

MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

December 08, 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, Amber Pond, Scott Comparato, Jacob Haubenreich, Yueh-Ting Lee, Joe Sramek, Dong Han, Bethany Rader, Lichang Wang, Elaine Jurkowski, Joe Shapiro, Jon Davey, Lisabeth DiLalla, Farhan Chowdhury, April Teske, Matt Rendleman, Kofi Akamani, Matt Gorzalski, Seung-Hee Lee, Shane Koch, Amy Bro, Melissa Viernow, Segun Ojewuyi, Robin Warne, Eric Black, Joseph Brown, Patrick McGrath, Michelle Kibby, Michael Phillips, Jennifer Brobst, Michelle Kibby, Jay Needham, Julie Tate, Jennifer Sherry, Christopher McDowell, Eric Black, Victoria Kreher, Matt Gorzalski, Punit Kohli, Ada Chen.

Members absent with Proxy: None

Members absent without Proxy: None

Ex-Officios and Guests: Austin Lane (Chancellor), Meera Komarraju (Provost), Lizette Chevalier (Associate Provost for Academic Programs), Gary Kinsel (Vice Chancellor for Research), Carroll Walker (SIU CTE), Lichang Wang (FSEC member and IBHE Faculty Representative); Allison Sutphin (School of Medicine Faculty Council Representative); David DiLalla (Associate Provost of Academic Administration); Scott Ishman (Dean); HD Hotyl (Interim Dean); Anne Fletcher (FA President); Jonathon Bean (Chair of History); Tamara Workman (Registrar's Office); Craig Anz; Julie Dunston; Robert Spahr; Mike Sullivan; Tom Kidd; Rob Lopez; Michael Burgener; Hossein Eslamiati; David Ant; Thomas Velaso; Bhagkar Bhattacharya; Qinfang Ge; Rosit Koc; Xiaoqing Liu; Eric Lenz; Scott Collins; Spyros Tragoudas, Chun-His Huang.

Ex-Officios Absent: Tom Shaw (Graduate Council Representative).

MEETING OPENED by FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT MARCUS ODOM

Marcus Odom called for motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Motion to approve the minutes with the revision to correct position of Dr. Dave Dillala to "Associate Provost of Academic Administration" was made by Joe Sramek. Motion was seconded by Yueh-Ting Lee and unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FACULTY SENATE (FS) PRESIDENT – Marcus Odom

President Odom announced:

Faculty listen and learning tour went very well. There will be 22 meetings overall with more meetings in January.

Faculty lounge was not strongly attended, but seemed to be appreciated by those who attended. Moving on the third and fourth round of looking for an office manager.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH ADMINISTRATION:

Provost Kormoraju:

This is Finals week, so please submit grades by Wednesday. Also, encourage students to register for spring classes and determine if they want to do “pass/fail.”

Financial aid is reaching out to students with bursar holds (400+ students) to offer aid to them where possible. Freshman and graduate student enrollment is looking good with an upward trajectory, but that for transfer students needs improvement.

Updates on enrollment for Fall 2021 (at 36 weeks out).

Freshman admissions (compared to last year at this time):

Applications: +20.9%

Actionable Applications: +15.9%

Admitted Students: +28.4% (3665 students admitted)

Grad Students (compared to last year at this time, but the comparison data will be inflated as a result of a mistake in tableau data gathering last year due to an unforeseen problem – a death):

417 applications (353% increase); 32 admitted students (33% increase)

Transfer Students

Applications: 11.9% decrease

Actionable applications: 26.4% decrease

Admitted Students: 34.7% decrease

*This falls in line with community college enrollment numbers during the pandemic.

Optimistically, forecasting an increase of the freshmen class. Looking at hard numbers in April or March.

Encourage working with and contacting students until you get them in the classroom.

Connect them with faculty.

Now on a list for Chicago Public School system to let their students know about SIUC.

Tapped into a \$1.7 billion possibility

Transfers- Community Colleges

Students haven't been able to visit campus

Applications are down 11.9%, actionable applications are down 26.4% and admissions is down 34.7%.

Question from Joe Sramek: Why is this data different from the data that was previously reported a month ago?

Provost: The freshmen admittance data stayed the same. Graduate student data stayed the same. Transfer data was then factored in and affected the numbers.

Q Sramek: What strategies have been developed to improve enrollment?

Provost: We still have another semester. We are working with community colleges to meet with students virtually. Transfer students tend not to be shoppers. We are attempting to apply Saluki Commitment for transfer students, offering new perks. We are looking at ways to decrease time between application and notification of acceptance of students in order to increase acceptance of their place in a class. We will also be reaching out to students in the community through their high school advisors to ensure that applications are complete and filed through the institution.

