

Graduate Council 2020-2021

April 1st, 2021

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

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

Guests: Ira Altman, Michael Burgener, Jaime Clark, Bill Danaher, Reza Habib, Chun-His Hung, Michelle Kibby, Julie Lindsey, Rose Moroz, Saikas Talapatra, Paul Welch, Karl Willard

Meeting started at 8:01 AM

Morris: Good morning. Corrections to the minutes?

Corrections were given

Morris: Motion to approve the minutes?

Moved

Seconded

Minutes approved (17-0-0)

Remarks from the Chancellor:

Lane: Good morning to everybody. I can't believe we got to April so quickly. I know some folks are a little tired at this point, not being given a Spring Break. I have some brief announcements for today. We plan to hold Spring Commencement in person, at Saluki Stadium. We are going to comply to all health and safety rules and regulations, but we will have the ceremonies spread out over a three-day period. We will be also be inviting students who graduated last year but didn't get a chance to have their commencement in person. You've also been hearing about our Fall plans. If you stay in the phase we are in or move up a phase in Restore Illinois Plan, there's a strong possibility that we will return in person. Again, safety protocols will be obeyed. There is a lot of availability to get vaccinated now in this area; you can pretty much just schedule an appointment. You couldn't answer vaccination timeline questions a month ago, but now we can. Hopefully, folks take advantage of this. Our students seem to be excited about returning as

well. On the enrollment update, our admit numbers seem to be trending upwards, outpacing our numbers from this time last year. However, we are focused on the yield. We are trying to make sure that the students don't fall through the cracks. Our goal is to be at 12000 students at least for Fall. We are willing to be hands-on for recruitment. I'd love to talk to prospective students, send them an email, or even give a tour; I'd be glad to make it special for them. That's how far we are going with our numbers head to a positive direction. In regards to the Listening and Learning tour, we have met with 96 groups over a span of 6 months; we plan to end at 105. As we look at the qualitative data from these meetings, we have a good sense of our pillars. One that rings true for every session is student success and engagement; how we recruit students, acclimate them to our environment and how we look at graduation and retention rates keeps coming up. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is another big area that has been brought up in every meeting. Academic programs and research is a common theme. Sustainability has also become a large pillar; there's a lot of discussion on how this university can stand out regarding this. The last piece is partnerships and how we form partnerships with our region. We have a lot of initiatives going on now with SI Now. This also includes how we partner with local school districts, and corporations. So, these are the 5 main pillars that are most prominent. We hope to have our Strategic Plan done in July, in time for the new fiscal year. I'm very careful to say that what's in the plan is not the Chancellor's priorities; these are our priorities and our plan.

Remarks from the Provost:

Komarraju: I have a few additional comments. The 35 faculty hires approved for Fall are wrapping up. In regards the Dean searches, the College of Agricultural, Life, & Physical Sciences conducted interviews for the 5 finalists. The search committee for the College of Health and Human Sciences is still working. The College of Arts and Media is searching for an Interim Dean. In terms of enrollment, we are in an upward trajectory. In terms of first-time, full-time freshman, we have admitted 6210 students, which is 15% higher than this time last year. In terms of on-campus transfer students, we have admitted 888 students, which is 5.4% lower. In terms of off-campus transfer numbers, we have admitted 152 students, which 15.2% higher. In terms of graduate students, we have admitted 341, which is 2.04% lower. However, our applications from graduate students are 1470 students, which is up by 42 applications.

Remarks from the Vice Chancellor of Research:

Kinsel: Good morning, everybody. I have a few reminders for today. There is the upcoming Research and Creative Activities Forum on April 15th. We still need a couple of judges to review electronic submissions. Please let me or Rhetta Seymour know if you are interested in being one. If not, we hope you consider attending the forum. There are going to be over 100

presentations this year. Beyond that, I will remind you that there is a workshop to help faculty with writing an NSF Career Grant. That's on April 21st. Finally, there's a series of Research Innovative presentations going on; the first one was last week. These are particularly helpful for faculty who want to actualize their novel ideas.

Remarks from Associate Dean and Director of the Graduate School:

Shih: Good morning, everyone. I have a few updates. Recently, the Graduate School hosted the first recruitment workshop; we targeted current SIUC undergraduates. We are going to be launching a series of these workshops, targeting different groups, such as underrepresented, international, and active duty students. This month, we are also going to launch and host a new workshop, which is called the Graduate Student Mental Health Workshop. Rose Moroz, our Assistant Dean, is in charge of this project. We are working in partnership with the Dean of Students, Saluki Cares, Counseling & Psychological Services, and Student Health Wellness. It will be held on April 27th. The main purpose of this workshop is to give information pertaining to the mental health resources we have on campus. And to help faculty understand the mental health struggles that graduate students are facing. April 2nd is the deadline to submit theses and dissertations for format check, while April 9th is the final submission deadline. April 2nd is also the deadline for DRA award nominations.

