

# 2013-2014 GRADUATE COUNCIL

## Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. and proxies were read by Susan Ford.

### Roll Call

Members Present: Craig Anz, Amanda Barnard (GPSC), Randolph Burnside, Norman Carver, Ryan Ceresolo (GPSC), Bryan Crow, Judith Davie, Saran Donahoo, Carl Flowers, Chair Graduate Council; Susan Ford; Reza Habib, Konstantine Hatziaioniu, Christopher Lant, Derek Lehman (GPSC), James MacLean, Grant Miller, Prema Narayan, Andrew Pardieck, Ratna Sinha, John Stewart (GPSC), and Tomas Velasco.

Members Absent: Boyd Goodson, Marc Morris, Kimberly Kempf-Leonard, and Margaret Sullivan (GPSC).

Ex-Officio members in attendance: Chancellor Rita Cheng, John Nicklow, Provost; James Allen, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs; Wayne Glass, OSPA; James Garvey, Vice Chancellor for Research

Proxies: Eric Lenz for Andrew Youpa, Michael Eichholz for Jim Garvey, Saran Donahoo for Kathy Hytten; Rick McKinnies for Scott Collins, Karita Karan for Katherine Frith; Chifeng Dai for Alison Watts

Other attendees: Matt McCarroll

### 1. Minutes

John Stewart made a motion to accept the minutes from December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Randy Burnside seconded the motion, with no discussion, minutes were approved as presented.

### 2. Remarks – Chancellor Rita Cheng

**Chancellor Cheng** reported Scholarship Weekend will be Feb. 7-8. About 560 plus students expected to visit campus over this weekend and another 50 students that chose alternative days to interview for the scholarships. Last year there were 420, so there is growing interest in the SIU campus among high achieving students. There were about 38-40 scholarships offered last year and should award around the same number this year. These are Chancellor Scholarships, 4 year-full ride to honors students. Average ACT was 32 among the visiting students. Among those students visiting, there were a core of University Excellence Scholars (full tuition but paying fees) and some that are partial tuitions as well, and they have an average of 29 ACT. Many high achieving students will be taking classes, touring campus, and visiting classrooms over the two days, make them feel welcome. Theresa Farnum, Retention Specialist, has been engaged to help implement plans for retention efforts. Enrollment news – 86.7% of the freshman enrolled in fall were retained through spring, which compares to 83% last year. The university has also experienced the largest increase in international students this spring, the largest since year 2000, mostly in Master and Phd programs. Off-campus numbers still remain a challenge, the military sites enrollment is down. We're working very hard to add options for these sites to make welcome changes for students. Deans are working with the Chancellor on portfolios for fundraising, and will be working on a comprehensive campaign focused on 4-5 areas; scholarships for students, support for faculty, support for academic programs and the core. Any ideas for this fundraising support will be appreciated, see your dean. Total research dollars awarded for this year are ahead of last year, up \$2.5 million from Dec. 31, 2013, faculty are engaged and doing well in a very competitive environment. There will be tuition/fee increases proposed; 2% tuition increase for graduate and undergraduate students, 3% in student fees, not counting the student health insurance. The increases will be discussed with the board. IBHE is presenting various budgets to the governor, some with various increases, with increases based on performance funding and the university will be keeping an eye on this, taking the stance that the model is not working well for all institutions, some performing better than others based on their missions. Other campus news includes: 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floors in Morris Library are open, very impressive and views are phenomenal – plan to visit. Internet band width has been increased; Institute for Plastic Surgery received a \$2.8 million grant looking at hand transplants; Debate team received awards and several alumni received recent awards.

### 3. Remarks - Provost Nicklow

**Provost Nicklow** reported that Enrollment has turned to fall 2014, freshman applications are down, but focusing

on certain areas to bring them up. Positive signs are housing contracts up 7%; transfer student housing up 18%; transfer applications are up. Things are changing rapidly, it is very competitive. Several colleges deserved compliments on their enrollments for spring; Engineering up 16%, Business, Science had slight increases but some areas still need improvements. Distance Education and Off-Campus programs are problem areas. Theresa Farnum, Retention Specialist, came in October for initial screening and assessment. We have defined that we have the right structure in place, but there are gaps and we have problems with implementation. January 9<sup>th</sup> there was a retreat with Ms. Farnum. She facilitated the retreat with data driven analysis of where gaps are, and what strategies can be. There is now an eleven member steering committee that will work with 11 action groups to provide long-term development of a 2 year rolling retention plan to be prepared by February 21<sup>st</sup>. All the action plans will be brought together at that time. It is everyone's responsibility to play a role in student retention and to assist student's learning. Student Services Building is now open until 7:00 p.m. Specific offices that serve large numbers of students – Career Services, Advisement, Registrar, etc., as word gets out the traffic is growing between 4-7 p.m. SIU was highlighted in the December issue of E Campus News in an editorial on our Mobile Dawg Project. Online MBA program ranked 51<sup>st</sup> out of 300 fully online programs in US News and World Report.