Q Michelle Kibby: What is being done to improve feedback to the application process?

Chancellor Lane: Follow up to application was a large complaint from area high schools. Student applications are now being assigned to recruiters to cross check with HS counsellors. Thus, we can know where a student is in the application process. Often the problem is that something is missing from the application, so we can more easily catch this and the recruiter can communicate with the counsellor to update the student and get the process completed. Also, we will have periodic meetings with local school superintendents and we can share the information with them. We will supply data for all HSs and maybe produce some competition. Processing of applications and financial aid will be faster so information will be available to the students sooner.

Q Yueh Ting Lee: What strategies have been used to increase enrollment diversity?

Chancellor Lane: We are increasing efforts to reach minority students as we are making a large effort to increase overall enrollment. One example of efforts to reach a more diverse population: Chancellor had a zoom meeting with the Black Alumni Group which included over 200 people (with 120 RSVPs). Number of minority students has declined with time, thus we should be able to tap back into that group. Currently, we have about 340 incoming African American students, but we would like to see 1000; that is, a goal of 1000 students, which seems like a “pretty lofty” goal but we need to increase diversity dramatically. The Chancellor has also met with other groups. He met with the National Empowerment of Women Network about increasing our female population. Currently, there are more males than females enrolled in SIUC, which is unusual. So, we are trying to attract more women, especially in STEM fields. We are meeting with girls from the St. Louis area who are interested in STEM. SIUC was not included on a list that is distributed to the Chicago Public Schools, which is inhibiting the number of students we are bringing in. We are now on that list.

Provost: Diversity of faculty is hopefully being improved by broadening ad placement, diversity training, and mentoring.

Chancellor: The focus will also be on retaining our more diverse faculty.

Q April Teske: How are we targeting adult learners and students that never finished their degree through SIU?

Chancellor: We are trying to get adult learners back at SIU. Folks who may have never finished their degree for various reasons. There is an increased amount of focus on students that have finished 50 or more credit hours. We are trying to get students from varying demographics back to school.

April Teske: What about student with disabilities? Should there be some focus on the “non-stellar” high school students who may excel in a college environment given the right support and attention?

Chancellor: we are indeed increasing our attention on this population. Indeed, our Disability and Student Services Office has been doing a great job. We certainly need to grow in terms of our efforts focused on this group.

Q Lichang Wang: Is there still money available specifically for diversity hires?

Provost: That pot of money has disappeared with all of the budget cuts SIU has experienced over the past years. Faculty Diversity Hire specific committee to promote diversity hires. Very small amounts of funding remain for that specific purpose. We need a plan to redistribute some funds for this program if we can.

Chancellor: We need to take a closer look at a plan for increasing diversity hires.

Segun Ojewuyi: To increase student diversity it would be helpful to increase faculty diversity. We also need to determine how to retain minority faculty. We need to ask, “Why are people leaving SIU?”

Chancellor: We need to create an environment conducive to attracting and retaining both students and faculty from minority groups. We have to support new faculty and students moving forward. We should be using a more diverse faculty to mentor a more diverse student body. For example, minority staff groups are acting as mentors for students. We have a great deal of work to do. We now have a Strategic Plan and can better hold ourselves accountable.

Lisabeth Dillala Comment: SIU once had a mentoring program (UWPA) specifically for women. Once had grants also available for women. This might be something to revisit.

Chancellor: There were in Spring 2018 some recommendations concerning this type of activity for female faculty and staff. We will revisit and revise these efforts. Offered gratitude to group for pulling together and dealing with the pandemic issues. Wished everyone a great holiday break.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Odom: Moved to allow Committee on Committee (CoC) and Executive Committee (EC) reports go first so that the group could deal with rosters for the Judicial Review Board (JRB) and the Special Reorganization Committee. This was seconded (Yueh-Ting Lee) and approved unanimously.

Reorganization Committee Roster as distributed earlier by email was unanimously approved. (The roster is now available on the FS website.)

Grant Miller: He distributed a survey monkey to everyone by email to vote for the JRB Roster as distributed earlier by email. The group voted on 4 full term (3 year) appointments and one 1-year appointment.

Special Committee on Reorganization: Marc Odom

Bethany Rader- History and Philosophy

RME to merge Departments of History and Philosophy to form the School of History and Philosophy. The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to approve the resolution to approve the RME.

RME to create a School of Literature, Writing, and Digital Humanities based on programs in the department of English. There are approximately 50 students and 20 faculty within majors but the department is turning things around in terms of student numbers. The department is confident that this could be a recruitment highlight. The Faculty Senate approved the resolution to approve the RME unanimously.

