

MINUTES OF THE 2014-2015 FACULTY SENATE
October 21, 2014

ROLL CALL

Members present: Shaikh Ahmed, Philip Anton, George Boulukos, Joe Cheatwood, Terry Clark, Bruce DeVantier, Sandy Fark, Anthony Fleege, Jordan Forbes, David Gilbert, Steven Goetz, Laura Halliday, Edward Heist, Eric Holzmuller, Andrea Imre, Carolyn Kingcade, Sajal Lahiri, James MacLean, John McSorley, James Phegley, Ruth Anne Rehfeldt, Benjamin Rodriguez, Rachel Stocking, Gray Whaley, Rachel Whaley, Lyle White

Members absent with Proxy: Howard Motyl (Edward Helleny proxy), Lucian Dervan (Twinette Johnson proxy), (Sajal Lahiri proxy), Carolyn Kingcade Eileen Waldron proxy)

Members absent without Proxy: Mark Dolan, Ahmad Fakhoury, Holly Hurlburt, Nancy Martin, John Reeve, Stacey Sloboda, Mingqing Xiao

Visitors and guests: Provost Susan Ford (ex-officio)

MINUTES

Minutes of the September 9, 2014 meeting were presented. Revisions were noted. Terry Clark made a motion to approve the minutes with revisions. Andrea Imre seconded. All in favor, minutes approved with revisions.

REPORTS/REMARKS

1. **Sajal Lahiri** reported that there are two items that President MacLean wanted to bring to the attention of the Senate. 1.) Statement of Concern from the Council of Illinois University Senates which states "The Council of Illinois University Senates is gravely concerned about the actions of the Executive Director and staff of the State Universities Civil Service System (SUCSS) toward reclassifying principal administrative/academic professional positions within universities, as well as their adversarial audit activities and the threat thereof, without adequate and widespread consultation, including with the Presidents, Chancellors, Faculty leadership, and Human Resource Directors of the respective campuses." He went on to say that the SIUC Faculty Senate will not be addressing this concern at this time, but will continue to monitor the situation. 2.) Chicago State University Faculty Senate decertified by the Chicago State's Board of Trustees. Lahiri noted that this is another area of concern that will be monitored and addresses in the future. Terry Clark noted that he will report more on this issue when he gives his Faculty Advisory Council report.
- 2a. **Chancellor Sarvela** could not attend.
- 2b. **Provost Ford** stated that a final budget will be circulated as soon as it is approved by the Board of Trustees at the meeting next week. The Director of Undergraduate Admissions search has closed, and the search committee has provided four names. The Dean of the Graduate School search has also closed. That search committee is meeting and moving forward to provide names for consideration. The Dean of Liberal Arts search closes in November. The Dean of Business search has been closed because of sufficient flaws regarding search criteria. It will be reopened in the spring after the advertisement has been reformulated with the input from the faculty in the college. Ford went on to say that a 3.2% shortfall in the budget has to be made up across campus. Ford stated that she and her budget manager, Cheryl Reinhardt, have determined a number of units that should be held harmless. This was done by following past practice and looking at those units that serve the good of everybody in the institution. Library holding and enrollment management are two of those units. Ford noted that her centralized budget has been cut almost to the bone making it possible for the portion that has to go out to the colleges to be 2.58% instead of 3.2%. A

small portion has been held back as reward for two colleges that have done very well in terms of enrollment increases. Engineering and Science will have a lesser cut than other colleges. Ford went on to say that recruitment numbers for undergraduates are up for spring as compared to last year and the year before. The number of admissions and applications is also up. Ford stated that because of the tuition shortfall, she has been studying ways for universities to move forward during times of budgetary difficulties. She went on to say that the single, best way to do that is to improve your retention. Retention for freshman this year has gone from 60% to 68%. A much needed improvement, but we ought to be at 85% if we are going to be similar to our peers. A lot of students are lost between their junior and senior year. This is a national trend that we follow. Improving student advisement will help break that trend.

S. Lahiri commented that there are voluntary and involuntary reasons for students leaving SIU and asked Provost Ford if she had the data showing the breakdown of involuntary versus voluntary reasons for students leaving. Ford stated that she did not have that data. Ford referenced the policy instituted last year which states that students who finish the first semester with a 0.00 GPA would not have a semester on probation and would not be allowed to return the next semester. Ford went on to say that there are those students along with students that leave for financial reasons and students who just drift away. Ford stated that she would try to get more details about that data.

L. White commented about the tuition revenue shortfall and asked Provost Ford what are the factors involved in the \$3.1 million shortfall. Ford responded by saying that the factors are simple but are not going to go away easily. A lot of different strategies were pursued in order to increase enrollment. Those were obviously successful because of the very small increase in enrollment for fall which reversed a ten year decline in enrollment. One of the primary strategies to encourage students to come to SIU was to offer tuition waiver scholarships to a lot of students with a wide range of ACT scores. The problem was not the Chancellor scholarships, it was all of the other creative financial packages. Some were 100% packages and some were need-based packages.

S. Lahiri asked how many scholarships were given. Provost Ford responded by saying that she did not have that number but would find out.

L. White followed up by saying that we bargained the future for the present and how could that have been anticipated. Provost Ford replied that there are a lot of people who do the math. Ford referenced Terri Harfst, Director of the Financial Aid Office, and an external consultant. The final decision as to where the cutoff points are; full tuition, 75%, 50%, or 25% waivers, are made by the Chancellor and Provost.

