

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

Overview

- I. A Quick Summary of FS Matters in December
- II. Proposed Minor Amendment of the FS Operating Paper (OP) in December and the OP Amendment Process
- III. FS President's Remarks at the BOT Meeting on December 2
- IV. Update from the Chancellor's Office

I. A QUICK SUMMARY OF FS MATTERS IN DECEMBER

1. FS Meetings. The FS met on November 9 and December 14 and conducted a special FS meeting on November 30 to discuss student-related issues (e.g., posthumous degrees and support for their academic success and mental health). All the meeting information is available online via the FS website (<https://faculty senate.siu.edu/agenda-minutes/index.php>).
2. The following RME documents were approved by our FS at the December 14 meeting via two resolutions-- the Resolution to Recommend Approval of the RME to Rename the Touch of Nature Environmental Center to the Touch of Nature Outdoor Education Center and the Resolution to Recommend Approval of the RME to Rename the Advanced Coal and Energy Research Center (ACERC) to the Advanced Energy Institute (AEI)
3. The Faculty Senate's Faculty Status and Welfare Committee presented two resolutions which were supported by the Faculty Senate at the December 14 meeting—the Resolution to Change the Faculty Senate Operating Paper and the Resolution to Support Professor Mingqing Xiao. Copies of the resolutions are available upon request via the Faculty Senate's Office (faculty senate@siu.edu)

II. PROPOSED MINOR AMENDMENT OF THE FS OPERATING PAPER (OP) IN DECEMBER AND THE OP AMENDMENT PROCESS

The Resolution to Change the Faculty Senate Operating Paper attempts to clarify which faculty are considered administrators for the purposes of Faculty Senate membership. The general summary is as follows, "Faculty members enrolled in a degree program in the department in which they hold academic rank shall not be considered faculty. Any faculty member holding the title of Head/Director (or higher) of an academic unit or center, and/or holding at least a 50% administrative appointment (interim or permanent) are not considered faculty for purposes of membership on the Faculty Senate." As per the FS OP Amendment Process (<https://policies.siu.edu/employees-handbook/chapter11/opffs.php>), below are the procedures or steps.

- a. An amendment to this document shall require the approval of the majority of the members of the Faculty Senate and the approval of a majority of those faculty voting in a special referendum on the proposed amendment.

- b. Amendments may be submitted only during regular meetings of the Faculty Senate, and the Senate shall not vote on a proposed amendment until at least one regular meeting after the meeting at which the amendment was submitted.
- c. Approval by the Chancellor of SIUC is designated as necessary for the final approval of amendments to the Operating Paper of the Faculty and the Faculty Senate.

III. FS PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT THE BOT MEETING ON DECEMBER 2

Below are the remarks delivered at SIU Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting at 2:30pm by Dr. Yueh-Ting Lee, SIUC Faculty Senate President on 12/02/2021.

“Good Afternoon, Honorable SIU Board of Trustees, Distinguished Guests and other Attendees and Viewers:

I am here to make a few brief remarks on behalf of the SIU Carbondale’s faculty members and Faculty Senate.

First of all, by working with the Chancellor’s office, we keep our University faculty members informed by sharing information in our monthly FS Update/FYI newsletter. I also forwarded it to Madame Secretary Misty Whittington, who passes our FS monthly newsletter on to you, BOT. Sharing information is an integral part of the transparency and shared governance that we promote at SIUC.

Secondly, our faculty members care deeply about our students’ learning, mental health, and lifelong success. As an example of our concern, we worked with our Undergraduate Student Government and held a faculty-student forum where we listened to each other and learned from each other on November 18.

Thirdly, SIU Carbondale is one of the top research II universities. Thus, a part of our faculty senate’s responsibilities is to advocate for research and faculty welfare. Based on the Stanford University’s letter, our faculty senate voted on November 8 and authorized me to send a letter to Attorney General Garland in the US Department of Justice informing them that the China initiative and racial profiling have produced a negative and chilling effect on our research and Asian American faculty members at SIU Carbondale.

Finally, SIU Carbondale is moving in a positive direction. Here are some examples-- academic quality and institutional ranking, shared governance, enrollment and partnership development, a new vision Imagine 2030 with a new plan composed of five strategic pillars. This is the result of the effective leadership provided by both Chancellor Lane and President Mahony, whom the BOT hired about 18 months ago.

We thank you, BOT, for your public service, and we also thank our faculty members for their continuous service and commitment to the University and our students. We wish you, BOT, and our students, faculty members and administration a happy holiday season!

If time allows, I will be happy to answer any question if you the BOT may have. Thank you very much.”

