

**MINUTES OF THE 2015-2016 FACULTY SENATE**  
**March 8, 2016**

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Shaikh Ahmed, Deborah Burris, Joe Cheatwood, Shawn Cheng, Jon Davey, Judith Davie, Lucian Dervan, Sandy Fark, Ann Garrett, David Gilbert, Tobin Grant, Laura Halliday, Andrea Imre, Bobbi Knapp, James Mathias, Jim MacLean, Howard Motyl, Ryan Netzley, John Reeve, Benjamin Rodriguez, Stacey Sloboda, Robert Spahr, Rachel Stocking, Melissa Viernow, James Wall, Gray Whaley, Wendi Zea

Members absent with Proxy: Philip Anton (Jarod Porter proxy), Jason Bond (Charles Rendleman proxy), Ahmad (Seburn Pense proxy), Fakhoury John Reeve (Augustin Jimenez proxy)

Members absent without Proxy: Terry Clark, Sandra Collins, John McSorley, Saikat Talapatra, Shelley Tischkau

Ex-Officios and guests: Brad Colwell (Interim Chancellor, ex-officio); Provost Susan Ford (Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, ex-officio); Mike Eichholz (Graduate Council, ex-officio); James Allen (Associate Provost for Academic Programs), Tamora Workman (Director, Registrar's Office), Pat Manfredi (Director, University Core Curriculum)

**MINUTES**

Minutes of the February 9, 2015 meeting were presented for approval. Minor typos were noted and Lucian Dervan was added to the Members Present. Minutes unanimously approved with corrections by show of hands.

**REPORTS/REMARKS**

1. **Andrea Imre** brought a few items to the attention of the Senate: the Judicial Review Board nomination ballot closed on February 29, 2016; the slate of nominees will be emailed to the full Senate on March 15, 2016 for review and concerns; the deadline for review and concerns is March 21, 2016; the Senate will vote on the final ballot at the April 12, 2016 meeting; the TT and NTT spring election nomination ballot will close on this Thursday, March 10, 2016; the election ballots will go out on March 24, 2016; new members will be seated on April 26, 2016. Imre commented on a resolution that was brought forth by Illinois State regarding health providers requiring upfront payments of more than your deductible; this is another negative impact of the budget impasse; if this happens you are to contact the Faculty Association and/or SIUC Administration so that they aware. Imre noted that Eastern and Western have had lay-offs and furlough days, John A. Logan issued lay-off notices last week, and Chicago State has declared financial exigency. Imre gently reminded those present to follow the Illinois Code of Ethics when expressing political concerns and use personal computers, email, and phones on personal time.
  
- 2a. **Interim Chancellor Colwell** reported that he attended the IBHE meeting with Dr. Dunn and Dr. Allen. Prior to that meeting, they met with Presidents and Chancellors and discussed ways to speak with one voice regarding budget issues. Dr. Dunn, John Charles (SIU lobbyist), and Judy Marshall (Executive Director for Finance) will be giving testimony in Springfield for the FY17 budget on Thursday, March 10. Live audio will be available for those who want to listen. Colwell stated that this is just an exercise and not to be too concerned about the specifics; Dr. Dunn's comments are being elevated to raise attention; nothing is set in stone. The proposed budget cut for FY 17 is 20%; not only is there a potential loss in State appropriation, there is a tuition shortfall as well. Colwell stated that SIU will not close its doors; it will look different; no specific, final decisions but changes will have to be made to save money. Colwell noted that the approach may absolutely be nonstrategic because

you don't know who will go and when. No faculty will be laid off for this academic year, but if someone retires, that position may not be filled. Colwell and Provost Ford attended the Missouri Valley Conference tournament games in St. Louis; alumni events at the tournament drew in over 200 people including prospective students. The Events and Protocol office is working on putting the final touches on spring commencement, Honor's Day and speakers for fall commencement. Colwell is working on putting together a committee to work on plans for SIU's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2019. Planning is also underway for the eclipse in August 2017; this event will have a huge impact on southern Illinois; SIU is making this a big time event for the campus and the community; there will be tens of thousands of people in the Carbondale area for the eclipse which will be broadcasted to millions of people around the world; this will all take place in Carbondale. Colwell concluded by saying that it is obvious that SIU is making plans for years to come and is not closing its doors because of the budget issues in Illinois.

