

MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
March 8, 2007

Members and Administrative Officers Present:

Jill Adams (for Mary Rudasill), Marcia Anderson, Paul Bates, Michael Batinski, David Carlson (ex-officio), Brad Colwell, John Dunn (ex-officio), Steve Ebbs (for Karen Renzaglia), Steven Esling, Ramesh Gupta, Dan Hechenberger, Andrew Hofling, Jodi Huggenvik (for Laura Murphy), Aslam Kassimali, Maryon King, Elizabeth Klaver, John Koropchak (ex-officio), Shelly McGrath, John Mead (Office of VCR), Christian Moe (observer, Emeritus Faculty Organization), Marcus Odum (for Richard Rivers), Donna Post, John Preece, Jyotika Ramaprasad, Don Rice (ex-officio), Sara Samson, Edward Shay, Nathan Stucky, Spyros Tragoudas, Susan Tulis (observer, Faculty Senate), William Turley, Alison Watts, Karl Williard, Bennett Whitaker, and David Wilson (Graduate School).

Absent: Chris Green, Carey Krajewski, and Jack Kremers.

Guests: Scott Collins and Paul Sarvela, CASA; Glafkos Galanos and John Nicklow, Engineering, and Ratna Sinha, Graduate School.

The meeting was called to order by Prof. Colwell at 8:00 a.m. in the Kaskaskia/Missouri Rooms of the Student Center. Dean Wilson announced the following proxies: Prof. Jill Adams for Prof. Mary Rudasill; Prof. Steve Ebbs for Prof. Karen Renzaglia, Prof. Jodi Huggenvik for Prof. Laura Murphy, and Prof. Marcus Odom for Prof. Richard Rivers.

1. Consideration of the minutes of the February 1, 2007 Graduate Council meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2007 Graduate Council meeting. The motion passed.

Since the Chancellor was delayed in arriving at today's meeting, Prof. Colwell re-ordered the agenda so that Provost Rice could provide his remarks.

2. Remarks—Provost Rice

The University has joined a consortium of other universities in Illinois in the Illinois Homeland Security Education Alliance. This consortium is being put together to share resources and courses in an effort to prepare professionals in the public for natural and human-made disasters. Participants include the following universities: Chicago State University, Eastern Illinois University, Governor's State University, Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University, SIUC and SIUE, the University of Illinois-Chicago, the University of Illinois-Springfield, the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign, and Western Illinois University. The first meeting of the alliance was a two-hour telephone conference two days ago. More information will be forthcoming about the Alliance since each participating institution will create a campus advisory committee to begin the work of evaluating possibilities for inter-institutional educational programs.

There are efforts in the General Assembly to create the Textbook Advisory Committee Act that would examine various issues to try to lower textbook costs for students. The Provost recalled that several years ago, the University had a textbook advisory committee and that group made recommendations to lower such costs. The Illinois Textbook Advisory Committee Act will do some of the things that were already recommended in that report. The idea is to have a group on campus under the purview of the Provost. Among the policies the Illinois Textbook Advisory Committee Act wants considered are establishing deadlines for faculty for notifying bookstores as to what books they will use; ensure that the books and prices are published where students can find all information on the book; to foster the establishment of technical reserves, including on-line and electronic collections; encourage buy-back programs; and encourage creation/operation of campus book swaps. Unfortunately, none of the recommendations of the previously mentioned SIUC campus textbook committee were ever put into effect; therefore, this Act may force the University to do so.

All letters regarding promotion and tenure have been delivered to the faculty. Twelve individuals were recommended for promotion to full professor and 38 individuals were recommended for promotion to associate professor.

The finalists for the Dean of the College of Science have been on campus over the past several weeks. From that group, the search committee has made a recommendation for one of the candidates. Arrangements are now underway to bring that individual for a second visit to the campus. The Provost thanked all individuals who were involved in the search process.