L. White asked how do we ensure that in the future we don't get caught up in trying to promote enrollment at the long term cost of tuition revenue. Provost Ford responded and said that our financial aid experts are quite skilled at sorting this out and did advise last year that the strategy being pursued was too risky.

Provost Ford went on to say that Judy Marshall, Budget Manager, has been invited by the Board of Trustees to give them a presentation about the SIUC budget. Ford stated that Marshall is very aware of how the Board's decision to not approve even a small increase in tuition has contributed to the problem of the tuition shortfall. Marshall plans to try to use this opportunity to explain the budget and educate the board about the realities of how higher education is financed. Ford continued by saying that the university has two major sources of income; state contributions and tuition. State contributions are decreasing and tuition has a shortfall. The way to fix that is to increase revenue. We can't control what the state part because it keeps going down. The only thing we can do is raise tuition. That can be addressed by increasing the cost of tuition per student or increasing the number of students.

S. Ahmed asked Provost Ford about the recruitment of international students. Ford replied by saying that Undergraduate and Graduate international applications were up by 40% last year. The incoming international students this year was the largest group in at least 30 years and possibly forever.

A. Imre asked Provost Ford about the time frame for deciding how colleges to cover the budget cuts. Ford responded by saying that the deadline for the submission of budget cuts was October 21st and it is still being determined how those decisions are going to be made.

A. Imre noted the declining number of faculty positions over the past 10 years as related to the decline in the number of students and asked Provost Ford how we can maintain quality education if the faculty numbers decrease and the number of students increase. Ford responded by saying that it is a very good question that doesn't have a simple answer. A way to balance out the loss of faculty within the colleges has to be found. Ford added that efforts are being made to resolve this issue, but at this time there is not a solution.

3. **Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE**

Terry Clark reported that he had attended the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council on October 17th at Governors State University. Clark stated that the major topic of discussion at the meeting was shared governance. The IBHE FAC is going to be issuing a general statement of what the principals of good shared governance are and why shared governance is important.

4. **Graduate Council** Judith Davie reported that the Graduate Council has gotten off to a good start this year. They approved a name change for the Coal Institute. Coal Extraction and Utilization Research Center (CRC) has been changed to the Advanced Coal and Energy Research Center (ACERC).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Sajal Lahiri

The Executive Council met on October 7th and discussed the agenda for the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting.

BUDGET COMMITTEE – Andrea Imre

Andrea Imre reported that Provost Ford covered much of the same information. She went on to say that the approved faculty searches have not been cancelled, but some may not move forward because of budget cuts. Imre added that colleges have been asked to hold back 2% of their budget to cover salaries. Provost Ford clarified that the 2% is to be held back to help cover whatever happens with bargaining. It is not a predetermined amount.

B DeVantier asked Provost Ford if the 2% being held back is in addition to the standard contingency. Ford replied yes. The standard contingency is held back every year in case the state asked for an additional amount in the spring. The additional 2% is a partial pool to address issues of salary increase, promotion and tenure.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES – Terry Clark

Andrea Imre reported for the committee. The committee is asking for Senate approval to appoint Greg Budzban to the Intercollegiate Athletic Advisory Committee. The Senate approved the appointment. Imre also reported that Silvia Secchi has agreed to serve as the faculty representative on the Digital Measure Implementation Team.

FACULTY STATUS AND WELFARE COMMITTEE – Holly Hurlburt / Anthony Fleege

Anthony Fleege reported that the committee met a couple weeks ago. The task the committee is working on is to revise the revised ICE form.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – Gray Whaley

No Report

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION POLCY COMMITTEE – Bruce DeVantier / Rachel Whaley

Rachel Whaley reported that it was brought to the committee's attention that there is a timing issue with the Final Exam schedule and the distance between some classes. Scheduling classes more wisely with the assistance of advisors and faculty releasing students from class on time were a few suggestions to help with timing issues.

Bruce DeVantier added to the report for the UEPC. DeVantier has been attending meetings primarily related to Core Curriculum as well as the Reform Committee meetings and wanted to report that the Reform Committee will be asking for input from the Faculty Senate and colleges.

OLD BUSINESS

Andrea Imre asked Provost Ford if she would talk briefly about the Undergraduate Studies reorganization. Provost Ford responded by saying that it was brought to her attention by Lauri Bell, Interim Dean of University College, as well as a lot of faculty and deans, that two parts of what is under University College are problematic. One is first year advisement being centralized by a single set of advisors and the other is the structure of UCOL 101. After consultation and input from various sources, it has been decided that first year advisement is going back to a model where if you have declared a major, you will be advised in that college. If you do not have a major, you will be advised centrally in first year advisement. Ford stated that it is hopeful that the new model will be in place by the end of this semester. Ford also explained that University Studies has been moved from University College to COLA. This was done because no degrees can be granted out of University College. This move will be short term until a new model is made.

NEW BUSINESS

Meera Komarraju attended the September 19th IBHE FAC meeting. Komarraju presented her report which included Illinois State University Provost Krecji's report on how ISU has remained competitive, a panel discussion on how ISU raised its enrollment and pulled ahead of other state universities in IL, how shared governance inform performance based funding and a panel discussion on academic freedom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Anton, Secretary
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