Questions for Dr. Shih:

Lakshmanan: Can you give us more information for the workshop on April 27th? Will we be sent an email about it?

Shih: Rose Moroz sent out those emails a few days ago.

Lakshmanan: I ask, because, that weekend, there is an RSO putting on a retreat for meditation. I happen to be advising them. Since you are going to have it that week, I thought anyone who is interested may wish to participate in the workshop.

Moroz: I sent the email inviting all graduate faculty and staff to the workshop. We sent it to all of the people on the graduate contacts list, so the Directors of Graduate Studies and department secretaries, and sometimes the chairs or deans, depending who was listed. We then asked those contacts to forward the email to everyone else.

Lakshmanan: I guess my request to you is helping you disseminate information about our retreat. Actually, one of the sponsors for the event is Student Health Services.

Moroz: Yes, we can do this.

Morris: Where are things with our elections?

Moroz: We have been working to get an accurate list of all of the grad faculty. We haven't heard from everybody yet. We are updating our records and switching faculty names over to the new colleges post-reorg. The next step will be sending each list to the college deans for confirmation. Finally, we need to compute the number of representatives each unit is entitled to. We plan to have everything computed before your next meeting.

Report from Chair:

Morris: The Research Task Force is meeting with various groups; we set it up so that there are 10 group meetings, each making up a different constituency. We are having 3 meetings a week, which are held from 4-5. I hope to meet as a task force group on April 29th to gather that information and start preparing how we want to present this information to the Chancellor. Our goal is to give him something by May 7th. I want to thank Karen Jones and Boyd Goodson for co-chairing this with me.

We don't have the research spotlight this month, but we have a presentation from Jaime Clark who is going to tell us about the P20 Program. I heard this at the Chancellor's Leadership Council, and I thought it would be great for this council to hear it as well.

Clark: Thank you for letting me be here today. I'm on the P20 Committee, which is designed to address healthcare in education for students from the Pre-K to graduate school level. There are representatives from the state that are in the medical field, education, and mental and physical health. One of our main focuses is building comprehensive resources and infrastructure for mental wellness that is rooted in trauma-informed care. We are building a comprehensive resource guide that I want to give you a glimpse of today. First, I want to start off by giving some background on the state of mental wellness pre-pandemic. Dating back to before 2010, 16% of students would present with more severe mental health concerns, which includes suicidal ideation, alcohol and drug abuse, and eating disorders. By 2010, this number significantly increased to 44%. There are other alarming statistics. About 35-40% of 14-24 year olds self-injure. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death in 15-24 year olds. 20% of college students have contemplated suicide and 9% have attempted suicide. Bullying victims are much more likely to contemplate suicide. This is critical, because of the access of social media and the increased likelihood for cyberbullying. 58% of students who identify as LGBTQ have contemplated suicide and 28% have attempted suicide. Here are some statistics-in the last pre-pandemic year-that pertain to SIU students. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) has served over 10% of our student on campus, and we have a very high number of crisis appointments. While universities of a similar size have had on average 400 crisis appts, SIU has had 1400 in a year. For general clinical appointments, similar-sized universities averaged over 4000 visits, while SIU had over 10000 visits. When you look at scales for depression, generalized anxiety, isolation, and hostility, students at SIU are measured at higher indexes compared to peer institutions. Anxiety and depression are still among the most reported issues at SIU. Over

1200 students expressed suicidal ideation, which is a very high percentage of students. In that same year, we facilitated 27 psychiatric hospitalizations for students that were suicidal. It's important to note that for this current school year, we are already at that number. We saw 54 students that had some sort of psychosis while trying to balance the academic rigor of being an undergrad or grad student. We had 1500 students that presented with some trauma-related disorder. This shows a need for trauma-informed care across the university. 791 students met criteria for a personality disorder, which 426 for BPD. While you may think that as enrollment numbers go down, CAPS appointments also go down, but this is not the case. Here are some statistics for adults in a general population. 11% of adults met criteria for some anxiety or depressive disorder pre-pandemic, but this number has increased to 41% in January 2021. In the 18-24 age group, it is 56%, which is really high. I think it's also important to note that adults aged 25-49 are at 49%; this age group makes up a large part of our faculty and staff, who are responsible for caring for themselves and large groups of students. Among the essential worker population, 4% engaged in substance abuse pre-pandemic, but this number has increased to 11%. 22% of essential workers have contemplated suicide in the past 30 days. In the past, a lot of our student hospitalizations have been older students, but we have seen a trend in first-year student hospitalizations. I think this makes sense, given that there is a lot of uncertainty in this freshman who are not used to living independently.

