

Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Minutes of the Graduate Council
October 6, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the SIU Carbondale Graduate Council was held in the Kaskaskia and Missouri Rooms of the Student Center, Carbondale, Illinois on October 6, 2011. The meeting convened at 8:05 am, Chair Scott Ishman presiding. Members and administrative officers in attendance were Najjar Abdul-Musawwir, Gary Apgar, Sara Baer, Christopher Behan, David Carlson, Rita Cheng, Scott Collins, Judith Davie, John Dobbins, Carl Flowers, Susan Ford, Katherine Frith, John Groninger, Constantine Hatziaioniu (Frances Harackiewicz), Delwar Hossain (GPSC), Jodi Huggenvik, Holly Hurlburt, Kathy Hytten, Scott Ishman, Levi Jost (GPSC), Kimberly Kempf-Leonard (Alison Watts), John A. Koropchak, Matthew McCarroll, Jay Means, Wanki Moon, Ryan Netzley (George Boulukos), Monica Newby (GPSC), John Nicklow, Joshua Potter (GPSC), Travis Pour (GPSC), Ratna Sinha, Pamela Smoot, Suresh Tadisina, Keith Waugh (Elizabeth Freeburg), Matthew Whiles and David Wilson. Members not in attendance were Manoj Mohanty.

Proxies for the meeting included Elizabeth Freeburg for Keith Waugh, Frances Harackiewicz for Constantine Hatziaioniu, Alison Watts for Kimberly Kempf-Leonard and George Boulukos for Ryan Netzley.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Chair entertained a motion to approve the Minutes of September 1, 2011. A spelling correction was noted with no further comments, corrections or edits to the minutes. Motion seconded. The minutes were approved as corrected.

REMARKS

Chancellor Rita Cheng

The Chancellor discussed campus activities and state-wide issues:

- The strategic planning process is launching its campus wide efforts this fall.
- Recap of the State of the Union address; posted on the Chancellor's website (<http://chancellor.siuc.edu/>).
- The IBHE address focused on the efforts being made around the campus; i.e., recruitment, retention, and setting the stage for advocacy.
- State level discussions on performance funding:
 - i. There are positives, and positive movement around mission differentiation.
 - ii. Recognition of higher cost structures as a research institution.
 - iii. Accomplishments made on the research side, and how they impact student success in Illinois.
 - iv. Pensions, unfunded pensions and its impact on employees. There is a proposal that the employer pick up the normal cost; possibly 6-8% being an expected cost increase, based on the social security debt. The Chancellor discussed the impact on our budget and addressed concerns as to how the increase will be instituted.

- v. The \$100,000 cap on pensions and its impact on our ability to hire into the state of Illinois, and also retain employees.
 - vi. While not discussed at the state level, the cost of insurance for the university and the employees continues to be concerns of the Chancellor.
- The Chancellor discussed the uses of the Economic Impact Study, and directed attention to the reported \$2.3 billion impact we have on the state of Illinois annually. The Economic Impact Study, put together by Professor Sharma and Kyle Harfst, Executive Director of the Southern Illinois Research Park, is available on the Chancellor's website.
 - Response from the HLC was positive and supportive. We were applauded for our efforts in right-sizing our financials.
 - U.S. News & World Report university rankings show us up 13 points; 183 to 170, and 94th among publics. Diverse Magazine ranks us at No.1 for baccalaureate degrees in education. And we are now in the top 100 of all institutions and 49th among predominately white institutions. The Military Times and other military rankings also give us a top ranking of No. 2 in the country.
 - Enrollment overall is down due to continuing students. Enrollment of new and transfer students went up. Retention rate and ACT scores did hold.
 - Workshop held last week on how to increase student enrollment in the graduate programs; conversations will continue.
 - A grants workshop scheduled for next month; making sure all proposals are as strong as they can be going out of the campus, and help faculty increase their portfolios.
 - Marketing efforts continue. Research being done around perspective students, transfer and graduating student needs. Messaging and texting are being utilized.
 - Subsequent budget reductions due to a decline in enrollment; another \$1 million is needed. The Provost's office is looking at what is available in the salary lines, what is the commitment on those lines, and what are the needs for teaching in the spring. The Chancellor advised that nothing will be done until those numbers are known.

