

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2026
Via MS Teams & Morris Library Room 754/752
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order: Khalid Meksem

The May meeting was called to order by President Khalid Meksem.

II. Roll Call: Jenna Jamieson

Present: Erica Blumenstock, Lavern Byfield, Kwangho Choiy, John Farrish, Steven Goetz, Erin Hascup, Diedra Hopes, Jenny Huang, Timothy Hurley, Sharif Islam, Jenna Jamieson, David M. Johnson, Duda Kvitsiani, Seung-Hee Lee, Vjollca Konjufca, Jia Liu, Khalid Meksem, Irene Miller, Katie Moore, Cinzia Padovani, Kaitlyn Poirier, Jonathan Remo, Julia Rendleman, Nicole Roberts, Mohtashim Shamsi, Jennifer Sherry, Brittainy Spears, Chris Stantis, Ahmed Torky, Cassie Wagner, Haibo Wang, Geoffrey Young, Andrew Youpa

Absent: Christopher Chiasson, Jun Qin (Proxy Hui Li), Shelly Page

Guests: Iraklis Anagnostopoulos, Jebaraj Asirvatham, Richard Beach, Julie Dunston, Morgan Evans, Rachel Frazier, Shelly Gehrke, Melissa Laake, Austin Lane, Robert Morgan, Kymberli Morgan, Marc Morris, Jeffrey Punske, Rebecca Pursley, David Shirley, Susan Simmers, Erin Stumpf, Juliane Wallace, Lichang Wang, Nicholas Wortman

III. Approval of Minutes from April 28, 2026

Motion: J. Remo

Second: J. Jamieson

A vote commenced: 28 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions. The minutes from April 28, 2026, were approved as presented.

IV. President's Report: Khalid Meksem

A. Waiting on Chancellor/Provost signatures on resolutions passed by Sente on 3/17/26:

- 1. Resolution Calling for Faculty Oversight of Risepoint Programs (from UEPC)**
- 2. Resolution Regarding Recent Instability in SIU's Academic Leadership (from Governance Committee)**
- 3. Resolution on Senate Support and Leadership - (from Governance Committee)**
- 4. Resolution of SIU Faculty Senate on Senate Support Staff (from Governance Committee)**
- 5. Resolution Regarding Delivery of Online Programs and Courses (from Governance Com.)**

K. Meksem stated those resolutions were sent to the Provost and Chancellor. The one that we received an okay for was the Resolution Calling for Faculty Oversight of Risepoint Programs. There was an issue that was raised with the university dealing with Risepoint for online teaching, and the Senate has decided to proceed with having a committee that can oversee this process. So, wherever a school or a program is interested in entering a negotiation with Risepoint for offering some of their classes online, that committee is going to be involved and together with the administrators go through a process of either approving or not approving whatever that thing that's going to happen between that school and program and Risepoint. So, that one we received the okay; that was accepted by our administration. The Resolution Regarding Recent Instability in SIUC's Academic Leadership was sent, no response. The Resolution on Senate Support and Leadership was sent, and we received an unofficial response. So, within that resolution, we asked for an increase of salary for Melissa. Unfortunately, the results of the audit were actually negative, because the decision was taken to keep her at her salary. I'm actually requesting a meeting again so that we can look over at what can we do, because you all know that Melissa does a lot of work for

us. She follows up with emails, phone calls, team calls, team meetings with everybody, and she does more than what she's paid for. Of course, I was told she can always resign and go to another position on campus if she is planning to pursue a career at SIU. I don't believe that this is the right decision. I believe that there are solutions that can be found. And when we look deeper, we always find a solution that can satisfy everybody. So, I'm hoping for a solution that can work for Melissa. So, the Resolution of SIU Faculty on Senate Support, still working with the Chancellor's Office on that one, and the Resolution Regarding Delivery of Online Programs and Courses. So, we are hoping that there will be more regulation for our online programs, and we are ready to work with our upper administration on issues related to online programs.

