

Minutes of the Graduate Council  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
September 1, 2011

**Members and Administrative Officers:**

*Present:* Najjar Abdul-Musawwir, Gary Apgar, Sara Baer, Christopher Behan, David Carlson, Rita Cheng, Scott Collins, Judith Davie (Ramesh Gupta), John Dobbins, Carl Flowers, Susan Ford, Katherine Frith, John Groninger, Constantine Hatziadoniu (Frances Harackiewicz), Jody Huggenvik, Holly Hurlburt, Delwar Hossain (GPSC), Kathy Hytten, Scott Ishman, Levi Jost (GPSC), Kimberly Kempf-Leonard (Alison Watts), John A. Koropchak, Matthew McCaroll (Lichang Wang), Jay Means, Manoj Mohanty, Wanki Moon, Ryan Netzley (George Boulukos), Monica Newby (GPSC), Mark Peterson, Elyse Pineau, Joshua Potter (GPSC), Travis Pour (GPSC), Pamela Smoot, Keith Waugh, Matthew Whiles.

*Absent:* Suresh Tadisina and David Wilson.

*In Attendance:* Tina M. Price, Recording Secretary

**Proceedings:**

Meeting called to order at 8:05 am by Chair Ishman in the Kaskaskia and Missouri Rooms of the Student Center located at 11255 Lincoln Drive, Carbondale, Illinois.

**Announcement of Proxies by Chair Ishman:**

Ramesh Gupta for Judith Davie, Frances Harackiewicz for Constantine Hatziadoniu, Alison Watts for Kimberly Kempf-Leonard, Lichang Wang for Matthew McCaroll and George Boulukos for Ryan Netzley.

1. **Consideration of Minutes**

The Chair entertained a motion to accept the Minutes of the May 5, 2011 Meeting of the Graduate Council. Motion seconded. Hearing no comments, corrections or edits to the Minutes the motion carried.

2. **Remarks**

**Chancellor Rita Cheng**

The Chancellor discussed activities that impact the campus:

- State of Illinois owes \$72M; payments are coming in sporadically without notice and in small amounts.
- Discussions at the State level on performance funding: Allen Karnes and the Chancellor are on a committee to determine the metrics. A presentation to the Governor is due in December; the fiscal year 2013 budget will be connected to the performance funding. There is no new money to go to education. Concerns include:
  - i. What are the new metrics?
  - ii. Number of underrepresented students receiving degrees

The Chancellor stated that the good news for SIU is that we do deliver a lot of degrees for the State of Illinois. Larry Schilling has been asked to take some of the basic metrics and look at data; where we have been in the past 10 years and where we can see increases. The Performance Task Force and the Chancellor's Budget Planning Committee will discuss and look at all materials presented at these State-wide meetings.

- Entering fall of 2012 with a structurally sound budget; all budget reductions have been taken on the academic side and all those impacts have been collected by the Provost's office.
- Some searches for new faculty have been authorized on a limited basis.
- Enrollment of undergraduate and transfer students are up 100 from last year; overall 60 are new continuing transfers.
- We are down 68 new graduate students; 39 Master's and 29 doctorates.
- An Economic Impact Study will be released to the community. Dr. Sharma and Kyle Harfst, Executive Director of the Southern Illinois Research Park, fine-tuned the study, and we come out with an impact of \$2.3 billion a year for the state of Illinois.
- The financial report was distributed on what was required by the HLC, and our response to that requirement and the staff analysis.
- We still have the long-range strategic planning process to complete. The Steering Committee has been working eight months on setting up that activity for the fall.
- We have a new marketing and branding effort on campus.
- Three committees with ongoing work:
  - i. One tasked with reviewing our graduation ceremonies and coming up with recommendations and improvements to the graduation experience
  - ii. Reviewing our convocation, adding to that and things that can be improved.
  - iii. A report is expected from the committee that is reviewing awards; to bring back some of the monetary rewards to teaching and service awards, and possibly bring back a partnership with the Foundation.
- The administration is interested in moving forward with the IEA bargaining units in a positive way and to resolve those outstanding issues.

There was a brief discussion about the quality of the performance funding metrics being developed. The Chancellor stated that, through the structures put in place, there will be checks and balances with a focus on quality.

#### Provost John W. Nicklow

There are two new deans on campus; John Warwick, Engineering and Kimberly Kempf-Leonard, Liberal Arts. There are a number of ongoing searches to fill critical gaps this month; Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Associate Provost for the University College. Applications are being evaluated and finalizing the process for the Chief Information Officer advertised earlier this year.

The faculty orientation was held at the Touch of Nature on August 19, 2011. That same day there were 134 faculty that showed up at the Convocation.

