

Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Minutes of the Graduate Council
February 2, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the SIU Carbondale Graduate Council (GC) was held in the Kaskaskia and Missouri Rooms of the Student Center, Carbondale, Illinois, on February 2, 2012. The meeting was called to order by Chair Scott Ishman at 8:05 am.

Members in attendance were Najjar Abdul-Musawwir, Gary Apgar, Sara Baer, Scott Collins, Judith Davie, John Dobbins (Craig Anz), Carl Flowers, Susan Ford, Katherine Frith, John Groninger, Constantine Hatziaioniu, Jodi Huggenvik, Holly Hurlburt, Kathy Hytten, Scott Ishman, Levi Jost (GPSC), Kimberly Kempf-Leonard (Alison Watts), Matthew McCarroll (Qingfeng Ge), Manoj Mohanty, Wanki Moon, Ryan Netzley, Monica Newby (GPSC), Joshua Potter (GPSC), Pamela Smoot, Suresh Tadisina, Keith Waugh and Matthew Whiles.

Ex-Officio members in attendance were Rita Cheng, Chancellor, John Nicklow, Provost and Vice Chancellor, John A. Koropchak, Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Dean, and David Carlson, Dean, Library Affairs.

Also in attendance were Gary Apgar representing the Faculty Senate, David Wilson, Associate Dean and Director, Graduate School, Ratna Sinha, Associate Director, Graduate School, Sue Rimmer, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, Guest Leslie Duram, Professor of Geography and Environmental Resources, and Tina M. Price, Recording Secretary.

Absent during this meeting were Christopher Behan, Delwar Hossain, Jay Means and Travis Pour.

Announcement of Proxies: Craig Anz will represent John Dobbins for the remainder of the semester; Alison Watts will represent Kimberly Kempf-Leonard for the remainder of the semester; and Qingfeng Ge for Matthew McCarroll.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The Chair opened the floor for corrections or edits to the Minutes of December 1, 2011. There were no corrections or amendments to the minutes. On a motion duly made and seconded, those minutes were approved.

REMARKS

Chancellor Cheng

Enrollment Successes of 2011-2012

1. This is the fourth consecutive term of new student enrollment increases on the campus. Press releases highlighted the programs in Radio/ TV at MCMA, and the sciences; computer science, biology, chemistry and geology.
2. New incoming freshmen increased by 16% this term, followed by 5% increases last fall.

New freshmen and new student increases are probably the simplest and most salient statistics to communicate to the public about our enrollment success trends. Additional data is available for review.

There is an across the board softness in the master's area; not in any particular area. The doctoral area is still very strong.

The Chancellor will meet next week with the Graduate Enrollment Working Group to get their perspective on what is going on.

3. The deans were asked to identify a handful of pilot projects for specific strategic recruitment strategies with our Enrollment Management Consultants, Lippman-Hearne. We will also want to look at specific graduate student communications to see if our timing is just right compared to our peers and whether our messages are on target with students who are seeking graduate programs. Self analyzing the timing and the message content that is sent will be very helpful.
4. On the international student side, a lot of discussions and strategies are moving forward to increase the numbers. We did have a visa issue this spring for some Indian students and, unfortunately, we still have not figured out why. We need to understand the reasons for that.

There were discussions about the development of relationships with universities in China, since some of their students spend the second and third years of their education enrolled in the United States. The Chancellor discussed past relationships with institutions in China, adding that we need to move forward on that and to look for ways that are more flexible.

Strategic Planning

The Leadership Day on February 21, 2012, is a traditional opportunity for deans, directors, and department chairs to gather to talk about campus issues. There are plans to include some branding and enrollment discussions, and then a launch of our strategic plan. The Steering Committee will present a draft outline for campus discussions and campus conversations about the strategic plan will begin shortly after the February 21 meeting. This is an update of the strategic plan.

Budget Discussions

A vote on the budget will take place next Tuesday, February 7, at the IBHE Committee Meeting. They will present the proposed budget to the legislature and the governor, and it includes Performance Funding as part of the budget request.

