

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Virtual Team Meeting only

*Time 1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

***Session 1** (Chaired by Yueh-Ting Lee, 60 minutes) Open to all from 1:00 - 2:00 P.M.

(Note: Session 2 is for the *new Senate* from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.)

I. Call to Order: Yueh-Ting Lee

II. Roll Call: Michael Hylin

Present: Gary Apgar, Randall Auxier, Lingguo Bu, Christopher Chiasson, Kwangho Choiy, Marissa Ellermann, John Farrish, Laurel Fredrickson, Timothy Hurley, Michael Hylin, Ghassan Ishak, Yueh-Ting Lee, Sarah Lewison, Khalid Meksem, Kaitlyn Poirier, Amber Pond, Louis Premkumar, Jeffrey Punske, Jun Qin, Walter Ray, Jonathan Remo, Mohtashim Shamsi, Jennifer Sherry, Ahmed Torky, Rachel Whaley, Jennifer Walker, Lichang Wang, Christopher Wienke, Geoffrey Young

Absent: Nwamaka Anaza, Daniel Bronke, Mehdi Ashayeri Jahan Khanemloo, Cinzia Padovani, Julia Rendleman, Seyed Yaser Samadi, Lorelei Ritchie (Proxy Dale Aschemann-absent),

Guests: Ken Anderson, Jebaraj Asirvatham, James Conder, Julie Dunston, Leslie Duram, Lea Gilbertson, Harvey Hensen, Eric Holzmueller, Melissa Laake, Austin Lane, Ruopu Li, Sally Potter-McIntyre, Katherine Moore, Kimberly Morgan, Mark Peterson, Justin Schoof, Erin Stumpf, Constantinos Tsatsoulis, Audrey Wagner, Juliane Wallace

III. Approval of Minutes from April 15, 2025

Motion: K. Meksem

Second: J. Remo

A vote commenced: 20 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention. The minutes from April 15, 2025, were approved as presented.

IV. FS President's Report: Yueh-Ting Lee

A. Committee Annual Reports/Summary

YT Lee stated this is my last report/remarks as the Faculty Senator in 2024-2025. I'm going to report to you very briefly on what we have accomplished in the past year. Each committee will report their work separately. We published a monthly Faculty Senate Update/FYI to keep the faculty members and distinguished Faculty Senate informed. We want to especially thank Ms. Melissa Laake, Vice President Amber Pond, and Mr. Jeff Harmon from the Chancellor's Office. I was actively involved with the SIU Board of Trustees' meetings and built an effective bridge between the Faculty Senate and different offices and constituencies on and off campus. To represent Faculty Senate, my proxies and I attended almost all important meetings, both internally and externally, particularly to support students' enrollment and community engagement. Several Faculty Senators, including Dr. Amber Pond, Dr. Jennifer Sherry, and Dr. John Farrish, and I attended the SIU Saluki Takeover Tours in southern Illinois. I also participated in the SIU Takeover Tours in Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, Dallas, and Houston to represent faculty members and Faculty Senate. By shared governance, concerted efforts, collaboration, and innovation the Faculty Senate initiated/implemented several important projects or tasks in addition to our regular Faculty Senate business. We had a few ad hoc committees, such as Ad Hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence, Instructor Course Evaluation (ICE), Drop/Fail/Withdraw (DFW), and the Faculty Emeritus Criteria. We voted and passed numerous resolutions that can be accessible in our minutes or our monthly FYI Update. To facilitate communication and dialogue between the campus faculty and administration, the Chancellor's Office and Faculty Senate organized two coffee meetings for our faculty members (one in the fall and spring). We also invited SIU President Dr. Dan Mahony and SIUC's offices to present to our Faculty Senate through

