

Graduate Council 2021-2022

September 2, 2021

Members present: Iraklis Anagnostopoulos, Amaka Anaza, Ligguo Bu, Phillip Chu, Buffy Ellsworth, Craig Gingrich-Philbrook, Usha Lakshmanan, Junghwa Lee, Ruopu Li, Adrienne Long, Matt McCarroll, Trish McCubbin, Caleb McKinley, Rachel Nozicka, Ed O'Donnell, Kyle Plunkett, Bethany Rader, Sophia Ran, Thomas Shaw, Breanna Whitley

Ex-Officio: Lizette Chevalier, Gary Kinsel, Meera Komarraju, Austin Lane, Segun Ojewuyi, Stephen Shih

Proxies: Dave Johnson (George Boulukos)

Guests: Kelly Alongi, Tina Colson, Quianya Enge, Julie Lindsey, Yuhosua Ryoo, Stacye Saunders

Meeting started at 8:02 AM

Shaw: Welcome to the first Grad Council of the year. Let's have consideration of the minutes from the previous meeting. Any edits?

No corrections given

Shaw: Can I have a motion to approve the minutes?

Moved

Seconded

Minutes approved (12-0-0)

Remarks from the Chancellor:

Lane: Good morning, everyone. I hope you are all doing well. Let me start with some of the things we've been doing on the testing and vaccination front. We had to make sure to get support from the state, given the Executive Order, that support being for testing. We have a lot of testing coming our way from the Illinois Department of Public Health. We still have a testing partnership with SIH, however, even their resources are a little limited. We also negotiated a vaccination clinic that is here right now, located in the Student Center. As you know, the Executive Order was pretty clear; either folks attest to being vaccinated or go into a testing protocol once a week. More than half of our faculty and staff have been vaccinated and about 3000 of our students. The residence facilities already have this protocol in place. I do want to point your attention towards language on whether you do neither option. According to the

order, if this is the case, you can't be on an educational facility. We don't want anyone to leave campus, but this is what has to be done. We've been working on sending up-to-date memos on COVID-related news. We are putting on our dashboard COVID numbers that is provided by Jackson County. We are also showing trends in vaccination numbers. This will be updated on a week-by-week basis.

I want to thank faculty, staff, and students on a great team effort on the enrollment front. In Fall 2016, we had an 8% decline from the previous year. Fall 2017 was a 9% decline, Fall 2018 at a 12% decline, Fall 2019 at a 9% decline, Fall 2020 at a 2.8 percent decline and, right now, we are sitting flat. Our freshman class is up about 4.5%, so that's a really good number. Our transfer numbers are also up. Our graduate students are up by about 1.3%. Our Southern Illinois region numbers are way up. We have a 'Thank you tour' set up to meet with the superintendents and principals of our region. We also want to get the conversation started on Fall 2022 applications that their students are submitting. We are also working state representatives who have high schools in their areas. Our reps will actually be coming with us to speak with the superintendents. We are also continuing to grow our partnerships with Rend Lake, Shawnee, and JALC. In October, we're having the Chicago Blitz. We typically draw the largest number of students from Cook County. The other area we're focusing in on is non-traditional students. The harsh reality is that the state's population is declining. Here, the traditional-aged market is drying up. We need to find new pockets. Graduate and international students are other key areas to help with this.

We hope to release a Strategic Plan that focuses on imagining SIU in 2030, beyond the pillars I've been talking about. A lot of marketing will occur. We will try to communicate who we are, so we are strategically trying to highlight our university, faculty, staff, students, and traditions and history.

Questions for the Chancellor:

Ran: Do your vaccination numbers include the School of Medicine in Springfield?

Lane: No, just Carbondale. School of Medicine is tracking their own numbers.

McCubbin: I assume there's a group making contingency plans for whether we go remote. Is something like that going on?

Lane: Unfortunately, that's a scenario we're familiar with. We're hoping we don't go there, but the state could push us back to a lower Phase. If these numbers don't turn around, this option could be on the table. We are getting the resources for free from the state, because our region is the worst.

McCubbin: Will this decision be directly triggered by an action from the state?

Lane: Typically, it has to come from the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Governor, in terms of moving us out of Phase 5. But, we also aren't going to refuse to take any action ourselves, if we believe our numbers put us in a lower Phase.

