

MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
March 6, 2008

Members and Administrative Officers Present:

Marcia Anderson, Thomas Britton, Ronald Browning, David Carlson (ex-officio), Brad Colwell, Ramesh Gupta, Eric Hellgren, Andrew Hofling, Scott Ishman, Maryon King, John Koropchak, Jack Kremers, Pat Manfredi, Shelly McGrath, Christian Moe, Manoj Mohanty, Donna Post, John Preece, Jonathan Remo (GPSC), Karen Renzaglia, Don Rice, Prudence Rice, Peggy Stockdale, Spyros Tragoudas, Karl Williard, and David Wilson.

Absent: Daniel Dyer, Ann Fletcher, Scott Gilbert, John Mead, Jyotika Ramaprasad, and Fernando Treviño.

Prof. Tragoudas called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. in the Kaskaskia/Missouri Rooms of the Student Center and welcomed members. Dean Wilson announced the following proxies: John Foster for Scott McClurg who is on sabbatical for spring semester, Ben Rodriguez for Michael Young, and Jeremy Wells for Elizabeth Klaver.

1. Consideration of the minutes of the February 7, 2008 Graduate Council Meeting

A motion was made by Prof. Post and seconded by Prof. Preece to approve the minutes of February 7, 2008. Motion passed.

2. Remarks – Chancellor Treviño

Chancellor Treviño was not present due to illness.

3. Remarks – Provost Rice

Provost Rice stated he would be happy to answer questions, but had nothing to report pertaining to the Graduate Council at this time.

4. Announcements – Vice Chancellor Koropchak, Associate Vice Chancellor Rice, and Associate Deans Wilson & Mead

Vice Chancellor Koropchak

Vice Chancellor Koropchak reminded everyone that the Research Town Hall Meeting will be on April 1, in the Student Center ballrooms. Poster sessions this year will begin at 2 p.m. Dr. Koropchak encouraged everyone to attend and to contact Debbie Fields if you want to take part in the poster sessions. This year representatives from state and federal funding agencies have been invited and will

be available to meet with interested faculty about funding opportunities.

Congressman Costello has also been invited to speak and we hope his schedule will permit him to attend on April 1. The School of Music will be providing music for the wine and cheese reception.

Dr. Koropchak reported on his recent 10-day visit to Taiwan that included signing ceremonies at I-Shou and Feng-Chia Universities. His impression is that good progress has been made with these agreements. Tangible results have started to solidify from these interactions. We hope to see 40-50 additional graduate students per year in the coming years. The ground work has been laid from the graduate perspective for new 1+1 programs and there is a lot of interest in these types of programs. We will work to get the appropriate chairs and faculty together to explore these types of ideas for any program on campus with an interest. There was interest in business, architecture, English language, and collaborations in energy and materials research.

Despite the disappointment of FutureGen not being funded, the concept for the advanced energy interdisciplinary research laboratory still has some reasonable probability.

The federal budget last year was a dismal failure and all the budgets were flat. There might be supplemental funding this spring for federal funding for this and next fiscal year. There is a lot of momentum toward increasing support for research at the federal level.

He has been working with Barking Dawg Productions to develop artistic strategic videos to advance different areas of the campus. Their initial focus will be ideas for energy research. Other videos will be tactical and give basic recruiting information about different programs. We would like to have graduate enrollment programs across campus to consider working with Communications to develop similar kinds of videos for their own programs to post on their website.

Announced SIUC has improved six positions in total R&D expenditure ranking for FY06 according to statistics put out by the National Science Foundation. In addition, we improved six spots in federal R&D funding.

Good News: Allison Joseph from English won the Elizabeth Park Curry award in poetry, from the Sound and Literary Art Club Society of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. A graduate student in Forestry, Dan Holtz, won the 2007 American Water Resource Association Student Presenter Competition. His advisors and co-authors are: Pamela Edwards, Karl Williard, and John Schoonover. A. J. Mohajan won first place in a NASA Tech Briefs innovation contest in the medical division of the "Create the Future Contest" for his 3-D ultrasonic neuro-navigation system for real time brain surgery.

Reported we are in the middle of a search for the Director of the Center for Integrative Research in Cognitive and Neural Sciences. Approval to interview has been received and interviews are scheduled for April.

Associate Vice Chancellor Rice

Echoed Dr. Koropchak's comments regarding the Research Town Meeting and asked everyone to please attend, even if you do not participate. This year we will have more exhibits and more interactive activities. Get your requests for a place in the town meeting to Debbie as soon as possible.

The Outstanding Scholar lecture is being held on April 3 in association with Research Week. The outstanding scholar for 2007 is my colleague, Izumi Shimada, who worked in Peru for most of his professional career. He has fabulous visuals and it should be a very interesting presentation. The event will be in Life Science III room 1059 at 4 p.m.