#### New Curricular Developments:

- PhD program in Criminology and Criminal Justice approved

- Master's of Arts and Visual Arts in History approved
- Master's of Science in Fire Service and Homeland Security Management was approved at the state level

A close look at demographics of the incoming class, current enrollment figures indicate gains in gender equity. The FY12 recruiting effort is starting. We have designed a dashboard for recruiters; at any given time the Chancellor, the Provost, and the Director of Admissions can go in and see who is doing what and where. The dashboard is by territory, by recruiter and by transfer versus freshman; those numbers are being watched on a weekly basis. The deans were asked to come up with goals for the colleges and, if they prefer, departments, so dashboards can be developed.

Speaking of economic impact, the Financial Aid office indicated that they have awarded \$95 million in aid this fall; \$26 million came back as refunds to our students.

Courses are transitioning to the new Distance Educational Finance Model. It is on the cost study. Part of the revenue is returned directly to the college offering the courses. In the spring, all courses will transition to the new model. Due to the delayed implementation, any course scheduled prior to July for the fall semester was entered in under the old finance model.

The new Public Law 97-610, formerly Senate Bill 1883, indicates we will on an annual basis provide a list of program additions and deletions to the Board of Higher Education and continues with "report any program that exhibits a low trend of performance." The concern is legislators who are watching our curriculum without fully understanding our mission and making judgments about our program.

A program review committee, co-chaired by Todd Winters and Allen Karnes, and constituency representation, will look at metrics, identify weak programs and, once identified, look at them before going on the chopping block.

Another committee assembled for constituency representation will look at academic policies on our campus; group brainstorming about every policy we have to make sure those policies have been formulated in the best interest of the students' success.

The Provost stated that a task force is looking at position control at the university. What we are considering is moving to a model where we would hold all salary lines centrally and any requests for positions would be made in the same way as they are now during the freeze. When the freeze is lifted, funds will continue to be held centrally with requests coming to us. The task force is trying to figure out:

- What are the implications?
- What is the proper review process?
- Do we have committee with constituency representation to review positional requests and make recommendations to the Chancellor?

There was a discussion about open positions on campus, available funding to support positions and dean recruitment plans. In response to a question on what is needed for justification of a new hire, the Provost stated that a form has been drafted with distinct questions to be answered so that the justifications being provided by each dean is in the same context.

The Provost discussed the transition from Blackboard to Desire to Learn and its ability to dynamically link with Banner for updates; additionally, the assessment piece will assist greatly whether it be in accreditation or internal improvement. The Center for Teaching Excellence, formerly ISS, reports to the

Provost's office and will be disseminating information campus wide about the training sessions, with tutorials available on the website (<http://cte.siuc.edu/>). The Blackboard system will be phased out next year.

### 3. Announcements

#### Vice Chancellor for Research John A. Koropchak

Dr. Koropchak noted some of the activities since the May 2011 meeting of the Graduate Council.

- St. Louis Area Undergraduate Research Symposium (STLAURS):
  - i. SIUC won five of six prizes against students from Washington University, St. Louis University, etc.
- There have also been many retirements in the Vice Chancellor for Research/Graduate Dean area. A number of searches are underway; most prominently, Prudence Rice, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Director of the Office for Research and Development Administration (ORDA) retired effective August 31, 2011.
- In response and after significant consultation, including with the committee set up to study optimization of proposal and award procedures, we are reorganizing:
  - i. ORDA, by changing the name to Office of Sponsored Projects Administration (OSPA), to better reflect the functions of the unit.
  - ii. AVCR/Director position to be split into two positions:
    - a) 50% time AVCR, with an internal search to fill that position about to begin; and
    - b) 100% Director of OSPA, to be filled via an external search.

To create the positions, the vacant 100% time Publications Coordinator position and the 87.5% AVCR/Director position (i.e. 1.875 positions) were converted to 1.5 positions; fewer positions, but greater focus on sponsored projects administration to help faculty and students.

- John Mead retired August 31, 2011 as Director of the Coal Research Center and Associate Dean. Dr. Tomasz Wiltowski will serve as Interim Director while an external search is conducted.
- Materials Technology Center (MTC) Director search is underway.
- Assistant Dean Pat McNeil retired July 31, 2011; to name a few.
- Graduate Enrollment: Final results are not in but projecting a slight decline (-25) versus last year, and mostly in non-declared category (counted as Master's).
- There are plans to schedule Tom Jackson of GAPSEMC to come to campus and present a workshop on graduate student recruiting within the next month, or so.
- A grant writing workshop is scheduled for October 17 in the Guyon Auditorium. The seminar will be presented by Dr. David Morrison of the Grant Writers' Seminars & Workshops, LLC, courtesy of support from Chancellor Cheng.
- The first Willis Schwartz Award went to Ms. Bingxin Yuan, a new student from Zhengzhou University. You may recall that an endowment was established by a group of 'Chinese Students from 1957' to support this award.

