

2017 GRADUATE COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2017

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM.

Members Present: Sue Rimmer, Constantine Hatziaioniu, Norman Carver, Joseph Shapiro, Ras Michael Brown, Sarah Curtis, Wesley Calvert, Dianah McGreehan, Sajal Lahiri, Johnathan Flowers, Cinzia Padovani, Julie Partridge, Tomas Velasco, Lizette Chevalier, Ethan Stephenson, Jonathan M Howard, Michael May, Rachel Whaley, Kenneth Stickers

Members Absent: Richard McKinnies, Cynthia Sims, Wanli Zhao, Justin Simpson, Greg Rose, Jonathan Howard, Richard Bradley, Howard Motyl, Buffy Elsworth, Sheena Hart, Trish McCubbin, Paula Basler

Proxies: Jennifer Lynn Smith for Richard McKinnies, Saran Donahoo for Cynthia Sims, JP Reed for Rachel Whaley, Prema Narayan for Buffy Elsworth, Derrick McDowell for Sheena Hart

Ex-Officio Members Present: Yueh-Ting Lee, Ratna Sinha, Meera Komarraju, James Garvey, Susan Ford, Brad Colwell, Randy Dunn

Consideration of minutes

The minutes of the April meeting were passed without amendments.

Graduate Council members voted to approve the minutes- 20 voted in favor.

Remarks – President, Randy Dunn

President Dunn said that he was there to present an overview of what was going on at the campus. He said that for the continued operations on the campus, from a financial point of view, SIUC was going ahead with the loan from the SIU, Edwardsville campus. He expected that to be decided by the Board of Trustees by May 10, 2017. Financially, operations were to go into deficit on the Carbondale campus within 7-10 days. SIUC could not afford to have operations running in the red without having other problems such as accreditation, filings to be made, etc. Unrestricted reserves should be made available from the Edwardsville campus on a paper transaction. That would buy the Carbondale campus some additional time. He said that regarding the state budget, having spent time at Springfield, he knew that the State Senate were coming back for a second attempt at a grand bargain. There was a lot of discussion around this and the speculation was whether some Republicans were to vote for the passing of the budget. If the freeze over the budget was not lifted, then the Senate might work on a lifeline budget thrown to the public universities to keep them afloat (till about the Fall tuition payments).

President Dunn added that regarding the Chancellor search, the ARC was compiling all the data. The reports should be coming out by either the next day or the next Monday morning. The data from all the candidates would be reviewed by the Advisory Search Committee. The Search Advisory Committee would meet on the next Monday afternoon. They would post for the subsequent Board meeting on May 10, 2017 an action item to potentially make an offer of employment. If the Board wanted to proceed, then they could without having to add a late item. They could pull it out, if more time was needed.

S Lahiri asked for clarification about the paper transaction regarding the loan from SIU, Edwardsville. President Dunn replied that there were questions as to whether cash needed to be transferred or a check would do (because it might mean writing a check to self from the university). But a physical check could be cut for a holding account of the Carbondale campus. And because it is one single organization, the auditors could be told that the university is applying for the reserves (sub-budget) for its operations on campus.

C Hatziadoniou asked whether the Edwardsville campus has permitted the loan or the Board of Trustees, to which President Dunn replied that it was the Board of Trustees. Even though SIU was one single organization with a single account, because there are different campuses with different accreditation, there are sub-budgets. And the authorities also wanted transparency and hence, the loan was made public. C Hatziadoniou further asked how long would the Board hold off before declaring fiscal emergency to which President Dunn replied July. He added that under Board rules, certain things must happen for the Board to declare an exigency or emergency. Those things had to be checked. C Hatziadoniou asked what kinds of tools would a declaration of emergency give? President Dunn replied that it would not amount to a lot. It was a precursor of an exigency and might provide a bit more maneuverability.

Remarks – Interim Chancellor, Bradley Colwell

Dr. Colwell started by saying that by next week he would update memos regarding the diversity council, state of the address and non-academic prioritization council. There were action items on all those and all the VCs and directors were being contacted.

Dr. Colwell added that the University Hall was affected by the heavy rains and would be closed for the rest of the semester. He said that an approximate estimate of the damage done would be somewhere around a million dollars. There were students only on the second floor and not the first. The only person on the lower level was the Hall Director and a Resident Assistant. No personal items of students were damaged. There were 123 residents in the building with a capacity of 180. Unfortunately, not all the students could be contacted. The Housing staff had pitched in to make things better. The temporary move to Trueblood was necessary and then they have been moved to Schneider with their own rooms. Moving twice, with only a week left, was undesirable but unavoidable. The cleanup would be approximately 3 weeks. That same team would then work towards construction and repairing what had been damaged. The PSO was in-charge of that. The summer camps that were scheduled there, had been moved over to Thompson Point.