What we are doing with our resource guide in the P20 Program is create a lot of initiatives to address the mental health of primarily students, but also staff, as they are responsible for helping students. We are further breaking the guide down into action steps, so that we don't fall short of our goals. One of our big initiatives is equity. While SIU has shown higher-than-average numbers in terms of mental health student issues, there are things that SIU has done well to address mental health needs. For example, we have put clinicians from CAPS into some residence halls, so that students can access services beyond the main location, as well as services after main business hours. We have also been offering some free services during the pandemic, which is thanks to our financial partners. We can't necessarily sustain this forever, but we are looking at strategic ways to make counseling more affordable. On the academic side, SIU has done a good job breaking down some of the barriers for at-risk students; this includes Saluki Cares services, as well as the implementation of the Pass/No Pass grading system. One of my personal goals is to create a liaison between the academic side and CAPS; this includes helping faculty recognize the warning signs in a student's shift in mental health. We need to deliberate in making sure the faculty and staff also get the care that they need. From a social justice perspective, we need to make sure that we have comprehensive support structures in place for recruitment and retention for diversity among students and staff. We are talking about being more deliberate in scheduling in talks like these in a pre-existing meeting, so that our target audience does not have to give up additional time in their busy lives. We need to put more protocols in place to address health disparities. I want to increase the visibility of our under-utilized resources; this will come into play more once we have established

more partnerships across campus. I hope this resource guide will achieve this. I know this was a lot of information to take in. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Ellsworth: Are there any ideas as to why mental health issues are increasing in young people?

Clark: There are a lot of theories about that, such as ability to cope or transitions to more virtual formats. It's important to note that, at SIU, part of the reason that we are dealing with more severe mental health issues is because of our location. We don't have a lot of resources in terms of community referrals. Most university counseling centers will refer the more severe cases to a place outside of campus. We don't have a lot of providers that are able to see our students.

Lakshmanan: I was wondering whether your department has anything to offer the new, incoming faculty members that arrived during lockdown?

Clark: I think that's a great idea. I think that comes down to the partnerships that I was mentioning.

Lakshmanan: Maybe one idea is to work with CTE. They can help with helping with the stress of online instruction.

Clark: Yes, absolutely.

Report from GPSC:

McKinley: Good morning, everybody. At GPSC, we are now holding our elections. We just had nominations for officers and members for Grad Council. We will vote on this at our next meeting; some of the GPSC members here may be returning and some, like David, will be graduating. There are some other folks being nominated to join, so we'll see how that goes. Dianah McGreehan has been nominated to remain as president, and I have been nominated to remain as Vice President of Graduate School Affairs. Please remember that we have conference funds up to \$150 available. This applies to virtual conferences or professional development trainings.

Report from Vice Chair:

Shaw: I've received an email that expressed a need for a faculty member to serve on a system-wide strategic planning goal committee. I'm looking for a volunteer. If you are interested, please email me.

Report from Dean's Council:

Collins: We do not have much additional information to what the Chancellor and Provost discussed. We are fully invested in working towards increase our yield. We are looking forward to Fall being back to normal.

Report from Faculty Senate:

Miller: It's election season for Faculty Senate. With respect to the reorganization, we are trying to get accurate representative from the units. Due to this, we will end having two additional senators. They may give us an over-representation, but an under-representation would be more concerning to us.

Report from Programs Committee:

Haniotakis: We have a number of resolutions for today. The first is for moving the unit of ITEC to the School of Computing. This is strong support from the faculty from both sides. This resolution is presented as written.

Morris: Is there a motion?

Moved

Seconded

Morris: Any further discussion?

Resolution to recommend approval of the RME to merge ITEC with School of Computing passes (19-1-0)

Haniotakis: The next is for an RME for the School of Forestry and Agriculture. There is strong faculty support. What we have here is breaking up a large school into smaller units. Currently, there are over 400 students. I don't think there are any objections.

Morris: It's been moved by the committee. Is there a second?

Seconded

Morris: Any discussion?

Resolution to recommend approval of RME for the School of Forestry and Horticulture passes (17-0-0)

Haniotakis: The next is a resolution for the School of Physics and Applied Physics. The faculty is supporting this resolution. The committee is recommending approval. I will give my personal opinion in the discussion.

Morris: It's been moved by committee. Second?

Seconded

Morris: Any further discussion?

