

2016 GRADUATE COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2016

The Chair called the meeting to order at 08:00.

Members Present: Ratna Sinha, Constantine Hatziaioniu, Alison Watts, Silvia Secchi, Prema Narayan, John Barnard, Natalie Nash, Amanda Barnard, Zhao Wanli, Sandy Kim, Andrew Pardieck, Richard McKinnies, Joseph Shapiro, Cinzia Padovani, Gray Whaley, Kenneth Stickers, Tomas Velasco, Julie Partridge, Randolph Burnside, Boyd Goodson, Michael Eichholz.

Members Absent: Greg Rose, David Conrad, Wayne Glass, Cynthia Sims, Michael Brown, Johnathan Flowers, Corné Prozesky, Norman Carver, Clay Nielsen, Richard Bradley.

Proxies: Charles Ruffner for Clay Nielsen, Karla Horton for Cynthia Sims.

Ex-Officio Members Present: James Garvey, Susan Ford, James Allen, Andy Wang, Yueh-Ting Lee, Brad Colwell, Howard Carter.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Randy Dunn.

Consideration of minutes

The minutes of the March meeting were passed with two amendments.

1. Conrad David corrected to David Conrad (page 1)
2. LaShonda Steward corrected to LaShonda Stewart (page 4)

Remarks – Interim Chancellor Colwell

Reported that there is no news to share about the budget situation. He commented that he is actively engaging Deans on budget scenarios and that university funds are dwindling. He also commented that he is aware that the university is losing faculty to other institutions.

Interim Chancellor Colwell encouraged the Graduate Council members to continue to call Rep. Bryant since SIU employs vast numbers of people in the Southern Illinois region, a region Rep. Bryant represents. Dr Colwell also reported about MAP funding and noted that funding packages are being put together for the following year, although there has been no information about MAP grants.

He reassured the Graduate Council that the university will remain open and that graduation ceremonies will go ahead as in previous years. He also mentioned that the university is still planning for the eclipse next year as well as for the 150th celebration in 2019. He stressed that SIU will continue to celebrate and share any good news.

Finally, Dr Colwell commented that SIU had a difficult week in the media, and some people have wondered whether the university is a safe community. He mentioned that SIU's Cleary data is considerably lower than other peer institutions, and that the university leadership is trying to do the right things.

C. Hatziaioniu commented that it is good to project a positive outlook to the public rather than contributing to the panic. He asked whether there is a more strategic approach to dealing with the budget situation besides an across the board budget cut. Dr. Colwell

responded that the strategy will be one level below Anthony Hall as people have been asked to prepare for a 20% cut. He explained that on one level the Provost and Vice Chancellors, and on another level the Deans must take that number and be strategic with it. He further explained that there will be no mandate about which programs should be cut or saved. The cuts will be permanent cuts rather than one-time cuts. Some units have already volunteered to take cuts and were given some credit for the up-coming year. There are certain things that will be protected, such as Enrollment Management. Dr. Colwell also emphasized that cutting the Athletics program would not translate into any real saving since Athletics receives most of its funding from student fees, ticket sales and other private donations.

G. Whaley commented that faculty have asked about department merges. Dr Ford responded that departments have become small, resulting in potential increased service load for faculty and high administrative costs. Dr Ford explained that Deans have been asked to start conversations with departments about identifying programs that have similar academic interests such that those departments could merge into single administrative units. Dr Ford further clarified that the mergers do not refer to academic programs and that academic programs and faculty would stay the same. However, faculty would have to talk about revising operating papers to reflect how the administration would function in merged units. She added that there are departments that have already voluntarily merged.

G. Whaley asked about the definition of small. Dr Ford responded that following lengthy discussions at a Deans' retreat, Deans felt that fewer than 10 tenure-track faculty is small and makes it difficult to justify having an administrative unit for that small number faculty.

C. Ruffner commented that small units should not be defined as inefficient. Some departments have a small number of faculty and high enrollments. Dr Ford responded that the issue of numbers was discussed at length at the Deans' retreat. She added that the idea is to encourage departments to find their own best solutions and work with their Deans.

Remarks – Interim Provost Ford

Reported that overall freshman admission numbers are down by almost 1 500 compared to the same period last year. Transfer students are down by about 230. The low admission numbers mirror the reduction in application numbers. Dr Ford explained that with Masters Programs, application numbers are low while admission numbers have increased slightly. Doctoral Programs are down in both applications and in admissions. She added that low enrollment numbers are a concern especially in an environment where SIU is facing a potential steep drop in State funding.

Dr Ford also commented that the marketing campaign is well targeted and emphasizes the strength of SIU's academic programs and undergraduate students' research opportunities. She thanked faculty for working with prospective students who visit the campus and for working with current students to enhance retention.