Remarks from the Provost:

Komaraju: Good morning, everyone. Looking back to last year, we are similar and different to Fall 2020. Similar in that we haven't gotten out of the pandemic and different in that we are face-to-face for courses. I want to give a huge thank you to our faculty, staff, and students for helping us in the mission to turn enrollment around. For the past few years, we have been working relentlessly to see changes in enrollment. It's encouraging to see that things are working. Our attention is now turned to Fall 2022. We are looking to once again bring in a large class of freshmen, as well as increasing our overall enrollment.

We've finalized searches for the Dean of Agriculture, Life, and Physical Sciences; Eric Brevik started on July 1st. The Dean for the College of Health and Human Sciences, Robert Morgan, started July 16th. The internal Interim Dean search for the newly-formed College of Arts and Media has also been finished. We'll be doing a national search for Arts and Media, as well as Liberal Arts this semester.

We've welcomed 24 new faculty this semester. We had the orientation August 27th. We have new faculty coming from all over the country and it was encouraging to see the interest they had in coming to SIU. We've been having weekly Enrollment Management meeting all year and will be continuing to do so. From this, we've been able to identify best practices and share them, so that they can be used widely.

Towards the end of June, we received the final set of RME's for the reorganization. Starting this semester, we will be initiating the searches for the school directors. If the schools have interim directors, we are now looking for permanent ones.

Remarks from the Associate Provost for Academic Programs:

Chevalier: I am starting to release some RME's. I believe the Grad Council has received several at once. Some of these were completed at the end of the Spring term, but not released until now. This semester is off to a smooth start, despite the challenges we've faced. Diversity Week is happening now; hats off to everyone who has helped with this.

Remarks from the Vice Chancellor of Research:

Kinsel: I have a presentation on the research trends and awards from fiscal year 2021. Let me share my screen. In fiscal 2021, we had 350 proposals submitted; while the number of proposals is up the value per proposal is down a bit. The indirect rate is also up; this is something I've been emphasizing. We received 282 awards, for a total value of 44.7 million. This is the highest number we've had in the last five years. In the last two years, we did receive money from the federal government, specifically for the pandemic, however, this is not included in the 44.7 number. The submissions for the School of Medicine dropped off considerably, as well as the value. I believe that this is truly a reflection of the pandemic. Many studies done at the School of Medicine are clinical trials, which, of course, had to be curtailed due to the pandemic. Despite that, they still received 72 awards, for a total of 16.5 million with an effective indirect of 16.8%. Altogether, we had a total of 398 proposals submitted for a value of 115 million. The indirect requested was 22.1 million. Overall, these are very positive trends.

I also took a look at the trends in tenure-track faculty since 2012. I then took the total research dollars and divided it by number of faculty members, to get a research dollar per faculty number. Even though the awards have declined, the actual amount generated per faculty member has gone up. We are looking at close to \$100,000 per faculty member, which is the highest we've had in almost 10 years. The faculty we've been hiring are very qualified and successful at getting grant money.

Next, we have the reported research expenditures, which are the numbers we report to the National Science Foundation. This is done by calendar year. The most recent report posted is from 2019. We are currently ranked 218. We did see a drop in research expenditures. Other schools that are in the same domain as us include Missouri Science and Technology, Southern Methodist University and Loyola. Perhaps, of more interest is looking at the other Illinois schools. We sit as the highest R2 university in expenditures in Illinois. You may be wondering why we've been having more in research awards than research expenditures. I've been looking into why this may be. I'm pretty sure that we are not reporting our expenditures correctly. Between the Sponsored Project's grant accounting and the University Central Accounting, we've started having conversations on how we can do this better. At other institutions, the awards are very much in line with the expenditures. Fixing this would mean that we would see a significant improvement in our ranking.

Recently, the AUTM has put out a survey of licensing activity at universities across the US, and a ranking similar to the NSF report. We report as the SIU System. We had 59 million in expenditures and our gross income from licensing was about 1.3 million dollars. If you look at the overall ranking, we are at 103. What I found interesting was how much money we are getting from licensing income compared to some other fairly big-named schools, like Boston University. If you compare our return on investment with other schools, we are in the top 50. That's a very impressive statistic; it shows how innovative our faculty are at taking what they're doing and turning it into something useful for society. I know for sure that the vast majority of the licensing income is coming from the Carbondale campus.