Dr. Colwell added that the next weekend (Friday afternoon at 3) was the Law School Commencement. In the evening was a party for the Graduates and their families at the Student Center. There was a reception event where all the distinguished award recipients would be recognized on Friday. On Saturday, there are three commencements. Cheri Bustos, Federal House Representative would be the Commencement Speaker and daughter of Gene Callahan would receive a Posthumous Award on his behalf. Cheri would do 2 commencement speeches and then Larry Spencer, an African American four star Airforce General and an alum of one of the distance education programs, would give the third commencement speech. On Saturday would begin the celebrations of the 75th anniversary and the \$75 million campaign for student success. That amount would mostly be for student benefit. There would only be a couple of minor capital pieces.

Dr. Colwell said that the search for Dean of Students had almost concluded. A candidate had come back for a second round of interviews. Also, three candidates were being brought in

for the position of the Chief Diversity Officer. The intention was to bring them in while the students were still on campus. Two candidates were from Kentucky and one from Michigan.

Dr. Colwell said that the Summer School enrollments had to be as robust as possible. There would be more online credit hours than on-campus. That would be following a trend set the previous summer.

Dr. Colwell added that the Vice-Chancellor Kevin Bame had retired on the last day of April. There was no grand announcement as he wanted a low-key affair. The person to replace him is Judy Marshall (at least till July1) and she is the Chief Financial Officer. He added that replacements would be sought for all the Interim positions at the top in the university, including his own, by the middle of the Fall semester, 2017.

N Carver asked if there were any plans regarding an Interim Dean after Dean Achenbach's retirement to which Dr. S Ford replied in the affirmative. She added that the Dean of the College of Science was set to retire on July 1.

J Flowers asked for a comment on college mergers. S Ford replied that the authorities had been encouraging departments, particularly those with low tenure track faculty, to seek mergers in order to alleviate service workloads. That would allow the departments to focus more on teaching and research and distribute the service workload on more individuals. It would also cut cost as it would mean less department chairs. The university was mindful of the associate contracts and understood that this was going to be a long drawn process. Different units were in discussion and some had voted but there were no announcements of mergers at that point. There had been mergers in the past and there were models of mergers to follow. The mergers had been successful. But the mergers needed operating papers and tenure promotion guidelines and would take time. With regard to college mergers, fiscal health and strong future were being considered. She said MCMA was a small college and was least healthy fiscally. She said there should be a strong collegiate framework.

J Flowers asked for comments on the fiscal plans for the School of Law. Dr. Colwell said that the school was assigned a \$360,000 cut representing 15% of what they would have received as state funds for FY15. The 15% was based on Governor Rauner's proposed budget. But the School of Law was the unit who would get to keep their tuition dollars. He added that the faculty sweep would affect all faculty and staff. The downside was that the potential impact could not be foreseen. But after June 30, they could take stock of the situation and start returning dollars based on the request from deans.

S Lahiri asked whether the details regarding the budget cut had been worked out. Dr. Colwell replied that the \$19 million cut was permanent and the rest \$11 million was to payback what was borrowed. The university wanted to get done with the cuts once and for all. \$10 million from the \$19 million was for faculty, staff etc. The rest of the \$9 million were cuts for different offices.

J Howard asked if the higher administration was taking a hit in order to cut costs. Dr. Colwell said that nothing had been discussed yet. Dr. Ford commented that SIU needed a good leader in the form of a Chancellor and that would not happen if the person was paid less than par. The administration at SIU was already paid less than other administrators in other universities across the country. So, the President was not considering paying less for the Chancellor. J Howard replied that he had read a newspaper article that President Dunn was the second highest paid President in Illinois. Dr. Ford replied that the remuneration was decided by the Board of Trustees. She added that other university Presidents get larger support packages too. She added that SIU has not, is not and does not expect to be

overtly generous with remuneration. S Lahiri asked whether the faculty were underpaid to which S Ford replied in the affirmative.

J Howard said that administration members at Springfield had taken cuts to which Dr. Colwell and Dr. Ford said that they did not know anything about it.

Remarks – Interim Provost, Susan Ford

Dr. Ford reported that two candidates for the Director of Center for International Education were supposed to come to campus and one had withdrawn. One was coming to campus from Texas and another candidate was internal.