In response to a request for a report on the Federal budget's impact on agencies, Dr. Koropchak advised that the key words in the Federal budget are 'deficit control' as well as 'job creation.' All agencies have been given guidance from the Office of Management and Budget to project both 5% and 10% reductions in their budget for the upcoming fiscal years. Additionally, that they should not anticipate doing across the board cuts, but to consider enhancement of those areas that influence things like innovation and job creation.

In response to a question concerning who will be taking over the Prompt, Graduate Deans and James Walker Fellowship role held by Pat McNeil, Dr. Koropchak stated that it will probably not be a full time position, but they are exploring ideas.

4. **Announcements - Chair Scott Ishman**

The Chair stated that he will be attending the Faculty Senate meeting to find out some details on Professor Manfredi's proposal to change the core curriculum; specifically, to reduce the science lab requirements from two courses to one. He added that more details will be available at the next Graduate Council meeting.

There was a brief discussion of the impact of the Manfredi proposal on graduate students, transfer students, and lab and non-lab requirements.

5. **Faculty Senate—Professor Apgar**

Professor Apgar stated that the next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on September 13, 2011. He added that Dr. Manfredi's proposal will be a topic of interest at the next Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2011.

6. **Report from CPBAC—Professor Ishman**

Professor Ishman distributed copies of the Nomination Committee's List of Standing Committees. The list will be posted on the website. He stated that while Professor Netzley is on sabbatical this fall, the position of Chair will be filled until he returns in the spring.

7. **Provost Search Committee—Professor Ford**

Professor Ford reported on various search committee nominees and committee replacements needed:

- Search committee for the Associate Provost for Academic Programs; Judith Davie, Biochemistry, Paul Welch, Anthropology, and Matthew Whiles, Zoology, all agreed to be nominated, one to be selected.
- Search committee for the Associate Provost and Dean of the University College; Peter Chametzky, Art and Design, Jeanine Wagner, School of Music, and Mary Wright, Economics, all agreed to represent the Graduate Council.
- Grievance Preliminary Panel in the Graduate School; Sara Baer, Plant Biology, Manoj Mohanty, MMRE, Joshua Potter, GPSC, are also on that committee.
- Replacement for Todd Headrick on the Honorary Degree and Distinguished Service Award Committee.

- Replacements needed for the University Joint Benefits Committee, a three-year term, the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee and the IT Advisory Committee. Those interested were asked to meet with Professor Ford.

8. **GPSC Report—Joshua Potter**

Mr. Potter stated that the GPSC will meet next Thursday, September 8, 2011 for a pre-semester forum to discuss the following graduate student issues:

- Graduate students getting contracts processed late, then getting a bill from the Financial Aid office with interest charges.
- Concerns about Nelnet, the payment and processing services.
- Concerns about Saluki Express bus route changes, specifically, to Evergreen Terrace and how that affects International students.
- Goals this year include increasing interdisciplinary work across the graduate and professional schools, to foster cooperation, develop more social programs, and plan a small conference of an interdisciplinary nature.

Dr. Koropchak stated that he has worked with a number of student groups and offered help when the GPSC initiate the plans for an interdisciplinary conference.

The Provost encouraged the GPSC to include the Director of Financial Aid, the Bursar or the Provost's office at the start of the financial aid discussions. He added that the issue of late charges was resolved, and steps have been taken so that next year there is a 60-day period before starting.

9. **Report of Research Committee—Professor Baer**

Professor Baer discussed the roles of the Research Committee. She reported that the first meeting of the committee will address research issues, participate in any policy discussions on fiscal officer development, and ways in which they can promote faculty development to maintain research activity on campus. Graduate Council members were invited to offer ideas and attend meetings.

10. **Report of New Programs Committee—Professor Hurlburt**

Professor Hurlburt reported that the first meeting of the committee will address proposals for program changes, to eliminate a certificate in Conflict Resolution and to modify the concentrations in ER&P.

11. **Report of Program Review Committee—Professor Huggenvik**

Professor Huggenvik reported that the first meeting of the committee will address how the reviews can be streamlined. Graduate Council members were invited to offer ideas.

12. **Report of Education Policies Committee—TBA**

The Chair advised the members that the position was open for any volunteers.

13. **Old Business:**

No report.

14. **New Business:**

The Chair reminded the members of the Annual Graduate Council Kickoff Reception at the home of Dr. Koropchak from 4:30-6:30 pm.

***Adjournment:***

There being no further business to bring before the council, the motion to adjourn was moved and seconded. October 6, 2011, and the Missouri and Kaskaskia Rooms of the Student Center were fixed as the time and place of the next regular meeting, and the September 1, 2011 meeting was adjourned at 9:09 am.

Tina M. Price  
Recording Secretary