Regarding the labor issues, the Chancellor discussed student involvement, the circulation of misinformation, her attendance at the bargaining table, and advised that this is not the forum to address the labor issues.

In response to questions by Dr. Boulukos, there were discussions on health insurance coverage for students, their spouse and dependents, options available to students, premium increases, and the Federal requirements. Discussions continued on the topics of recruitment and retention, and the graduate student eight credit hour limits.

There were no further questions or discussions.

Provost John W. Nicklow

The Provost discussed campus activities:

- Honorary degree and distinguished service award nominations are being accepted.
- Interviews and open forums being held today for the Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Associate Provost and Dean of the University College.
- As of today, there are over 150 online distance education off-campus courses scheduled for spring; including individualized learning, there are over 200+ courses. New assessment processes are being implemented for those programs.

- International Program and Services are expecting results of their internal review; the report is expected within the next two weeks.
- Academic Policies Review Committee work is ongoing; assuring polices are up to date, consistent, and in line with student success.
- The deans have been asked to present a list of commitments for spring teaching by October 21. After taking a close look at predictions, and consideration of all commitments, there will be a sweep of all salary lines in early November.
- Vacation payouts and the number of people retiring this year impact the budget. In addition, all of the colleges hold less than the required 2 ½% contingencies, so the Provost's office will have to make that up.
- There have been approximately 20 new faculty hires. Hiring will be based on the highest priority needs and the availability of funds.
- The task force is currently looking at and ironing out the logistics of the position control process, workflow communication plan and how the requests would flow in.

There were continued discussions regarding the infrastructure of the online distance learning education program; specifically, faculty teaching assignments, departmental responsibility, the Center for Teaching Excellence workshops on distance learning, the APLU and the Sloan Foundation's support of university online programs. The next Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium occurs on Thursday, October 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Morris Library, John C. Guyon Auditorium.

In response to a question regarding rate changes for distance learning education, the Provost stated that there will be a standard rate for students taking courses on and off campus, both in state and out of state.

There were no further questions or remarks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chancellor for Research John A. Koropchak

The official tenth day enrollment figure for graduate students was 4,085, down 77 from fall 2010. This was primarily due to the non-declared graduate student category, which was down over 100. There were 315 admitted students deferring admission to a later semester, over 100 more than in 2010.

The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) recently reported that graduate enrollment nationwide in 2010 was down about 1.1%. We were up 2% in 2010. CGS also reported that applications for fall 2011 were also down nationwide.

We need to be even more proactive and aggressive with recruiting for enrollment to continue to grow. As one step, Tom Jackson of Graduate and Professional School Enrollment Management Corporation (GAPSEMC) conducted a workshop open to all graduate units; approximately 60 attended. A sub-group met on August 31 to discuss an after-action plan. Areas of emphasis:

- Optimization of websites, and
- Work with University Communications on developing a plan to systematically address this issue.

Also related, a faculty and staff committee has been established by the OVCR to develop plans for optimization of the OSPA website. The committee includes a staff member from University Communications.

Grants and contracts processed in September totaled nearly \$16M; almost on par with the same period last year. But by this time last year, we already had an additional \$6M in state grants. Those have just been approved by the state Comptroller and should appear next month, likely putting us ahead of last year's pace.

We have learned that the Sponsored Academic Activities Incentive Award program must be bargained with the Faculty Association.

Many searches are underway in the VCR area, including:

- Interview of candidates for the Director of Materials Technology Center,
- Receipt of applications for the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research,
- Advertised for the Director of the Coal Research Center, and
- Advertising for the Director of IMAGE and Director of OSPA.

There is an organization called LASPAU, affiliated with Harvard University, which provides support for graduate students from Latin America and the Caribbean. They have initiated a practice of featuring in their newsletter one university that has been supportive of LASPAU students. They chose to recognize SIUC first! This recognition is for providing an excellent academic environment for over 280 LASPAU students over the last 30 years. We should all be congratulated for excellent work across the campus in supporting students from these areas.

The third Annual Technology and Innovation Expo (TIE) will be held on October 28, 2011. This year, the TIE will be part of an entire week of events, part of what is being called Innovation Week. A flyer for TIE and the schedule for Innovation Week are circulating.

There will be a grant writing workshop on October 17, 2011.

There were no further announcements.