the year. I wish to acknowledge several important groups and many excellent individuals here. First, I wish to express my great appreciation to our Faculty Senate Administrator, Ms. Melissa Laake, who helped our office to run every day and also to our Faculty Senate Vice President Dr. Amber Pond and Secretary Dr. Michael Hylin for their great work for our faculty members. I really appreciate it, especially Dr. Amber Pond for her work to help our publications and other areas. Mr. Jeff Harmon has been very helpful in connecting information on behalf of the Chancellor's Office for our FYI/Update publication. I would like to express my great appreciation to our committee Chairs and Co-chairs. Our UEPC Chair Dr. Jeffrey Punske and committee members helped us to process almost all the RMEs, the proposals and numerous resolutions. They did the heaviest lifting jobs for us. I also wish to express my appreciation to our Committee-on-Committees Co-chairs, Dr. Jennifer Sherry and Dr. Gary Apgar, and their members for processing and reporting all committee requests. I thank our Budget Committee Co-chairs, Dr. Rachel Whaley and Dr. Khalid Meksem, and their committee members for their work. Under the leadership of Dr. Rachel Whaley, we also got involved in the Faculty Equity and Salary Compression Studies. We are very grateful to our Governance Committee and Chair Dr. Chris Wienke and the new Chair Dr. Mohtashim Shamsi, and Faculty Status Welfare Committee Co-chairs, Dr. Gary Apgar and Senator Dale Aschemann, and their committee members for their service and work. And finally, Dr. Lichang Wang serves as our IBHE representative. We thank her for her good service to represent SIU Carbondale campus. We also have challenges and opportunities which we need to address with regard how to follow the operating paper better and also how to follow Robert's Rules more carefully. That's something I need to acknowledge - we want the new Faculty Senate to follow this. We need to have a parliamentarian or Faculty Senator to help us to follow rules and procedures more carefully to minimize mistakes; we will do through due diligence. In brief, we thank you all the Faculty Senate for your great work, especially those Senators whose term will end today. You can see the list of those Senators on the agenda. If you continue on the Faculty Senate, I thank you for continuing your services for our faculty and students. We believe in shared governance, faculty excellence, collaboration, student enrollment, and student success. I wish you a great summer!

V. Remarks from Chancellor and Provost

A. Chancellor Austin Lane

Chancellor Lane stated he was in Los Angeles with VC Matt Kupec. We have a very important alum and donor that hopefully will be giving us a pretty big donation to name one of our buildings. I just want to thank each of you for your work, and I'm going to start with Dr. Lee and the faculty who joined us in the Southern Illinois Saluki Takeover Tour. I appreciate all of your efforts (Dr. Lee, Dr. Pond, Dr. Sherry). There are a number of you that went out to these high schools. If you look at our applications in the early month of April and how many students have been admitted and actually decided to come here, that percentage has gone way up. So those efforts in that last month really make a difference and having our faculty there make a tremendous difference. I also want to highlight some faculty. Our Faculty Excellence winners are Dr. Robert Hahn, Dr. Christopher Chiasson, and Dr. Guillaume Bastille-Rousseau. We had our Faculty Staff Excellence Awards last week. We acknowledge all of our faculty and their efforts, and the folks who nominated those faculty members I really appreciate you doing that. Overall, it was a great event. We have it out on SIU Today if you didn't get a chance to see that. We are finally finished with our Senate and House hearings in Springfield. We didn't get many questions. I think they gave us more accolades in terms of our enrollment increases and what we're doing here on our campus. They were excited about the R1 designation. The Governor proposed about \$2.6 million in the budget increase for higher education. That translates to \$2.6 million for us in our state appropriation, which would be good. Our mental health fee was proposed by our students. I really applaud Penny Bordewick, the USG president, who really spearheaded this. That was approved at our board meeting. That is going to help serve our students, so they don't have to pay some of