As a summary, SIU certainly remains in the top half of all R2 universities in terms of research expenditures. We remain the highest-ranked R2 university in the state of Illinois. Our total research awards totaled 44.7 million, which is an increase of 7 million from the onset of the 2017 Illinois budget impasse. The awards combined with the School of Medicine totaled 61.2 million, which is an increase of over 16 million since the budget impasse. Our research dollars per tenure/tenure-track faculty have increased consistently for 10 years- from 76,000 to 93,000 per faculty. For the SIU System, the return on the Technology Transfer places SIU nearly in the top 100 in terms of raw number. In terms of return on investment, in comparison to our research expenditures, we are in the top 50.

We've been trying to turn the McLafferty Annex into something useful for the university. Currently, there's the Fermentation Science Center, a facility for the Fishery and Aquaculture Center, as well as an ultrafast laser spectroscopy lab, which came from a 2.5 million dollar investment. We were awarded another 2.5 million dollars from the Illinois Innovation Network to complete a lot of the construction that adds value to the Fermentation Science Center. This allows us to put in a sensory lab, a commercial kitchen, a malting facility, a distillery, a small barrel brewing system, and a cheese-making facility. The SIU Foundation recently committed 1.1 million to that facility, which will allow us to bring in a full-scale commercial brewer. Right now, a company by the name of Ravinia Brewing-out of Chicago- has expressed interest in setting up a brewer here. They would be rent-paying tenants, so there's a revenue source. This should happen within 12 months, if everything goes according to plan. Last spring, myself and some colleagues wrote a proposal to the Illinois Wetlabs Program, requesting funding to establish a biotechnology lab and an analytical lab and a business development annex in this facility as well. Earlier this summer, we were notified we had received full funding for our request. We are going to receive another 2.7 million to construct these facilities. These facilities are viewed as research facilities that can also be used by any of the faculty on campus, but also folks from the region, like local businesses. In 1.5 to 2 years, this facility should become fully operational. We've also had discussions about getting an MRI facility established. There was a proposal submitted to get the instrument needed last year. The proposal got good reviews, but the big question was concerning where it would go. We now have a clearer idea, so we should be successful in the next rounds of the proposal. Again, this would be of interest to both faculty and the medical region here.

Questions for the VCR:

Li: Are there any plans within your office to increase the number of grant proposals among faculty? For example, I've heard a lot of complaints about the 10 day deadline. Is there better support that can be provided?

Kinsel: Over the summer, the Sponsored Projects Office decided to purchase something called Pivot RP, which is a premier software package for faculty to identify funding opportunities and

potential collaborators. Right now, we're in the process of going through training and we plan to roll this out within the next few weeks. There will be opportunities for faculty and administrators to get training on it. In terms of the OSPA itself, I would argue that we are understaffed. My hope is that we can get more personnel into the office, so that the proposal review process is more efficient. We are also aggressively seeking a new electronic administration software package. We may be in the 19th century in terms of how we process grant applications. The process right now is almost entirely manual. I've asked our new director to identify the best possible product we can get. The goal is to identify our product by the end of the fiscal year.

Remarks from the Associate Dean and Director of the Graduate School:

Shih: Good morning. Welcome back to the incumbent council members and welcome aboard to the new members. I have a few updates for today. The Grad School recently hosted two in-person events. First, we had an orientation for the new grad students at Guyon Auditorium two weeks ago. We had a very good turnout. I think we had a full house at the auditorium plus online participation. We are grateful to the 15 student organizations, like the Legal Center and Writing Center, who gave a speech. The next day, we had the more social meet-and-greet, which was held at the Student Services Building. A number of 'thank you's' go out to those who gave inspirational speeches, like the Provost, Marc Morris, and the Associate Chancellor for Diversity. We also had 3 faculty members and 3 alums.

September is a busy month for the Grad School, as we are hosting 3 workshops. The first is on September 9th and it is for new GA's. For September 15th and 16th, we have back-to-back workshops for the Directors of Graduate Studies. We are going to be giving an overview of procedural aspects for the Grad School's policies, like admissions, registration, assistantships and fellowships, and graduation. Participation is strongly recommended for both Directors of Grad Studies and staff. On September 23rd, we will have the Assembly of Fellows recognition for the fellowship recipients this year.