RME to create a School of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Materials Engineering which combines the departments of Mining and Mineral Resources Engineering with the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Energy Processes. The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to approve the Resolution as written.

RME to create a School of Media Arts based on programs in the Department of Radio, Television, and Digital Media and the Department of Cinema. The resolution to approve the RME was unanimously approved within the Faculty Senate.

RME to merge the Departments of Aviation Management and Flight with the Department of Aviation Technology to create a School of Aviation. There are no anticipated adverse effects on students or faculty and no direct impact on the University. The votes within the departments were unanimous for the merger. The Faculty Association raised the concern that this school does not have an assigned college. The Faculty Senate voted to approve the RME with only one abstaining vote.

RME to establish a School of Chemical and Biomolecular Sciences which will reside in the College of Agricultural, Life, and Physical Sciences. The resolution to approve the RME was unanimously approved by the Faculty Senate.

RME to create a School of Automotive from the Department of Automotive. There will be no impact on tenure lines or on Carnegie standing. This is a very strong program with strong enrollment. The resolution to approve the RME passed unanimously through the Faculty Senate.

RME to rename the College of Mass Communications and Media Art (CMCMA) as the College of Arts and Media (CAM); and to move the School of Art and Design, the School of Music, and the Department of Theater from the College of Liberal Arts; and to move the School of Architecture from the College of Applied Sciences and Arts; and to move the School of Journalism, the Department of Cinema and Photography and the Department of Radio, Television, and Digital Media from CMCMA into the new college, CAM. Concern was expressed that the School of Architecture would be placed incorrectly; however, these concerns were dispelled by members within the school who stated that Architecture already works very closely with the other schools. Many of the group were particularly happy about the inclusion of communications. The resolution to approve the RME passed in the Faculty Senate unanimously

RME for the proposed addition/abolition, or re-establishment of an educational unit, curriculum, or degree in the College of Engineering, Computing, Technology, and Mathematics. The Resolution is NOT to approve the RME. A concern was raised that the proposed name is very long, being basically a combination of the original names. It was suggested that the college could devise an acronym. An amendment was proposed that the RME would be approved (to merge the entities) and this was passed. A second amendment was made to remove the parts with negativity about the name and add the suggestion that they might consider another name in the future. The second amendment was approved was approved by the Faculty Senate with one abstention and one opposed vote. The resolution as amended was voted upon by the Faculty Senate and passed unanimously.

IBHE: Lichang Wang

SIU strategic plan still in planning stages. The group is looking to develop performance based funding models.

Graduate Council: Tom Shaw

Nothing reported as a consequence of the representative's absence.

Budget Committee: Jacob Haubenreich

The group did a great deal of work to develop a budget "report card" for the year, which has provided a snapshot of budget inequities. The committee has selectively provided data within a two page report, although there are several pages of spreadsheets to consider. There was a focus on gathering data and policy. It is possible that this information could help identify priorities for strategic planning to remedy inequities. The committee would like to have more time to present this to the full Senate because the information has the potential to be extremely important.

President Odom suggested that the committee be given a half hour at the next meeting (February).

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee: Dong Han

They conducted a survey of faculty concerning faculty issues. A recap of this survey will be reported to the senate once the data is collated.

Governance Committee: Shane Koch and Lichang Wang

The committee is scheduling a meeting to focus on how governing related issues and hiring processes work.

Committee on Committees: Scott Comparato and Yueh-Ting Lee

Results on the vote for the JRB candidates through survey monkey was reported (see Faculty Senate webpage). The positions were filled.

UEPC: Bethany Rader and Joe Sramek

Resolution to Recommend Approval to Change the Admission Policy for Transfer Students to Accept the Grade Point Average as Awarded by the Community College. This is a result of the extreme complications in recalculating transfer GPA. There was a friendly amendment to change “community college” to “prior institutions” to make the resolution broader. The resolution to approve the RME was passed unanimously by the Faculty Senate.

Resolution to Recommend Approval of the RME to add a Specialization in Aerospace Engineering in the B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Degree Program. RME Specialization of Aerospace Engineering at SIU would not be competing with other regional universities and is a blueprint for a potential B.S. in Aerospace Engineering. The resolution to approve the RME was passed unanimously by the Faculty Senate.

Odom: New Business

None.

Odom called for Public Comments: None

Odom Announcements:

Grant Miller: The slate of candidates was approved by the Faculty Senate. JRB will be contacting new members promptly and these will be added to the FS Website.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed unanimously!

Respectfully Submitted,



Amber L. Pond,
FS Secretary