B. Update on Ad Hoc Committees:

1. Global Engagement

2. Business Practices

K. Meksem stated we have what we call an ACE report that was prepared back in 2022. We use that ACE report. It was communicated to the committee, and the committee was asked to check that report to see if we did progress or regress based on the guidelines of the report. Unfortunately, I don't have good news for you. The committee did agree that we did regress a lot. The International Education Office at SIU has been really viewed negatively by everybody. There were a lot of concerns that this is not the office that will actually support the university's mission in recruiting, especially in targeting more international students. There were a lot of reports that the office is providing almost no support to minimal support. There were a lot of concerns about faculty engaged in international collaboration, taking students overseas, and receiving collaborators or students from overseas. That's what the faculty has reported, and the report we shared with everybody, including the recommendation from 2022. I hope we can engage with now that we have new interim Co-Provosts that we can start as soon as possible, the talks about how we can make those services better. I did appreciate the recommendation that Provost Tucker made to have faculty more engaged with that office, which means filling some of the roles there, because faculty are aware of what it takes to do certain things to conduct business, especially international collaborations, visiting, receiving people, advertising the university overseas, and recruiting students overseas. So, that was a very welcome recommendation that she made at the last meeting, and I hope we can have a meeting with our new interim Co-Provosts to discuss further the ways and methods how we can implement that. I'm sure everybody has received the email that Brian Henry shared with us at the Senate. It showed the inside of why that office is actually broken, and hopefully, we can all learn from that. I received a positive report from the Business Practice Ad Hoc Committee. They had regular meetings with Vice Chancellor Susan Simmers, and they are testing some of the staff within SIU to make our business here better. I'm looking forward to more engagement of that type and more collaboration to make our life better here at SIU. So, I thank you very much Vice Chancellor Susan Simmers for being collaborative and for working with that committee.

V. Invited Guests:

A. Chancellor Lane

Chancellor Lane stated I'm going to start with thanking Dr. Jennifer Sherry. Dr. Sherry did a beautiful job on Saturday. To bring a nice positive note here, she led our faculty, staff, and administrators into the commencement ceremony. She didn't drop the mace. She was smooth and mission accomplished. So, great job. I also want to thank all the faculty members who showed up. I tell students this all the time, they won't remember me; they will remember you. I thank everyone. We probably had the largest attendance of faculty members than we've ever had. I really appreciate that, and the students appreciate it. And I tell you, I've been getting a few emails from parents who love when our faculty embrace our students who are coming off the commencement stage. I probably got five emails already that they've never seen anything like that. They really