I've set up a Microsoft Teams group, specifically for Grad Council. If you don't see the Grad Council icon on your Teams, like me know so I can add your name to it. This accounts as the central communication platform for members, as well as a central repository for our files. I've also created sub-channels for our 4 sub-committees. You can post any relevant documents pertaining to your sub-committee there. If you have any suggestions on how this can be organized better, please let me know.

On graduate enrollment, we are at a 1.3% increase for this year. Let me share my screen to show a more granular analysis. If we split up the master's and doctoral students, we can see that the gross enrollment increase comes from master's students. For doctoral enrollment, we are down 13.5%. For domestic master's enrollment, we are down 4%. The international

master's enrollment is up 41%, from 56 to 95 registrations from 2020 to 2021. There's a 31.6% drop in domestic doctoral registrations and a 12.8% increase with international doctoral registrations. I'm pretty happy with the uptick in enrollment.

Questions for Dr. Shih:

Lakshmanan: Do you have data going back several years? I think it would be helpful looking beyond 1 year, as many international couldn't come last year, due to COVID.

Shih: There are some features that have been suspended, but if they open up, I should be able to get access to more data. I know it would be better to have 5 years of data.

Lakshmanan: I think using 2020 as a base is misleading. We need to measure this year against years prior to 2020.

Shih: I agree. More years tell a better story. But, I was only going off of the data I had access to.

Lee: Do you have the data pertaining to what countries the international students are coming from?

Shih: I think that data is available, but there is no automated feature for it. So, getting this data is more time-consuming. I'll be checking with IT, however.

Lakshmanan: I'm wondering, what outreach have you been doing to help students from Afghanistan? I'm sure that their lives are being impacted.

Shih: For Grad School, we can do a case-by-case evaluation. I'll also be talking to CIE.

Komaraju: Let me add that the university has been following this very carefully. The CIE, as well as school directors and college deans are working with these students.

Lakshmanan: The academic advisors should also be informed of this.

Johnson: The data to me is troubling, given that there is a 13% decrease, from an already low year, in doctoral students. If you are losing that many PhD students, then your status as a research institution is in question. And bizarre because I was surprised that the enrollment of international students increased by so much.

Lakshmanan: I think this goes back to 2020 being a misleading baseline for international students, who were affected by travel restrictions that year.

Komaraju: Looking back last year, the international students were simply not able to come, due to restrictions. This year, what happened was the US Embassy reached out to the CIE to help smooth over this process. So simply comparing this year with last year would not be providing the fuller picture. Regarding the decrease in doctoral students, there are many factors that could be contributing, given that it comes down to each academic unit. Perhaps

some units didn't do enough recruiting, or there are fewer faculty members, or there was a decline in applications. However, the Master's students may go onto their PhD at SIU, so there is more nuance to this number.

Lakshmanan: Perhaps, we should include a chart of the number of faculty members, to see if this is the case. It's not sufficient just to look at the enrollment; we need to look at the trends in faculty.

Shih: That's a great suggestion. PhD enrollment is an area to improve in. In 2017, we had 106 students, and now we're down to 83.

Johnson: Is the percentage between 2 years or 5 years then?

Shih: 2 years. The 5-year change would be still a bit lower.

Ran: There seems to be a bit of discrepancy between the increase in research expenditures and decrease in doctoral students. You would think that our increase in expenditures would attract more students. I wonder if we could figure out the underlying reasons for that.

Shih: As a team, I think we can do some research on this.

Komaraju: In terms of attracting graduate students, they are funded either through state money or from grants. Over the last few years of budget cuts, some units have chosen to cut some GA funding. This is why fewer grad students are able to be supported. If state funding is decrease, we need to look at increase our grant funding.

Ran: This is a good point. Essentially, the state's investment in funding will bring more students.

Johnson: I think it was noticeable that there was no mention of grad student enrollment in the press release. We understand why the emphasis is on undergraduate, but if we are going to remain a research university, the balance may need to swing a bit in the other direction.

Shih: Yes, we were looking for the phrase 'graduate student' in the release, but we couldn't find it.

Report from Chair:

Shaw: Last year, we had some really good research spotlight presentations from faculty and grad students. Do you want to do this again this year? If we do, do you know of individuals in your program or school that would be of interest to the body?

Long: I'm taking a senior seminar on Slavery and Race in Southern Illinois, where we are to produce a work product. I told my professor that I think it's a great idea for some students to fulfill this requirement by presenting here. I think this is a great opportunity for the Law School.