Prof. King asked the Provost whether there was a website for the Homeland Security Education Alliance and, additionally, if textbook rental programs had been considered. The Provost said once a website is established for the Homeland Security Education Alliance, it will be placed on the websites of the Graduate Council and Provost. In response to textbook rental programs, Chancellor Dunn commented that SIUE and Eastern Illinois University have such programs. However, it is a very uncommon practice particularly among universities that have research status. Some challenges related to textbook rental programs include significant startup funds, storage, and locking in on an adoption practice that takes away some degrees of freedom in selection of materials. The Chancellor then commented that a major problem on this campus is the fact that there are far too many individuals that list a book as required and never use or assign anything from the book.

In response to a question from Prof. Colwell, the Provost addressed an e-mail sent out to deans and chairs regarding letters of reference for students. The point that the e-mail made was that in the process of writing such letters, a student's grade point average or some other privileged information may be disclosed. Disclosure of this type of information is not permitted under the Privacy Act (FERPA) unless the student provides a release. Thus, the e-mail listed those items that should not be included in letters of reference. The Provost then entertained various questions/comments from Council members regarding writing such letters. At the conclusion of the discussion, Prof. Colwell said the Provost's e-mail would be posted on the Graduate Council website.

3. Remarks—Interim Chancellor Dunn

Chancellor Dunn expressed regrets for his delay in arriving at today's meeting.

Legislative Hearing

The Chancellor provided an update on the budget. A week ago, SIU representatives attended the House Appropriations Hearing Committee. At that meeting, it seemed clear that there was a growing awareness among legislators that higher education needed help. The IBHE has recommended a 1.5% increase in operating funds which translates to \$2.3 million for this campus including the School of Medicine. Backing out the School of Medicine, the amount for the campus is \$1.7 million. However, the Governor, in his budget address, referred to \$1.9 million which is an increase of .4% over IBHE's recommendation. There also appears to be support for a capital bill which may include funding for the Transportation Education Center, design funds for the Communication Building, and furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E) assistance for the Library. The Chancellor said that much of this funding support is dependent upon how the gross receipt tax versus the corporate tax issue plays out. The Governor has proposed a gross receipt tax on corporate structures and businesses of a certain size that would generate \$5 billion. It would replace the current corporate tax mechanism that generates \$1 billion.

The Chancellor also spoke about a requirement of the State mandate whereby individuals must report their activities for every 15-minute segment of each day. Auditors have reminded the University that it is not in compliance with that requirement. Therefore, unless there is some relief forthcoming on this issue, the University may have to ask individuals to report their activities for every 15 minutes of the day.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The University presented proposed tuition and fees increases at the last Board of Trustees meeting, which will be acted on at the April meeting. GPSC and USG were not in favor of those fee increases with the exception of one group that was in favor of the mass transit fee. Both groups favored the primary medical fee but not necessarily the extended medical fee. The Chancellor felt that the student government groups should be involved earlier in conversations for proposed fee increases. Thus, he advocates that the entire process be moved forward next year to enhance opportunities for dialogue.

Athletics

This year has been a banner year for the University in athletics. There was great success with the Women's Basketball team and the Men's Basketball team that provided excellent publicity. Swimming, track and field, softball, and baseball have also received national acknowledgment. Moreover, there are now two new members of the Gateway Football Conference—South Dakota State University and North Dakota State University.

Enrollment Updates

The University continues to see an increase in applications—approximately 9% more undergraduate applications than a year ago. Graduate applications are also up. An enrollment committee has been established and its membership and structure will be announced next week.

Turning to another subject, the Chancellor acknowledged the very successful exposition at the Missouri Valley Conference Basketball Tournament which showcased the University. Every academic college was represented at the exposition and it was well attended. Particular kudos to the Marketing Department's Advisory Board for their leadership role in this event.

Update on Marketing

Good feedback from various focus groups across campus is being received on website design. In addition, some of the current guidelines for access to the University logo are under review.