Haniotakis: My personal opinion is that this school should not be formed because there are only 6 faculty members and 16 students. We have to be aware of how we look outside of this university. If we start approving these micro-schools, we will look peculiar to the outside. Also, it's not fair to the other units who ended up merging with larger units. I'm against this resolution.

Jones: Did Physics look to join with some of the other units?

Haniotakis: We had an initial proposal to create larger units, but, it has since been broken down further.

Lakshmanan: I appreciate the point raised about the number of students, but we should also look at the potential for this unit standing alone. What is it doing for the university? It is not just about the numbers.

Haniotakis: I didn't want to bring this argument up, but we have to look at rankings. For Illinois schools, the national rankings are as follows: University of Chicago at #7, UIUC at #9, Northwestern at #25, UIC at #71, Illinois Institute of Technology at #119, Northern Illinois University at #146, and SIUC isn't ranked (RNP). So, I'm sorry, but I don't see how we can still be considering potential at this point. I don't they can prove that there has been potential within the past 25 years.

Boulukos: We should let someone from the unit speak on this.

Talapatra: Folks can have opinions, but I want bring up some points. I don't agree with the sentiment that Physics hasn't done anything in 25 years. Research has been very strong; the unit has 6 NSF Career Awards. Undergraduate is also very strong. We serve more than 1500 students, if all disciplines are taken into account. It's sad that some people use rankings and numbers only when it's convenient to them.

Ellsworth: Are there not typically schools for Physical Sciences? As a second question, if Physics and Applied don't become their own school, where would they go?

Talapatra: Thank you for the question. There is usually either stand-alone Physics departments or schools for Physics. If we want to strive to be research-focused university, this proposal furthers that mission.

Morris: If the body isn't ready to vote on this, that's ok. We still have a quorum. For now, we need to decide whether to vote on it today or table it for next month.

Haniotakis: I think we should table it, because I see a big discussion.

McCarroll: I'll state my support for this RME. I think the point is that departments like Physics and Chemistry need name recognition to support their research endeavors.

Morris: Is there anything new to discuss?

Lakshmanan: I think when we vote on this issue, we should stop thinking about ourselves belonging to a particular unit, but, rather, think in terms of interests of the university. Would a stand-alone unit of Physics serve the university? I don't think a numbers argument adequately reflects the identity of Physics. Even though numbers are lower, there is still a strong reach that this department has. We need to think beyond numbers. This is why we have a Graduate Council. There are other things in Physics to celebrate.

Jones: I will say that there are lots of units on campus that have strong programs with awards and accolades that were merged.

Haniotakis: I'll second that.

Morris: Our discussion has been repeating itself.

Haniotakis: I think we should move the vote to next meeting.

Morris: It's already been moved and seconded. All in favor?

Resolution to recommend approval of the RME for the School of Physics and Applied Physics passes (14-2-0)

Haniotakis: The next one is for the accelerated Master in Human Sciences. There are no budgeting issues. There is strong support from the faculty. It is presented as written.

Morris: It's been moved by committee. Is there a second?

Seconded

Morris: Any further discussion?

Resolution to recommend approval of the RME for the MS in Human Sciences and the Accelerated MS in Human Sciences passes (14-0-0)

Haniotakis: The next one is a NUI for Aviation Management. There is faculty support. They expect to grow their unit from 11 in the first year to 34 in the fifth year. They expect admission and fees to completely cover this NUI. It's presented as written.

Morris: It's been moved by the committee. Second?

Seconded

Morris: Any discussion?

Resolution to recommend approval of the NUI for a MS in Aviation Management passes (15-0-0)

Haniotakis: The next is for the elimination of the Agribusiness Economics concentration in the MBA. This conc. has very low enrollment. The faculty has generally supported this.

Jones: Who voted on this?

Haniotakis: I don't have this information.

Chevalier: It came from Business. They are simply removing it because of the low enrollment.

Jones: Was ABE involved in any of the discussions?

Chevalier: Not to my knowledge. But, there is still the joint degree with ABE being offered.

Jones: I don't believe the faculty of ABE were big fans of this. I was just wondering about their input.

Haniotakis: I wouldn't have an issue with moving this vote until the next meeting.

Jones: Yes, I think that's the more inclusive approach.

Haniotakis: Ok. I propose to move it to the next meeting.

Morris: Ok. There is no motion on the floor. Next?

Haniotakis: The next is for a new unit of administration for the Autism Center. They need status with IBHE. This particular center is funded by the state. I think it's an addition to the university, and, if the state is funding it, we should be positive about the resolution.

Morris: It's been moved. Do we have a second?

Seconded

Morris: Any discussion?