Associate Dean David Wilson

The LASPAU is the Latin American equivalent of the Fulbright Scholarship, and the responsibility for getting students admitted to our programs fall under Ratna Sinha, Associate Director of the Graduate School and her staff. Fulbright applications have been going down, reflecting the world-wide economy. The State Department Fulbright budget has been cut, but we have been effective in capturing those students. We have also had success with other sponsored students who come with full support from their governments.

The Operating Paper is available on the website (<http://www.gradschool.siuc.edu/council/index.html>).

There was a brief discussion regarding the responsibilities of the position left vacant in the Graduate School by retiree Pat McNeil.

There were no further remarks.

Chair Scott Ishman

The council members were asked to contact Ratna Sinha or the Chair to address comments or suggestions regarding anything to do with commencement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Faculty Senate—Professor Apgar

Professor Apgar addressed three items discussed during the three and a half hour meeting of the Faculty Senate:

- a) The level of concern about labor relations and the climate at the university. The Executive Council is working in a nonbiased and non-advocacy manner to encourage movement and closure in that regard.
- b) A proposal to alter the number of labs required in the science section of the university core curriculum from Director Pat Manfredi. It will be on the agenda for the Faculty Senate meeting on the 18th.
- c) Dale Vitt, Chair of Plant Biology, was named as the Faculty Senate representative to serve on the College of Agricultural Sciences' Dean Search Committee.

After a brief discussion regarding the university core curriculum, there were no further comments.

2. CPBAC—Professor Ishman

Professor Ford was thanked by the Chair for her assistance in attending the various meetings over the past month during his absence.

3. Nominations Committee—Professor Ford

Professor Ford advised that a printed list of names of nominated individuals willing to serve on the search committee for the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement will be provide for posting with the Council minutes.

4. GPSC—Joshua Potter

An overview of the GPSC Tuesday meeting was provided:

- a) A constitutional amendment was passed regarding the GPSC funding philosophy, making it a little more streamlined for events to go through their office.
- b) Currently in discussions with Housing and Mass Transit regarding Evergreen Terrace and the bus situation.
- c) At their next meeting, the GPSC will report a Resolution to encourage both sides in the labor situation to come to a resolution.

5. Research Committee—Professor Baer

The committee has met and is brainstorming research issues. Council members were invited to attend the meetings or to contact Professor Baer if there are any topics, comments or suggestions to address.

The Research Committee members were asked to discuss a new meeting time for the Research Committee after the close of the Graduate Council meeting.

6. New Programs Committee—Professor Hurlburt

The committee discussions included new program revisions; a) proposal for the elimination of a certificate program through the College of Education, scheduled for the November agenda, and b) revising the name of the concentration in Geography. Reading of the resolution by Professor: Hurlburt.

Resolution

**Graduate Council Resolution in support of RME to
Revise Names of MS Concentrations in Geography**

RATIONALE

Whereas, the Department of Geography currently offers three MS concentrations – “Environmental Resources,” “Geographic Information Science,” and “Water Resources Management.” The Department proposes to change “Environmental Resources” to “Environmental Sustainability,” and “Water Resources Management” to “Climate and Water Resources.” And

Whereas, these changes in terminology will more accurately reflect the research and teaching emphases of the department; and

Whereas, department members voted unanimously in favor of these changes, which require only the addition of two courses, and does not require new faculty, facilities, staff or dollars;

RESOLUTION

Therefore, be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the proposed RME for Revised MS Concentration Names in Geography.

After a brief discussion, Professor Hurlburt advised that contact will be made with the ER&P Department regarding the proposal. Council members were asked to direct any questions or comments to Professor Baer.

A vote will take place at the next meeting of the Graduate Council.

7. Program Review Committee—Professor Huggenvik

Professor Huggenvik stated that the committee has not met, so there is no report.

8. Education Policies Committee—Professor Collins

The Chair reported that Professor Collins will chair the committee through the end of this semester. Professor Collins reported that the committee has not met, so there is no report.

9. Old Business:

No report.

10. New Business:

No report.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to bring before the council, the motion to adjourn was moved and seconded. November 3, 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 October 6, 2011, meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am.

Tina M. Price
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

Resolution in support of RME to Revise Names of MS Concentrations in Geography
Search Committee Nominees for Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement
Innovation Week Schedule and TIE Flyer