

Faculty Senate (FS)-- For Your Information and Update

Overview

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1. A QUICK SUMMARY OF FS MATTERS

1.1 FS Meetings. The minutes for the FS meeting on May 13 were approved and are available at the website (<https://facultysenate.siu.edu/agenda-minutes/fs-minutes-05112021.pdf>). The FS met on July 13 and a copy of the meeting agenda is available online(<https://facultysenate.siu.edu/agenda-minutes/fs-agenda-07132021.pdf>). The meeting minutes will be available after the FS approves the minutes in September.

1.2 Health and Safety related to COVID-19: Please see IBHE Phase 5 Guidelines—see attached. For more information about this, you may contact our IBHE representative Dr. Lichang Wang (lwang@chem.siu.edu). Also SIUC has its own safety survey and plan—see update from the Central Administration Offices below.

1.3. A new search for Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate School Dean is available. Please see this link: <https://jobs.chronicle.com/job/360159/vice-chancellor-for-research-and-graduate-school-dean/>

1.4 The meeting for the FS Executive Council will be held on September 7 and the general FS meeting will be held on September 14. If you have anything important to be included as part of the FS agenda for discussion or decision, please send it to us before August 27.

2. UPDATE FROM THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

2.1 Update from Dr. Meera Komarraju in the Provost's Office

With regards to Dean update/communication regarding Saluki Safety to their faculty/staff, "at this week's Dean's Council, Deans will be asked to share with their leadership council and faculty the various steps we are taking to be ready for the Fall semester. This includes a review of Plan A and Plan B, efforts to encourage and promote vaccination, survey of students, faculty and staff regarding vaccination status, covid-testing and vaccination clinic availability when Fall semester begins, cleaning protocols, masks, hand-sanitizers, spray and paper rolls, similar to last Fall."

With regard to Faculty Ombudsman update, "When Fall semester opens, there will be a call for applications for a Faculty Ombudsman sent out to all faculty"

With regard to Space Committee update involving academic areas, "The Space Allocation Committee which includes the deans, chancellor's office, and vice chancellors, meets every other week. This committee receives requests from units that want/need to move or want to swap space with other

units. The committee is looking at floor maps to identify the spaces that are occupied or available and to explore the possibility of moves [following the reorganization] that could potentially bring programs that are within the same school or college, closer together.”

2.2 Update from Mr. Wendell Williams, Associate Chancellor of Enrollment Management:

“When comparing our current enrollment four weeks out to last year four weeks out, we are up slightly more than one percent. It is interesting that last year 20% of our students enrolled during the last four weeks of the term. If that enrollment pattern continues, we should be able to maintain our current enrollment numbers. We have several campaigns underway to reenroll students who were here last year but have not registered so far and to register students who have indicated they are interested in attending this fall but have not yet registered.

We are not only focused on the fall semester but are also focusing on next year.

We will present to the Cabinet for approval of a proposal to reduce the number of readmits. Currently, if a student does not attend one semester, they are considered a “readmit”. We are proposing to change this to four semesters or two years. This will provide greater flexibility for our students and they will no longer have to go through the readmission process when they only miss one semester of enrollment.”

2.3 Update from Mr. Benjamin Newman, Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police

“The reopening committee is slated to meet weekly until the start of the semester. The committee is working on safety plans for classrooms, housing, and other settings on campus. During the most recent meeting, the committee discussed vaccinations and testing. The number of COVID 19 cases have increased recently. Jackson County Health attributes the increase to the reopening up of the state, low number of people vaccinated, the Delta variant, and individuals disregarding COVID symptoms.

The university continues to encourage vaccinations. Those who are not vaccinated should wear a mask when social distancing cannot be met. The university sent out a survey to all students, faculty and staff in regards to the COVID vaccine. Survey responses will be evaluated. The university created an incentives program for students to encourage vaccinations.

The next committee meeting will be on July 26. “

2.4 Update from Ms. Kim Rendfeld, Executive Director, University Communications and Marketing

“A survey of the campus community is underway and should wrap up this week. After an analysis followed by a review by the campus reopening committee, the results will be available to the public.

