

## Graduate Council 2024-2025

### December 5, 2024

**Members present:** Khaled Ahmed, Iraklis Anagnostopoulos, Kelly Bender, Scott Collins, Jane Dougherty, Ahmad Fakhoury, Rolando Gonzalez Torres, Lance Griswold, Dong Han, Rhonda Kowalchuk, Liliana Lefticariu, Jie Shi Liew, Cheng-Yao Lin, Kayla Malone, Mark Pease, Mark Peterson, Benjamin Richardson, Jennifer Spreng, Michael Timm, Tomas Velasco, Hale Yilmaz, Matthew Young

**Executive-Officio:** Karen Jones, John Pollitz, Constantinos Tsatsoulis

**Guests:** Kymberli Morgan, Amber Pond, Mark Sidhom, Elyse Weller

#### **Meeting started at 8:00 AM**

- Consideration of 11-7-2024 meeting minutes.
  - The vote on a motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting passed unanimously.
- Remarks from Vice-Chancellor for Research/Dean of the Graduate School: Costas Tsatsoulis
  - Prof. Tsatsoulis is participating in the Council of Graduate Schools in St. Louis.
  - The Graduate School is working on the promotion of SIU's move to R1 status.
  - There will be a cabinet retreat in January and one of the topics will concern the process of admitting graduate students.
  - The Graduate School has withdrawn from the agreement with the Council of Graduate Schools on the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. Reminder: last year's GC approved of that change.
  - Prof. Tsatsoulis reported that funding for recruiting graduate students has been transferred to the deans.
  - Attendance at the Technology Innovation Expo from 1:00-4:30 is encouraged.
- Remarks from Associate Dean & Director of Graduate School: Karen Jones
  - The Graduate School is doing graduation clearances and working on spring contracts.
  - Many fellowship nominations are due to the Graduate School in January. GC members are asked to remind our colleagues.
- Remarks from Dean of Library Affairs: John Pollitz
  - A new STEM librarian with a background in science writing and a graduate degree in speech communication will join SIU on January 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Library is in the process of finalizing negotiations with Elsevier which should expand journal access through a program called science direct freedom.
- Remarks from Council Chair: Mark Peterson

- Members of the GC, including the chair met with the Chancellor's committee regarding promotion of research at SIU. Prof. Bender will speak on this later in this meeting.
- Reminder to ask your colleagues whether they have issues with the textbook initiative.
- Report from GPSC: Michael Timm
  - Most of the graduate students who have voiced opinions on the textbook initiative have been negative. The program may be beneficial to some graduate students. The GPSC will be drafting a letter to the Chancellor that describes their position.
- Report from Council Vice-Chair: Andy Wilber – Not present.
- Report from Faculty Senate: Amber Pond
  - The Faculty Senate is meeting Tuesday and will consider a report on instructor course evaluations. There may be a resolution in the February meeting.
  - The Faculty Senate continues working on the emeritus status matter. Currently, the resolution reads that faculty members automatically become emeritus upon retirement and maintain that status unless the faculty member does something that the university finds unacceptable.
    - The Education Policies Committee (of the GC) has taken up this matter as it pertains to adjunct status.
- Report from Educational Policies Committee: Ahmad Fakhoury
  - The committee will be working on defining graduate faculty status in the operating paper.
- Report from New Programs Committee: Tomas Velasco
  - The committee will be considering two new programs.
- Report from Program Review Committee: Iraklis Anagnostopoulos
  - The committee had no report.
- Report from Research Committee: Kelly Bender
  - Prof. Bender met with the Chancellor's committee on promoting research. The committee discussed our upcoming change in status to R1. Marketing at the local, regional, national and international was discussed. The Chancellor wants the committee to consider what our major pillars of research that SIU should be known for. Ideas for this are welcome. The committee also discussed Fulbrights and how we could market that program.
  - The committee will be meeting next week to discuss these matters as well as review the fourth quarter equipment proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 a.m.