

Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Minutes of the Graduate Council
March 7, 2013

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 March 7, 2013. Chair Scott Ishman called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Members in attendance: Najjar Abdul-Musawwir, Craig Anz, Christopher Behan, Ryan Ceresolo (GPSC), Scott Collins, Bryan Crow, Judith Davie, Carl Flowers, Susan Ford (Ulrich Reichard), Katherine Frith, Reza Habib, Dale “Buck” Hale, Constantine Hatziaioniu, Kathy Hytten, Scott Ishman, Matthew McCarroll, Grant Miller, Wanki Moon, Pamela Smoot, Brooke Talley (GPSC), Matthew Whiles (Eric Hellgren), and Andrew Youpa.

Announcement of Proxies: Ulrich Reichard for Susan Ford; and Eric Hellgren for Matthew Whiles.

Ex-Officio members in attendance: Rita Cheng, Chancellor; John Nicklow, Provost and Vice Chancellor; John A. Koropchak, Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Dean; Susan Rimmer, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research; Susan M. Ford, Associate Dean and Director of the Graduate School.

Other attendees: James Allen, Associate Provost for Academic Programs; Wayne Glass, Director of OSPA; Ratna Sinha, Associate Director, Graduate School; Terry Clark, Faculty Senate Representative; Julie Champe; David Crain; Kimberly Kempf-Leonard, Dean’s Council; Nathan Stucky, Speech Communication; Todd Headrick, Acting Chair and Lyle White, Educational Psychology and Special Education; Peter Lemish, Journalism; and Michelle Petrik, Recording Secretary.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2013 meeting of the Graduate Council duly made and seconded, and the minutes were approved.

REMARKS

Chancellor Cheng

We are seeing tremendous growth in applications at the undergraduate level. Law School applications are down, as they are across the country. Chancellor Cheng’s discussions with the faculty included strategies such as program changes, as well as outreach activities to impact enrollments.

The governor’s state address was held yesterday, and the budget is posted; appropriations are right at 5% reduction. The other major driver in planning the budget for next year is the 2% self-funded pay increase. The actual budget will be announced later in the spring.

The Lipman Hearne consulting efforts propose changes in the way we admit and recruit students at the graduate level. The secret shopping efforts and results have been informative, with materials and new program development underway.

The Student Services Building is on schedule and on budget; tentative completion date in August. If move-in is not accomplished several weeks prior to the opening of classes, it will be scheduled after Welcome Week. The graduate school and 19 other departments will be moving into the building; a total of 20 departments and 320 staff members.

The renovations of 61 classes are on the schedule and proceeding. Cooperation during this period is appreciated, as there may be some inconvenience as people are asked to move out for a period of time. Twelve (12) teaching labs are also on the list for renovation, but this summer due to the more complicated work involved. Four (4) research labs were recently approved for renovation, with allocated indirect funds being used for that purpose. Efforts are in place to coordinate and prioritize the renovation of the research labs based on the condition and use of the classrooms.

International recruitment efforts are underway at one of the more prestigious fairs in China. We opted to go to fairs where our peers are more well-known. We are also in many other countries, and have had some exciting attraction in Brazil.

On the federal side, we have been following the sequestration. We received a notice that was sent out to military students at the bases, from the Marines, indicating they had cut off tuition assistance. Notices centered around grants are coming from agencies stating they are doing everything they can, but any continued grants may have reductions, or new grants will be more competitive because there will be less money to issue.

Other federal issues: The 3.4% interest on student loans was preserved. The student budget was built on 6.8%; if it is retained at 3.4%, budget cuts will need to occur.

There is focus on improving the development and alumni relations on the campus. We have a new vice president, training and well-screening, and steps in preparation for a capital campaign. When that time nears advice will be sought for compelling stories and compelling opportunities for donors to help support the work that we do.

Peter Gitau, Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Student Life and Intercultural Relations accepted the Vice Chancellor position at Northern Kentucky University and will be leaving at the end of this month.

