

2021-2022 Faculty Senate Minutes
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
Video Conference via Zoom
1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

I. Call to Order

The October meeting was called to order by President Yueh-Ting Lee.

II. Roll Call of Membership

Members Present: Eric Black, Amy Bro, Jennifer Brobst, Robert Broomfield, Joseph Brown, Ying Chen, Farhan Chowdhury, Scott Comparato, Lisabeth DiLalla, Michael Eichholz, Scott Gilbert, Matt Gorzalski, Dong Han, Elaine Jurkowski, Victoria Kreher, Seung-Hee Lee, Yueh-Ting Lee, Walter Metz, Grant Miller, Jay Needham, Marcus Odom, Amanda Pangrazio, Mike Phillips, Bethany Rader, Matt Rendleman, Diana Sarko, Joe Shapiro, Jennifer Sherry, Joseph Sramek, Lichang Wang

Members Absent with Proxy: Stacey McKinney (Jennifer Walker as Proxy)

Members Absent without Proxy: Philip Anton, Puntli Kohli, Arash Komae, Christopher McDowell, Patrick McGrath, Julie Tate

Ex-Officios and Guests: Lizette Chevalier, Rachel Frazier, Vivian Hardison, Gary Kinsel, Meera Komaraju, Austin Lane, Junghwa Lee, Amber Pond, Carroll Walker, Wendell Williams, Tamara Workman

III. Approval of the Minutes

Motion: J. Sramek

Second: A. Bro

A vote commenced: 24 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions; The minutes from 09/14/2021 Faculty Senate Meeting were approved as written.

IV. Remarks

A. President's Comments: Yueh-Ting Lee

Y. Lee reported the following:

1. The September issue of FS Update/FYI was sent to you and all faculty members on campus.
2. On September 16th, I attended the BOT meeting by Zoom. At the meeting I made a few remarks. You can see my remarks in our September issue of FS Update/FYI.
3. So far this semester we have accompanied the Chancellor and the Provost to visit four colleges and academic unit. I would like to take a moment to thank our Faculty Senator, Professor Lichang Wang for helping me cover the visit to CECTM on September 8th with the Chancellor and Provost while I was teaching. I, myself, went to CHHS, CBA, and the University Library. The attendance varies (usually between 20 and 50 faculty, staff, and students). The commonly asked questions include COVID-19, strategic directions (pillars) of SIUC 2030, enrollment, and faculty issues. In one situation, it was an informal social (meet and greet).
4. On September 20th, I attended the Chancellor's Leadership Council meeting, where we discussed the draft of the SIUC 2030 strategic plan. You have seen the draft. I wish to express my appreciation to many of you for your input and suggestions to the Chancellor's Office.

5. Just a heads up/FYI, President Daniel Mahony plans to attend our FS meeting to make a few remarks.

V. Q and A Session with the Chancellor and the Provost

A. Chancellor Austin Lane

Chancellor Lane reported that the campus numbers on COVID vaccinations and testing are improving. For students and employees choosing not to adhere to the Governor's mandate, those students are on interim suspension and employees are absent without pay. The Chancellor discussed how the Saluki Takeover Tour in Chicago built on the Southern Illinois sweep, which was a recruitment campaign at local high schools utilizing Illinois State Senators and State Representatives. He reviewed his team's activities of the Saluki Takeover Tour in Chicago, which included academic agreements with Chicago-area community colleges, alumni events, and outreach in public schools. Lane spoke to recruiting students from non-traditional populations and mentioned the Saluki Step Ahead is the only agreement in the state with our university and 48 community colleges. The Chancellor reiterated that Cook County continues to be the number one county in terms of the volume of students attending SIU. He stated that the university is looking to have a better presence in Chicago and is working on the infrastructure and staffing standpoint. Chancellor Lane thanked faculty for their input on the strategic plan before they finalize that document. Lane added that there will be a fall professional development day for deans, administrators, faculty, and staff to discuss recruitment and retention efforts. J. Sramek asked about the university efforts in attracting adults with some college credits or who have enrolled in multiple institutions and need to finish their degree. The Chancellor said that for-profit institutions are doing better than SIU at this time, and that structural changes are needed to pursue this audience. M. Eichholz raised concern that the new SIU strategic plan is not directly tied to the university's mission statement. The Chancellor reassured that the tie will be more apparent in the final draft.