There are four steps in the Budget:

- Step 1 has a \$200,000 cut to SIU because of our past enrollment and graduation decline. That was a stop gap, so the most that we will see in a cut.
- Step 2 is to restore the cuts that were made last year; 1.1% or about \$1.3 million. These funds would be applied to strategies to increase graduation rates on the campus.
- Steps 3 and 4 are to add additional dollars to Performance Funding in future years, plus any new initiatives. We expect a \$200,000 cut, or restoration of some of our cuts to be targeted for Performance Funding.

Performance Funding

The Performance Funding Model was also voted by the IBHE to be presented to the governor and the legislature. It has six metrics at this point. Those metrics that we will be judged on are the number of baccalaureate, master's and PhD degrees that we award in any given year. So, it is general educational expenditures per degree, a ratio of degrees to enrollment; again, trying to focus our attention on efficiencies.

And finally for the research institutions, the research and public service expenditures are acknowledging that we have a role in economic development and in bringing federal dollars to the state. We do get bonus points for STEM, minority students, and underserved students and that will help us in the long run.

Capital Budget Discussions

1. The Communications Building is number three on the list for \$64 million. We may see an approval, but it is not known when we will see the money.
2. Step 6: The Research and Public Service Clause, is a plus. It is a RAMP number that is extramural funding, not identifying research effort. Dr. Koropchak interjected, stating it is not just research expenditures but public service as well, so that it probably tracks closer to our total grant and contract activity as opposed to just the research grant activity. The Chancellor stated that we are seeking clarification. There were discussions on clarification, academic research measures, UI having a different mission as a land grant institution and the resulting advantage for SIUC.

The Chancellor stated that stress on the budget is both the lack of allocation and cash flow.

- \$80 million is owed us; \$5 million coming in last week.
- If we get 5% every month, by July 30 they will not have paid all their allocation for us. So then there will be another extension and we will be promised by the end of December.
- Clearly 6-8 months behind in payments, affecting everything in the state.

Federal and State

The big items are college completion, tuition costs and at the state level, pensions; conversations ongoing.

CPBAC

The Provost and VC for Administration have been charged with a number of initiatives. The Board is also asking for a list of cost containment and efficiency initiatives prior to any discussion about tuition.

Commencement

The task force reported in December:

1. Working toward three main commencements.
2. The task force, chaired by Kimberly Kempf-Leonard, Dean of COLA, with constituency representation across the campus, worked about six months watching videos, connecting to the national organization for commencements, getting booklets and lots of materials. Major improvements are planned for this May's commencement.
3. A keynote speaker has been secured who will gain a lot of attention for the institution. Announcements will be made when the contract is signed.
4. The Alumni Association is hosting a Grad Bash later this month for all students.

5. And we have worked through a walk policy for those who will be finishing up this summer and wish to walk with their cohorts.

There were brief discussions distinguishing the new performance funding from older campus efficiency measures, past Program Review Committee activities and quantitative metrics criteria as defined by the state. The Chancellor stated that this is a new performance funding and it is focused on completions. She emphasized the need for awareness of how the campus will be judged in the future.

There were no further questions or comments.

Provost John W. Nicklow

The following remarks were provided:

1. Enrollment is up slightly over 6% admissions at the freshman level; graduate applications are up.
2. Distance Education headcounts of students on campus and online were tracked to prevent duplication in the counts.
3. Course Registrations. The results from the realignment of the Office of Distance Learning Education Off-Campus Programs show a 75% increase of online delivery from last spring, a total of 1,136 online course registrations.
4. Research. An exploratory committee was formed to take a look at the different undergraduate research programs spread across the campus and how to align them so that students would have one place to go; one [front door] to go to. The students can then be directed to the appropriate department.
5. Chief Information Officer Search interviews were completed. The search committee will meet to put together final recommendations.
6. Four dean searches have started this term: Library Affairs Dean Carlson is moving on to Texas A&M; Agricultural Sciences; Applied Sciences and Arts; and Education and Human Services. Two interim dean searches: Mass Communication and Media Arts; and the College of Science, Dean Means will be stepping down.
7. The position of admission director has been advertised and the search is underway.

There were brief discussions concerning questions about the location of students in the Distance Learning Program, and branding and marketing efforts.