Miscellaneous items

The University is pleased with the outcome of the Faculty Association's vote for a tentative contract. The Board will act on this issue at the April meeting.

There was a leadership meeting for deans, chairs, and directors regarding the 2, 4, or 6% budget scenarios. The University has a 6.1% budget shortfall. The challenge presented at the leadership meeting is knowing how deep to cut budgets without going any deeper than needed while, at the same time, not misjudging those cuts which could result in reductions later. Therefore, careful planning is essential.

At the conclusion of his remarks, the Chancellor answered questions about the Illinois Veteran's Grant budget shortfall and the University's response to student inquiries.

Following up on the Chancellor's comments regarding the 2,4, and 6% budget scenarios, the Provost said that the deadline for deans to submit those scenarios was this Friday. That information will then be forwarded to Chancellor Dunn by March 15th. For the Provost's area, a 2% reduction is approximately \$2.25 million. The Provost's Office plans to look at all of the college materials once they are submitted to determine if the Provost might be able to assist in situations where there appears to be drastic budget damage. After the budget information is forwarded to the Chancellor, the Chancellor will meet with the Provost, Kevin Bame, and others to determine the least amount of budget cuts necessary to address the \$6.1 million shortfall.

Prof. Colwell asked the Council if faculties within their colleges were informed of the specifics of the various budget scenarios? Some Council members responded in the affirmative while others said they had not been provided with that information. Prof. Colwell felt it was important that faculty be aware of those particular budget details.

4. Announcements—Vice Chancellor Koropchak and Associate Deans Wilson and Mead

Vice Chancellor Koropchak

The VCR distributed information on the 4th Annual Research Town Meeting and Fair to be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2007 in the Student Center Ballrooms. Information tables and refreshments will begin at 3:30 p.m. President Poshard will provide an address at 4:00 p.m., and this will be followed by an update on research by the VCR. Afterwards, Distinguished Professor Rodney Jones will present a poetry reading. At 5:00 p.m., there will be a wine and cheese reception and entertainment by the School of Music. This meeting is an opportunity to celebrate research, scholarly, and creative activity on campus. The VCR added that since the event is being held in the large ballrooms this year, more booths and exhibits could be accommodated. If individuals are interested in have a booth or a table, contact Debbie Fields in ORDA. In addition, the VCR welcomed input/suggestions for the upcoming or future town research meetings. Prof. Post suggested the following ideas: invite vendors to demonstrate statistical software packages, invite publishers of new research methods textbooks which could be considered for adoption, and provide a list of services or resources that are available on campus to help with research.

Continuing with his remarks, the VCR was pleased to announce that the 2006 *Research Profile* publication won a bronze award from the local Addy Awards Organization. Congratulations to Marilyn Davis, Pru Rice and ORDA staff, as well as J. Bruce and staff in University Communications.

Good News Items: Allison Joseph won the Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg poetry contest which comes with a \$5,000 prize. Two graduate students, Michael Meyerhoff won the \$1,000 James Wright poetry award and Chad Parmeter had his poem, *A Tech's Ode to Genome Computer*, printed in the anthology, *Best American Poetry 2007*.

Dean Mead

Dean Mead and Jeff Myers recently participated in the broadcast of *Research Minutes* which is aired on Tom Miller's local radio program. Mr. Miller has been doing an excellent job to promote campus research through his program, and Dean Mead urged interested individuals who would like to appear on the program to contact Jeff Myers. It is a good experience and another way to communicate about research at SIUC.

Dean Wilson

A number of years ago, the Council approved a cooperative Ph.D. program between the Colleges of Engineering at Edwardsville and Carbondale. The program never got off the ground, but recently the two colleges have come together and created a memorandum of understanding to begin the process of offering this program.

The Graduate School is in the middle of the fellowship season. The Morris offer letters have gone out and the doctoral offers will go out soon. There are 3 Morris offers and 21 doctoral offers. Last year, there was a 90% acceptance rate at the doctoral level.