those costs up front to get mental health counseling. It will be essentially no cost to them, although the fee is covering their cost. It will also go to the student mental health clinics and our psychologists and counselors. The next fee was the bookstore. There's no way a student is going to be successful without having a textbook. We had a lot of support for that fee. Our students will have textbooks on the first day of class, if not before, which we think will help even with our retention rates of students and how they interact with faculty in the classroom. We heard stories about students borrowing books, students not having books at all, or students just going to the library to find out if there's a book that they can borrow. There is an opt out feature which I hope students do not use. We anticipate more the graduate students probably opting out because of the formula on how those books are coming out. We did not propose a tuition increase. I think this is the 8th year that we've kept tuition flat. We're not the highest, but we're not the lowest either. We had a Saluki Remembrance Day in the ballroom where we honored the faculty, staff and students that are no longer with us. Their loved ones were there. These are obviously folks who have worked here for a number of years, and their families have been connected to Southern Illinois University. So, they had a chance to come back, and we honored their loved ones. We'll try and do that every year going forward. You're probably hearing some things out of Washington as it relates to our international students and some of the visa revocations. Just for the record on our campus, I think we've had two student visas that have been revoked. I think right now, and I got this update from Peter and Tina, that their students are still impacted, but they continue to be enrolled, which is a good thing in this regard. And one of those students, I think, is applying for the new F1 visa stamp with the local embassy, and so, our total number has always been the two revocations there. Also, each CVEs record has been restored to active status, actually yesterday morning. So, with some of those changes that came out of Washington, we're seeing those folks who were impacted with their CVEs record was impacted. It's now being restored to active status, so that's a good sign. I think our count – we have close to 850 international students. So, we'd like to have zero on that revocation piece, but having two is probably too many. But unlike maybe some of the other institutions, our numbers are pretty low, but we'll continue to monitor that. We have discussions about this daily in our 4:30 meeting, and we'll continue to do that until things get back to what we consider to be normal. In addition to being designated as an R1 very high research university, we've also been designated as an Opportunity University. There's only 16% of institutions across the country who have earned this designation. That's a very big piece for us as we continue to recruit and attract folks in our region. It's a new designation that has come from Carnegie. Commencement will be here in a couple of days. I'm asking you to take some time with us on that Saturday and wear your academic regalia and enjoy the ceremony and the students again. They'll love seeing you there.

B. Provost Tucker – (no report)

VI. Remarks or Updates from VCR and Dean of Graduate School Dr. C. Tsatsoulis

VCR Tsatsoulis stated let me add something to what the Chancellor said about us being classified as an Opportunity University. There are 21 universities in the United States that were classified as Research One and as Opportunity. Two of them are private, so there are 19 universities/public schools in the United States which are R1 and Opportunity. We're in very good company like UC Merced, Arizona State, University of Ohio, Ohio State, etc. So, that's a great accomplishment, because that means we are open to accepting students, and we change their lives. SIU graduates get three times more than what they spend on their education. And that's wonderful. Regarding graduate student admission, we're coming to a critical time. We're now almost in May. Right now, we have not yet handled 568 applicants for the fall. These are in the bins. These are completed applications sitting in the bins of individual schools (234 of those are Ph.D. applicants). I think it's fair to the students to admit them or tell them that they're not getting admitted so that they know that they can move forward. Right now, we still have 33 applications for spring 2025 that have not been decided upon. I assume the students are gone but again, I think it's only fair to the students who pay their application

fee and made the effort to complete the application and want to come here to hear yay or nay within a reasonable amount of time. So, please clean the bins, make sure that we leave a good taste in the mouth of the students, even if they hear something negative from us.

VII. Committee Reports

A. **Executive Committee:** Chair, Yueh-Ting Lee – *(no report)*

B. **Election Committee:** Chair, Amber Pond

- **Revoke the motion which was voted by the Faculty Senate on newly elected Senators on April 15, 2025** (to comply with FS operating paper)

A. Pond stated in the second session we will have an election for officers; Melissa Laake and I have been working on this. She will be running the election from her office (using Teams ballot). As you may remember, I made a clerical error and actually elected seven too many Senators. I knew certain people had already turned it down, some would be retiring, and some would be asked to step down. So, I made a motion to just leave the things as they were - leave the newly elected Senators in place for the time being. But people have pointed out that it's actually against the operating paper. So, we have managed to get it back down to the proper number within each school. We had one newly elected Senator who declined his position before we even had the problem. Everyone was given the roster for 2025-2026. So, it has been suggested that we revoke the motion which was voted by the Faculty Senate that we just keep the extra Senators. I'll make that motion. (No more discussion/comments took place.)