We are running review panels for the faculty seed grants and expect to be completed after spring break. These were delayed due to the weather and busy calendars.

This year, total awards are up by \$6,000,000 in research and \$3,000,000 in federal funding as compared to this time last year.

Associate Dean Wilson

Announced he recently met with Mike Ruiz and others to discuss ways to jointly promote graduate and professional education, and to solicit ideas to assist in getting out the message about the university to attract potential students.

The Morris and Doctoral competitions are complete and letters for the Morris fellowships have been mailed. We hope to get the letters about the doctoral fellowships out before spring break. A staff person has been out for most of the year and we have had to shuffle duties around to address the most immediate crises.

There is a significant problem with a tax compliance person in the President's office who is trying to set policy for the Graduate Council in terms of how we handle our fellowships. Their idea is to put all fellowship dollars into student financial aid. We have recently set up some new mechanisms to be in tax compliance, however, we are told that what we have done isn't enough, and we have to run everything through financial aid to be in compliance with federal regulations. So far, we have found nothing to back this up.

They are also trying to run the NSF fellowships through financial aid as well. Financial Aid pays out in one lump sum at the beginning of the semester

and everything owed to the university is paid out first. Students really do not have an opportunity to budget. He added there may be a possible fix by recasting the nature of our fellowship programs. He added he was reluctant to do this without significant input from the Graduate Council stating this is a policy issue that the Graduate Council should set. He will be meeting with the Educational Policy Committee about these issues and hope these issues can be resolved rather quickly. When asked if this problem would be for this year, or next year, he responded he does not have an answer at this time.

An outside tax consultant believes that since the DFI program (Diversifying Faculty in Higher Education in Illinois) requires students to seek employment in Illinois at the end of year three, they are considered to be state employees. They feel that we should run this through our payroll system rather than voucher pay with withholding. This would be in opposition to established board policy. We are hoping we can resolve this issue rather quickly

The ruling last fall was that we were not in compliance with fellowships because the stipend was not counted as part of the financial aid package. The stipend was considered as a living stipend and not as a direct scholarship in the sense they want to interpret it. Because it is a part of the financial aid package and calculated in their estimated cost of attendance, this can substantially affect whether or not they are able to borrow additional dollars. The stipend we provide for an assistantship is considered as salary and is not included in determining financial aid for these students. We have a situation where there is not a level playing field. We have discussed this with Victoria Valle and it may be possible to resolve this issue by substantially increasing our estimated costs of attendance for graduate students. When asked about income tax implications, he reported that we do not report anything to the IRS for fellows other than a 1098-T. It is up to the student to report to the IRS. In reply to the question of whether the Directors of Graduate Programs had been notified of these potential problems, he stated that it is something that must be resolved at a higher level. The Vice Chancellor for Research and the Provost may be able to discuss these problems with the President's office.

He asked the Education Policy Committee to assess the pros and cons of increasing our estimated costs for graduate students. It may be possible to take our fellowships and make them into traineeships and change the nature of the fellowship so that a service would be assigned by the department. Chairman Tragoudas responded that we are time-pressed and the Education Policy Committee must present a resolution at the April meeting so that the Graduate Council has some time to discuss and vote on this issue at the May meeting. We can also post the resolution in advance of the meeting on the website.

5. Faculty Senate – Professor Stockdale

Three new Senators will be seated at the meeting in March as replacements for vacancies in the College of Engineering, College of Applied Sciences and Arts and the College of Liberal Arts. The normal election will be in April. There is a second College of Engineering vacancy which was nominated and voted upon, but that person will not be seated until April.

An ad hoc committee was formed to review the revised Student Conduct Code and will be meeting with Dean Sarvela, the chair of the committee, this week. The Budget Committee is still looking at different scenarios with in-state tuition being offered to students from bordering counties in bordering states. This is a complicated issue and we have been getting a lot of encouragement to come up with workable solutions.

The Faculty, Staff and Welfare Committee have been looking at the decline in the OTS budget since FY2000. Data provided by the Provost Office reveals a long negative linear downward slide in OTS funding. Our Undergraduate Education Policy Committee is presenting some resolutions.

She announced that the College of Business and Administration will now be known as the College of Business.

6. Announcements – Professor Tragoudas

Professor Tragoudas had no announcements.

7. Nominations to Committees – Professor Colwell

Prof. Colwell reported Prof. Tragoudas has appointed faculty and students to a student grievance committee which is pending. The grievance involves his department, so he cannot be involved in the meetings. An appointment to the University Signs Committee was made.