We’ve promoted vaccinations since March and will continue to do so. As you might have seen in SIU Today, we have launched an incentive campaign to encourage students to get vaccinated. We are also enlisting students in peer to peer messages, which will be on social media. Rigorous cleaning protocols are in place.

We are also planning a couple of Saluki Safety update forums via Zoom, as you saw in my email to you earlier. The details were in SIU Today.

It might seem early, but we are already gearing up for the cycle of new students for fall 2022. We plan to make a splash with billboards and digital advertising.”

3. FS PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT THE BOT MEETING ON JULY 15

Below are the original remarks presented to SIU BOT on July 15, 2021 by Yueh-Ting Lee, Ph.D. Faculty Senate President

“Good Afternoon, All SIU Board of Trustees, Guests and Attendees:

I am here for three reasons. First, I want to introduce myself as the 2021-2022 SIUC Faculty Senate (FS) president. Second, on the behalf of the FS, I want to express support for our new Chancellor, Dr. Austin Lane, and the direction in which he is guiding SIUC. Third, I wish to share with you the importance of the faculty and shared governance.

1) My name is Yueh-Ting Lee or Y-T Lee. I am a Professor of Psychology with SIUC and also am the new president of the Faculty Senate. I am very honored and humbled to serve the university in this capacity and to support all SIUC faculty members. I would like to express my deep appreciation to previous FS officers Professors Marcus Odom, Grant Miller and Amber Pond for their superb service to our faculty and generous support, and I also would like to inform you of the identities of two new officers, VP Bethany Rader and Secretary Matt Gorzalski. These individuals may attend BOT meetings on my behalf at some point. We all look forward to working with you and other constituencies. I believe in service, transparency, and collaboration and will continue to advocate for faculty members' interest and welfare, including shared governance, academic/research excellence, DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion), and quality/accountability and ethics on campus.

2) I have been at SIUC for six years in different capacities. The SIUC campus has experienced many types of challenges and difficulties in the past years (e.g., huge decline of enrollment and academic quality and ranking, loss of faculty, low campus morale, and unilateral top-down decisions with little or almost no truly shared governance). However, since the BOT hired Chancellor Austin Lane and President Daniel Mahony last year, we have begun moving strategically in the right direction. For example, we have been making progress in shared governance and strategic planning. In my observation, Chancellor Lane has been very actively engaged with our faculty members and is willing to listen and learn from faculty members and share budgetary data with us to address equity issues. His strategic plans and institutional ranking are timely and needed. We are so grateful to you, the BOT, for these hires from the outside last year.

3) As a research II university, it is very important for SIU Carbondale campus administration to collaborate with faculty and to support shared governance. Our academic excellence and research success greatly depends on our faculty members and shared governance. Why? Here are two examples for you as SIU BOT to consider: Example 1. In 1948, former President Delyte Morris came here with two big strategic goals— to build a school of excellence and to enhance economic and cultural vitality in Southern Illinois. He accomplished these two strategic goals by collaborating well with faculty members and his Board. Example 2. American higher education (including The Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities, see <https://agb.org/> and many universities' presidents) basically agree that governing with knowledge and confidence can be achieved largely by collaboration with faculty (also see the writings by previous President L. S. Bacow at Tufts and current President F. A Hrabrowski at UMBC in the book entitled Leading Colleges and Universities edited by S. J. Trachtenber, G. B. Gauvar & G. Gee in 2018). According to a recent article on the meaning and principles of shared governance (published on June 16 2021 by L. Eisenstein, <https://www.boardeffect.com/blog/shared-governance-model-higher-education-boards/>), sharing governance at universities includes a triad or three main groups (i.e., Board, administration, and faculty), and it means shared responsibility, accountability, and promoting

collaboration via communication and respect.

In summary, while the Board is our legal authority in process about all business matters, faculty members and shared governance play a very important role in checks and balances in academic programs, policies, and other aspects that impact universities via daily interaction with administrative colleagues. We are all equal partners, united for one common purpose, i.e., to serve, to work and to lead together for our students, and other constituencies/stakeholders in Southern Illinois. Thus, collaboration and mutual respect (not unilateral top-down decisions) among the board, administration and faculty will determine SIUC's success in the future.

Thank you.”

We wish you a happy and safe summer!

Thank you for your service and commitment to SIU and our Students