

MEETING OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

July 7, 2009

Members and Administrative Officers Present:

Sara Baer; Thomas Britton; Gargi Bhattacharya (GPSC); Ronald Browning (Jody Huggenvik); David Carlson; Judith Davie; Daniel Dyer; Ann Fletcher; Sam Goldman; John Groninger; Eric Hellgren; Phil Howze (Faculty Senate); Holly Hurlburt; Scott Ishman; Mark Kittleson; John A. Koropchak; Pat Manfredi; Scott McClurg; Shauna McDonald (GPSC); Manoj Mohanty; Nancy Mundschenk; Ryan Netzley; Elyse Pineau; William Stevens; Alicia Swan (GPSC); Alex Van Saghi (GPSC); Keith Waugh, David Wilson; Tomasz Wiltowski.

Members and Administrative Officers Absent

John Dobbins, Daniel Dyer, Anne Fletcher, Nicholas Hoffman, Kimberly Kempf-Leonard; Jack Kremers, Leslie Lloyd, Christian Moe, Don Rice, Prudence Rice, Bryan Young

Chairman Hellgren called the meeting of the Graduate Council to order on July 9, 2009 at 9 a.m. in the Missouri/Kaskaskia rooms in the Student Center.

Announcement of Proxies -- Dean Wilson announced that Jody Huggenvik will be the permanent proxy for Ron Browning this semester.

1. **Consideration of the minutes of the May 5, 2009 Graduate Council meeting.**

Motion was made by Scott McClurg and seconded by Tom Britton for approval of the May 5, 2009 minutes. Motion passed and minutes were approved for both meetings on May 5, 2009

2. **Remarks – Chancellor Goldman**

Chancellor Goldman gave an update on the budget which, at this time has not been acted upon by the Governor. If the budget is stable and reflects what the governor has proposed for us, we will be up by 1% from last year. The Capital bill has been approved by the legislature and is also sitting on the governor's desk. This bill includes money for deferred maintenance and other work on campus, such as the TEC building and completion of the library. The stimulus bill will underpin part of the budget if it lasts for the next 2 years. He anticipates we will have 1-2 lean years and really lean years after that. He added the campus is doing anticipatory budgets and the Deans are working on efficiencies. He is under pressure for a hiring freeze

but will wait on implementing this. He stated that requests for new positions will be handled conservatively.

Chancellor Goldman reported that the IBHE is questioning the loss of student credit hours. We have major problems in enrollment at the undergraduate and graduate level. We are down double digits from previous years. Some of this may be due to Banner being shut down for a couple of days to transfer data.

The Legislature has cut MAP by 50% and all funding will go in the first semester and nothing in the spring. It is hoped that the legislature will make up the difference in the spring.

The Illinois Veterans Program is an unfunded mandate that provides free tuition for veterans and the cost to us is approximately \$2 million dollars a year. The State has allocated no money for this program in the coming year. There is a federal program for veterans, but some believe that it provides less support than the State of Illinois' program.

The 4.5% tuition raise using static enrollment will be almost a direct transfer into the raise pool for FY10 and the Chancellor added that SIU will honor their contractual agreements.

He announced that we will still take a hit on the budget due to storm damage even after coverage by insurance and FEMA.

He announced that the School of Medicine Cooper Simmons Clinic has not opened because there are no operating funds from the State.

It will take considerable stewardship on everyone's part to get through the year. We may have to reduce the size of our staff. We will try to do this by attrition.

He reported on the request and resolution from the Graduate Council dealing with *Apply Yourself*. He noted that he has specific concerns with the high cost (\$298,000 over a 4 year period) and how it will be covered. The Chancellor stated he has been working closely with VCR Koropchak to try to reach a resolution for this. It was noted by the Council that the cost was to be covered by allocating an extra \$15 from the graduate student application fee, in addition to the \$5 already allocated, to cover the cost of this product. The Chancellor reported that he had contacted the U of I regarding efficiencies achieved by using *Apply Yourself* and they reported a reduction in staff from 14 to 4. In addition, they were able to handle it and cut their work down to one week. The Chancellor proposes that for the first two years there will be a drawdown of \$20 from graduate fees, and subsequent to that the Graduate School would have to absorb the costs. There was discussion by members regarding the problems with Banner which caused difficulty with registration and processing of applications this year. There was general consensus from the

Graduate Council that there has been a lot of discussion and there is a need to begin using *Apply Yourself* as soon as possible.