Dr. Ford reported that enrollments were down. The current projections were better than four weeks back regarding incoming freshmen. As far as current students were concerned, there was a huge drop in registration because students were concerned as to what would happen to their departments after academic prioritization. She asked everyone to reassure their students that they would be able to get a degree in the field they have started.

Dr. Ford said that there was a Dean's retreat regarding academic prioritization and a graduate student of Computer Science had written a program to pull in all the data and make sense of it. Cleaning data was a difficult task. But the main question was how to use the limited resources available. Discussion regarding that would happen in Fall when everyone was back on campus.

J Flowers asked about graduate enrollment and Dean Lee replied that SIU was down by 180 PhD students and 300 Master's students as compared to the same time during the previous year. In the previous year, about 150 I20 forms had been issued to international students and this year 120 had been issued by the same time. Dr. Ford said that May 15 was when she would provide the report.

Report – Interim Vice-Chancellor for Research, Jim Garvey

Dr. Garvey said that Wayne Glass, director of APSA would retire in May and Sanya Shorts would become the Acting Director.

Dr. Garvey then talked about the image facility which was an electron microscope facility and it has a multi-million dollar equipment. If they were not taken care of and not used regularly, they would get damaged. A 25% GA was provided to Dr. Kohli to help in the machine's upkeep. He reminded everyone that people who bring in big research grants need to be able to use the big expensive research machinery and infrastructure. He was trying to figure out a way to keep the research facilities going. He added that the good news was that Washington's bill regarding science and arts funding was not as bad as previously thought. In fact, there was a 5% increase coming up. Not every agency came out unscathed. Department of Energy's Environmental Protection Agency took a huge hit. NEA and NIH's budgets were flat and were expected to be the same. NASA research and research in agriculture or medical research were going to see an increase of 6% in the next fiscal year.

Dr. Ford added that awards for new students were to be given out in Fall. So, Undergraduate or Graduate students who have been in school for not more than a year should apply. Universities who put in the names of more students get more awards. So, the target should be to get more students to apply.

Dr. Garvey added that the Graduate Research Fellowship programs were some of the oldest programs. The number of students applying has increased but SIU has had one such student who got that Fellowship. Dr. Garvey's office would do workshops regarding that during Fall.

S Lahiri asked whether international students could apply to which Dr. Garvey replied in the negative.

Dr. Colwell said that there was provision for Summer programs in case the Federal budget got passed, set for academic year 2017-18. He asked which Summer did it mean to which Dr. Garvey replied that it might be Fall.

Report - Graduate School Dean, Yueh-Ting Lee

Dean Lee started the report by reporting on graduate admissions. He said that the Graduate School was in the middle of reminding the departments and programs of the high number of no-decision applications. Though the Graduate School was making progress, there was still a long way to go. For everyone's information, Dr. Lee added that the international applications were catching up based on the I20 forms that had been issued (mentioned earlier).

Second, On April 6-7, Dr. Lee attended the annual conference of Midwest Association of Graduate Schools in Indianapolis where Illinois Deans of Graduate School met to discuss enrollment and the budgetary impact on graduate education.

Third, the Graduate School completed the annual graduate Council election. The following new members were elected: Agriculture, Karen Jones; Education and Human Services, Julie Partridge and Saran Donahoo; Engineering, Themistoklis Haniotakis; Mass Communication and Media Arts, William Babcock; and Business, Marc Morris. Dr. Lee congratulated them.

Fourth, he mentioned that the Graduate School of SIU is very active in inter-campus collaboration. For example, on April 20, Dr. Velasco, Dr. Partridge and Dr. Lee had a Zoom meeting with SIUE graduate council to explore more research collaboration among the two campuses' faculty members. That Friday, Environmental Resources and Policy faculty and students would have a joint research retreat on the SIUE campus. He added that SIUC is collaborating with ISU on a couple of graduate projects.

R Whaley asked whether students' compensations differed across campus and whether that was decided by the Graduate School or the departments. Dr. Lee said that depended on the colleges. Dr. Ford said that there is a standard Graduate School value unless a college or department had decided that they would pay at a different level. Some units stick to the default level and some pay the students higher. She added that TAs and RAs are paid the same and administrative assistants are paid differently.

R Whaley pointed out that the University of Missouri pays GAs more. Dr. Ford said the University of Missouri is famous for not giving more than 25% assistantship.

R Whaley said that the international students truly do not know the proper costs before coming and their fees were very high. Dr. Ford said the university is required by the Federal and State governments to give them a good idea about costs. But a lot of international students bring families which makes it difficult to estimate costs. But in general, the cost estimates are very reasonable.