- 2b. **Provost Ford** started by adding to Chancellor Colwell's comments about the eclipse; there has been an eclipse planning committee for a year and a half now; it includes community members, community representatives, and SIU staff members; Bob Baer from Physics and Scott Ishman from the Dean's office in Science are co-chairing that committee. Ford added that a decision had to be made a year and a half ago for the 2017-2018 Academic Calendar year and stated that she may have judged unwisely when making the decision that the fall semester will start as it always does on Monday, August 21, 2017 which is the same day as the eclipse; students move in the week before; the eclipse will take place in the one o'clock hour in the afternoon and will last over two minutes; the committee will be reaching out to faculty to work on ways in which you can build the eclipse in to your classes; the original estimates of people coming to Carbondale to view the eclipse were 20,000 to 30,000; it is now upwards of 100,000 people from all over the world. Ford stated that it is apparent that having class on that day will be far more complicated than expected, but nonetheless, there will be classes on that day. Ford continued by talking about the budget; there are a number of sources of revenue on this campus; the vast majority of our operating budget is split 50% State money and 50% tuition; we have very little control over what the State will do with its money; we have some control over the tuition money; the concern is that the admissions numbers are not looking great; applications are down at all levels; undergraduate admissions are down 19%; housing contracts are down 20%; down 1200 students; transfer students are down 161 students; Masters students are up 67; Doctoral students are down 42; graduate applications are down 338. Ford added that we are continuing to use data to do smarter targeting for admissions and retention; the reputation of the school matters; the two biggest things that parents and students look at are the graduation rate and the amount of student debt students leave school with; things we can do to improve our graduation rate will improve our reputation, admissions, and yield rates. Ford gave updates on searches across campus: they are in negotiations with the candidate for the COEHS Dean; they are in the middle of the College of Business Dean search, the third candidate is on campus today, and the fourth will be on Thursday; the search committee for the Director of the Center for International Education has provided a short list, waiting for approval to move forward with interviews; the search for the Assistant Provost for Enrollment Management and Retention is on hold.

J. Mathias voiced concerns with having two finals on Friday and having to grade 600 math problems before the Monday deadline. Mathias stated that he asked the registrar if there could be an extension, the answer was no. Provost Ford responded by saying that the problem is that students have to be cleared for graduation; it is a very tight timeframe; all students have to be cleared and their diplomas ready to go within three weeks of the end of the semester.

L. Halliday asked Provost Ford if she would restate the official policy for offering assistantships. Ford responded by saying that at this point in time, without any knowledge of what our budget will be, authorization has been given to the colleges to spend up to 75%

of the GA dollars that are in their budget. The budgets they have are exactly the same as a year ago. They can spend it any way they choose; half-time or quarter-time. Half-time is being encouraged so that there are not as many waivers spread out. The only rule from the Provost's office is not to spend more than 75% of the budget. Ford stated that she has asked the Deans to strive to have no more than about 10% of their budgets spent on quarter-time assistantships.

M. Eichholz asked if there are options for graduate students who are already here and currently do not have support for next year when they were told that they would. Ford asked if these students had a letter of offer that said that they would have a GA for three or four years. If a student has a written letter of offer, SIU is honoring all such contracts.

J. Cheatwood stated that it appears that this has not been the case in the School of Medicine. Contracts were written when they weren't authorized to be written and were challenged by the Dean of the School of Medicine. Provost Ford stated that the School of Medicine does not report to the provost and she has no authority over them. Interim Chancellor Colwell asked Cheatwood to email him to discuss the situation.

R. Netzley asked Provost Ford if the letter of commitment could be reasserted to the colleges for this year because there have been issues of students not getting support. Ford responded by asking Netzley to take it back to the chair and dean and have them contact her for clarification. Ford added that the dean has to understand that we have to honor commitments that were given in writing.

A. Imre asked if deans have the authority to hold funds. Provost Ford responded by saying that they can use up to 75% of their budget; there are deans that have said that they do not want to commit that much of their budget yet because if there are additional budget cuts at State level, they may want to spend that money on a NTT or staff position. Ford stated that she has advised the deans to have conversations with their leadership teams to decide whatever strategies they would like to use.

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

A. Imre reported that T. Clark was not available for today's meeting and submitted a written report. ([Attachment A](#))

4. **Graduate Council**

M. Eichholz reported that the Council met on March 3, 2016 and passed three resolutions: Resolution in support of Renaming the Master of Arts Degree in Applied Linguistics, Resolution in support of the Elimination of the Master of Laws Degree in the School of Law, Resolution in support of the Elimination of the Master of Legal Studies Degree in the School of Law.

5. **Academic program prioritization committee**

J. Davie reported that the three sub committees are meeting independently and the full committee is meeting monthly. The committee discussed and agreed that faculty feedback would be sought once the committee has finalized some of the details. Davie added that the feedback will probably be in the form of a survey with one or two weeks to respond. The final date for the report is this May.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Gray Whaley**

G. Whaley presented the Resolution on Funding MAP Grants ([Attachment B](#)). A vote was taken by show of hands; 28 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained. Whaley presented the Resolution on Higher Ed Funding ([Attachment C](#)). A vote was taken by show of hands; 28 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained.