Motion: A. Pond

Second: L. Wang

A vote commenced: 21 Yeas, 0 Nays, 6 Abstention. The motion to revoke the vote that accepted the extra Senators from the Spring 2025 Election was approved as presented.

C. **Undergraduate Education Policy Committee:** Chair, Jeffrey Punske

- ***Resolution to Approve the New Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science and Sustainability***

J. Punske stated we have one matter of business which is a resolution to approve a new Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Sustainability. This matter was approved by the UEPC a few months ago. There were a few questions both internally (CALPS and from higher ups). It was withdrawn from consideration. We (myself, the Associate Provost of Academic Programs (Julie Dunston) and President Lee) met with the unit. We have a slightly *revised* resolution to bring to you today. This resolution still supports the creation of the degree but focuses a little bit more on the positive outcomes that the faculty were able to bring to us in our discussions. Similar programs have led to increased enrollments overall in affiliated programs.

Dr. Eric Holzmüller stated I am here to voice the concerns that the School of Forestry had about the proposed degree. Basically, it boils down to Environmental Science is a pretty broad topic. SIU is not a small institution. We have a number of programs on campus that deal with the environment (Forestry, Engineering, Plant Soil Science, etc.). We just felt that while it appears to be a solid proposal, the name should be changed to reflect the concentrations of that proposal and that they include the word Geoscience.

Director of the School of Earth Systems and Sustainability Dr. Justin Schoof stated our school currently houses two undergraduate programs. We have a program in Geography and Environmental Resources, and we have a program in Geology. The RME for a new major in Environmental Science and Sustainability and this resolution is the reason why I'm here today. I want to reiterate that this program was developed by faculty led by Dr. Kristin Hurst. She is

teaching right now, and so, she's unable to be here to address your questions directly. The idea for this major actually came from feedback that we got at open houses. As we were working at our table at open houses, we were frequently hearing students asking about Environmental Science. In April of 2022, SIU hired Grey Associates, which is a consulting firm, to come to campus and talk to faculty about development of new programs. After that day-long workshop, Environmental Science was identified as the number one program that SIU should develop to attract new students. So, the first drafts of this proposal were developed in the aftermath of that workshop in late 2023 and early 2024. Following standard protocol, we solicited letters from all of the schools in our college - all of the affected units. We were pleased to receive letters from all of the units in our college with the exception of Forestry and Horticulture. We also received supportive letters from several units outside of our college who felt that this proposal was well conceived and would benefit the university. The letters that I'm referring to are all contained within the RMA packet. I want to provide a little bit of the history here. Forestry is a very successful program on this campus. They're a high enrolling program, and we know that they have a respectable interest in sustaining their enrollment. However, there's been no evidence provided that our proposed program would impact their enrollment whatsoever. Our proposal, on the other hand, demonstrates that several other universities have experienced increases in enrollment in adjacent programs after developing Environmental Science majors. As an example, Northern Arizona University has both Forestry and Environmental Science, and they've both seen increases in enrollment over the last decade or so. So, we don't know how these programs are related in Northern Arizona, but that at least does provide some anecdotal evidence that both programs can exist successfully on the same campus. So naturally, we're also interested in thinking about how a new major might affect our existing programs. So, we've engaged the forestry faculty in good faith. We've listened to their concerns both within the standard process like through UEPC, but also through informal meetings between faculty and our two units. In summary, the faculty of Earth Systems and Sustainability have developed a strong proposal and demonstrated to the extent possible that is based on experience in other institutions, that the program will attract new students to SIUC. The program was developed specifically with SIU enrollment and student success in mind, so we hope that the Faculty Senate will support our efforts and vote in favor of what we see as an exciting new program for the university.