J Flowers asked for comments on personnel changes in the Graduate School and what that would mean for enrollment. Dr. Lee said that Dr. Sinha was to retire by the end of May. Paperwork had been done regarding that.

Report – Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Lizette Chevalier

Dr. Chevalier said that she is still in the learning process, being new to the job.

J Smith asked why some programs had been flagged and whether that was something new. Dr. Chevalier replied that every October, a report is prepared about the performance of departments.

Report - Council Chair, Tomas Velasco

Dr. Velasco announced that this council would interface more actively with the graduate council at SIUE. There would be more networking in research preview. There would be more intercampus relationships in research. The collaboration could be on applications for grants but the protocol had not been established. Dr. Lee added that there were joint PhDs and joint activity including mini-conferences and research.

Action Items

Second Reading: Resolution on Mentoring

Dr. Rimmer asked what was meant by compensation in the resolution and Dr. Carver replied that mentoring work tends to become invisible and unpaid and they tried to address that.

The members voted on the resolution. Yes – 22

The resolution was passed.

Second Reading: Resolution in support of revising the graduate grading policy on repeated course

The members voted on the resolution. Yes – 20

The resolution was passed.

First Reading: Resolution honoring Dr. Ratna Sinha on her retirement

Members voted on resolution to suspend rules: yes - 25

The rules were suspended.

Members voted on the resolution: yes – 22.

The resolution was passed.

Members voted to reinstate the rules: yes – 22.

The rules were reinstated.

Report from Dean's Council: Meera Komarraju

Dr. Komarraju reported on the retreat on academic prioritization process. One part had been finished by Friday. 60 faculty members were working on it. There were 8 qualitative questions and 7-8 faculty members were working on each. They were classifying them into top 10 and bottom 10 percent.

She added that the data was being cleaned and there was recognition that the process might not be perfect but it was the best possible. She added that with all the information, some action would be taken. She added that the Provost had indicated that more information could be taken from the website. Discussions were made regarding IBHE guidelines too. There was also a feeling that these sweeping lines were happenstance and not strategic. That should be corrected by IBHE and academic prioritization. In the next Dean's Council meeting, 2 new board members would be visiting. She added that the university had hired a firm to do a better job messaging the university's identity outside. She added that starting by the end of December, SIU would start using EAB – a data analytics process.

J Flowers asked what guarantee was there that funding for GAs would be used for the same. Dr. Komarraju said that last year there was a 10% budget cut. Different departments responded differently. In COLA, 17% GA funds were given up. But still 75% of GA funds were distributed first and the rest were kept for contingency. So, college responses were varied and depends on the Deans and the situations.

C Padovani asked to expand about the firm that was hired. Dr. Ford said that SIU used to have a marketing firm for 3 years that ended in 2014. But since then, SIU did not have marketing expertise and realized that it would be beneficial to have a small scale short term contract regarding SIU's messaging outside.

Report - Council Vice-Chair, Julie Partridge

Dr. Partridge said that one of the jobs of the Council Vice-Chair was to put people up to represent the Graduate Council on University wide committees. She had contacted members for that in the Council and thanked everyone for being patient with her.

Dr. Partridge then reported that there were three student grievances. She again thanked everyone who worked with her on that. She said that a group was meeting that day in the afternoon to address a grievance and she was setting another group for another grievance.

Dr. Partridge thanked everyone for help regarding the grievances policy. A few minor changes would be implemented.

Report from the Standing Committees

New Program Committee Report: Jennifer Lynn Smith

First Reading: Resolution in support of the addition of a special education post-baccalaureate certificate

Program Review Committee Report: Sue Rimmer

No report.

Report from GPSC: Johnathan Flowers

J Flowers said that it was his last report and he would be succeeded by Clay Olson. Diana McGreehan would also join GPSC. There would be 3 new electives and 6 research awards.

The rest of his report was not clearly audible.

Dr. Velasco asked for applause for all members retiring council.

Dr. Velasco was nominated for the Council chair.

The members voted on the resolution to appoint Dr. Velasco for Council chair: yes – 20.

The resolution was passed.

Dr. Velasco nominated Dr. Juile Partridge for Council Vice Chair and Dr. N Carver seconded the resolution.

Members voted on the resolution to appoint Dr. Partridge as council Vice-Chair: yes – 20.

The resolution was passed.

Dr. Velasco described the New Programs Committee, Research Committee, Educational Policy Committee, and Program Review Committee and explained the process.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08.