There were no further questions or comments.

Announcements

Vice Chancellor for Research John A. Koropchak

Dr. Koropchak introduced Dr. Sue Rimmer, the new Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and asked the GC to welcome her to the group and the activities. The following announcements were made:

1. Total federal spending on research and development will shrink in the current fiscal year by about 1.3 percent from last year's levels; universities will be largely spared from the cuts.

Most of the decline will stem from a 3.2% reduction in defense-related spending. Research and development at the Department of Energy will gain 8%, and National Science Foundation research and development will increase 3.1%.

2. At the end of December, halfway through the fiscal year, total grants and contracts were about \$45 million, about \$1 million ahead of last year at the same time.
3. Graduate enrollment for the spring at the tenth day was down 19 students, about 0.5%. That compares with being down 77 or 1.5% in the fall.
4. For the spring, we were down 32 in master's students, but up 13 in PhDs; continuing the trend of increasing the percentage of our students who are PhDs to 31%.
5. Our proposal for federal indirect cost rate was submitted in December, and our data justified a rate of 53%, which will likely mean that we will get a 1.5% increase; likely increasing our rate from the current rate of 45.5%.
6. Our proposal for fringe benefit rate was submitted, and our data justify a rate of 43%; a big increase over the current rate of 38%. This is largely due to a 15% increase in our health insurance costs.
7. Performance-based funding metrics include weighting factors; currently, 52.5% of total weighting are graduate education or research-related.

A brief discussion ensued, after which there were no further questions or comments.

Associate Dean Wilson

1. Doctoral fellowships are due soon.
2. The outstanding dissertation award applications are due Friday. There were three admissions and three nominations.
3. Graduate enrollment was down nationally.
4. What is unknown are the impacts of regulations in interest on graduate student loans going into affect this summer; loans gain interest at the beginning. This has not been done with the undergraduate student loans.

The Chancellor interjected, stating that the Law School enrollments are down, impacting the overall campus enrollment.

There were no further comments or questions.

Chair Scott Ishman

At 1:00 pm today in the Guyon Auditorium there will be a forum to discuss the program review changes. Professor Karnes and Dean Winters will chair the forum.

IBHE Director George Reed will be on campus, rescheduling his first visit on the campus to Friday, February 24.

Students are able to graduate in the summer. If master's students are within six hours of graduation, they may petition to attend the May graduation.

Dr. Carlson was asked to address "open access" issues and the boycott of Elsevier's publications. He stated that they will completely undo the Research Works Act, affecting the advances that have been made by published works. Dr. Carlson directed the GC to the Cost of Knowledge website (<http://thecostofknowledge.com/>). They have collected 3,000 signatures from scholars across the country objecting to Elsevier. GC members were encouraged to do some personal investigation to make a decision.

Reports

1. Faculty Senate—Professor Apgar

The committee has not met. No report submitted.

2. Report from CPBAC—Professor Ishman

The activities of the CPBAC were reported earlier during the Chancellor's remarks. No additional reporting submitted.

3. Nominations to Committees-Professor Ford

Reporting of search committee nominations:

- a) CASA Dean Search Committee -- Suresh Tadisina, Management, will be representing the GC
- b) College of Agriculture Dean Search Committee -- MingQing Xiao, Mathematics, will be representing the GC
- c) Outstanding Scholar Selection Committee -- Eric Mandat, Music
- d) Early Career Faculty Excellence Award Committee -- Alison Watts, Economics
- e) Teaching Excellence Award Committee -- Justin Schoof, Geography and Environmental Resources
- f) Staff Excellence Award Committee – Eric Schaubert, Zoology

4. GPSC Report- Joshua Potter

GPSC held a Tuesday meeting with area heads to discuss fee increases for the year. Discussions will carry over into the next meeting of the GPSC. It was reported that the general tenor of the graduate students were extreme dissatisfaction.

Regarding the graduation ceremony, law school students were concerned that the changes in commencement would diminish the Law School's traditional ceremony and traditions that have been in place for a number of years. The students drafted a resolution which the GPSC passed along to the Chancellor's office.

