

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

October 13, 2020 – Convened by ZOOM Technology

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by Faculty President Marcus Odom.

ROLL CALL

Members present Marcus Odom, Grant Miller, Scott Comparato, Jacob Haubenreich, Yueh-Ting Lee, Joe Sramek, Dong Han, Bethany Rader, Amber Pond, Lichang Wang, Elaine Jurkowski, Jennifer Sherry, Joe Shapiro, Jon Davey, Lizabeth Dilalla, Farhan Chowdhury, April Teske, Matt Rendleman, Kofi Akamani, Matt Gorzalski, Seung-Hee Lee, Christopher McDowell, Amy Bro, Melissa Viernow, Julie Tate, Robin Warne, Eric Black, Joseph Brown, Patrick McGrath, Michelle Kibby, Vickie Kreher, Michael Phillips

Members absent with Proxy: Dr. Shane Koch was represented by Dr. Val Boyer.

Members absent without Proxy: Jay Needham

Ex-Officios and Guests: Austin Lane (Chancellor), Meera Komarraju (Provost), Lizette Chevalier (APAP), Kevin Sylwester (Interim Director, School of Analytics, Finance, and Economics), Gary Kinsel (Vice Chancellor for Research), Carroll Walker (SIU CTE), Lichang Wang (FSEC member and IBHE Faculty Representative); Tom Shaw (Graduate Council Representative)

Motion was made by Jennifer Sherry to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Elaine Jurkowski. Vote was taken and the meeting minutes from September meeting were approved with revisions as noted by Yueh-Ting. The vote was unanimous with exception of one abstention by April Teske, who was unable to be present at the September meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FACULTY SENATE (FS) PRESIDENT – Marcus Odom

President Odom welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that there are two new members of the non-tenure track segment: Victoria Kreher and Michael Phillips.

Pass/no pass grade system will be coming out soon. Spring semester information is available: starting a week late with no spring break and a roughly 45:27:28% split between online:hybrid:face-to-face course formats.

Reorganization information will be coming out soon.

Chancellor will be having a Listening % Learning Tour throughout the year and hoping to have a few live meetings with social distancing and masks. Hoping to have one with Faculty Senate also; maybe can time it with Senate meeting.

Met with IL Council of Faculty Senate Presidents to learn about other university functions.

Going to change senate meeting format a bit: will have a question and answer session with admin before allowing them to speak about issues they need to discuss. This will hopefully allow us to get what info we want and cut down on time spent.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH ADMINISTRATION:

Odom Q: Where are we with the pass/no pass policy?

Provost Kormaraju:

How can we ensure that students make an informed decision when students “opt in?”

Encouraging students to seek guidance by needing a signature from the student’s advisor before processing the form manually in the registrar offices. This will cause more work for the registrar, but it will ensure that students are more aware of potential consequences with a pass/fail opt in.

April Teske: expressed concerns about timeline for students because of the shortened semester. Provost assured her that they are prioritizing seniors in the process to ensure the process is student friendly.

Joe Sramek: Can you assure that open houses are being more thoroughly planned? More focused events?

Provost: Welcoming feedback. Smaller events are the way we want to go moving forward. People want one-on-one experiences geared toward themselves. Potentially using different links instead of break out rooms.

Haubenreich: Underrepresented tenured faculty and the University women’s professional advancement groups are no longer operational. Do we have a plan to continue with these programs? They seem like they would be really important in this community.

Chancellor: Diversity Committee met and that was discussed.

Provost: There are funds within the university in the diversity office to support these type efforts. The amounts haven’t stayed the same since the founding; they change with budget cuts.

April Teske: It appears the women’s advancement is still active, but it is not. The email is just still being used by the Office of Diversity, but no one answers the email.

Provost: Uma Shakram was the chair of the college of business and she worked with that effort; however, when budget cuts came through, we lost that position within the diversity office.

Yueh-Ting: We discussed enrollment and diversity. Can the Chancellor give us an update about the university and in what direction we are moving?