Whaley continued by talking about the University Core Curriculum (UCC) assessment requirements from accrediting bodies and how that data is to be used. Whaley noted that the Faculty Senate Executive

Council, Faculty Senate UEPC, and a UCC task force are all discussing this issue. Concerns raised are that this data collected goes beyond what is necessary and may violate student privacy and be used to pass judgement on faculty who are teaching the courses. The Faculty Senate Executive Council is discussing a resolution that would state the uses of this data that would limit the administration to using the data collected for the explicit and expressed purpose only for meeting whatever the minimum standards of the accrediting body are.

R. Rehfeldt reiterated the two major concerns the UEPC had regarding the use of the data collected; demographic data that would affect student privacy and faculty assessment.

B. Rodriguez asked if someone could give examples of the demographic data that she previously referred to. Rehfeldt responded by saying that all demographic data would be available to be recorded. S. Sloboda added that there may be valuable reasons for knowing how women are doing in a class or how African Americans are doing in a class, but having access to this kind of information raises some questions. Sloboda continued by saying that we would like more than informal assurance that this data would not be used in ways that are not productive.

A. Imre added that during the discussion with the Faculty Senate Executive Council, the Provost had mentioned that accrediting bodies are looking at this data being collected and how it is being used to improve curriculum. The extent of the discussion with the Executive Council is not that there is objection to the collection of data, it's how it is going to be used.

J. Allen suggested that if there is going to be a resolution regarding this, it would be helpful to include Pat Manfredi and Sharon Walters in future discussions; making it a collective effort.

R. Netzley asked J. Allen if he was suggesting that the chairs of the UEPC could not accurately pass information to the Executive Council. Allen responded by saying that he is suggesting that the conversation be by people in addition to those in the UEPC.

J. Mathias stated that he feels that all data linked to dawg tag numbers are essential in filtering information, and that perhaps written assurance from administration stating that it will be used in this way.

#### **UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION POLCY COMMITTEE – Ruth Anne Rehfeldt / Stacey Sloboda**

R. Rehfeldt presented the Resolution to Approve Elimination of BS in Art Ed ([Attachment D](#)). A. Imre call for a vote by show of hands, resolution passed unanimously by show of hands.

Rehfeldt presented the Resolution to Recommend Approval of the Revised Associate of Sciences Degree at Illinois Community Colleges for Transfer Credit at Southern Illinois University Carbondale ([Attachment E](#)). Rehfeldt explained that this resolution has been a challenging issue for the committee. Rehfeldt explained that the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) have approved changes to the associates of science degree such that students who transfer to SIUC with the revised degree won't satisfy the requirements of the general education core curriculum and could end up having to take 12, 14 or possibly more credit hours upon arriving at SIUC. The attachment that was sent out with the agenda shows a comparison between the old model and the new model. (Credit hour comparison chart [Attachment F](#)). Rehfeldt read the resolution.

J. Mathias asked why students who start at SIUC don't have the same option; make two tracks in core curriculum saying either one is acceptable no matter where you came from; make it fair. S. Sloboda responded by saying that there are already two tracks; the Illinois Articulation Agreement's core curriculum is different from SIUC's core curriculum, so we are already accepting that. Mathias added that this just encourages students to go to community colleges. Sloboda responded by saying that if they want less cool classes they go there.

R. Netzley commented that during the discussion with UEPC, he had raised the question about where is the academic rationale; this is all administrative; this should be a knock down drag out fight; allowing the

ICCB to tell us what our core curriculum is supposed to be is not faculty governance. It's simply saying "Hey, we must do this because someone else has said so." Netzley agrees with Mathias that this needs to be fair to everyone and have this discussion next year; added that changing our core curriculum in the past has not increased applications; and suggested that not to do what has not worked in the past and take a stand saying that "these are our requirements, they are not negotiable with the ICCB. Maybe SIUC's students will respect that SIUC is not lowering its standards. Netzley stated that if we are fighting for students maybe we should try something different instead of always doing the same thing.

S. Lahiri commented that that approach is a very high risk strategy; the current financial environment is not the right time.

