

**Faculty Senate Special Meeting Minutes**  
**November 30, 2021**  
**Video Conference Via Zoom**  
**Time 2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**I. Call to Order: Yueh-Ting Lee**

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

**II. Roll Call: Matt Gorzalski**

Members Present: Philip Anton, Amy Bro, Jennifer Brobst, Robert Broomfield, Joseph Brown, Farhan Chowdhury, Scott Comparato, Lisabeth DiLalla, Michael Eichholz, Scott Gilbert, Matt Gorzalski, Elaine Jurkowski, Punit Kohli, Arash Komae, Seung-Hee Lee, Yueh-Ting Lee, Walter Metz, Grant Miller, Jay Needham, Marcus Odom, Amanda Pangrazio, Mike Phillips, Bethany Rader, Matt Rendleman, Diana Sarko, Jennifer Sherry, Joseph Sramek, Julie Tate, Lichang Wang

Members Absent with Proxy: Joseph Shapiro (Proxy Jane Doughery)

Members Absent without Proxy: Eric Black, Ying Chen, Dong Han, Christopher McDowell, Patrick McGrath (Excused), Stacey McKinney

Ex-Officios and Guests: Zachary Boehl, Lizette Chevalier, Josh Frick, Rebekah Frumkin, Renada Greer, Meera Komaraju, Austin Lane, Isaiah Overton, Carroll Walker, Tamara Workman

**III. Approval of the Special Meeting Agenda by FS**

Motion: B. Rader

Second: E. Jurkowski

A vote commenced: 26 Yeas, 0 Nays, 3 Abstentions; The Special Meeting agenda was approved.

**IV. Posthumous Degrees**

A. Faculty Senate Resolution to Recommend Approval of Posthumous Degrees – A. Bro presented the resolution that was approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in the previous hour, and explained the modifications made to the original resolution. J. Sramek stated that his understanding of substantial progress toward a degree, in reference to the 1974 FS resolution, is 60 or more credits, or being halfway through a degree. Sramek suggested FS committees pass a new resolution to have a clear standard going forward. A. Bro reported Daniel Lobo had 105 credit hours with a GPA of 2.537, Jacob Jurinek had 60 credit hours with a GPA of 3.525, Joseph Ermel had 61 credit hours with a GPA of 3.8, and Keeshanna Jackson was enrolled in her first semester. L. DiLalla expressed concern about the absence of Keeshanna Jackson and Dominik Faciano names in the 3<sup>rd</sup> “whereas” statement. DiLalla stated that the academic standing language could be defamatory assuming they’re not named because they’re not in good academic standing. M. Phillips agreed with L. DiLalla, and asked for clarification about bylaws prohibiting FS to recommend a posthumous degree for a freshman student. J. Sramek stated “substantial progress” was not defined in the 1974 FS resolution. M. Phillips stated it was unacceptable to pass a resolution acknowledging three of the four students who died this semester and suggested defining “substantial progress.” M. Eichholz suggested two resolutions, one awarding the degree and one recognizing them. Eichholz favored a subjective approach and inquired if the families have been notified

and are comfortable with this recognition. J. Brobst advised that annual subjective evaluation of students for posthumous degrees will be inconsistent, and felt uncomfortable measuring the value of one student versus another. Brobst suggested an annual memorial event as an alternative to FS resolutions. L. DiLalla agreed, and stated that resolutions are too formal in contrast to a more sentimental memorial. J. Brown stated that a posthumous degree for Keeshanna Jackson would speak to her family and friends more than anything. Brown shared a previous experience where this was the case. A. Bro advocated supporting all students as she suggested in the original resolution. M. Eichholz stated that he sees no downside in awarding posthumous degrees to freshman, and that for some students, substantial progress can be simply getting to college. M. Odom agreed with the 3 previous comments and added that awarding posthumous degrees to freshman aligns with the university's open access aim. Odom stated the 1974 FS resolution should be revisited. Faculty Senate suggested and discussed changes made to the resolution. M. Gorzalski asked if FS is voting on the original resolution or the modified one. J. Sramek recognized all the amendments as friendly and stated we're voting on the modified resolution and accepting all the amendments. A. Bro complied and made all changes to the resolution and posted it in the chat for all voting members to read and verify. FS members suggested and made changes to the final draft.

Motion: M. Eichholz motioned to accept the draft.

Second: J. Sramek accepted the modifications as friendly amendments.

A vote commenced: 29 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention. The resolution was approved.

#### **V. Any New Business Items**

- A. 11/18 Town Hall meeting on student concerns – I. Overton reviewed the purpose of the November 18<sup>th</sup> town hall meeting between students and faculty addressing the academic environment. Z. Boehl appreciated that the forum was a way for student voices to be heard and it was a way to address any and all issues they faced this semester. Boehl called for a solution that helps the student environment on campus. R. Greer echoed that it was important for student voices to be heard and that it can sometimes be therapeutic for them. Greer stated that students are struggling with other issues that Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) cannot address. R. Greer stated its important for students and faculty to come together outside the classroom and knowing how to help students re-engage in the classroom. M. Eichholz said that the USG resolution had good proposals, and suggested that the FS revisit it to identify the particulars it can support. Eichholz proposed a new FS Standing Committee, that would meet with students in a similar town hall format each semester. J. Sramek noted that he did not support the resolution because of its omnibus nature, and that by the time the Senate received the resolution, university administration was already addressing some issues. Sramek expressed interest in having a greater student involvement on the Undergraduate Education and Policy Committee. M. Eichholz stated hearing students having trouble accessing help from Disability Support Services. Chancellor Lane said he will address this with Jeffery Bergin (VC of Student Affairs). M. Phillips said that faculty need to do a better job showing students that we care and want them to succeed. L. Wang said that faculty mental health is also important to consider. Z. Boehl reiterated that students sense SIU doesn't care about them and students desire a better relationship with faculty. J. Brown reminded the FS of his letter distributed the day after the town hall, and stressed the importance of mental health throughout the entire

campus community. Y. Lee suggested continuing this discussion at the December FS meeting.

**VI. Adjournment**

Motion: B. Rader

Second: J. Sramek

Respectfully Submitted,  
Josh Frick and Matt Gorzalski