Motion: J. Remo

Second: A. Pond

A vote commenced: 19 Yeas, 2 Nays, 3 Abstentions. The motion to **close the discussion** about the resolution was approved.

Motion: - - -

Second: - - -

(J. Punske stated it doesn't need to be moved or have a second; it's coming out of committee (UEPC)).

A vote commenced: 20 Yeas, 3 Nays, 4 Abstentions. The Resolution to approve the new BS in Environmental Science and Sustainability was approved as presented.

D. Budget Committee: Co-Chairs, Rachel Whaley and Khalid Meksem

R. Whaley stated a final report was submitted for the Budget Committee.

K. Meksem stated they had a meeting with VC Susan Simmers regarding the travel reimbursement process. One of the suggestions that I made is actually to meet with Dean Mark Morris and try to find grad. students. There were several suggestions from other people in the meeting that were very important, such as, maybe having extra help, look for new software that could make life easy for everybody to submit their travel, put information in the form of videos so people know what to do before traveling and how to fill in their forms, etc. VC Simmers was very collaborative and

promised that she's going to work on that and get back to us in the future. So, it seems like we're making good progress on that, and hopefully that's going to be a thing that will be resolved soon.

E. Committee on Committees: Co-Chairs, Jennifer Sherry & Gary Apgar

J. Sherry stated a final report was submitted.

F. Governance Committee: Chair, Mohtashim Shamsi – *(no report)*

G. Faculty Status and Welfare Committee: Co-Chairs, Gary Apgar & Dale Aschemann - *(no report)*

H. Faculty Advisory Council to IBHE: Lichang Wang *(L. Wang submitted the following report.)*

The FAC to IBHE meeting was held on April 25 at the Joliet Junior College (JJC), following my previous report at the FS meeting on April 15, 2025. JJC President Dr. Clyne Namuo welcomed the committee and shared his experience with shared governance. He particularly emphasized the importance of creating a safe space to make shared governance possible. Representatives shared information and discussed issues related to student Visa revocations on their campuses. The situation is similar among campuses. Working groups on Funding, Dual Credit, and AI, as well as the caucuses, are preparing their year-end reports. Details of the meeting can be found at <http://www.facibhe.org/meetings/minutes.php>. The next FAC to IBHE meeting will be held on May 16, 2025.

I. Graduate Council Representative: Mark Peterson

The last meeting for Grad. Council is Thursday. They will continue to work on the Faculty Emeritus proposal.

VIII. Old Business – *(none)*

IX. New Business

A. Recognition of Outgoing Senators – Thank you for your service!

- Lichang Wang, Michael Hylin, Seyed Yaser Samadi, Mehdi Ashayeri Jahan Khanemloo, Sarah Lewison, Julia Rendleman, Jeffrey Punske, Rachel Whaley, Walter Ray, Dale Aschemann, Amber Pond, Louis Premkumar, & Timothy Hurley

B. Other Comments or Announcements

K. Meksem stated we initially requested for free access to the Rec. Center for faculty members with 20+ years of service. We did not get the free membership, but starting in August 2025, if you have 20 years of service and more, you will only pay \$125.00 for the whole year. The announcement is going to be made through the website.

X. Adjournment

Motion: J. Sherry

Second: A. Pond

**continue below to see Session 2*

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Virtual Team Meeting only

2:00 – 3:00 P.M.

***Session 2** (Chaired by Yueh-Ting Lee & Amber Pond)

Immediately following adjournment of 2024-2025 meeting

I. Call to Order: Yueh-Ting Lee

II. Roll Call: Amber Pond (*Melissa Laake*)

Present: Gary Apgar, Randall Auxier, Erica Blumenstock, Lingguo Bu, Lavern Byfield, Christopher Chiasson, Kwangho Choiy, Marissa Ellermann, Laurel Fredrickson, Erin Hascup, Ghassan Ishak, David M. Johnson, Seung-Hee Lee, Yueh-Ting Lee, Jia Liu, Khalid Meksem, Katie Moore, Shelly Page, Kaitlyn Poirier, Amber Pond, Jun Qin, Jonathan Remo, Nicole Roberts, Mohtashim Shamsi, Jennifer Sherry, Ahmed Torky, Cassie Wagner, Jennifer Walker, Haibo Wang, Benna Williams, Geoffrey Young