B. Provost Meera Komarraju

Provost Komarraju thanked all instructors for their continued work amid ongoing COVID-19 challenges. Currently in the process of ensuring compliance with the Governor's Executive Order in terms of employees and students. Students enrolled completely online do not have to comply with being vaccinated or submit to weekly testing. As of this morning 72% of students are vaccinated and complying. We have 17 students on campus and 300 plus students off campus that they are in the process of contacting to attend panel hearings through the student rights and responsibilities office. These students are on interim suspension and have a chance to get compliant. Instructors are also being informed that these students are on interim suspension. Searches are ongoing for the deans of CAM and CoLA, several school directors, and 20 new faculty. The university held an open house yesterday and hosted 155 prospective students and their families. The next open house is in November. SIU Day will be on October 20th. The Provost gave an enrollment update: Freshman applications are 2,278 up 31%; Actionable applications are 1,543 up 65%; Admitted students are 1,204 up 70%. On-campus transfers are 453 up 15.6%; Actionable applications are 139 down 8.6%; Admitted are 118 down 5.6%. Off-campus transfers are 73 up 73%; Actionable applications are 30 up 87.5%; Admitted are 25 up 92%. Graduate student applications are 136 up 92%; Admitted 20 up 25%. The Provost reported that last year the university moved its financial aid package notifications from spring semester to the end of fall

semester. This year the notifications are being sent out earlier so SIU can remain competitive. The Provost reviewed the Saluki Takeover activities in Chicago. Spring registration starts next week. They're campaigning to have 90% of students registered before they leave for winter break. The university is working on improving the 6-year graduation rate which is currently 45%. The Provost will present SIU's work in developmental education at an IBHE conference, specifically within the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences. J. Sramek asked what strategic insights were learned from the Saluki Takeover in Chicago and how will they be implemented. Sramek also commented that the university is failing 55% of students (in reference to the 6-year graduation rate being 45%). Provost Komarraju responded that they are looking at more events in Central and Northern Illinois in closing the deal with prospective students. The Provost also mentioned enhancing university access to the Chicago-area students who do not want to leave the city. Also, gathering more data to better understand retention, specifically which students left for other universities. E. Jurkowski asked if we can identify the factors contributing to retention of programs with successful retention rates and impose them in other programs. Provost Komarraju answered this has been a priority for her office since taking the position. Programs that have structured cohorts, more internship opportunities, and a defined career path have higher retention. J. Sherry expressed concern about the upcoming proposal reducing GPA requirements and its effect on retention. E. Jurkowski added that the earlier students are engaged can be helpful in the retention process. F. Chowdhury asked how do we increase graduate enrollment? Chowdhury also showed concern in the graduate school not being well staffed and the application process may not be as fast as it could be. The Provost answered that the grad school will process the application and then sends it to the academic unit. The academic unit has a deadline and applications are not generally processed until that date so, it's decentralized in terms of the processing speed. The Provost added that funds are available for program-specific marketing and recruitment events, and encouraged faster application processing and referenced Fullbright applicants as an example. M. Odom explained the freshman interest groups organized in the School of Accountancy and that retention and GPA is higher among students involved in those groups. The Provost shared her experience of organizing interest groups of psychology students and the difficulty of coordinating the student's class schedules. M. Eichholz asked whom to contact for program-specific marketing money. The Provost said to reach out to the respective dean.

VI. Reports

- A. Executive Committee: Chair, Yueh-Ting Lee – See "President's Comments."
- B. Election Committee: Chair, Bethany Rader – Three Judicial Review Board terms are ending in December. Looking at a call for nominations to go out this Friday. Those candidates will be vetted by the FSEC and Committee on Committees then voted on by the FS at December's meeting.
- C. Undergraduate Education Policy Committee: Co-Chairs, Joseph Sramek and Amy Bro – J. Sramek reported that the RME to rename the School of Journalism to the School of Journalism and Advertising has been tabled.
 - 1. RME on Proposed Policy Change – Resolution to Recommend Approval of Policy Proposal to Recommend Reduction from 26 Credit Hours to 12 for Admission of Transfer Students into SIUC – J. Sramek yielded questions to T. Workman, L. Chevalier, W. Williams. No questions were asked.

A vote commenced: 26 Yeas, 1 Nay, 0 Abstentions; Resolution Passed.