Missouri Valley Conference Tournament occurs this weekend. We have admit student events going on around the tournament to convince students and families that we should be number one on their choice.

In a final remark, the Chancellor stated that the airport is at risk for our traffic control tower, which could impact our aviation program.

Following a request for comments on the Edwardsville proposal, Chancellor Cheng briefly discussed the Governor's appointments to the Board of Trustees and the East St. Louis political group's anger about the appointments, alumni representation on the BOT, and the fact that the bill that came forward was in response to that. The Edwardsville campus' significant debt was touched upon,

during which the Chancellor added that there will certainly need to be some compromises along the way.

Provost Nicklow

1. We made the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The goal next year is to make the President's Award and the ACE Nationals.
2. The Applied Sciences and Arts Cyber Security Dawgs won the Illinois Cyber Defense regional competition and will be going on to the national competitions.
3. On March 18 the NSF will implement automated compliance checking on proposals.
4. Senate Bill 1900 is being discussed; the federal requirement of public access to federally funded research, publications and data.
5. Financial aid was packaged on March 1; financial aid being a major leveraging factor as we go into the next cycle.
6. Over 13,000 applications; up 5.2% from last year. Admissions up by almost 4%; nearly 8,000 freshmen. With respect to quality of those admits ACT scores up a full point, average GPA up a tenth of a point, and SAT scores up 60 points.
7. Transfers are soft. The best indicators without an enrollment deposit are new housing contracts; freshmen are up 21% and new student orientation registrations are up 24%.
8. Interviews have been completed for the Director for the Center for Undergraduate Research; a decision made over the next month.
9. Addendum B meetings are complete; either we have made a decision or will head to bargaining on those.
10. There were two memos circulated to the deans or directly through campus:
 - a. HLC focus visit is scheduled for April 22. There will be a two-day review of issues around the strategic plan; circulating the syllabi, and the syllabi content. In preparation for the visit, the memo requested input on how to best manage the syllabi and what type of sustainable process can be put in place.
 - b. A series of task forces to further explore new programs, conversations about collaborative opportunities and curriculum redundancies.
11. Launched the Student Success Collaborative Pilot with the Educational Advisory Board. We are part of a consortium of 12-15 institutions looking at historical data on student success and using that data to build a predictive analytic. It is not a tool, but a guide available to the counselor sitting down with the student.

Vice Chancellor Koropchak

1. At the end of January, our grant and contract total is \$48.4M, which is \$6.8M less than the same time last year.
2. You may recall that in the fall we reported that the number of proposals submitted from the campus was lower, and that observation may be related to this result, in addition to the state and federal budget issues.

- a. The gap between proposal submissions this year versus last year has narrowed compared to the report in November.
 - b. In November, we were 22% behind in the number of proposals, and \$13M in the total value of proposals. Now, we are 9% behind in the number proposals, and \$8M in the total value of proposals.
 - c. This may substantiate the suggestion that agencies are releasing 'requests for proposals' later than they did in previous years.
 - d. It appears that all of the cycles are beginning to follow the Illinois pattern of delaying announcements, and even payments.
3. Federal sequestration has gone into effect, and this is also expected to impact the availability of federal funds.

SRA International has a *Sequestration Resource Center* posted on their website that has compiled announcements and information that can provide specific details for all the agencies, but some examples are: NSF projects awarding 1000 fewer grants, and NIH has proposed a number of possible changes, including new grants or cooperative agreements may be re-scoped, delayed, or canceled.

4. On the positive side, our final R&D expenditure data for FY12 totaled \$71M, virtually the same as the previous FY, despite the prior phase-out of the federal stimulus program.
5. Kudos goes to Carlin Fenn, an MS student in Ag and Fisheries, who won first place for her presentation at the World Aquaculture Society meeting. This was actually Carlin's fifth award of various types. Carlin is supervised by Dr. Brian Small.