Following up on the Chancellor's remarks, Dean Wilson added positive comments about the remarkable SIUC exposition that was held at the Missouri Valley Conference Basketball Tournament which was very impressive and well-attended.

5. Faculty Senate—Prof. Tulis

A number of resolutions were passed at the last Faculty Senate meeting. One approved resolution concerned the Ethics Test that requested the SIU Board of Trustees to take up the Ethics Test matter with the State Executive Inspector General. Specifically, it asked that 1) the Inspector General honor all initial satisfactory completions of the Ethics Test and 2) clear instructions be provided for future ethics training tests. The Senate also passed a resolution on the Illinois Veteran's Grant asking that senators of southern Illinois introduce legislation authorizing the release of monies to the colleges and universities for this program. The Senate also approved three RMEs—1) establishing a minor in Health Care Management; 2) adding a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Biology; and 3) changing the existing B.S. degree in Food and Nutrition into two separate B.S. degrees, one in Human Nutrition and Dietetics and the other in Hospitality and Tourism Administration. The final resolution approved by the Senate was a minor change to the Grievance Procedure for Faculty, specifically the procedure for selecting JRB members. The Senate is also continuing discussion on admissions, recruitment, retention, and marketing issues.

6. Announcements—Prof. Colwell

Prof. Colwell provided an update of his activities during the month of February:

- a) Attended two meetings of the Chancellor's Executive Meeting.
- b) Met with Chancellor Dunn in their monthly one-on-one meeting.
- c) Attended the Carbondale SIU Board of Trustees meeting.
- d) Attended the Graduate Council Executive meeting to set the agenda.
- e) Met last week with the Chancellor and other constituency heads regarding the Commitment Through Excellence awards program.
- e) Prof. Tragoudas and Prof. Colwell attended luncheons for the Dean of the College of Science candidates.

7. Nominations to Committees—Prof. Tragoudas

Prof. Dimitri Kagaris (Electrical & Computer Engineering) has been nominated to represent the Graduate Council on the search committee for the Director of Information Technology.

8. GPSC Report—Sara Samson

At GPSC's February 6 meeting, Drs. Dunn and Dietz and Mr. Moccia presented proposed tuition and fee increases for FY08. Tuition is scheduled to increase by 13.2% to approximately \$768. Fees increases amount to approximately \$564 or 28-1/2%. The total increase for both tuition and fees is about \$1,300 or 17%. At its February 20 meeting, the GPSC took an official position on each of the fees individually. Only one fee increase was approved—the fee for the primary student health insurance. All other fees were not supported, most notably, the athletic facility fee which was increased by 100% to \$176. The other fee that was not supported was the fee for facility maintenance and utilities. The main concern for the athletic fee was that money was being directed toward an athletic stadium when it would be better served by going towards other expenses. Ms. Samson then read the following GPSC resolution:

“The Graduate and Professional Student Council at SIUC opposes cost increases such as the current plan for FY08 tuition increases that propose facility maintenance and utility fees and the athletic increases for facilities.”

Ms. Samson said that GPSC was alarmed at the amount of fee increases. The fee increases substantially hurt graduate students as tuition waivers only cover tuition but not fees. Therefore, while some students have assistantships, they are still hit very hard with fee increases.

As a final comment, Ms. Samson said that the Graduate School has agreed to work with GPSC to bring its website up to date.

Prof. Hofling commented that he was very sympathetic to the graduate students' plight regarding fee increases. He felt that this issue had now reached the point where it has seriously hindered efforts at recruitment. While he was heartened by Chancellor Dunn's comments that this matter would be addressed earlier next year, Prof. Hofling was still concerned about these increases.

There was general discussion about the impact of fee increases and/or unavailability of assistantships vis-à-vis departmental recruitment and retention. Suggestions were made by Council members on how best to address these issues. Those suggestions included posting cost-of-living information and other positive economic factors regarding the University and the area on the Graduate School website so that students could ascertain the real economic advantages of coming to the University. This information could also include the fact that while there have been increases in fees at SIUC, they are still the lowest among comparable institutions in the State. The VCR said such information will be posted on the web in the near future and will include links to other appropriate websites.