Resolution to recommend approval of a New Unit of Administration for the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders passes (14-0-0)

Haniotakis: The last one is to NOT recommend approval for the proposed School of Anthropology, Political Science, and Sociology. Mainly, the faculty make a strong case for retaining the definition of their departments.

Morris: It's been moved. Do we have a second?

Seconded

Morris: Any further discussion?

Haniotakis: Personally, I will be abstaining from this vote because of the need to move forward with merging smaller departments. We need to finish this process.

Lakshmanan: Are you saying that each of these units will continue to be departments?

Haniotakis: It's a comment on the need to move forward with forming new schools with the reorganization.

Morris: We have 2 guests here that can speak on this.

Welch: Paul Welch here, from Anthropology. We wish to retain the name of department rather than program. This reason is primarily due to consequences for graduate recruitment. A program is not recognized as not having any resources of their own, nor is it perceived as being autonomous. If we are to compete successfully, we want to compete on the basis of being a department.

Danaher: I agree. Sociology rejected the RME due to reasons of recruitment, reputation, and resources. We want to avoid one of the units being overshadowed by another. The faculty was also worried about the role of undergraduate and graduate directors; we thought it wasn't clear. We also thought the lack of a chair would water down the disciplines.

McCarroll: Just to clarify, we are proposing to reject the RME as written and not to make a recommendation of whether these units will ultimately retain their status of department. That's a separate issue.

Lakshmanan: To clarify what we are voting on, are these units just requesting to retain the name of 'department'?

Morris: What we are saying is that the Programs Committee is proposing that we do not recommend the RME as written.

Lakshmanan: Not to approve the formation of the school?

Morris: Yes.

Haniotakis: To clarify, the committee proposed that the merge should not happen. If you vote 'yes', from my understanding, you are against merging. I will be abstaining, because I think we are running out of options at this point. Also, it is unfair to give these units special consideration.

Lakshmanan: In this particular case, why would you actually set aside small numbers in this case, whereas, in a previous case, you used that as an argument not to a proposal?

Haniotakis: Let me explain. My understanding is that Sociology, Anthropology, and Political Science will eventually be involved in some merger. I am against letting small units squeak by. If we were treating every unit the same way, I wouldn't have minded small units existing as schools. It's disrespectful to other units when we vote 'yes' on small school RME's. I strongly opposed the Physics and Applied Physics RME, because it was a proposal for a small school, not a desire to retain the status of 'department'.

Lakshmanan: As I said previously, it is not just a question of numbers. The problem comes when you make it so.

Haniotakis: I gave the ranking status. It's not just about a number of students. We have to look at amount of funding also. That's why we compare rankings.

Morris: Let's bring this back to what the question really is. It's not about the perspective that one individual is taking. The Programs Committee as a whole is recommending not to approve this RME.

Shaw: The main issue I had with this RME is that there is no faculty support at all. I couldn't, in good conscience, vote to ignore dissent from the faculty. That's where I stand.

Plunkett: Shaw clarified my question. I was going to ask about faculty support.

Donahoo: What happens next, assuming we vote 'no'?

Chevalier: I don't have an answer at this time.

Lakshmanan: I need some clarification on what the faculty want. Is it only a matter of terminology between being called a department vs. program? Would they be ok with being part of a school?

Boulukos: We should remember that we're not voting to create new units. We are only voting that the current proposal, which has zero faculty support, needs to be reconsidered. We don't really need to figure out what happens next.

McCarroll: I was going to say the same thing. It's not in our purview in this format to decide what it ought to be. From my perspective, I couldn't vote for this RME as written due to lack of faculty support. I don't think that has any bearing on where it goes from here. To me, this is a separate process from what it ought to be.

Morris: If there is no further discussion, let's vote.

Resolution to NOT recommend approval of the RME for the School of Anthropology, Political Science, and Sociology passes (14-0-1)

Report from Research Committee:

Jones: No report.

Report from Program Review Committee:

Donahoo: No report.

Report from Ed. Policies:

Partridge: We have a resolution in regards to the post-baccalaureate certificate description in the Grad Catalogue. There were 2 issues: lack of specification of credit hours only counting towards one graduate degree and lack of clarification for the transfer credit hours into a graduate program; transfer hours can't account for more than half of the total program hours. Both have been addressed in this resolution.

Morris: It's been moved. Second?

Seconded

Morris: Discussion?

Chevalier: I think it's good that we're cleaning the language up. As a clarification, graduate programs still have the option of not accepting any transfer hours.

Resolution to recommend approval of the RME for updating the post-baccalaureate certificate description in Graduate Catalogue passes (14-0-0)

Meeting Adjourned at 10:28 AM