Finally, Dr Ford reported that she will be sending an official announcement about the hire of the Dean of the College Education and Human Services. She also reported that the search process for the new Dean for the College of Business is nearing completion.

C. Hatziadoni asked whether there are plans to protect GA lines. Dr Ford responded that she has asked Deans for plans so that she can combine Deans' plans with the planning and information that will be provided by the Committee on Program Prioritization and also balance between the Colleges. Dr Ford clarified that she did not give the Deans any

particular directives except to that the intention is for SIU to remain a Carnegie high research institution.

Remarks – Interim Vice Chancellor for Research, Dr Garvey

Reported that the undergraduate and graduate research forums were not well attended by faculty. He added that one of the recipients of the Undergraduate Research Award, Austin Weigle, also received an Honorable Mention for the Goldwater Scholarship, a prestigious award that undergraduate students can win. Weigle is junior majoring in Plant Biology.

Dr Garvey also spoke about the successful Energy Day, which was attended by respected scientists, including Dr Peter Littlewood, Director of Argonne National Laboratories and Christopher Smith, Assistant Secretary of Fossil Energy, US Department of Energy. A visit by these highly recognized individuals is an acknowledgement of SIU's research excellence and contributes toward future student employment. Dr Garvey also mentioned that SIU received an Energy Boost grant of \$4.6 million. He also spoke about other events that happened around campus including a music festival, Da Vinci Day, a talk about research on campus and other events.

Dr Garvey also reported that a new innovation space is being brought to the student center. The space will showcase campus innovation activities and sustainability initiatives.

He also reported that the research office is writing grants in an attempt to get research funds from external sources to finance university research activities. He asked the Graduate Council members to encourage junior faculty members to make convincing arguments if requesting research assistance or to be patient since the university has a cash flow problem. He added that start up packages promised will be eventually honored.

M. Eichholz asked if there are alternatives for the GAs funded through federal flow through grants and are about to receive layoff letters. Dr Garvey responded that his office is working on the issue and added that there are no guarantees. He explained that the main thing is convincing the State to provide the contractual obligated money since SIU has contractual agreements with the State.

Remarks – Graduate School, Dean Lee

Reminded graduate faculty members whose colleges have vacancies (on Graduate Council) that they have until 5pm on Friday, April 8 to vote.

Dr Lee reported that graduate enrollment numbers are declining. Applications received for Masters Programs are down by about 375 compared to the same period last year. For Doctoral Programs, there are four more applications this year compared to last year. Whereas in the previous period there were 712 applications, this year there are 716. However, admissions in Doctoral Programs is down (61 to date) compared to 101 last year. He commented that the drop in enrollment is related to the on-going budget issues in Illinois.

Dr Lee also reported that in March, some of the members of the Graduate Enrollment Taskforce members together with other faculty members and staff members from the Graduate School went to different universities to recruit potential students. Universities visited include Murray State University, South East Missouri State, Harris Stowe State University and another university in Nashville. He added that a plan to further improve enrollment is being developed and includes attending 10-15 university graduate recruitment fairs.

Dr Lee also informed the Graduate Council that on March 7, the Graduate School hosted a symposium on *Money Talk—Graduate Symposium on Finance*, which was attended by 50 students from both the main campus and the Springfield campus. He also announced that the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Graduate School will organize a workshop to be held on Thursday, April 21. The workshop is intended to advise graduate students on how to use summer time more efficiently.

He also mentioned that the program review of the Professional Science Master's (PSM) in Advanced Energy and Fuel Management is close to completion. He also commented that on March 25, the Graduate School had a productive discussion with SIUE faculty and administration about a collaborative Ph.D. agreement on Environmental Resources and Policy. The second draft of the MOU is almost complete.

Remarks – Associate Provost for Academic Programs, Dr Allen

Dr Allen reported that he has been working with Dr Peter Lemish from the School of Journalism on planning community engagement, an activity that is an outgrowth of SIU's designation by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Part of the work includes learning from faculty and students about activities that they are already doing. A webpage and a database will be developed to help assess whether SIU activities are really serving the needs of the community. This will also ensure a more systematic coordination such that departments are not all sending student volunteers to the same community partners. As part of this project, Dr Allen is proposing attention to the faculty engaged in research and scholarship since they are often overlooked. Dr Allen added that a report should be ready for the Chancellor by the end of the semester.

Dr Allen also reported that there are a number of legislative proposals that are sent to his office by the university's legislative liaison, John Charles, which he shares with Deans, Department Chairs and faculty, particularly undergraduate faculty members who can provide feedback on many of the proposals. For example, the bill on alcohol sales on campus complicate the work of the faculty in Fermentation Science.