Associate Dean Ford

Starting now and moving forward, deans or department chairs receiving the weekly updates on applications and admissions can expect the data from Jim Carl to be consistent with the data from the graduate school. There was evidence that the applicants to the programs were seriously under-enumerated.

Applications are down from last year. Admissions are up, particularly in engineering and science master's programs, and especially in master's and PhD programs in the College of Liberal Arts.

The graduate school staff has worked hard to make changes to turn things around; admitting students in a timely manner, and to encourage students to apply and register. And will now begin to turn attention to helping departments take steps to turn around as well. Steps included:

1. Marketing:
 - a. Now have Facebook and Twitter accounts for the graduate school. As students, including international, use social media as a primary way of choosing a program; also friends and web pages.
 - b. Information has been collected and shared with Lipman Hearne in hopes that recommendations will be made as to whether going with any of these applications to list our programs would be good for marketing:
 - Petersons.com
 - Hotcourses.com promoting international student recruitment
 - Gradschools.com, which is scheduled this week.

2. The website has been improved to give prospective students the ability to get information easily. Essentially creating a capsule of information and then a link to take them directly to the department's webpage.
 - Listing of specializations, concentrations and special application materials
 - Deadlines
 - Creation of a Virtual Hall of Fellows and Awardees, including a listing of all outstanding dissertations and thesis awardees.

With respect to the secret shopper, 62% of programs were giving students unacceptable responses. To help move that to a smaller number of unacceptable responses, a sample script has been prepared for those answering the telephone calls or emails from graduate students.

A spreadsheet has been prepared for collection of, minimally, names and email addresses to be sent to the graduate school for uploading to Hobsons' Connect once a week. Templates are available to departments to send letters quickly to students interested in their programs. The grad school is also experimenting with Hobsons' chat rooms.

To speed up the process, a checkbox will be added to Apply Yourself so that the department can say that the application is complete. And some steps have been removed in the department to graduate school communication of complete files, to attempt to speed it up.

A letter will now be required to request an exception for anyone who does not meet TOEFL or GPA requirements.

We are currently working with the Center for Teaching Excellence and Carla Berry on welcome activities for new graduate students on a smaller scale. There are discussions on taking half a day in the first week before classes to have a series of welcoming activities for new students on campus.

There were brief comments on the GRE list, the strong applicant pool of candidates and a total of 11 applicants as a result of the efforts.

Associate Dean Rimmer

The members were encouraged to participate and get their students involved in the Research Town Meeting on April 16.

There is another Image director search in process for any faculty or students interested in that facility; interviews will be completed this week.

Associate Provost Allen

The Higher Learning Site Commission visit is on April 22-23. We are now in the process of scheduling meetings with the team about each of the six areas of concern from the last site visit in 2010.

The plan for the program is posted on the Chancellor's website. Work is going on to frame recommendations we hope will help with the implementation of this plan. The plan needs to be ratified and confirmed by the BOT on April 3 so something can be presented to our visiting colleagues.

As part of the campus-wide restructuring committee plan, programs across campus were asked to update their assessment of student learning plans and coordinate those with their accreditation activities for assessment purposes; Deadline is March 15.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Report from the Dean's Council – Professor Kempf-Leonard

No report.

2. Nominations to Committees Reports – Professor McCarroll

No nominations at large to report. The Tuition and Grants Committee are finalizing the data collected. As soon as the report becomes available, the Graduate Council at large was asked to take it back to their constituents for feedback so that there is representation across the campus.

3. GPSC Report – Brooke Talley

The GPSC awards will be announced on March 22.

The student election rules were ratified; reflects that all voting will be done online. Open nominations for GPSC officers for next year are ongoing for the next two weeks; elections scheduled for April 2.

4. Report of Research Committee – Professor Davie

The Research Committee is currently examining the research policy.

The resolution was read by Professor Davie.