9. Report of the Programs Committee—Prof. Esling

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESOLUTION

RATIONALE: The College of Applied Sciences and Arts has proposed a new Master of Science degree program in Medical Dosimetry. The new program responds to an increasing national demand for medical dosimetrists and a new trend toward graduate programs in this field. Only two other master's degree programs in Medical Dosimetry exist in the United States. The proposed program will be taught at the Siteman Cancer Center in St. Louis, Missouri and other clinical educational centers in the area, with possible expansion to Chicago and Springfield, Illinois. The program requires 30 credit hours and applicants must also hold a baccalaureate degree. The program will advance the objectives of the *Southern at 150* plan and *The Illinois Commitment*. No new money is requested to establish the program.

RESOLUTION: Be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the establishment of a Master of Science degree program in Medical Dosimetry.

Dean Paul Sarvela and Prof. Scott Collins from CASA were present for questions regarding the program.

Prof. Collins explained that a medical dosimetrist works with a patient's oncologist to treat cancer with radiation. The current program in St. Louis has been in existence for approximately a year and a half and is going very well. Dean Sarvela added that the proposal requests the current certificate program be changed to a master's program because that is where the profession is heading. The certificate program will no longer be in existence.

The Council had no questions for either Dean Sarvela or Prof. Collins.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESOLUTION

RATIONALE: The College of Engineering has proposed new Master of Science and Master of Engineering degree programs in Biomedical Engineering, a high demand emerging field of study. The proposed programs, with relatively modest resources, will increase the number of graduate students on campus. The initiative will also create the opportunity for multidisciplinary research and graduate education involving faculty in the Colleges of Engineering, Science, Agricultural Sciences and the School of Medicine in a field of study with a strong potential for external funding. The program will advance the objectives of the *Southern at 150* plan and *The Illinois Commitment*. This program is expected to generate an increase in tuition revenue.

RESOLUTION: Be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the establishment of Master of Science and Master of Engineering degrees in Biomedical Engineering.

Profs. Glafkos Galanos and John Nicklow from Engineering were present to answer questions about the proposal.

After Prof. Galanos provided background information about the proposal, Prof. Nicklow added that the dean's office supported the proposal. There were no questions from Council members for either Profs. Galanos or Nicklow.

10. Report of the Research Committee—Prof. Bates

The Research Committee met in February and discussed priorities for the Spring Semester. Some of the items addressed were follow-ups to previous resolutions passed by the Graduate Council—one resolution supporting faculty incentives for research, and the other resolution calling for associate deans for research within each college. Other issues that the Committee discussed were the potential impact of the hiatus of the Faculty Hiring Initiative and the impact of the Library's serial cancellations.

11. Report of the Program Review Committee—Prof. Anderson

Reports for all program reviews have now been circulated and Program Review members are finalizing the summaries which will be presented to the Graduate Council in April. In addition, the Associate Provost's Office is seeking the Committee's input on the process of program reviews.

At this time, Prof. Colwell reminded the Council that there were only two Graduate Council meetings remaining for the year. Thus, appropriate planning is critical so that the Council can consider all resolutions by the May meeting.

12. Report of the Educational Policies Committee—Prof. King

Prof. King reported that the Educational Policies Committee was considering two initiatives. One initiative was the report from the Blue Ribbon Panel that looked at non-targeted fellowships. In an effort to speed up the review process of that report by Council members, an e-mail copy will be sent and a link posted on Graduate Council website.

The other Educational Policies Committee initiative is an announcement of a resolution regarding academic dishonesty. Prof. King read the following statement before announcing the resolution:

“In light of recent allegations and actions taken against current and former graduate students at various academic institutions (e.g., Ohio University), the Educational Policies Committee of the Graduate Council was charged with the task of considering the issue of graduate student plagiarism. Our primary goal, which guided our deliberations, was to identify procedures which could facilitate the prevention of graduate student plagiarism, both intentional and unintentional. Achievement of this goal would help ensure the integrity of graduate student work produced at SIUC, thereby affording protection of the reputation of our students and faculty as well as the status of SIUC.

