

Graduate Council 2024-2025

April 3, 2025

Members present: Khaled Ahmed, Kelly Bender, Scott Collins, Jane Dougherty, Ahmad Fakhoury, Lance Griswold, Dong Han, Karen Johnson, Rhonda Kowalchuk, Liliana Lefticariu, Cheng-Yao Lin, Kayla Malone, Kim Parr, Mark Pease, Mark Peterson, Benjamin Richardson, Jennifer Spreng, Tomas Velasco, Andy Wilber, Hale Yilmaz, Matthew Young.

Ex Officio: Julie Dunston, Jennifer Horton (for John Pollitz), Karen Jones, Austin Lane, Constantinos Tsatsoulis, Sheryl Tucker

Guests: Srilatha Kancharla, Amber Pond, Elyse Weller

Meeting started at 8:00 AM

- Consideration of 3-6-2025 meeting minutes.
 - The vote on a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting passed unanimously.
- Remarks from the Provost: Sheryl A. Tucker
 - Announced new deans: William Walters (Library), Kristina Boone (CALPS), and Hannah Brenner Johnson (Law).
 - Hiring updates for University Honors Director and Director of University Core Curriculum.
 - Attendance encouraged at SIU takeover events.
 - SIU is purchasing Catalog Software ("Coursedog") which is planned to be implemented in Fall of 2027. This application will help us in scheduling classes to help students progress towards graduation and in utilization of our classrooms.
 - Clarified updates regarding the IBHE list of low producing programs which has been updated. SIU has a disproportionate number of programs, given enrollment. Faculty input will be needed to address this matter.
 - The Provost addressed concerns about the revocation of a student's visa. She noted that the administration has met with the faculty advisor and believes that a completion plan for that individual can be accomplished remotely. The administration has provided a supportive document for international students of issues that those students need to be aware of.
- Remarks from the Chancellor: Austin Lane
 - The Chancellor reiterated support for international students and recommended that faculty review the letter that Tina Sickinger and Peter Li wrote.
 - Considering the layoffs at SIU-E, SIU-C has taken an approach that will rely on increasing enrollment, both in person and online, improving retention, and continuing with a hiring chill.
 - The payback resulting from the budget crisis has declined from \$25,000,000 to \$9.2 million.
 - The Chancellor's cabinet meets daily to discuss developments resulting from Executive Orders and other actions taken in Washington.

- There is concern about grant funding. VCR Tsatsoulis reported that no grants have been terminated, but the Bridges program has been stopped.
- Remarks from Vice-Chancellor for Research/Dean of the Graduate School: Costas Tsatsoulis
 - Announced \$303,000 allocated toward equipment and renovations for this fiscal year. Dr. Tsatsoulis thanked the Research Committee for evaluating equipment funding requests.
 - Graduate and Undergraduate Research Day is April 10th. At noon there will be a celebration of research by undergraduate and graduate students in the Student Center. Awards will be presented at 3PM.
 - A ribbon cutting and celebration will occur on April 11th when McLafferty Annex will be named the Gower Translational Research Center.
 - Dr. Tsatsoulis encouraged all graduate programs to work on admissions as we are about 100 students behind the number of admits at this time last year.
 - There was a question about the NIH Bridges grant program. Dr. Tsatsoulis clarified that the program will be discontinued but existing grants remain intact. No other programs have been affected to date.
- Remarks from Associate Dean & Director of Graduate School: Karen Jones
 - There is a great resource provided by the Council of Graduate Schools. There is a webpage that is dedicated to all the moving parts and pieces of what is happening resulting from the change in administrations.
 - Dr. Jones also encouraged programs to admit students as soon as practicable.
 - The Graduate School was informed that many embassies are understaffed, so there may be delays in getting services related to I-20s.
 - Grad clearances need to be processed soon.
 - Registration is open so the GS can begin to process graduate contracts.
 - Graduate Council elections have been completed.
- Remarks from Dean of Library Affairs: Jennifer Horton for John Pollitz
 - Next week is National Library week. The Library will honor all student employees and graduate assistants.
 - There is a new curator at the Sharp Museum and there are three new exhibits opening this month. There is a reception this Friday at 4:30 celebrating the LGBTQ+ community.
- Remarks from Council Chair: Mark Peterson
 - The GC meeting in May will be the last of the academic year. Following that meeting we will have the first meeting for the 2025-26 GC. Be prepared to nominate someone for Chair and Vice-chair.
 - Along with Andy Wilber, the chair met with the Ombudsperson on 3/24 to discuss the GC's role in student grievances.
 - Attended Public Safety Advisory Board meeting.
- Report from GPSC: Lance Griswold

- GPSC met with GAU to discuss changes to the contract.
- GPSC will have elections on April 15th.
- GPSC will have end of year awards ceremony at the end of April.
- Report from Council Vice-Chair: Andy Wilber
 - Mark Peterson and Andy Wilber met with Julianne Wallace and Faculty Senate representatives to discuss the emeritus matter. A joint committee of GC and FS will begin to formulate a resolution.
- Report from Faculty Senate: Amber Pond
 - The Faculty Senate finished up elections.
 - Lichang Wang, who represented the FS on the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE, reported that they developed a resolution related to DEI in support of our students and faculty who may be affected by these new policies.
- Report from Educational Policies Committee: Ahmad Fakhoury
 - Second reading of the resolution concerning the Graduate Alternate Tuition Rate policy.
 - The matter came to a vote and passed unanimously.
 - A survey on the fall break proposal from the Registrar will close on April 8th.
 - The GC received a request to consider the student complaint process proposed addition to the Graduate Catalog. As the request was sent yesterday, there has not been time for the committee to consider. This matter will be addressed in the May meeting.
- Report from New Programs Committee: Tomas Velasco
 - First reading of a resolution in support of the addition of an MS in Population Science.
 - Focus: Population health, epidemiology, rural health policy. It will be housed in the School of Medicine's Department of Population Science and Policy. Emphasized alignment with SIU's rural mission and shortage of similar programs nationwide.
 - There was discussion as to whether related programs were part of the decision-making process. APAP Dunston indicated that the RME started a couple of years ago and there were discussions with the MPH program representatives. However, it was unclear whether the other related programs had input. Prof. Velasco will invite representatives from the MHA programs to attend our May meeting when we will have our second reading.
- Report from Program Review Committee: Iraklis Anagnostopoulos
 - Nothing new to report.
- Report from Research Committee: Kelly Bender
 - Nothing new to report.
 - Noted ongoing purchases and internal coordination via email.

- Other

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.