Chancellor Lane: First he stated that his thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Shane Koch as he deals with his illness. “Reach out to him if you get the chance.” Also, thanked everyone for being included in the FS meetings.

Enrollment is top priority. We have had a 35% decrease in tuition intake since 2015-16. The tuition amount went from \$106 million to \$76 million. With state budget as it is, the only way our university budget can grow is through tuition. Thus, we are taking a look at tuition waivers in both undergrad and grad school: waiving \$30 some odd million dollars every year for undergrad and grad tuitions combined. Working with alumni and hoping to get more support there. We also hope to have at least 12,000 students by fall of 2021. It’s a real “stretch” goal and things will have to change in terms of how we reach out to new students. Looking into scholarship-type packages and will try to enroll more students who fall into this category. Legacy tuition discount will be better marketed. Marketing more towards local students. Marketing the idea of being test-optional. Talking to parents more, who are the ones who really have input into where students go to school. We want to attract more community college students by launching some distance learning degrees and making it possible for them to afford SIUC’s tuition. We are striving to hit 12000 students by next fall.

Odom: Glad to see the activities. Asked for further input from admin.

Chancellor Lane: Thanked group again for face-to-face meeting opportunity. Happy to see that we have made it through fall semester so well (so far), considering the pandemic situation. We still have SIH grant for COVID-19 testing and this will continue into the spring. Explained he is happy with what students are telling him about the university and encouraged everyone to continue working for the students. Please relax over the long break coming up.

Provost: We are now interacting more with high school principals and counsellors, especially the local schools. Recruitment efforts are more aligned with admissions group; thus we are gaining synergy at SIU in terms of increasing enrollment. She is meeting with other university provosts to discuss their efforts and ideas; she hopes we can benefit from this. Also, she is working with the system-wide strategic planning committee. She also serves on state-wide panel working to develop remediation education models and SIU is doing well.

Michelle Kibby: She is happy that we are focusing on low-income students, but wants to know how that will help our current financial situation.

Chancellor Lane: Excellent question! Saluki Commitment program is not free, but offers to pay residual tuition costs. Thus, the program is aimed at high needs student who will qualify for state and federal dollars. That is, federal and state grants are going to pay tuition and fees for these low-income students and our program pays for their residual tuition which is typically very low. We had students eligible for aid and would have had to pay about ~\$459 out of pocket who did not apply for aid. Our Commitment program would have paid this \$459, not full tuition. We need to get people to apply for aid.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive committee: Grant Miller

Elections committee will meet to discuss judicial review board elections. Full professors will be seeing an email for nominations within the week. We will bring slate to Committee on Committees which will move forward on elections.

Faculty Advisory Consult: Lichang Wang

Illinois trying to develop a strategic plan. The entire process is hoping to have stage one complete by November. Finishing everything up by December and having a draft presented by March. We need to ask: What kind of input can be provided? What do we want to say in this strategic plan?

Discussed a performance based model for education. The committee is asking for help developing the model which they hope align with strategic plan.

Graduate Council: Tom Shaw

Met October 1. Holding Research Spotlights: inviting student researchers to come and discuss their grad work with the council. We invited Sonita Bancroft and grad student Chelsea Lewellen to discuss their work. Be looking for emails.

Approved two RMEs: 1) RME – approved a post baccalaureate certificate program in African studies; 2) RME- eliminated Civil Society Communication and Media Practices post baccalaureate certificate program.

There was a heated discussion on pass/no pass policy; the debate is likely to continue into the next meeting.

Budget Committee – Jacob Haubenreich

Data gathering and made the goal of creating a budget equity report card that looks over the last 5-10 years. Looking at: What goals have been articulated over time? What has occurred in terms of faculty numbers, losses, data on admin., faculty size, structure, etc. This will provide a “report card” for the faculty senate. We hope to pull together some summaries by the end of the year and share with admin and to be presented in a public forum, hopefully. We hope to help senate prioritize things in the spring semester.