thought their student really loved that. If you were able to do that, we really appreciate it. I know the students and their parents really appreciated that. So, thank you very much. I have some great news to bring. We have been working on this at least the six years that I've been here. So, Dr. Meksem, thank you. I know as soon as I arrived, you were talking about greenhouses or that we needed one. And I think 10 years prior to that, we were trying to get it then, and we never got it. Well, I'm here to tell you that with the help of VC Susan Simmers and her team and us talking to some very powerful folks in Springfield, it looks like mission accomplished on the greenhouse! We're going to get the greenhouse at a pretty large amount, \$8.5 million for our university. That's huge. And so, I just want to thank all the folks on my team who really stayed with it. There's a lot of things we do behind the scenes that don't always come out in the light in terms of what we're trying to do to advocate for the university. But that's one we have been on for a long time, and it looks like it's going to pay off. So, I'm really excited about that. The session ends at the end of this month. It's not over yet. We expect to still be in line for that \$2.6/\$2.7 million that the governor has proposed. That is our state appropriation amount that we need. It's a significant amount that we would need. *That money is already spent* with the raises that we have scheduled for faculty and staff. So, I know in those contracts there are built-in increases for all of our faculty and staff, some of the highest we've ever seen here in the history of the university. We're excited about that. Unlike other institutions that are struggling with laying off faculty, we're in a different spot, different position. But those dollars are needed so that we can move forward and take care of our folks and retain the talent. The other bucket of money that we always look to is tuition revenue. And the tuition revenue obviously is based on the enrollment. Enrollment matters. And I can't say that as loud as I need to say it. If we don't have enrollment, we're not going to be able to do the things that we'd like to do to support those offices, Dr. Meksem, that you just talked about. That's why those offices are thin now; it's because of the budget impasse. We did not have the funds, because the funds went away and the enrollment dropped. So, in a lot of areas, we're trying to rebuild the infrastructure, that's one of them, to get it back to where we need to be. But I have to remind everybody, it was pretty bad in 2015. And if you lose 6,000 students in a matter of five years, it is going to hurt your operation. So, we've been digging out of that hole for the last six, seven years. We're going to keep digging out of it, but we have to stay focused on the enrollment. The credit hour production is very critical. Susan will tell you when we look at those budget numbers, we have to have those students be able to have access to us so that we can move the needle on enrollment or we will not have the funds that we need to keep the university going. I cannot stress that enough. And so, we're in a good space now. End of our fiscal year is coming up here in the next 2 1/2 months. I was looking at those dashboards, Susan, this morning. You probably got some notes from me last night, but they're tracking pretty well. So, I'm really excited about that. But again, enrollment, our fall enrollment, we're working on it right now. New student orientation is May 18th. I know that several faculty and staff play a critical role in being at those orientations. That is where we yield students. So, we need to make sure that we can yield those students. Let me give a shout out to Jenna Jamieson as well. Jenna, you were all over the place for our ceremonies. Thank you for your help! I really appreciate your work. And I know you helped Sarah and some others with that. So, fall enrollment we are focused on that, and applications are up, that's great, but we have to yield those students. Transfer enrollment is looking good as well. But again, we still have a couple of months to go. So, our goal is to obviously have an increase in those areas, but we've got to work at it between now and all the way through the first class day; it is going to be pretty critical for us. Two more pieces that I have as updates for you. Our Co-Provosts, very excited - we had this model three years ago with Bob Morgan and Marc Morris. They did an amazing job a couple of years ago. They're going to do the same job. So, to answer your second point on the resolution on instability, there's no instability. We're moving forward. We've got two very experienced folks who are going to do a tremendous job for us in the interim. That is, again, Dr. Morgan and Dr. Morris. They already started to hit the ground running. I have a full schedule, couple of meetings with them coming up. And so, I'm really excited to have both of them on board. We had a really good pool of folks who were interested in that position. And I went back

to the Co-Provost model. I'm just excited about that, especially heading into the summer. When we get back in the fall, we'll have more conversations about what the permanent piece looks like. I think the things that we pause, you will start to see them unpaused. So, as we had a meeting a couple of months ago, you'll start to see some things come back to life so that we can continue to move forward as we always have. And so, I'm really excited about those two. I know they're on the call today, and they've been busy and hard at work. You probably have not heard much, but we are prepared to make an offer to the School of Medicine Dean and Provost. That doesn't get as much attention as maybe the position of Provost here gets, but we expect to have that announcement out probably in the next week. So, for any of you on the call that are tied to the School of Medicine, you know how that search has been progressing with Issacson Miller (Search Firm). Issacson has done a great job as a firm to bring us some very talented applicants. And again, I expect to have an announcement out here in the next couple of weeks in terms of who the person will be internally, but we won't take them to the board until probably July. So, we'll have a little more information that's out there on that. Other than that, hard at work, everybody is gearing up. I think the myth is that we take off. We don't, we actually start to ramp up. And so, I know those of you on the call that are tied into a few meetings that we have over the next couple of months, are going to be fired up to do that. But again, thank you to our faculty. Dr. Meksem, thank you to you as well.