8. GPSC Report – Shelly McGrath

Ms. McGrath reported that the big issue at the recent meeting of the GPSC was talk of getting rid of her position next year. The main concern or “complaint” is that not all students are eligible for the position. Ms. McGrath stated that all graduate students are eligible; but for the position to be funded by the Graduate School, the person occupying the position must meet the qualifications for a graduate assistantship. If they do not, the position must be paid by the GPSC and they do not have funds to pay this position. This will be up for discussion at the next meeting, March 25. Dr. Koropchak said he would be available to attend the meeting to assist with the issue. Vice Chancellor Koropchak affirmed to Ms. McGrath that it is important for the GPSC to be represented on the Graduate Council.

Ms. McGrath reported she had been asked if organizing the graduate students influenced the amount of tuition increases. Dr. Koropchak responded that in 1998-99 in consultation with the Graduate Council, there was planning to develop differential tuition for undergraduate and graduate students. The plan looked at the average ratio of graduate to undergraduate rates at peer and aspiration peer institutions and included the IBHE study ratio. The average ratio was 1.4 to 1. Rather than trying to implement an increase in graduate tuition in one year that would immediately rise to that level, it was decided to raise tuition over a longer period. The process of going to that ratio was considered some time ago and we are in the process of reaching that goal. He stated that graduate tuition rates have increased at a higher rate than undergraduate tuition.

9. Report of Programs Committee – Professor Hofling

There are two proposals being considered. We expect to have resolutions ready for the next meeting.

10. Report of Research Committee – Professor Renzaglia

The Research Committee met with Associate Vice Chancellor Pru Rice regarding the projected increase in vivarium costs, in particular animal care costs. There is a concern that they may be excessive. The projected costs are meant to cover 50% of the costs of operating the vivarium. In many cases it looks as if the costs are increasing as much as four fold over the next five years. We have asked Associate Vice Chancellor Rice to provide a projected budget for the vivarium so that we can see whether or not the costs are supportive. We are also working on an evaluation of the research facilities to provide recommendations.

11. Report of Program Review Committee – Professor Anderson

The summaries of the program reviews conducted this year will be presented at the next meeting.

12. Report of Educational Policies Committee – Professor Manfredi

We will be meeting several times before the meeting in April, and will have a full report and a resolution ready for the April meeting.

13. Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

14. New Business:

Prof. Hofling asked if additional serial cancellations are projected at the Library this year. He stated there was a very big problem last year; but this year,

we have heard nothing. Prof. Carlson stated they are using the funds that were gained from last year to make up the increases in allocation for this year and are just now beginning to look at the projections for next year.

Prof. Hofling stated that the increase in tuition and fees is entirely opaque to him. Last year Chancellor Dunn reported that, through his experience his conclusion was there should be more consultation with constituency groups about increasing tuitions and fees. This year there has been virtually nothing and that is disconcerting. The graduate students and programs are very negatively impacted by these enormous increases in tuition and fees. We will ask Chancellor Treviño to address this issue at the meeting in April.

Prof. Anderson asked if the Chancellor has communicated as to why he has not been attending Graduate Council meetings. Prof. Tragoudas stated there has not been any formal notification from his office this year. Provost Rice stated he could not answer the question but he does know that as a result of a great deal of interaction with the Stone Center, there are a lot of meetings that the Chancellor has not been able to make and many are cancelled at the last moment. Provost Rice stated that the meetings scheduled with the Colleges were intended to be with the President, Chancellor and himself. The President was to make a brief presentation of his goals and the Chancellor was to speak to those goals with respect to our own campus and his view as to how we would achieve those goals. Those meetings were cancelled by the President's Office. Prof. Tragoudas stated that what he hears from the remarks by members of the Graduate Council today is that the faculty had no indication as to the purpose of those meetings and why they were cancelled.

Prof. Post requested there be access to names of directors of graduate studies for all programs either posted on the graduate school website or be available as a paper copy. Dr. Wilson agreed that a paper copy could be created that would provide the directors of graduate studies. He will also look into the process of putting it on the website as a PDF file. He stated that the program directors of graduate studies frequently change and keeping the list up to date will be challenging.

Dean Wilson stated he recently had a conversation with Mike Ruiz who indicated he might be interested in putting together some type of "geek squad." A group of particularly talented graduate assistants would be released to departments a week at a time to help keep websites up to date in the standardized form. He commented that he is not sure at this time if this will be developed.

Dean Carlson announced the Library will be operating out of floors 3, 4 and 5 on March 17. There will be an open house on March 18. A tour of the new space and some of the construction space will take place this afternoon at 3:30 for the Library Affairs Advisory Committee. He invited graduate council members who were interested to attend.

Motion to adjourn and seconded; meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Reynolds
Recording Secretary