5. Report of Research Committee—Professor Baer

The committee had been looking into charging tuition on grants. Two tabled handouts were distributed to GC members: a) Tuition on Grants, and b) Estimated Revenue Stream from Graduate Tuition Recovery.

GC Research Committee Fall 2011 Tuition on Grants

- a) Represents data from 17 peer universities and comes from conversations with directors of sponsored project offices or OSPA.
- b) Other PhD granting institutions in Illinois; 5 comparative universities were identified in the 2010 IPEDS report and 8 universities are situated very closely to SIU in the NSF institutional ranking, which is based on research expenditures.
- c) Of the 17, 13 peer universities allow tuition to be charged on grants; graduate and some even undergraduate. Two institutions not charging tuition to grants are actively considering;

Illinois State is having this discussion right now. The other 2 universities, graduate students pay tuition.

- d) Of the 13, 9 expect tuition recovery to be charged to grants; if allowed by the agency.

There are a variety of policies and, additionally, how tuition dollars are allocated; some going directly to the research enterprise, to graduate schools or directly back to their department.

The committee crafted a letter to the Provost that includes a summary and their consensus; that the consequence of not having any policy charging tuition to grants is, in essence, unrealized revenue for SIU that our peer universities are obtaining. They encouraged development of a policy, and cautioned that it not negatively impact research objectives and, also, not affect the number of graduate assistants at SIU. With strategic allocation of those tuition dollars, the policy would augment SIU revenue streams, elevate research award status and increase graduate enrollment.

Estimated Revenue Stream from Graduate Tuition Recovery

- a) Represents estimates of revenue streams; 75%, 50% or 25% of the RAs are charged.
- b) Table 2 is averages based on in state tuition costs; out-of-state tuition is 2 ½ times higher. Revenue per semester would be over \$2 million; even at a flexible 25% rate charged to RAs, almost \$.5 million per semester.
- c) Table 3 includes graduate support for summer students; if only 25% charged to grants, generates almost \$1 million to the university.

In response to questions about Table 2 and consideration of the size of a grant, Professor Baer stated that the size of the grant was not considered. The scenario suggests, of all the graduate students, 25% could be charged. This is not a percentage of the grant.

Professor Baer stated that this is not a proposal, but research the committee had been conducting. The next step would be to recommend to the Provost, deans, chairs, and other benefactors affected, what the policy would be, and hopefully that policy would be reviewed by the committee of the GC.

The Chancellor made an added recommendation that, if the policy were passed, it be part of the tuition increase coming in and be targeted towards graduate fellowships.

There were further discussions on other university incentivized policies, ways to incentivize the policy to benefit PIs at SIU, ways the funds might be allocated, and the impact of a flexible policy.

In response to the question any documented negative impacts of the policy on research efforts, Professor Baer stated she was not aware of any, only the revenue streams.

The Research Committee was commended on the work done for this report.

6. Report of New Programs Committee—Professor Hurlburt

Two certificates were proposed by the Department of Geography: **Certificates in Sustainability and GIS in Geography and Environmental Resources**. The New Programs Committee had questions as to whether the Geography Department were large enough to offer as much specific programming as this RME is proposing, and whether they had people who specialized in these particular areas. Guest Leslie Duram, Professor of Geography and Environmental Resources, was asked to provide a response to these concerns.

Remarks by Professor Duram

There are nine faculty members focusing on Environmental Sustainability and Geographic Information Systems (GIS); two focus areas. The department currently offers an undergraduate major focusing on environmental sustainability, a Master's Program in Sustainability and GIS, and are part of the ER&P PhD program focusing on sustainability and GIS. As a result of requests, the certificates are options for those wishing to minor in sustainability or GIS, and for those graduate students not wishing to pursue the entire master's degree.

Summary of Responses to Questions

- a) A certificate at the graduate level must be 18 credits; the GIS faculty wanted to add a portfolio, for a total of 21 credits.
- b) Student enrollment includes 75 undergraduates, 28 master's, and because it is an interdisciplinary PhD, 20 students; graduate students from outside the department can pursue the certificates.
- c) There must be 18-21 hours to be listed as an IBHE certificate; an IBHE standard.
- d) There was a time to degree issue; 18 hours adds an additional year, extending the master's and doctoral degrees.