**J. Stewart** asked Provost about the customer service in reference to retention issue. J. Nicklow responded – service to all constituents – student centered, community centered, parent centered – staff to staff – how we treat those that come into our offices.

**M. Eichholz** brought up an issue with email. There are emails going into junk mail and if you don't know it then you could miss important emails. It is happening with several faculty and is not just an isolated incident. J. Nicklow said he would speak with the CIO about the problem.

#### **4. Remarks – Jim Garvey, Vice Chancellor for Research**

**J. Garvey** welcomed Matt Carroll to the meeting. Collaborative Seed Grant Program has changed, but is still directed at junior faculty. The VCR's office has added a collaborator to be involved in the grant writing proposal. There has been an increase in the number of grants submitted, and the number of faculty that can benefit from the Seed Grant doubled, so this is a way to get help to people and go after grant money. Research income is up; the faculty is going to increase 40+ - most of these will be research active and will bring in support from various places, representing SIU at various conferences. The potential for research visibility is very exciting. There will be a research speed dating event on March 28<sup>th</sup> at Dunn-Richmond Center. It is opportunity to get faculty interacting with faculty outside their department. If interested in participating, contact J. Garvey. The VCRs Office is moving forward toward a Faculty and Grad Student Activity reporting software. We are currently getting bids for the software. Cost Share Matching Funds Program available, if you need help with this, see the VCR. Pre-Award Specialist, Joel Fritzler, will be leaving campus, and we will be rehiring for that position. Travel program is going well, be sure to route travel dollars through chair/dean, before sending to OSPA. McLafferty is moving forward, Fermentation Science will be occupying part of the building and will be pitching different departments for the rest. There will be an Open House on March 31<sup>st</sup> at McLafferty. Finally, Tuition on Grants is in effect. Any grants over \$50,000, if there is full overhead on these, we need to be putting in-state graduate tuition on these. Work with OSPA to include this tuition where allowable.

**K. Hatziadoni** asked for clarification on the Tuition on Grants. J. Garvey explained – it is any grant that has full overhead, regardless of the agency, if allowable with the agency. This policy is a standard policy throughout universities. Money goes back toward the actual department that it is generated in – 50% department, 25% P.I., 25% to the T.A.A. budget. It is on the website at policies.siu.edu, under Tuition on Research Grants.

**A. Barnard** wondered how the school was going to get back 25% of the tuition if the student is on tuition waivers. J. Garvey clarified waivers, and the fact there is no money generated. The program is structured so that money can come back to the units. There was further discussion on the subject.

#### **5. Remarks – Susan Ford, Graduate School Dean**

**S. Ford** remarked that she had been to the Council of Graduate Schools and came back with lots of ideas and all she needs is time and money. The Outstanding Thesis Award has been awarded to Lindsey Roberts in the Dept. of Anthropology. The Outstanding Dissertation competition is on-going with many nominees. Fellowship competitions are on-going and is a very hectic time for the office. The awards will be awarded earlier and are expecting a high acceptance rate. Because of budget cuts there will be one fewer award next year. There will be 3 Morris awards, 15 Doctoral awards and 13 Master awards, letters should go out soon. Grad School is working very actively on recruiting, and need to continue to partner with departments and respond quickly and

responsibly to the prospective students. We are here to help with various activities geared toward recruitment, so reach out for help when needed. S. Ford said she is planning to meet with all the colleges on strategies over the next month. Grad School is developing new approaches to help Grad Students prepare for Graduation. A GA is helping with formatting, Rachel Mees, she started in the fall, helped a lot of students for fall graduation. Rachel is housed in the library if you need her help. Also working with the Writing Center to offer Writing Boot Camps to include volunteer faculty to help with dissertations.

**J. Stewart** asked if the fewer fellowships is just for next year or is it permanent. Ford answered, it is a permanent reduction.

**G. Miller** discussed off-setting scholarship issues. Students may lose money if they receive more than one scholarship. What scholarships are being affected by this issue? Only internal scholarship money is affected.