Shaw: Any other units that would like to contribute? I'll be putting together a list.

McCubbin: I loved the presentations, but we have to make sure their time is managed.

Shaw: I figure 7 minutes per presenter.

Report from GPSC:

McKinley: GPSC has not had our first official meeting, but we've held our Executive Council meeting, where our budget was determined. I would like emphasize again that we have travel funds available. As of right now, it looks like we'll be able to offer grad students going to conferences \$75 for attending or \$150 for presenting. I want to give a shout out to our president, Dianah McGreehan, who got the ball rolling on Diversity Week. I was lucky to be on the planning committee. Tell your students to attend the remaining events of the week.

Report from Vice Chair:

Lee: I will be reaching out to you, looking for people to serve on various committees throughout the year, as needed. If you are interested in serving, please feel free to reach out to me.

Report from Dean's Council:

Ojewuyi: The deans are asking for your help in consulting with your directors to continue to disseminate information on Covid. It's a continuous effort. You have GA's and instructors continuing to be put in situations that cause information to be constantly updated. As it was already mentioned, we need to make processing GA contacts more efficient. We are looking to clean up course offerings by making determinations on whether courses with historically low enrollment should be continued for the Spring. It is important to make these decisions before registration is opened.

Report from Faculty Senate:

Rader: The Faculty Senate met at the end of last semester to welcome new members. We also met in July, where we did a lot of discussions on enrollment and Covid precautions. We passed a resolution to create an ad hoc committee, requested by the Chancellor, to investigate how we can improve our ranking in mediums like US News and World Report.

Report from New Programs Committee:

Ran: We have not had an opportunity to convene our first meeting. I will be sending an email to members very soon. We will have the first meeting in September, and, for the following meeting, I expect we'll have a number of resolutions to discuss.

Report from Research Committee:

Chu: We recently had our first meeting a couple weeks ago. I'm going to talk to the previous chair in order to get some guidance.

Report from Program Review Committee:

O'Donnell: We haven't done anything this semester. We should have something to report at the next meeting.

Report from Educational Policies:

Gingrich-Philbrook: I've reached out to the previous chair in order to check in on some of the previous issues that were articulated in minutes from the council last spring. If any of you know about the Admissions Standard Working Group, please email me.

Shih: Are you talking about the Admissions Review Working Group?

Gingrich-Philbrook: Yes. Dr. Partridge mentioned it in a report right before the end of semester.

Shih: Let me look into the minutes. I'll send you some information.

Shaw: Are there any further questions or comments before we adjourn?

Kinsel: I'd like to share that over the summer the Illinois Innovation Network announced the first winners of the Illinois Innovator Award, and that two of the winners were from SIUC. Cam Anderson won for Sustainability and Water, and one of our undergraduates, Nelson Fernandez, won for his green roof project. Considering that only 7 awards were given, I think we did pretty well. Also, at the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting, Meksem Khalid will be announced as the winner of the SIU's Inventor of the Year Award.

McCubbin: Could we maybe have one of the Innovator Award recipients present here?

Kinsel: I'm sure they would be happy to do it.

Komaraju: Is there anything we can do, like Grad Council has been doing, to build in pride for what we do? We tend to downplay our achievements, but, as Gary showed, we are the leaders in R2 universities in Illinois. How can we wear that accomplishment with pride, among our faculty?

Kinsel: I will add that I guarantee that this irks NIU and ISU.

Anaza: To Meera's point, as a marketer, I don't feel that it's enough to create a sense of pride among ourselves. How can this be marketed so that outsiders know that we are that good? It would also have an impact in attracting students here. I sit on the Marketing and Promotion Committee and I wonder if this could be integrated, because in terms of the promotion, I don't see a lot of focus on the research component.

Komaraju: I agree that there are two audiences: one internal and one external. For external, when we have campus visits and talk to students, for instance, we emphasize that this is a university where undergraduates can get into research. But, we also have an internal audience that we need to take care of, in terms of recognizing who we are.

Kinsel: I agree with marketing our successes, both with the external and internal audiences. If the Marketing Department wants to help us do that better, I'm all for it.

Shaw: If there's nothing further, let's adjourn this meeting for today.

Meeting adjourned at 9:51 AM