Scott McClurg asked Chancellor Goldman if there was a plan for SIU to establish on-line distance learning initiatives. Chancellor Goldman replied that Dennis Cradit, Dean of the College of Business, headed a committee to study and report on this. The Chancellor indicated that the difficulty is paying people for on-line work. The report said that we need to have incentives for people to do this and that it should be done on a cost-recovery or cost-centric basis. He added that payment is a negotiable item with the union. At this time, the College of Business has two programs that were set up as pilot on-line offerings -- the MBA and MAC. VCR Koropchak remarked that not being able to begin advertising until May has put the programs at a disadvantage for this fall. Chancellor Goldman added these programs will be watched. The Chancellor agreed that on-line offerings at SIUC have grown slowly over the years. However, he has questions, such as how this will help with the university's budget. These programs will compete for income with our regular programs. The Chancellor stated he is interested and ready to move forward on this but is very concerned about resources. Tom Britton asked the Chancellor if there is a point person designated to oversee these distance learning activities that we can call upon to keep us up to date. The Chancellor stated that right now the Provost and he are monitoring these activities. Scott McClurg stated that with so many different departments doing different activities, it would be helpful to have one central person monitor this activity that would be available to answer questions. VCR Koropchak stated that Susan Edgren from Continuing Education has provided information in the past and perhaps the Dean of the College of Business could also be a source of information as well.

3. **Remarks – Provost Rice**

Provost Rice was not in attendance at this meeting.

4. **Announcements**

Vice Chancellor for Research John Koropchak

VCR Koropchak announced the following good news:

The new NSF career award winner is Dr. Mestin Tsige from the Department of Physics.

Dr. Maria De Los Mercedes Calbi, associate Professor of Physics at SIUC, was awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). This is the highest honor given by the U.S. government to outstanding scientists and engineers beginning their independent careers. Professor Calbi is the first SIUC researcher in the

University's history to receive such an award. She will be honored at a White House ceremony this fall. The PECASE recipients are selected for their potential to become leaders in academic research and education in the 21st Century.

Dr. Mahmoud Khan from the Department of Physics was the outstanding dissertation winner from Campus. He conducted research on magnetic refrigeration.

Dr. Andre Bartke from the School of Medicine received an \$8.6 million grant from NIH, which is the largest NIH grant awarded to SIU.

VCR Koropchak noted that we are behind by 100 admitted graduate students compared to the same time last year. He added that this may be due in part because we graduated about 100 more students in the spring. The biggest declines were undeclared students. We are about to initiate a marketing strategy to focus on those students who have graduated but still do not know what they are going to do. He asked everyone to come up with ideas that would enhance our success in admitting and enrolling graduate students.

Up until about 7 or 8 years ago, there was not a centralized request for information about research and scholarly productivity and then the OVCR began the process of collecting and compiling these data. Copies of reports showing year-by-year data summaries were provided to the members present.

Associate Dean Wilson

Associate Dean Wilson announced that this will be the first year of operation for our remodeled fellowship program. This program requires department chairs to give fellowship holders a 10 hour week research assignment while school is in session. He added that the assignment has to be something of value to the university. He announced that a letter will be sent to chairs and directors of graduate studies about a week before school starts asking them to provide an assignment for their fellowship holders. At the end of the fellowship term, a brief report (short paragraph) explaining what the student has done will also be required. These documents will become a permanent record for the purpose of a potential audit on the program.

Associate Dean Wilson reported that this year we have had a substantial increase in the number of applications for doctoral programming and a substantial decrease in applications for the masters' programs. Some of this may be directly equated to a drop in international graduate students, in particular from India.

VCR Koropchak noted he will be participating in a workshop that focuses on attendance and attrition at the National Council of Graduate Schools meeting next week. He asked for anecdotes or impressions of students and what limits their

degree completion. He added that the more anecdotes he has, the better he will be able to engage in the conversation.