IV. UPDATE FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

Faculty Senate update on December 20, 2021

- A special *thank you* to all Instructors in appreciation of all you have done for our students throughout the Fall semester as we have transitioned back to in-person classes.

COVID-19

- As of the end of the semester, employee vaccination rate is 84% and student vaccination rate is 77%.
- On campus testing continues to be available to all who are required to test weekly.
- There are plans to be announced for a January COVID vaccine booster clinic to be held in the SIU Student Center the first week of classes.
- Positive cases remain low on campus despite an increase following the Thanksgiving holiday.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

- **Spring 2022 Registration:** Nearly 80% of all students who were enrolled in the fall and are eligible to attend in the spring are enrolled. The College of Business and Analytics leads the way with almost 86% of their continuing students registered.
- **Fall 2022** and 36 weeks before classes [compared to same time last year]:
 - For full time freshmen, applications are up 7.2% and actionable applications are up nearly 50%. Admissions are up more than 48%,. Yield efforts will be more important than ever and will require action and engagement from all levels of the university.
 - On-campus transfer student applications are down but the number of admissions are up slightly.
 - Off-campus transfer student applications and admissions are up significantly, however the numbers are small.
 - Graduate student applications are up nearly 30% and admissions are up more than 37%.
- The university's use of the advising and tutoring components of the Education Advisory Board Navigate program has increased 30% over the fall 2020 semester and 100.75% over the Fall 2019 semester. Taking advantage of the currently owned technology helps to manage caseloads with students at risk and in the recruitment/enrollment activities.
- According to data released by the IBHE Fall 2021 Enrollment Survey, SIU Carbondale was second in the state with the highest one-year change of New Full-Time Undergraduate Transfer students.

RESEARCH UPDATES *(underlined sections below are links to more information)*

- Foundation Research Award applications are due Jan. 14, 2022.
- Undergraduate REACH Award applications are due Jan. 28, 2022
- University Scholar-Excellence Award applications are due Feb. 4 2022
- Energy Boost SEED Grant applications are due Jan. 31, 2022
- Save the Date: SIU Research and Creative Activity Forum: April 14, 2022

STUDENT AFFAIRS

- A Safety Committee comprised of students and administrators was formed following a student rally that brought additional attention to the issues of safety and mental health issues. The committee's first meeting was held on Dec. 10 and meeting notes were shared with all campus constituency group leaders. The committee reviewed student requests the administration had

received and discussed the various ways in which the university has already addressed or planned to address.

- One of the items on the list dealt with student concerns about faculty and teaching assistants receiving professional crisis training to handle traumatic events experienced by students. The university plans to provide the opportunity for such training next semester in partnership with the Provost's Office, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and Saluki Cares.
- Another item to be worked out is to ensure that all campus stakeholders have the opportunity to make referrals for students to receive help through Saluki Cares.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION

- Check out promote.siu.edu which was launched to showcase all the ways the university is marketing campus to prospective students and the general public. The site features the many marketing channels through which we communicate, with an emphasis on advertising. You can download commercials, digital ads, radio spots and more, and share them on social media.
 - As part of our support for recruitment efforts, we have recently filmed new Imagine-themed commercials, which we will add to promote.siu.edu. We will have one spot for English-language speakers and second commercial with a storyline specifically for a Spanish-speaking audience. We plan to launch the commercials early in the spring semester on broadcast TV and streaming services.

We are creating new digital ads featuring academic programs. This is a highly targeted, economical and effective way to attract future students. If you are interested in showcasing your program, reach out to your dean or school director.

- News about research, student achievement and faculty accomplishments are always welcomed to be shared with kim.rendfeld@siu.edu to ensure we are telling as many positive stories as we can about SIU Carbondale.

GENERAL UPDATES

- The final version of the university's strategic plan will be announced in January.
- A small working group, chaired by Marcus Odom and interim CIO Wil Clark, will be working closely with Gray Associates on the implementation of its work to help the university better understand its academic program strengths and areas of potential growth.
- Two dean searches (COLA and CAM) and thirteen school director searches are in process along with the Director of Extended Campus and the Director of the University Core Curriculum.
- Twenty faculty positions for Fall 2022 are planned to be filled.
- The new AP position of Faculty Ombudsperson is in the process of being filled.
- The deadline for applications for the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance and the Vice Chancellor for Research/Graduate School Dean were extended into January 2022.
- The Athletic Director search is on-going.
- The Chief Information Officer position will be re-advertised as the search did not produce a hire.

**We wish you a great holiday season and Happy New Year!
Thank you so much for your service and commitment to SIU and our students!**