Committee on Committees: Yueh-Ting Lee

The committee had to fill 33 appointments and these were shared with the FS in a document and approved by the executive council last week.

Dr. Joe Sramek was appointed to the appointed to serve on the University Core Curriculum Committee.

Drs. Lin Zhong and Matt Gorzalski were appointed to serve on the University Joint Benefits Committee.

Vice Chancellor search - we are still working on details.

The Committee thanked members and called for a vote to approve all appointments into committees.

Approved unanimously by faculty senate.

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee – Robin Warne

At their mid-September meeting, the committee revisited a survey conducted last fall to assess faculty status and welfare and will meet again to discuss this.

Governance Committee - Lichang Wang

Thoughts and prayer go out to Dr. Shane Koch as he deals with his illness.

The committee submitted a survey to chancellor office about the reorg situation and also submitted suggestions asking for external evaluations. This was done with the help of Yueh-Ting Lee. This entire report was done by last year's committee and with the help of the past co-chair of governance Prof. Jay Needham. The next meeting will hopefully be about the revision fo the operating paper to reflect the changes within the last few years.

UEPC – Bethany Rader and Joe Sramek

Resolution to recommend approval of NUI of Bachelor of Science in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics in the School of Analytics, Finance, and Economics.

Gives students an opportunity to learn more analytics, dealing with Big Data. This is a skill that is transferrable. Other similar majors are available in the state, but the SIUC program will be competitive because of affordability, focus, and class size. This major will also draw in international students because it is a STEM degree and will extend the time they can spend here on their education. Classes are already taught so there is no need for new classes or faculty. All involved faculty approve of the degree.

Questions can be directed to Dr. Kevin Sylwester who directs this program. No questions.

Vote: Unanimous vote to approve passage of the resolution to approve the NUI.

Vice Chancellor of Research: Dr. Gary Kinsel

Happy to be present. OVCR hosted a student expo in the student center last year. Will do this virtually this year, using ZOOM and breakout rooms. Invited anyone who wants to attend (put info in chat). Stated that this does not substitute for the open house. Just gives the university a chance to highlight research “above and beyond” things that are already happening within the university. They are trying to get high school students in to see the things that Saluki's do outside of the classroom.

We just got our hemp growers license renewed for the entire SIUC campus.

State of IL Sustainability Conference will be held virtually at Eastern Illinois University through the IL Innovation Network. Half to 1/3 of the presentations are from students and faculty at SIUC. Information to connect with this will be posted through the Research Matters list serve.

Joe Sramek: This is a strength that we have as an R2 research university and is helpful for recruitment purposes, etc.

Kinsel agreed.

Odom: New Business

We generally have a general faculty meeting every fall. How do we do this during a Pandemic?

Pond: Suggested waiting until spring when the weather will be better and the pandemic may be more contained.

Sramek: We are all tired and a fall meeting may not be a good idea, especially as it is already later in the fall.

Odom called for Public Comments: None

Odom Announcements:

Dr. Odom spoke with Dr. Shane Koch and stated that Dr. Koch appreciates those who have reached out to him. He is undergoing a great deal of testing, but wants to continue to be involved as much as possible.

We have all had a trying few months and we want everyone to remember there is an Employee Assistance Program available to all. Also, COVID-19 testing is available on SIH Main Street and at times on campus. Get your flu shots: drive through at the student center.

Contact Amber with comments of Faculty Senate website.

Father Joseph Brown: Stated that he has been at SIUC for over 23 years and one of his complaints has been that we do not act as a community in times of stress. However, the response to Shane Koch's situation has been commendable. He has never seen such a good example of how to respond to a situation such as Shane Koch's. He stated that he was asked by Paul Sarvela before his death to officiate his memorial service, but that he is not yet planning any such thing with Shane because he has great hopes for Shane. Father Brown wants his approval and commendation of the response to Dr. Koch's situation on record.

Motion to Adjoin was made by J Sramek was seconded by Jennifer Sherry. This was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amber Pond, PhD
Faculty Senate Secretary