Associate Dean Wilson noted that the National Research Council is doing a ranking of programs and every year or so we get an announcement that they are about to release the data. He added that they are going to release the methodology report today and about a month later we will get their rankings of doctoral programs. This will be a topic for discussion at future graduate council meetings.

Associate Dean John Mead

Watch for a DOE announcement of a new program to fund early careers of tenured assistant professors. There is a letter of intent due in early August. This is from the Office of Science, including biological sciences, computer sciences and physical science and engineering and involves stimulus money.

5. Faculty Senate – Professor Howze

The first meeting of the senate will be this Tuesday at 3 p.m. and invited everyone to attend.

6. Announcements – Professor Hellgren

Professor Hellgren indicated that everyone should have gotten emails regarding committee assignments. He handed out a hard copy to members present. He added that there are still two openings for GPSC members on the Educational Policy and Programs Committee.

7. Nominations to Committees – Professor Mundschenk

Professor Mundschenk announced that Julianne Hernandez will serve as a representative for the Recreational Sports Advisory Board. She currently serves and will continue to serve on that committee. Ryan Netzley was named to the Committee on Open Access.

Professor Hellgren reminded everyone that there is a link on the SIUC news site for the Chancellor's Search Committee and asked Tom Britton to report. Prof. Britton announced that the website contains a copy of the position announcement and advertisements will run in July in the Chronicle of Education and will run again in September. Also a position description which includes suggestions from the council regarding attributes we would like to see in our Chancellor is included. We have had a lot of interest generated and have relied upon our advisory committee to generate interest which has paid off with people of high caliber showing interest. He announced that he and Professor Ann Fletcher are the graduate representatives on the Committee. The timeline details are also included on the website. The deadline for application will be sometime in September. Our goal is to start early

and take our time to find out more about the candidates before we move them along in the process. Professor Britton will give a full report on the status of the search in the fall. .

8. **GPSC Report**

There was nothing to report at this time. The first meeting of the semester will be this week.

9. **Report of New Programs Committee – Scott Ishman**

Professor Ishman stated there was nothing to report at this time. He indicated the Committee's plan is to review new programs as expeditiously as possible adding that last year the Committee reviewed 8-10 new programs.

10. **Report of Research Committee – Professor Mohanty**

Professor Mohanty had nothing to report at this time and added that the standing committee meeting will be in September. This year we will continue to update lab equipment and review library serials.

11. **Report of Program Review Committee – Professor Kittleson**

Professor Kittleson reported that this year the Program Review Committee will be working in collaboration with the faculty senate and graduate council to review a variety of programs. We have 23 programs to review. To add more interest to this, we will be working with Provost Rice to expedite this. I will have a meeting early on to start assigning different groups. He added his appreciation to the committee members' for their interest in this committee and added this will be a very busy year.

12. **Report of Ed Policies Committee – Professor McClurg**

No report at this time.

13. **Old Business**

There was no old business.

14. **New Business**

Chairman Hellgren stated that it is his understanding we will be given the go ahead for Apply Yourself. Professor Wilson stated that we will be implementing the agreement process on August 1. We want to be up and running by fall semester

2010. It is possible we will have two data bases to deal with again next year until everything has been transferred to the new system.

Professor McClurg stated that he thought the issue about distance learning and having no one person taking a leadership role is something that the Graduate Council could investigate. Continuing Education is currently playing a critical role, but it seems like we need an academician to take over that leadership role. We need to start moving to look at alternative efforts. The frustration is that so many people have their hands in the pie that they all contradict each other. This will be a good topic for the Educational Policies Committee to begin to organize and make a recommendation as to how we move forward.

In regard to that, Associate Dean Wilson commented he was on the Distance Learning Committee that the Chancellor referred to and the problem is the compensation level set in Continuing Education. Dean Wilson stated the Committee put together a very good proposal for moving these forward and had hoped to institute it as a policy. Instead the proposal was implemented as a pilot. Continuing Education was never meant to be an academic area and that may be the problem. It was the general consensus that this issue is too important not to address.

15. **Adjournment**

The next meeting will be at 8 a.m. on September 3. Meetings will continue to be on the first Thursday of the month beginning at 8 a.m. The schedule is posted on the website and a reminder will be sent to the members a week before the meeting.

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Donna L. Reynolds
Recording Secretary