B. Interim Co-Provosts: Bob Morgan & Marc Morris

K. Meksem stated I would like to congratulate both of you. And thank you for stepping up to fill in the gap that was left for the last couple of months and looking forward to better collaboration with your offices. Thank you. **Co-Provost Morgan** stated thank you, and I look forward to working with you. As Chancellor Lane said, we are off and running. **Co-Provost Morris** stated likewise, looking forward to working with you all the upcoming months. As Chancellor Lane said, we're off to the races. Co-Provost colleague and I are busy with meetings, and we should have met with everyone. Melanie Hart has us getting up to speed on things. Likewise, like Chancellor Lane said, we do have a couple of meetings coming up and hit the ground running. That's his expectation, and that's exactly what we've done. We've actually had a couple of meetings last week already, so we're moving. So again, it's a pleasure to be serving in this role again and looking forward to the work. One last thing, don't forget to get your grades in.

C. VC Susan Simmers (update on travel app/visiting speakers/procurement)

(A PowerPoint presentation titled, "Faculty Senate Updates for Business Processes" was shared on the screen.) VC Simmers stated I want to give you some updates on the things we've been working on. For our travel, we met with Faculty Senate Ad Hoc committee about travel, visiting speakers, and scholars on March 24th and April 28th. We are planning another meeting at the end of June. In both the meetings, we've shown them the update on the travel app that we're designing so that we can be more efficient in processing our travel vouchers electronically. And now, members of that ad hoc committee are participating in testing for us. They've given us a lot of really good insight into the issues that they come across with travel, especially international travel. So, that's helped us a great deal in our development of the app. We still have to set up that June meeting, but most of the members are going to be able to attend. And we've gotten a second travel person going in Accounting Services. We only had one person to deal with 3,051 travel vouchers in 2024. So now, we're dedicating two people to doing travel vouchers; that should speed up our turnaround time. We have a new person on board, and she's going through the training now. There's a bit of a learning curve on all the travel, state travel rules and things. So, I think that's coming along really well. We're looking to having this app launched in the fall. We're going to do a testing phase, then we're going to get some people to do it for us on a pilot phase, and then we want to launch it to the whole campus this fall. So, visiting speakers and scholars, what we did was we put together flow charts and shared the process in the first faculty ad hoc committee meeting on March 24th. Amanda Slack is responsible for this. She's on my team, my VCAF team as the campus operations manager, and she also does special projects for me, and this is one of her

special projects. She held an administrative group meeting with procurement, AP, and info. tech. She still needs to meet with HR, because they were unavailable for the first meeting. So, she's going to do a separate meeting with Human Resources. On April 28th, we updated the ad hoc committee on our progress so far. And our next step is to meet with HR and deal with the issues related to international tax, looking for a solution and move it, and create a draft user guide on how to do the process, procurement, accounts payable, and HR, and create a draft questionnaire letter for the speakers. So, what we're trying to do is make this process more efficient while we still have to meet all our obligations for IRS compliance with this process. So again, the ad hoc committee has been very helpful. We're looking at some of their suggestions at what other universities are doing and how other universities have streamlined this process, because some of our faculty ad hoc committee members have had good experiences with other universities with a more efficient process. So, they've given us quite a bit of help in that regard as well. And then, we met with the ad hoc committee to talk about procurement on March 26th, and we gave updates on the April 28th meeting. We're looking at e-procurement solutions with the SIU System campuses. Eric and I attended the National Association of Educational Procurement Conference. We talked to people about different procurement systems that they're using in their universities. We also had a demo of the Unimarket e-procurement software. And I've been discussing this with the other VCAFs in the SIU System and our new system Vice President for administration and finance. And in procurement, what we're focusing on is reviewing processes and policies, website improvements, procurement training videos, and a flow chart of our processes. So, we're working on trying to improve that. And the faculty ad hoc committee was very helpful of letting us know where procurement is sticky for them and where it's confusing and giving us suggestions on what we can do to try to streamline it for the university. So, I think our collaboration is going very well, and we're making good progress.