Absent: Nwamaka Anaza, Daniel Bronke, John Farrish, Frances T. Lee, Cinzia Padovani, Christopher Wienke

Guests: Jebaraj Asirvatham, Melissa Laake, Erin Stumpf

III. Orientation: Yueh-Ting Lee

A. Recognition of New Senators – Welcome!

- *David M. Johnson, Jia Liu, Haibo Wang, Erica Blumenstock, Frances Lee, Erin Hascup, Nicole Roberts, Seung-Hee Lee, Catherine (Cassie) Wagner, Katherine (Katie) Moore, Cheryl (Shelly) Page, & Lavern Byfield*

B. **2025-2026 Orientation Packet** - (*everyone received a copy*)

1. Role of the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senator
2. Roles of the Faculty Senate Officers
3. Roles of Standing Committees

YT Lee stated the packet is the most updated orientation packet. If you are on the Committee on Committees, you can also serve on another committee. Both UEPC and FSWC will have two faculty members at large.

IV. Election of Officers by the FS Election Committee

A. Voting Procedures Review

B. Elections – (*CVs or biographies from each candidate was given to everyone to review before the meeting.*)

1. President – candidates are *Yueh-Ting Lee & Khalid Meksem*
2. Vice President – candidate is *Jennifer Sherry*
3. Secretary – candidate is *John Farrish*

A. Pond stated we sent out two different calls with a description of the duties of each office. We have received four people who are nominated. (There were no further nominations for office, and each candidate was given time to state why they're interested/well suited for the position).

A. Pond stated Melissa will handle the election from her office (Teams ballot). One Senator had trouble with voting via Teams and submitted their vote directly to Melissa. The results were announced during the meeting:

The new **Faculty Senate Officers for 2025-2026**:

President Khalid Meksem, Vice President Jennifer Sherry, and Secretary John Farrish.

V. Election of Committee on Committees

- A. The seven members of the Committee on Committees shall be elected by and from the Faculty Senate. Members of the Committee on Committees shall serve a two-year term, with approximately half of the committee being elected each year (<https://policies.siu.edu/employees-handbook/chapter11/operating-paper-faculty.php>).

CoC

2-year term

Jennifer Sherry - Co-Chair (completed yr 1 in 2025)

Gary Apgar - Co-Chair (completed yr 1 in 2025)

Jennifer Walker - completed yr 2 in 2025

Laurel Fredrickson - (completed yr 1 in 2025)

Lingguo Bu - (completed yr 1 in 2025)

Marissa Ellerman - completed yr 2 in 2025

Rachel Whaley - completed yr 2 in 2025 & end of FS term

A. Pond stated this committee is responsible for putting together all the other committees, not just the standing committees for Faculty Senate, but at large and ad hoc committees too.

Volunteers for Committee on Committees are *Seung Hee-Lee, Jonathan Remo, and Mohtashim Shamsi*.

Note: Shelly Page did offer to volunteer but stepped down. Jennifer Sherry volunteered to stay on the committee. The new CoC will meet to determine a chair or co-chairs. J. Sherry volunteered to temporarily take the role of chair.

Motion: A. Pond

Second: E. Hascup

A vote commenced: 25 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions. The Committee on Committee members (listed above) were approved as presented.

VI. Committee Preference Sheet (see attached if you have not submitted)

- A. Please complete and send to faculty senate@siu.edu if you have not already submitted one.

VII. New Business

- **Vote and approve the FS meeting schedule for 2025-2026**

Motion: J. Remo

Second: M. Shamsi

A vote commenced: 25 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions. The Faculty Senate meeting schedule for 2025-2026 was approved as presented.

VIII. Announcements – J. Sherry reminded everyone to turn in their Committee Preference sheet.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: A. Pond

Second: J. Remo