Provost Ford added that she does not want to weigh in as to whether or not she agrees or disagrees with Netzley's comments, but will say that just a matter of practice, SIUC has recognized the associates degree in the past and it has made it easier for SIUC to accept transfer students and it has resulted in SIUC receiving many transfer students that would not have otherwise been here. When the state level chose to change the requirements for this particular associates degree, we did have representatives from our institution go to the state level to try to make them understand the repercussions of changing this degree and they did what they wanted to anyway. The result of not approving the resolution will be that SIUC will lose many transfer students.

T. Grant clarified saying that community colleges have this AS degree and in order for SIUC to keep accepting these transfer students, this resolution has to be passed. Ford responded "yes".

B. Rodriguez stated that he is not saying that he agrees or disagrees with anything that has been said regarding this resolution and added that he thinks this body should recognize that by passing this resolution to meet these requirements, we are lessening that value of SIUC.

G. Whaley added that he agrees with R. Netzley's reservations, but the political reality coming out of the Obama administration and the right wing think tanks on education are that they want faculty who are not tenured, they want faculty who they can hire and let go based on market trends; that is why community colleges appeal to them. Whaley went on by saying that generally speaking, if you follow the politics on education, the move to get rid of university based higher education includes the "so-called" community college model which he [Whaley] is beginning to see as "flexible" which means that programs come and go and faculty come and go. Whaley concluded by saying that he does not feel that SIUC can afford to give community colleges any ammunition to advance the project of displacing us as a higher education institution.

A. Imre asked what the justification was to change the community college requirements.

T. Workman responded by saying that it was changed to allow science majors to complete the science and math sequences. Workman proposed the question to the ICCB to accept their own AS degree as satisfying the general education core curriculum; their response to that was very similar to what our response was as to why we're not wanting to change our own core curriculum; it is a very laborious detailed process and it is necessary to make adjustments in an expedient way.

J. Wall asked why it is so urgent that this be done today.

S. Sloboda responded that the UEPC has been deliberating this for some time; the UEPC is given a deadline of 60 days for resolutions to be complete.

S. Ahmed asked if there are other institutions accepting these terms.

R. Rehfeldt replied Edwardsville, Illinois State, and Northern Illinois University.

A. Imre added that in a letter from Pat Manfredi, it states that SIUC is expecting students with this degree to transfer as early as fall 2016.

A. Imre asked if there were any additional comments and called for a vote by show of hands on the Resolution to Recommend Approval of the Revised Associate of Sciences Degree at Illinois Community Colleges for Transfer Credit at Southern Illinois University Carbondale; 18 in favor, 6 not in favor, 3 abstained.

H. Motyl presented the Resolution in support of Plus/Minus Grading for Undergraduate Students ([Attachment G](#)) and noted that this was proposed in 2009 and did not move forward because Banner could not accommodate the change. It was proposed again in March 2014 and was not voted on. Motyl read the resolution. Motyl explained that the system at SIUC uses three decimal points so that is why there are three decimal points referenced on the resolution; there has been a survey sent to faculty asking for their input; this will be presented to the Undergraduate Student Government at their next meeting; most colleges in the state of Illinois use the plus/minus scale; the Graduate Council has passed a similar resolution in 2014 but it has not been put in to place; should this resolution pass, it would take one to two years for it to be implemented; this would be an optional grading system; once the plus/minus is in the system, faculty will have to either round up or down if they choose not to use it.

S. Lahiri pointed out that A+ and A are the same. Provost Ford responded that there is not a system in place that recognized more than a 4.0.

B. Rodriguez suggested removing the A+ from the resolution.

Provost Ford pointed out that the resolution that is being presented only addresses the plus/minus grading system which means that a C- is a 1.667 not a 2.0 and is considered a probational grade. This resolution does not address what is satisfactory to stay in good standing.

A. Imre clarified that good standing does not relate to a grade, it is related to GPA; this resolution is talking about grading.

D. Burris asked about multi-section classes; if we assume that all multi-section classes would not be up to the instructor and multi-section classes have to be the same, then it takes the choice of using the plus/minus system away from the professor.

A. Imre suggested that all other comments and concerns be sent to the UEPC for consideration.

#### **FACULTY STATUS AND WELFARE COMMITTEE – Ahmad Fakhoury**

No Report

#### **BUDGET COMMITTEE – Joe Cheatwood**

J. Cheatwood reported that there is no state budget in sight it will be a month before talks resume.

#### **COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES – Ben Rodriguez**

B. Rodriguez presented a list of appointees for Approval of Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee Appointees ([Attachment H](#)) A. Imre called for a vote to approve the list of appointees; unanimously approved by voice vote.

#### **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – Deborah Burris / Sajal Lahiri**

No Report

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It was announced that it was announced that Sajal Lahiri won the Scholar of the Year Award.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,  
Howard Motyl, Secretary  
HM:ao