There were further discussions as to whether employability and the additional 18 hours would balance out, and the fact that national standards were lower. Professor Hurlburt proceeded with the reading of the resolution.

Graduate Council Resolution in Support of RME for Certificates in Sustainability and GIS in Geography/ERP

Rationale:

Whereas the Department of Geography proposes to add two post-baccalaureate certificates in Sustainability and GIS (Geographic Information Science). And

Whereas the proposed certificates build both on existing departmental programs and on the research strengths of the faculty, who focus on sustainability in its various forms. And

Whereas applicants with sustainability skills and/or GIS analysis skills are currently in high demand (the department frequently receives requests for such programs). The department anticipates up to 20 enrollees in these two certificates per year. Thus the addition of certificates in this area may be expected to generate credit hours and tuition dollars from both existing students and professionals seeking to enhance their skill sets; and

Whereas the proposed changes do not require new facilities, faculty, staff or dollars.

Resolution:

Therefore be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the proposed creation of graduate certificates in GIS and Sustainability in the Department of Geography.

Revisions to the text made during the reading: "...Geography /ERP" changed to "...Geography and Environmental Resources"; "... (Geographic Information Science)" changed to "... (Geographic Information Systems)." A revised copy will be posted to the GC website.

After a brief discussion, Professor Duram was advised that the GC approves the resolution, but several other steps are involved before it is approved.

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

No report submitted.

8. **Report of Education Policies Committee—Professor Netzley**

The committee is overseeing the transition of the Center for Teaching Excellence; work is ongoing.

The committee is gathering information on the potential campus-wide problems with the Morris Fellowship funding formula; specifically, [hits] to departments during the final two years and disincentives due to these budget [hits]. There are 3 awards for the \$20,000 a year fellowship, running 5 years with the Graduate School paying the first 3 years and the departments paying the last 2 years.

Other discussion issues included the \$20,000 being included in the summer money, how the final years figure in the GA budget, and that the award may be a disincentive for a student to finish. Professor Netzley plans more substantive information for discussion at the next meeting.

Future discussions are planned regarding the committee's review of post-doctoral fellowships.

9. **Old Business:**

No report.

10. **New Business:**

Academic Policy Recommendations

The Chair stated that some of the recommendations are related to graduates, but most relate to undergraduate. The Provost discussed the primary changes:

- a) Email. All students using their assigned email, or have it redirected.
- b) Early grade reporting alerts. TAs, GAs and first year courses would record grades in DTL throughout the year, allowing the ability to catch problems and intervene. Accountability in the reporting of grades was considered to be an issue of training TAs to understand why it is important and explanations of the early grade reporting. The Provost stated that discussions of requiring midterm grades evolved into this recommendation.
- c) Changes in drop/withdraw deadlines. Moving them back to 10 weeks, allowing students to make informed decisions before midterms.

Recommendations of the Program Changes Review Committee

In response to Dr. Mohanty's questions centered on the data presented in Standards II.A, B and C, Page 2 of the report, the Chair stated that these are standards established by IBHE and under which

they will evaluate our programs. It was agreed that the smaller departments may struggle with item II.C. *Program Cost Standard*. The Chair added that IBHE will also give programs an opportunity to argue their case based on items IV.A, B and C, Page 3-4 of the report. The Chair offered clarification, stating that this is not related to performance funding. It is about program quality.

Dr. Wilson commended the group that put this report together. He explained why this was initiated and the PQP process. There were further discussions about the report content, the CIPCO cost study data, and the development of a source to answer questions about the various reports.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to bring before the Graduate Council, the motion to adjourn was moved and seconded. March 1, 2012, and the Missouri and Kaskaskia Rooms of the Student Center were fixed as the time and place of the next regular meeting, and the February 2, 2012, meeting was adjourned at 9:59 am.

Tina M. Price
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

RME for Certificates in Sustainability and GIS in Geography and ERP
Fall 2011 Tuition on Grants Table
Estimated Revenue Stream from Graduate Tuition Recovery Table
Academic Policy Recommendations
Recommendations of the PCR Committee, January 2012