Dr Allen also spoke about Liability Policy and Practices as they apply to all campus and academic activities such as Study Abroad Programs, Service Learning Projects, Internships and others. He hoped to reduce the paperwork obstacles for faculty who oversee such activities.

C. Hatziaodoniu asked for clarification about legislation concerning micro managing faculty. Dr Allen responded that there have been two proposals that would define credits from students with AP exam scores. The legislation says it should be set at level three; however, the undergraduate catalog listings are higher. Faculty should make the decisions about where the students are placed and not by the legislators.

B. Goodson asked whether the SIU approach is consistent with national norms. Dr Allen responded that SIU is indeed in line with national norms.

Dr Ford mentioned that Dr Allen will continue to serve part-time as Vice President in the President's Office and that Dr Burnside will also serve in an expanded role in the Provost's Office.

Remarks – Council Chair, Eichholz

Update on program prioritization – reported that although things are advancing well, he is not sure that the committee will meet the May deadline. He hoped that the committee

would have a draft that they will present at the next Graduate Council meeting. He added that the same draft will be emailed to the entire graduate faculty for feedback.

Update on non-academic program prioritization - C. Ruffner reported that the committee has only met once and has not met since despite attempts to contact other committee members. A. Barnard also added that she has made attempts to inquire with the co-chairs about the date of the next meeting but had not received a response. Dr Ford undertook to relay the information to Chancellor Colwell.

The Chair opened a discussion about diversity on campus and noted that there is concern that issues important to minority groups may not be properly heard by the various constituency groups. He called on Dr Burnside to provide input.

R. Burnside commented that there are substantive issues that the Chancellor needs to hear directly from underrepresented groups. Having representation in a body such as the Graduate Council would enhance the possibility that issues of concern are addressed in ways that are best for the institution. He also commented that issues of concern are not confined to faculty and staff, but include underrepresented students who want to be represented by people who look like them, something that is not currently happening at SIUC. Underrepresented voices should be heard in a formal manner, which can be structured by the Chancellor, President or Provost. This is something that should have been happening. Dr Burnside also added that such an effort will positively contribute to faculty, staff and student retention.

The Chair asked for suggestions on what the role of the Graduate Council should be and whether there should be minority representation in the Graduate Council.

R. Burnside responded that addressing issues of representation should not be group based but requires the involvement of the entire university and cohesive strategies that deal with issues of recruitment and the programs offered.

Y. Lee also commented that the Graduate School used to have an Underserved Office, which no longer exists. Dr Ford explained that the Underserved Office no longer exists because of budget cuts. She also commented about a serious racial incident that happened in one of the dorms and stressed that students involved in the incident are being disciplined. She also suggested that the Graduate Council should consider having an ad hoc committee next year to address and investigate ways in which the university can better help faculty learn about how to be good mentors to ensure success of minority students. This is because minority students require particular kinds of support and mentoring to succeed in graduate education.

The Chair also introduced the issue of the Graduate Council meeting over summer particularly given the ensuing budget situation. Two members of the Council commented that the Graduate Council has in the past met over summer.

J. Barnard raised the issue of a quorum since students and faculty use the summer break to travel for research purposes. Low attendance numbers will make voting on issues difficult.

S. Secchi also commented that some faculty members are paid by their own grants over summer and not by the university.

The chair closed the discussion and noted that the issue will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Remarks – Faculty Senate, Professor Whaley

Reported that the Faculty Senate had polled faculty about the plus/minus grading system for undergraduate students. Over 75% of faculty voted in favor of the grading system. Dr Ford clarified that if it passes through Faculty Senate it will not happen overnight because of the technical difficulties in changing the student information system to accept registering plus/minus grading.

R. Burnside commented that there are students who are anxious about the plus/minus grading system and encouraged faculty to explain what the system means. Dr Whaley responded that the plus/minus system was presented to the Undergraduate Student Governing body whose support of the system was not as positive as that shown by faculty.

Remarks – Deans Council, Dr Wang

Reported that the Deans are preparing a cut plan of between 10 and 15% based on fiscal year 2015 budget. This manner of cut means conducting a strategic change in addition to the program prioritization. Deans have concerns about how to approach the cut, whether it should be across the board, metrics or performance based. Deans hope that it is not an across the board cut since that would indicate that there is no priority and no strategy. The plans on which Deans are working are not only based on State dollars, but also DE dollars, i.e., off campus and online budget. Course fees cannot be touched and cannot be carried over. If the permanent cut is based on that non-permanent revenue or money, how is it going to be cut? This means each program is cutting much more than we are asked. The Deans hope that the President, Chancellor and Provost could clearly define what the early “Onion Model” is and whether there are priorities for the campus. Deans are working on a number of scenarios that include the unavailability of funds in the next academic year, a drop in enrollment numbers, and a cut in the system of which SIUC is part.