**J. MacLean** asked if the Morris students were all out of the same group of students. Ford replied that the Morris Fellows are a different pool of students. They have different restrictions and are held to the restrictions. There may be 40-50 applicants from which to choose a Morris Fellow.

## **6. Remarks - Jim Allen, Associate Provost for Academic Programs**

**Dr. Allen** announced the Assessment and Technology Symposium, scheduled for week of Feb. 24-27. The events have been scattered and hopefully making it easier for staff to attend different sessions. There will be additional flyers and on SIU Today. It is a pretty exciting array of information. Book orders for fall and summer are ongoing through Follets web portal. There is a large offering of E-Text and Digital support materials to use. So far more than 60 courses have already signed up. Make orders soon in order to be in compliance with the state. Also there is a Brain Storming Group working on facilitating new program proposals and new program changes, developments and improvements. The group will be trying to come up with ways to act on the program changes as quickly, fairly and thoroughly as appropriate. We need to be sure these proposals get the attention they deserve.

## **7. Remarks – Chair Flowers**

**Dr. Flowers** will be attending the next Board of Trustees Meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup> in Edwardsville. Chancellor's budget meeting was Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, and they are putting together new proposals for the model to be used this year. One was looking at credit hours and another one included just junior and senior credit hour generation as an option. There will be more information on this.

John Stewart and Dr. Flowers serve on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. There was a substantial pool of candidates, the PSAC has had its last meeting and the names have been forwarded to the Board of Trustees. The goal is to have the new president chosen by April 1<sup>st</sup> and take office during the summer. Flowers reported that they are looking at renumbering the courses being offered for graduate students. They will be working on this process in the near future.

## **8. Dean's Council**

No report.

## **9. Faculty Senate**

Professor MacLean reported on the December 10<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting. It was dominated by a very spirited discussion on the COEHS RME. Dr. Clark put forth a Resolution on the RME that had been decided not to put forth by the Executive Committee. Dr. Clark wanted to compel a vote and it was voted to suspend the resolution indefinitely. The Executive Committee met on Tuesday, set the agenda for the next meeting which contains the standard status reporting – no surprises.

## **10. Nominations to Committees/Announcements – Professor Craig Anz**

**Dr. Anz** reported the Scholar Excellence Committee still needs a volunteer to serve. Anz remarked that he has been working with Jim Allen's office on their APLU designation for *Innovation and Economic Prosperity University Designation and Awards Program*. This designation has to do with Economic Development in the Community. They will be putting together a team and a timeline. The team will be sending out strategic surveys to gain

information and it will be part of an action plan. They will follow up with conversations and events to introduce people to each other. With this designation, there is also an award to go along with it.

## **11. Report of New Programs Committee**

**Dr. Habib** reported that the committee had four resolutions to present. Habib presented the Grad Council Resolution on Fermentation Science Institute for the second reading. (attachment A) Dr. Flowers asked for discussion, without discussion Flowers called for the vote. There was one opposed, 0 abstentions – the Resolution passed unanimously.

Habib read the resolution for the new NUI for MS in Supply Chain Management & Engineering for the first time. It will be voted on at next grad council meeting. (attachment B)

Habib read the resolution for Non-Thesis MS Degree option in Physics and for Specialization in Ecological Urban Landscape. These were first reading for both and will be acted on at the March meeting. (attachments C & D). S. Ford suggested that the Specialization be replaced with Concentration instead.

## **12. Report of Research Committee**

**Dr. Davie** reported that the Research committee has been working on revising Post Doc Policy. Hopefully a draft will be available at next meeting. Creating flexibility on the post doc pay scale has been discussed.

## **13. Report of Ed. Policies Committee**

No report.

## **14. Report of Program Review Committee**

No report.

## **15. GPSC Report – John Stewart**

**J. Stewart** reported that their meeting was cancelled due to weather. They will be meeting next week to discuss the fee increases. GPSC will form their own opinion of the fee increase and that will be available next meeting. The GPSC is giving out research awards yearly now and Stewart thanked the Chancellor for the \$5,000 award for research to be given out by GPSC. This will allow them to be able to give more money than last year.

## **16. Old Business**

No old business.

## **17. New Business**

**J. MacLean** announced that Faculty Senate Elections will be starting, let colleagues know if they wish to run for election.

**Chancellor Cheng** wanted to add that there is a 17-member committee working on the No Smoking Policy on campus. The initial draft is on the website and feedback is welcome.

The motion was made by R. Habib to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.