

Graduate Council 2024-2025

November 7, 2024

Members present: Khaled Ahmed, Iraklis Anagnostopoulos, Kelly Bender, Min Carter, Scott Collins, Scott Comparato, Jane Dougherty, Ahmad Fakhoury, Rolando Gonzalez Torres, Lance Griswold, Dong Han, Karen Johnson, Rhonda Kowalchuk, Cheng-Yao Lin, Kayla Malone, Mark Pease, Mark Peterson, Benjamin Richardson, Jennifer Spreng, Michael Timm, Tomas Velasco, Andy Wilber, Hale Yilmaz, Matthew Young

Executive-Officio: Julie Dunston, Karen Jones, Austin Lane, Sheryl Tucker

Guests: Alexis Dodd, Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm (for John Pollitz), Kymberli Morgan, Amber Pond, Mark Sidhom, Elyse Weller

Meeting started at 8:00 AM

- Consideration of 10-3-2024 meeting minutes.
 - The vote on a motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting passed unanimously.
- Remarks from Provost: Sheryl Tucker
 - Searches for the deans of Law and Education are proceeding and a public announcement might be made next week.
 - Dean candidates for Agricultural, Life and Physical Sciences will be on campus after Thanksgiving. The Provost invites campus participation in the process.
 - John Pollitz, Dean of the Library, has announced his retirement for June 30th, 2025. The Provost's Office hopes to assemble a search committee and get the ad out prior to the holiday break.
 - Provost Tucker was asked about the status of the textbook initiative. Julie Dunston provided an update.
 - Prof. Dunston stated that Tena Bennett and Amy Turpin from Follet presented the initiative to the USG and GSPC.
 - There may be a resolution presented to the Chancellor's Cabinet in December. Possible implementation in Summer 2025.
 - Potential implementation in summer or fall of 2025, pending Chancellor's feedback.
 - A per-credit-hour fee would cover all textbook costs for students.
 - Program favors digital materials, though faculty retain textbook choice.
 - A volume purchase agreement reduces textbook costs for students.
 - Faculty Senate presentation on the program held in March; follow-up expected after resolutions are finalized.
- Remarks from Vice-Chancellor for Research/Dean of the Graduate School: Costas Tsatsoulis – Not present because of a schedule conflict.

- Remarks from Associate Dean & Director of Graduate School: Karen Jones
 - Assoc. Dean Jones discussed competitions that will come up at the beginning of the spring semester.
 - A meeting will be held with the directors of graduate studies (November 20) and student groups (November 21) about them.
 - Numerous fellowships are available, with deadlines and qualifications posted on the graduate school website.
 - Reminder: spring contracts are due soon. If there are students starting new contracts, then please get those contracts to the Graduate School as quickly as possible.

- Remarks from Dean of Library Affairs: Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm for John Pollitz
 - Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm mentioned that the library is hiring a new museum exhibits curator, and they will begin in that role in the middle of November.

- Remarks from the Chancellor: Austin Lane
 - The Chancellor mentioned that the university's primary focus remains on increasing both undergraduate and graduate enrollment, with teams in enrollment management and the Graduate School working diligently toward this goal.
 - The Chancellor emphasized that we do not do enough to promote the research we perform. It was observed that faculty achievements are often underrepresented, affecting potential recruitment and visibility.
 - There was a suggestion to create a campaign to regularly highlight ongoing research by faculty to improve the university's reputation, attract students, and draw more qualified faculty.
 - Peer institutions often communicate their research efforts broadly to boost reputation, especially in relation to rankings. Suggestions were invited to create a more robust, centralized method of sharing research achievements at the university.
 - Previous successful models of research promotion were discussed, including annual publications that showcased topics of interest and were accessible both in print and digitally.
 - Ideas were proposed to establish a central repository for research updates, going beyond limited internal news distribution. This would give lasting visibility to significant research developments.
 - Fulbright program successes were highlighted, with a call to leverage the accomplishments of SIU's Fulbright scholars and students to distinguish the university from neighboring institutions.
 - Faculty expressed enthusiasm for the focus on research, particularly as this has often been overlooked due to the emphasis on enrollment. Recognizing research achievements could inspire graduate and undergraduate students alike.
 - There were mentions of outstanding research contributions from faculty members, such as high-ranking journal publications, and suggestions to implement policies that further support research initiatives to solidify SIU's research status.
 - Concluding remarks reiterated the importance of promoting faculty research achievements to prospective students and for university reputation, along with reflections on personal experiences of researching faculty profiles when considering graduate programs.

- Report from GPSC: Michael Timm
 - GPSC has held two or three meetings since the last General Council session.
 - A new Vice President of Administration (VPA) has been elected and is contracted, completing the executive board.
 - On November 5, GPSC approved the first funding request and began distributing funds to RSOs for event support.
 - GPSC historically has been seen as challenging for funding approvals, as seen with the Follow Access Program.
 - While the new textbook initiative isn't officially dismissed, GPSC currently does not plan to write a memo of support. GPSC will discuss its concerns with faculty advisor Tena Bennett before deciding further.

