

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

Overview

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- II. A Quick Summary of FS Matters in January 2022
- III. Update from the Chancellor's Office

I. NEW SEMESTER'S MESSAGE FROM FS PRESIDENT

I hope you are off to a great start this Spring semester. First, thank you for your collaboration and participation in all employees and students' testing in early January and for your teaching and instruction both online and on campus. Secondly, our Faculty Senate is an independent constituency to support shared governance and listen to your voice. Given the current challenges due to COVID-19, our safety and health are most important. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions related to faculty welfare and safety, and other faculty-focused issues, please feel free to contact me directly (leey@siu.edu or faculty senate@siu.edu). While our role is to relay your messages to different offices or parties, it is our job and duty to serve you well and advocate for you via shared governance and collaboration. We are very appreciative of your extraordinary work and services for our students and the campus, and we wish you a healthy, safe, and fruitful Spring Semester!

Yueh-Ting Lee, Ph.D. FS President

II. A QUICK SUMMARY OF FS MATTERS IN JANUARY 2022

1. All issues of FS FYI and Updates in 2021 are available online (<https://faculty senate.siu.edu/faq.php>)
2. There is no FS meeting in January 2022. The FS meeting will be held on February 8. If you have any important issue to be discussed at the FS meeting, please let us know before the end of this month (see faculty senate@siu.edu)

III. UPDATE FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

COVID-19

- Employee vaccination rate stands at 84% and student vaccination rate remains at 77%
- On campus testing continues to be available to all who are required to test weekly and is open to any SIU employee or student who wishes to be tested and has no symptoms.
- The vaccine booster clinic at the SIU Student Center provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health saw more than 300 people receive their booster shots on Jan. 19-20.
- Results from the on-campus COVID testing is available at <https://siu.edu/coronavirus/dashboard/>
- **N95 masks:**

- For instructors [TT, NTT, GA Instructor of Record, GA who is a TA] and all graduate students, available in the school director/college dean's office.
- For undergraduate students, available in the Dean of Students office in SSB 486 [after distribution in SSB 150-160 on Tuesday & Wednesday, January 18 and 19]
- The university purchased 8,000 N95 masks for this purpose and we subsequently were able to secure an additional 10,000 masks from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency through the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

- Retention Rate: Fall to Spring: end of second week of the semester
 - Spring 2020: 90.83%
 - Spring 2021: 85.1%
 - Spring 2022: 84.13%
- **Fall 2022** and 30 weeks before classes [compared to same time last year]:
 - For first-time, full-time freshmen, applications are up 12.6% and actionable applications are up 36.6%. Admissions are up more than 38%.
 - We currently have 6,666 students admitted as potential new first-time, full-time freshman. That is 99% of the total we had in August of last year.
 - Although efforts will continue to reach out to potential students, our primary focus has shifted from outreach to yielding interested students. Last year, the university only yielded slightly more than 20% of the applicants. Our target this year is 26%.
 - On-campus transfer student applications and admissions are currently down.
 - Off-campus transfer student applications and admissions are up.
 - Graduate student applications are up nearly 31% and admissions are up more than 17%.
- Our outreach efforts in Southern Illinois high schools and colleges, the Chicago Blitz, Peoria, Decatur, St. Louis areas, and the rest of the country have made tremendous input into our funnel. Our message is fourfold and simple:
- The Enrollment Management Committee will begin to focus on retention activities and increasing enrollment for Summer.
- A task force consisting of representatives for Academics, the Foundation and Enrollment Services will begin its focus to optimize scholarship resources as a tool for recruitment and retention.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

- In response to student concerns, SIU Carbondale will hold a Saluki Safety update virtual forum specifically for students 5:00-6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 25. It will be broadcast on the [chancellor's YouTube channel](#). Panelists representing student, university and community leaders will provide brief updates on efforts to improve safety and well-being on and off campus, and they will answer as many questions as time allows.

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

- 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
- McNair Scholars Applications Due March 4, 2022: <https://mcnair.siu.edu/>
- Save the Date: SIU Research and Creative Activity Forum: April 14, 2022

- The Funding Opportunity Locator “Pivot RP” is live and available to faculty. Contact your School Director or Dean to learn more!

GENERAL UPDATES

- Jim Potter has been announced as the new Executive Director of University Communications and Marketing. He begins on Jan. 31.
- During Spring 2022 the following searches in the Provost and Academic Affairs area are underway:
 - External searches: CAM Dean, CoLA Dean, Extended/Global Campus Director
 - Internal searches: Graduate School Interim Director, CTE Director, Univ Core Curriculum Director, Associate Provost for Academic Programs, Associate Provost for Academic Administration, Ombudsperson, various School Directors
 - 20 faculty searches
- The search committees for the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, the Vice Chancellor for Research/Graduate School Dean, the Director of Human Resources and the Director of Procurement are meeting to review applications.
- The Athletic Director search is on-going.

**We wish you a great Spring Semester. Stay Healthy and Safe!
Thank you so much for your service and commitment to SIU and our students!**