- D. Budget Committee: Co-Chairs, Marcus Odom and Jennifer Brobst – M. Odom reported the committee met last week and discussed the direction they plan to look at this year. They are gathering information and data and plan to meet again soon. J. Brobst added they will be flexible with what's happening with the consultant while continuing this transparency with the numbers.
- E. Committee on Committees: Co-Chairs, Elaine Jurkowski and Seung-Hee Lee
1. Update on Committee Assignments – E. Jurkowski reported on two items. First is the recommendation for candidates to serve as volunteers for the Ad Hoc Committee on Enrollment and Academic Excellence. This committee is charged with developing ways to improve the university's US News and World Report ranking. Candidates: Chilman Bae, Michael Brazley, Michael Hysin, Lindsey King, Jennifer Presar, Shu-Ling Wu.
Motion: J. Sramek
Second: L. Wang
A vote commenced: 25 Yeas, 2 Nays, 0 Abstentions; Recommendation Passed.
The second item is the recommendation for candidates selected to serve as volunteers on university-wide committees.
Motion: E. Jurkowski motioned to waive Faculty Senate rule on agenda items since the candidate list was distributed less than 5 days before the meeting date.
Second: J. Sramek
J. Brobst expressed concern that the procedure violates the Illinois Open Meetings Act. M. Odom agreed with Brobst but felt this being a committee appointment and not a policy matter that it could be waived and move forward. Odom requested that information relevant to committee request be made earlier. J. Brobst commented that the Open Meetings Act requires 48-hour notice on agenda items.
A vote commenced: 16 Yeas, 7 Nays, 3 Abstentions; Motion passed to waive Faculty Senate rule on 5-day notice for the circulation of agenda.
E. Jurkowski asked for affirmation of the slate of candidates to fill university-wide committees.
A vote commenced: 24 Yeas, 0 Nays, 3 Abstentions; Recommendation Passed.
- F. Faculty Status and Welfare Committee: Co-Chairs, Scott Comparato and Jennifer Sherry – No report.
- G. Governance Committee: Co-Chairs, Jay Needham, Patrick McGrath, and Lichang Wang – No report.
- H. Faculty Advisory Council to IBHE: Chair Lichang Wang – Held a meeting on September 17th. As the first meeting of the new academic year, planning is the main theme of the meeting with various information, such as enrollment and COVID-related issues, being reported. Two interesting items to share: 1) New spending and funds available to higher education due to unspent deferral stimulus money. The Governor has been shifting funds to IBHE, \$97.3 million towards post-secondary education. 2) IBHE is going through the strategic plan checklist for long-term and short-term goals.
- I. Graduate Council: Junghwa Lee – Met on October 7th. The research spotlight had two presenters, a faculty member from the School of Art and Design and a senior who recently received the Illinois State Innovation Award. Four RMEs were approved: the RME to rename the Advanced Coal and Energy Research Center as the Advanced Energy Institute; the RME to eliminate the MS track of supply chain management and engineering program as a joint program in Colleges of Business and Engineering; the

RME to merge SoM Departments of Anatomy, Physiology, and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology into one Department of Biomedical Sciences; the RME to rename the Touch of Nature Environmental Center to Touch of Nature Outdoor Education Center. The next meeting will be November 4th at 8:00am via Zoom.

- J. VC of Research: Gary Kinsel – Announced new staff hires: Sarah Kroenlein is now the staff support person for the Human Subjects Committee; Chris Massey is the staff support for the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee; Amy Ruffing hired in the Office of Research Compliance; The SIU System hired Brenda Martin to help with export control on the Carbondale campus; Jennifer Harris was reassigned as the director of the Laboratory Animal Program. There is a virtual sustainability research conference scheduled October 29th. The Illinois Innovation Network is sponsoring a grant funding program, due date for the proposal is December 6th. It does require you to have a partner at another Illinois Innovation Network Hub. The Illinois Department of Commerce has awarded the university \$2.7 million for a biotechnology laboratory, analytical laboratory, instrumentation laboratory, and an economic development annex in the McLafferty Annex.

VII. Old Business

The Faculty Senate will continue meeting virtually.

VIII. New Business

J. Brown expressed concern about faculty experiencing students not attending classes, not completing assignments, missing midterm exams, being belligerent in class, and filing complaints about teacher behavior that is uncalled for. Students are frustrated and feel that instructors do not listen to their concerns. Brown proposed conducting a quality of life survey to better understand how students are coping with COVID's impact on their university experience. L. DiLalla suggested a venue for students to talk about these issues. J. Brobst expressed support and suggested integrating people at the same level in discussion. B. Rader agreed with what was said. Rader gave a brief example and acknowledged there should be an outlet for both students and faculty. J. Sherry said the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee will explore a faculty forum on this topic. J. Brobst shared a situation she experienced in the classroom and highlighted the positive opportunity it brought after. Provost Komarraju suggested that not having a Fall Break is a likely stressing factor for students.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: M. Odom

Second: J. Sramek

Respectfully Submitted,
Josh Frick and Matt Gorzalski