and procedures, as well as a great institutional knowledge of SIUC. In this new role, he has already reached out to all of the Directors of Graduate Studies, for the purpose of establishing a tighter collaboration between the Grad School and each academic unit. Since the graduate admissions and recruitment model is decentralized, this collaboration is crucial. To goal is to turn student inquiry into application as much as possible. In order to do this, there needs to be effective and frequent communication between the Grad School and academic units. In the next few weeks, Deon Thompson will be scheduling meetings with each college.

I would also like to provide an update on the graduate enrollment numbers. I have a chart to share with numbers from the past five years. As you can see, there are peaks and valleys. At 41 weeks prior to start of Fall 2021, for masters applications, there is an increase of over 200% in comparison to last year at this time. For doctorate applications, the increase is 152%. For international masters applications, there is an increase from 14 for 2020 to 27 for 2021. For international doctorate applications, the increase is from 14 to 16.

The Graduate School has been hosting Anti-Racist Learning Groups. This has been organized and hosted by Rose Moroz, the Assistant Dean of the Grad School. Right now, we have 3 ongoing learning sessions, with three more to go.

Questions for the Dean of the Graduate School:

Haniotakis: Out of these numbers, how many are paying students? From a financial perspective, this is an important category to keep track of.

Shih: There is no easy answer to this question. Maybe we can ask Institutional Research and Studies for assistance with a deeper analysis.

Komaraju: It would be good for the university to have more feepaying students at the graduate level, because 70%-75% of our grad students receive tuition waivers. The total head count is important, whether or not the students are feepaying. Any way to increase the head count is a win, but increasing revenue with more feepaying students is a double-win.

Lakshmanan: What considerations are in place to ensure that international students taking classes remotely are part of the head count?

Jones: Five years ago, there was a position that was in charge of directing funds to help with international recruitment. There also used to be a Graduate Enrollment Working Group that came up with strategies for social media, or for targeting certain populations around the world. The working group took a more centralized approach to grad admissions. I do want to acknowledge that the responsibilities should not fall solely on the shoulders of academic units, especially when there is less centralized support today.

McCubbin: Last semester, we looked at a draft regarding language admission standards for international students. I'm wondering about its status now, because if we broaden the ability to take different tests, recruitment will be more streamlined.

Shih: We are almost done with finalizing the English proficiency requirements. I have gathered feedback from the working group members, as well as from the Ed. Policies committee. As pertaining to Dr. Jone's comment, one of Deon's jobs is to form a working group that is designed to create a tighter collaboration between academic units and the Grad School. As for Dr. Lakshmanan's comments, there is uncertainty for next fall, so we need to make sure that we

create accommodating policies if there aren't some in place already. The Provost's Office and CIE need to be in discussion.

Boulukos: In terms of GA positions and enrolling from abroad, the policy had to shift before the start of this semester, due to federal intervention. Efforts for early recruitment and international recruitment would be helped if graduate directors were made aware of the specifics of the policy. We need to plan ahead as much as possible.

Shih: Crystal Harris, at the Assistantship Office, has recently consulted with APAA in regards to assistantships for international students. I believe she just sent out an email with guidance on this. I will forward that email to you.

Lakshmanan: I also want to say that international students will be differentially impacted, depending on their program. Students who work in labs face stronger ramifications for not being here in person.

Morris: Absolutely.

Report from Chair:

Morris: On October 22nd, there was a Listening and Learning session with Chancellor Lane and the Grad Council. Afterwards, he and I had a nice discussion. One of the things that came out of our discussion was a plan to put together a research task force. This would include the VCR, Director of the Grad School, the Provost and Head of the Research Committee initially.

I would now like to turn to Julie in introducing our Research Spotlight guests for this month.

Partridge: Thank you. Today's guests are from the College of Health and Human Sciences. First is Dr. Justin McDaniel, who is an Associate Professor in Public Health. His research includes the use of GIS data to help fight the Opioid crisis. He has recently been funded by Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Administration and CDC. Our second guest, Chloe Goldbach, is a third-year PhD student in Counseling Psychology. She has an MA in Psychology from SIUC and a BA in Psychology, a BS in Mechanical Engineering, and an MS in Biomedical Engineering from Florida. She is currently conducting research on barriers to healthcare access for transgender and non-binary people, associations between gender dysphoria and socio-cultural factors, experiences of LGBTQ people during the pandemic, and attitudes towards transgender inclusion in intercollegiate sports. She was recently awarded the APA Division 35, Section for Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns, Graduate Student Research Award for her research on hormone use and healthcare access among transgender and non-binary people. First, I'll turn it over to Justin.