The committee identified a number of procedures that we believe would facilitate the prevention of plagiarism. One critical tool, the use of plagiarism-checking software, is addressed below in the form of a resolution. In addition, the committee would like to suggest that the faculty consider the following activities:

A University-wide effort to increase sensitivity to the issue of plagiarism should focus on enhancing student and faculty awareness through education and support. Students should be introduced to the concepts of plagiarism, research integrity, and academic honesty early in their graduate program. Faculty should be encouraged to practice vigilance in reviewing student work, to be familiar with the procedure for dealing with plagiarism outlined in Student Code of Conduct, and to follow such procedure when student plagiarism has been identified.

Educational activities designed to facilitate responsible conduct of research are strongly encouraged. Students should be instructed in the specific forms of plagiarism (e.g., intentional, unintentional, and patch writing) and should be provided with support and tools to enhance the integrity of their research. For example, The Center for Teaching Excellence could provide a workshop to help students recognize plagiarism and provide support in dealing with it. In addition, The Writing Center could offer a workshop on integration of ideas from previous research to avoid patch writing. Also, currently offered workshops on academic honesty and conducting responsible research should incorporate an expanded emphasis on academic honesty and integrity.

Students should be encouraged to review SIUC's Student Code of Conduct and college faculty may want to consider incorporating a student honor code or honor pledge into their individual graduate programs. Both students and faculty are encouraged to review materials provided by the Center for Academic Integrity which are available on their website, and to review the "Report of the Ad Hoc Plagiarism Committee" developed by the College of Liberal Arts Council."

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESOLUTION

Whereas all graduate theses and dissertations must be turned in electronically, and

Whereas all theses and dissertations can be checked easily for plagiarism, and
Whereas all teaching assistants are graduate students who are responsible for assessing plagiarism in courses that they teach,

Be it resolved that all SIUC graduate students be given free-of-charge access to software such as Turnitin (a.k.a., Turnitin.com) to check their own thesis or dissertation or to check class materials turned in by their students for plagiarism

and

Be it resolved that the Graduate School require that all theses and dissertations be checked by software such as Turnitin prior to submission to the graduate school, with the students' major professors being responsible for checking their students' theses and dissertations for plagiarism and other evidence/instances of academic dishonesty

and

Be it further resolved that all graduate students attend the Workshop on Academic Honesty sponsored by the Graduate School as well as the Workshop on the Responsible Conduct of Research sponsored by the ORDA. Students in departments which require their graduate students to attend departmental or college workshops or orientations which incorporate these topics may be excepted from this rule upon departmental application to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School.

A lengthy discussion of concerns followed the announcement of the resolution. One concern spoke to the wording in the resolution that stated that major professors were *responsible* for checking students' theses and dissertations to determine plagiarism. Other concerns expressed were whether the resolution applied to *all* graduate student papers, the impact of the resolution on non-thesis option students, and public domain, copyright, and access issues vis-à-vis Turnitin.

During the discussion, Dean Wilson mentioned that Kathleen May, Director of Dissertations at ProQuest UMI would make a presentation on copyright issues at the next Graduate Council.

At the end of the debate, Prof. King said the Educational Policies Committee would consider the Council's comments at its upcoming subcommittee meetings. She added that further comments, suggestions, or concerns should be e-mailed to her so they could be brought to those meetings.

13. Old Business

None.

14. New Business

By a show of hands of Council members, support was indicated for Prof. Post's suggestion to recognize the University's student athletes by placing ads in newspapers honoring their accomplishments this year.

There being no further business to bring before the Council, Prof. Colwell adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra L. Ballestro
Recording Secretary