Resolution

Graduate Council Resolution for Formation of a Campus Wide Committee to Examine Allocation of Indirect Funds

Whereas, there has been a redistribution of indirect funds resulting in a new distribution of 40% to the Chancellor's office, 30% to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and 30% to departments from the prior distribution of 31% to the Office of the Chancellor, 39% to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and 30% to departments,

And, whereas, reducing the indirect cost fund returns by 23% (approximately \$500,000 in FY2012) severely impacts the budget of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, which funds many programs essential for support of the research mission at SIUC such as contractually committed start-up funds, travel funds, seed grants and matching-grant funds, resulting in certain programs such as interdisciplinary seed grants and travel funds being respectively not funded or funded at reduced levels this year,

And, whereas, a significant portion of indirect cost fund returns may be required to meet the demands for improved research space and infrastructure to assure that faculty remain competitive for research funding and to facilitate a collaborative interdisciplinary climate at SIU,

And, whereas, these costs for updated research space and infrastructure need to be balanced with additional campus needs,

And whereas, according to the operating paper for the Graduate School, the Graduate Faculty have "the power to formulate and recommend policy regarding research-related programs",

And, whereas, the Graduate Council, the body representing the Graduate Faculty, have the authority to "establish policy to be followed in allocating available SIUC funds for faculty research projects and to monitor the allocation of such funds",

And, whereas, the prior distribution of indirect funds was recommended by an assigned faculty committee that examined campus-wide uses and needs of indirect funds,

Therefore, be it resolved that the allocation of indirect cost fund returns be examined by a campus-wide committee, including members of the Graduate Council that will provide input for the need for indirect cost funds and propose a working plan and policy for a mutually effective and agreed-upon distribution of those funds to support research activities on the campus. It is recommended that an assigned campus-wide faculty committee be involved in any future indirect reallocation decisions.

The committee, in conjunction with the research committee of the Graduate Council, will be responsible for researching case studies for peer institutions, aspiration institutions, and Top 100 research institutions for best effective practices, analyzing impacts of current and possible future redistribution models (% reductions and increases) on research productivity to recommend adaptable working models to meet changing needs, seeking alternative funding sources to supplement or defer allocation needs, as well as determining the allocation of such funds toward renovating existing or building new physical research capacities.

The resolution was introduced and opened for discussion. It will be under consideration at the April 4, 2013 meeting of the Graduate Council.

There was a brief discussion during which the members were informed that these are the funds provided to the university to support your research, and that this resolution would not affect any preexisting funding within the departments. Council members were asked to take the resolution back to their constituency groups for feedback and provide input either to Chair Ishman or directly to Professor Davie to bring before the research committee. There will be a vote at the next meeting.

5. Report of New Programs Committee - Professor Flowers

Reading of the Resolution by Professor Flowers.

Resolution

Graduate Council Resolution in Support of RME for changing the name of Speech Communication to Communication Studies

Rationale

Whereas the Department of Speech Communication proposes to change its name from Speech Communication to Communication Studies, and

Whereas the proposed change comes following extensive study by the faculty, including research of peer and aspirational institutions, and

Whereas the proposed name change responds to the ongoing trends of scholarship and helps the department maintain currency with similar programs across the country, and

Whereas departmental research shows that the name change could increase undergraduate enrollment, improve student retention, improve job prospects for program graduates and reduce on and off-campus confusion over the department's identity and mission, and

Whereas the proposed change does not require new facilities, faculty, staff or dollars, with the exception of minor costs for stationary and catalog corrections,

Resolution

Therefore be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the proposed name change from
Speech Communication to Communication Studies

After a brief discussion, there was a call for a vote on the resolution. The resolution passed unanimously.

Reading of the Resolution by Professor Flowers.