- Report from Council Vice-Chair: Andy Wilber
 - Prof. Wilber presented a draft resolution on faculty emeritus criteria. Profs. Dougherty and Han are also part of an ad hoc committee to work on this.
 - Key points include:
 - 10-year minimum service at SIU
 - Significant contributions to SIU
 - Application and review process
 - Retaining emeritus status for current faculty
 - Graduate faculty status for emeritus faculty
 - Emeritus vs. Adjunct Status:
 - Confusion exists between emeritus and adjunct faculty status.
 - The definition and criteria for emeritus status need to be clarified.
 - A joint committee between Faculty Senate and Graduate Council is proposed to address this issue.
 - Graduate Faculty Status:
 - The specific privileges and limitations of graduate faculty status for emeritus faculty need to be defined.
 - The Graduate School operating paper will be reviewed to clarify these details.
 - Action Items:
 - Revise the resolution.
 - Remove point #4 about graduate faculty status.
 - Revise point #3 to define the duration of emeritus status.
 - Include a statement about the distinction between emeritus and adjunct status, referencing the Graduate School operating paper for graduate faculty status.
 - Joint Committee:
 - Form a joint committee between Faculty Senate and Graduate Council to address the definition and criteria for emeritus status.
 - Graduate School Operating Paper Review: Review the Graduate School operating paper to clarify the definition and privileges of graduate faculty status.
 - Student Grievance: Andy Wilber will consult with Tomas Velasco to address the student grievance.

- Report from Dean's Council: Vacant
- Report from Faculty Senate: Amber Pond
 - Prof. Pond mentioned that the Faculty Senate has approved a resolution on posthumous degrees.
 - The FS resolution is very much the same as the one the GC approved of in October.
 - Prof. Pond mentioned that the Faculty Senate approved a resolution outlining support for the faculty of Western Illinois University.
 - Prof. Pond started a discussion on the difficulties of recruiting faculty to service roles. Assoc. Dean Jones mentioned that graduate faculty service roles are also difficult to fill. Provost Tucker mentioned that her office will bring this matter to the Dean's Council.
- Report from Educational Policies Committee: Ahmad Fakhoury
 - Prof. Fakhoury presented a revised draft resolution on Leave of Absence for graduate students.
 - Initial feedback raised concerns about Title IX conflicts, but after consultation with Richard Dyer from the Office of Equity and Compliance, no conflicts were found in the revised version.
 - Key points in the resolution:
 - Current graduate catalog lacks a standard LOA policy; only two programs (MBA and Education Administration) mention LOAs.
 - Consistency in LOA policies is needed for academic planning and time limits.
 - Proposed that approved LOAs do not count toward time-to-degree requirements.
 - Graduate catalog should include specific LOA terms, including eligibility, duration, and conditions for returning to the program.
 - After discussion, the committee voted to bypass the usual process and adopt the resolution immediately. A motion and second to approve the resolution was made. The vote on that motion was unanimously approved.
- Report from New Programs Committee: Tomas Velasco
 - Prof. Velasco presented a resolution in support of the RME to eliminate the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Healthcare Informatics.
 - Reasons for elimination:
 - No student enrollment or graduates since the certificate's approval.
 - No projected enrollments in the future.
 - Faculty resources can be better used in more successful programs.
 - Elimination will not impact faculty, staff, or students.
 - All courses will remain part of the Master of Health Informatics (MHI) program.
 - No accreditation or programmatic changes will be needed.
 - Prof. Collins explained the certificate aimed to recruit for the MHI program, but prospective students preferred to enroll directly in the MHI.
 - The Graduate Council voted to approve the resolution immediately for catalog update in the next academic year.
 - Prof. Collins indicated that the faculty in that unit wanted to move forward with the elimination of the program.

- A motion to depart from normal procedures and vote on the resolution was made and seconded. The vote on the motion was unanimously approved. A motion and second to approve the resolution was made. The vote on that motion was unanimously approved.
- Report from Program Review Committee: Iraklis Anagnostopoulos
 - There was no report from the Program Review Committee.
- Report from Research Committee: Kelly Bender
 - Prof. Bender mentioned that the Research Committee is willing to perform additional duties. Prof. Bender suggested that their committee take up promotional activities that Chancellor Lane suggested earlier.
- Report from Council Chair: Mark Peterson
 - Prof. Peterson mentioned that he represents the GC on the Traffic and Parking committee. In a recent meeting that committee expressed a desire to maintain level parking fees but may have to change the income bands corresponding to those fees. I.e., Low Blue/Medium Blue/High Blue/Premium Blue. Faculty having concerns with traffic or parking should contact Prof. Peterson.
- Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.