McDaniel: Thanks for having me. Today, I'll overview a few current projects that I'm working on with a colleague from the University of Alabama. Firstly, we got a grant to do ESPERT. This is a

screening for substance abuse that was implemented in some of Alabama's health services and occurs whenever a patient sees a doctor for any reason. If a patient screens negative, they move along. If, however, a patient screens positive, they move to another assessment to target what degree of substance misuse they have. From there, a patient receives either a moderate or severe degree of misuse. If moderate, the patient is provided with a basic intervention that's in the form of educational videos. If the degree is severe, they will be referred to treatment in addition to the brief intervention. What we found from this process was that among the patients screening positive for substance misuse, many were screening positive for Opioid misuse. As a result of this, we applied for a grant to expand the availability of Narcan to reverse Opioid overdoses in select communities in Alabama. We are putting more Narcan in the hands of first responders. Alabama has the highest rate of Opioid misuse in the country, but in some rural areas of the state, there are low rates of access. Given this, we are also put of a statewide effort to conduct a needs assessment for medication-assisted treatment. We are also working with the Computer Science department to design an app for patients to take the assessments, given that there are less in-person screenings at this time.

Goldbach: I am going to focus on two ongoing projects for today. The first is looking at access for transgender and non-binary people, and the second one looking at socio-cultural factors associated with Gender Dysphoria experiences. First, I'm looking at the phenomenon of less traditional medical pathways increasing barriers for access. I focus on the prevalence of Microdosing within the transgender and non-binary community by asking members to define it quantitatively and qualitatively, as well as finding out if Microdosing is being denied to members who've expressed interest in it. My hypothesis is that the prevalence of microdosing will be higher in the non-binary populations, because of their preference for lower doses and partial medical treatment. From the data I've collected so far, there's an even split between the non-binary and transgender populations. For my dissertation work, I ultimately seek to provide recommendations for providing better access to less traditional medical pathways.

My second project is an extension of my thesis project. Very broadly, I'm looking at how environmental factors of distress that contribute to Gender Dysphoria. The medical model isolates this to only involving internal factors of the individual. My thesis work showed that there are, in fact, distinct differences between internal and external experiences. Right now, I'm looking to see if the pandemic is a distinct stressor. From some pre-Covid data, some stressors that participants referred to included structural issues, close relationships, language systems, and cultural norms.

Morris: Thank you. These Research Spotlights have enlightened me on the various research activity on campus. For next month, we will have a few guests from the School of Medicine.

Report from GPSC:

McKinley: Good morning, everybody. Once again, I would like to remind everyone that GPSC can offer reimbursements for virtual conference fees. This is on a first come, first served basis. I also want to thank Dr. Kinsel and Dr. Jones for being part of our Research and Creativity Expo. The president of GPSC, Dianah McGreehan, hosted a table for prospective and current graduate students, letting them know about our organization and how to join. We recently had a Listening and Learning session with the Chancellor; we will have another installment later this month. We just got off of Diversity Week. McGreehan did a lot of work with getting events set up. I got the opportunity to moderate a panel with the Carbondale campus police.

Report from Vice Chair:

Shaw: Nothing to report.

Report from Dean's Council:

Collins: Thank you for your efforts in helping SIU have a successful semester. The Dean's Council is focusing on recruitment and retention efforts, have been working on the budget situation, and is continuing to be involved in the reorganization process.

Report from Faculty Senate:

Miller: We have recently passed a resolution for the NUI to add a BS in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics. We've also approved committees for University Core Curriculum, as well as for University Joint Benefits.

Report from Research Committee:

Jones: The Research Expo has passed, but please reach out if you are interested in engaging in future events.

Report from Program Review Committee:

Donahoo: Nothing to report.

Report from Educational Policies:

Partridge: Nothing to report.

Report from Programs Committee:

Haniotakis: We have a second reading in regards to the elimination of the certificate program in Civil Society, Communications, and Media Practices. There are no changes from the first reading.

Morris: It is submitted as written?

Haniotakis: Yes.

Morris: Do we have a motion?

Moved

Seconded

RME for the recommendation of elimination for the post-baccalaureate certificate program in Civil Society, Communications, and Media Practices approved (24-0-0)

Haniotakis: The other RME is for the Meyers Institute for Interdisciplinary Research in Organic and Medicinal Chemistry. They are requesting to seek a temporary status before going to IBHE. They only need to use some space at the university; there is no request for funding. There's support from the Vice Chancellor, who would be administratively involved with this institute, and the Dean of the College of Agricultural.

Jones: Why is an RME concerning a temporary status being presented in front of the council?

Haniotakis: This is what they requested.

Jones: How is 'temporary' being defined?

Haniotakis: I think it has to do with the evaluation process put forth by IBHE.

McCarroll: My understanding is that the normal process with IBHE for seeking recognition as a university center or institute is to first get temporary recognition for a five-year period before seeking permanent status.

Jones: I understand the process, but I don't understand why Grad Council is voting on something that will have to be brought back when permanent status is being sought.

Komarraju: I can address this question two-fold. One is that this effort is for centers to be recognized by the IBHE. Part of this process is waiting five years before receiving a permanent status. The other part is that Grad Council only approves the initial temporary status, allowing centers to collect five years worth of data before seeking permanent approval from the IBHE.

Hou: I work in the institute seeking approval. We originally got a temporary status in 2000, but there was a lapse in taking the next step. Ultimately, Dr. Chevalier and Dr. Kinsel recommended that we start this process over.

Morris: Anything further from Programs Committee?

Haniotakis: Do we want to vote on this after one reading?

McCubbin: There's not an urgent need to do so.

Morris: Yes, we will address this at our December meeting. Motion to adjourn?

Moved

Seconded

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 AM