C. Ruffner commented that Dean Wang’s report indicates the important role of the non-academic program prioritization committee.

Dr Ford also commented that the current targets that the Vice Chancellors (VC) have been given are equal across each VC area. She explained that within her own area of Academic Affairs, there are certain things that are included in the income flow on which the cut is based. So, she has been given a dollar target that is 10% of certain dollars in her budget. Those dollars are computed not just by what the State provides but all tuition and student income, any tuition source including online education, all student payment fees. However, she has also been told that she should hold Enrollment Management harm free. There are fees that cannot be touched and are used for the purposes for which students pay. There are also other units such as Disabled Students Services (DSS) that cannot be touched since SIU is federally mandated to provide the services and the DSS budget just covers what the office requires. The impact on the other areas that fall under the Provost Office is higher than 10% once the fees that cannot be touched have been set aside. Provost Ford undertook to communicate with Chancellor Colwell Dean Wang’s concerns about the way the targets are developed.

GPSC Report, A. Barnard

Reported that on April 27 GPSC and USG will hold a town hall meeting for students in which elected student leaders from the two groups will address student concerns about the budget

situation and other incidents that have occurred on campus. She also reported that GPSC received 59 applications for the Research Awards. A Research Awards committee will meet to determine the winners and notices to winners will be sent by the following week. Ms Barnard also reported that she will be graduating and will no longer serve on the Graduate Council. She added that GPSC will hold elections on April 19 and election results will be presented at the next meeting of the Graduate Council.

Nominations to Committees/Announcements – Council Vice Chair, Goodson

No report.

Standing Committee Reports

New Programs Committee Report – Professor Watts

Second reading:

Graduate Council Resolution in support of the Proposed Elimination of MBA concentrations in Change Management of Information Systems, and International Business in the College of Business.

The Graduate Council voted to approve the resolution - 18 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions. **Resolution passed.**

Graduate Council Resolution in support of the addition of an accelerated MA degree in Linguistics in the College of Liberal arts.

C. Carstens explained that she has added that “students are eligible for admission to the accelerated linguistics MA if they have a 3.5 GPA in all their coursework.” She also clarified that over the summer session students can enroll in 593 Research in Linguistics, a three hour credit course. Students will write a 20-25 page research paper, which will likely build on a term paper they began to develop in an upper level linguistics course.

J. Barnard asked if writing a thesis is no longer required. C. Carstens responded that there is already a non-thesis option at the MA level. Students enrolled in the five year program would be required to write a substantial research paper, thus creating a third route to the MA.

Provost Ford asked whether students who choose to do the accelerated MA program could not choose the non-thesis option. C. Carstens explained that the non-thesis option substitutes extra coursework for the thesis. Students will have to take the courses involved as part of their accelerated MA and will run out of coursework options.

C. Padovani asked whether the accelerated option is only for students enrolled in a BA Linguistics program at SIUC and whether students enrolled in the program have a chance of being admitted into a Ph.D. program upon completion of the MA. C. Carstens responded that students would have similar chances as any other holders of an MA Linguistics degree. The research paper will serve as an excellent writing sample for applications to Ph.D. programs.

Y. Lee asked about the number of students who are likely to be interested in the accelerated program. C. Carstens responded there is one student who has already showed interest but added that it is hard to say how many students would be interested in the program once offered.

The Graduate Council voted to approve the resolution - 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstentions. **Resolution passed.**

Program Review Committee Report, Professor Velasco

No report.

Research Committee Report, Professor Narayan

No report.

Education Policies Committee Report, Professor Shapiro

Second Reading:

Resolution on Graduate Student Academic Grievance Procedure.

J. Shapiro noted that following the Graduate Council in March there is a slight change in the resolution. M. Eichholz asked J. Shapiro to email the revised version.

Provost Ford clarified that the Graduate Catalog for the following year has already been completed. The change will not be effective until 2017-2018.

The Graduate Council voted to approve the resolution - 18 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions. **Resolution passed.**

Resolution to Recommend Approval of a Policy and Definition to Grant Emeritus Status to Retired Faculty and Administrators.

The Graduate Council voted to approve the resolution - 17 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions. **Resolution passed.**

No discussion.

Old Business

M. Eichholz noted that the Operating Paper must be resolved before the end of the semester. The changes to the Operating Paper have to be approved by the Graduate Council. Graduate Faculty will be asked to vote on the Operating Paper via D2L.

New Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05.