Graduate Council Resolution in Support of a Proposed RME Online Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Civil Society, Communication, and Media Practices

Rationale

Whereas faculty in the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts (MCMA) have been moving toward distance education programming over the past several years, and are in the process of adapting six existing courses targeted at training media and communications professionals in civil society organizations (CSO), Non-Profit Organizations (NPO) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) to an online format, and

Whereas, the proposed post baccalaureate certificate will build both on existing departmental programs and on the strengths of the faculty, has the potential to reach

potential students who would not be willing to relocate to Carbondale and will be delivered online, via the Office of Distance Education and the Center for Teaching Excellence, which has already provided training, consulting and some technical services for faculty members in adapting courses to the online environment, and

Whereas, the proposed certificate curriculum requires a minimum of 18 credit hours, and, at the international level, post-graduate certificates are a *highly valued means* of either qualifying for a job or upgrading existing status in an organization and there are no curricula or degrees at SIUC that overlap with this initiative,

Resolution

Therefore be it resolved that the Graduate Council approves the proposed creation of an Online Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Civil Society, Communication, and Media Practices

There was a call for a vote on the resolution. The resolution passed unanimously.

Reading of the Resolution by Professor Flowers.

Resolution

Graduate Council Resolution to Recommend Approval of a Name Change of the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education to the Department of Counseling, Quantitative Methods, and Special Education in the College of Education and Human Services

WHEREAS, the faculty of the department believe that the name change will better reflect the programs housed in the unit; and

WHEREAS, the name change will make it easier for prospective students to locate the current programs within the department, and

WHEREAS, no other educational units, curricula or degrees will be affected based on this action, and

WHEREAS, no budgetary effects are anticipated based on the name change of the department, with the exception of minor costs for stationary and catalog corrections,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the Graduate Council recommends approval of the change the name of the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education to the Department of Counseling, Quantitative Methods, and Special Education in the College of Education and Human Services.

Professor Flowers advised the council that the RME has been around since March of last year and asked that the council allow a suspension of the rules to allow a vote to move it forward. Dr.

Todd Headrick, Acting Chair and Dr. Lyle White of the Educational Psychology and Special Education were present to answer any questions regarding the resolution.

After discussions regarding the use of “Quantitative” in the title, departmental input to support the name change, and that the timing for submission into the catalog having passed, the resolution was tabled until the next meeting.

Reading of the Resolution by Professor Flowers.

Resolution

Graduate Council Resolution Resolution to Recommend Approval of adding the Masters of Arts Degree in Chemistry in the College of Science

WHEREAS, the Chemistry Department proposes a non-thesis based Master of Arts (MA) degree in addition to the currently offered research-thesis based Master of Science (MS) degree, and

WHEREAS, the proposed MA degree would be awarded to students upon completion of all requirements for admission to doctoral candidacy, and would offer students, who choose not to complete the dissertation process leading to the Ph.D., an appropriate degree leading to career path options not available at the BS/BA degree level, and

WHEREAS, the proposed degree option could lead to an increased number of individuals in the high STEM fields such as chemistry, and

WHEREAS, this approach is consistent with other science departments and related departments at SIU and other universities nationwide, and

WHEREAS, other educational units will not be affected based on this action and no changes in faculty, staff and/or budgetary effects are anticipated, with the exception of minor catalog corrections,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the Graduate Council recommends approval of the addition of a Master of Arts degree in Chemistry in the College of Science.

In response to questions from the GC members, the degree would be a non-thesis, not research based. The requirement of courses is the same as for Master’s and PhD. It was stated that chemistry degrees do not require a Master’s, so students completing all the advanced course requirements would have something for all their work if they did not advance to candidacy.

The resolution will be up for a vote at the next GC meeting.

6. Program Review Committee Report by Professor Hatziadoniu

No report submitted.

7. Ed. Policies Committee Report by Professor Collins

No report submitted.

8. Old Business

No report.

9. New Business

Chair Ishman advised the GC members be aware of the export control issues associated with research, particularly true whenever there is interaction with international researchers.

Workshops have begun, and GC members were encouraged to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 am

Report Prepared by Tina M. Price

Attachments:

Resolution: Campus Wide Committee to Examine Allocation of Indirect Funds

RME for Name Change in Speech Communications

RME for Online Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Civil Society

RME for Name Change of the Department of Educational Psychology

RME to add a Masters of Arts Degree in Chemistry in the College of Science