D. FAC IBHE rep: Lichang Wang

The FAC to IBHE meeting was held at Morton College on April 17, 2026, following my previous report to the Faculty Senate on April 14, 2026. Vice President of Academic Affairs at Morton College, Dr. Sheldon Walcher, talked about Career and Technical Education. He discussed the structural gap between learning and the workforce and how Career and Technical Education closes this gap. There were tours to the automobile and heating system training facilities. Linnea Stenson from Higher Learning Commission (HLC) talked about the basics of accreditation and HLC's assistance to institutions to become accredited. FAC IBHE members across the six working groups, Mental Health; Technology; Prior Learning Assessment (PLA); Equity; Faculty and Student Mental Health; and Early College, reported the progress on their assigned tasks. Three caucus groups—Two-Year Caucus, Independent School Caucus, and Public Institutions Caucus—reported their meeting points. 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 14-15, 2026.

E. Graduate Council Chair: Iraklis Anagnostopoulos

K. Meksem stated congratulations to Professor Anagnostopoulos for being the Chair of Graduate Council. **I. Anagnostopoulos** stated thank you. We had our last meeting last Thursday, and the following RMEs were approved:

- Approved an RME to add a Certificate in Philosophy and Foundations of Education
- Approved an RME to rename the School of Journalism and Advertising within the College of Arts and Media to the Charlotte Thompson Suhler School of Journalism and Advertising

F. Q & A

K. Meksem stated I would like to remind everybody of the decision that was taken. If there is an issue, we identify the problem, let the Chancellor know about the problem, and we will have a committee or a few members of the Senate work with a designated person from the Chancellor's Office on trying to resolve that issue. This will allow us to work together smoothly with our upper

administration. The goal is actually to make everyone's life easy. We are not here to put anyone down. We are here to make business smooth and to make the life of everybody better.

J. Remo stated I'd like to raise some issues with the new (interim) Co-Provosts - congratulations, gentlemen. As Chancellor Lane was talking about recruitment, Faculty Senate and UEPC did a lot of work with DWF rates last year, and we heard nothing about it out of the Provost Office. So, I'm trying to move this back up in the inbox. I know you're just new to this role, but the primary resolution we passed was on DWF Task Force. We have heard nothing about the formation of the DWS Task Force. And stemming from that, we looked at rates for prioritization for instructional design. We also passed a resolution around each program receiving DWF reports from the DWF Task Force and looking for new training programs and inclusive course design. So, I'd be happy to share those resolutions with the new (interim) Co-Provosts to make sure we don't lose this, and as we go into our recruitment on the backside, we also have to worry about retention.

K. Meksem stated yes, the Senate has spent really a lot of time on this, and it's going to be a pity if information is not used to move us forward. It concerns not only recruiting, but also retention. And we all know it's good to recruit, but it's better when you can retain. **Chancellor Lane** stated thank you for bringing that up. I think you'll find that both Marc and Bob are definitely ready to move those forward. So, thank you for bringing that up. And DFW rates, we've been talking about that for six years now. I'm glad to see it finally being a topic, a high topic of conversation.

D. M. Johnson stated Chancellor Lane, you mentioned bringing some things back to life that have been paused. I wonder if you could just expand on that a little bit for us. **Chancellor Lane** stated nothing to expand on. Dr. Morris and Dr. Morgan will be in touch as they work through their onboarding. And you'll find out then what they're thinking of unpausing. And after that, obviously, the meetings that we have with the Faculty Senate Executive group, if it involves anything related to academics. So, we will unpause some things, but you'll get that information soon.

V. Konjufca stated the news about the greenhouse is fantastic, and it's going to add a lot to our research capabilities and training our students and everything, which is great. So, one issue that has been brought to the last board meeting is the possibility of having a new building for life sciences. Life Science II is an old building, dilapidated, doesn't even have backup power. And one of the schools, the largest number of students is housed in their School of Biological Sciences, and a lot of faculty struggle doing research, etc. Are there any kind of short-term or long-term plans to address that issue? **Chancellor Lane** stated yes, that's a great question. It speaks directly to our campus master plan. And as you mentioned, we have done a facilities condition assessment on all of our buildings across campus. I think the last campus master plan, Susan, we had, nobody can remember when it was. It was probably 20 or 30 years ago. **VC Susan Simmers** stated 2006, I think. **Chancellor Lane** stated we brought in a consultant who has been with us now for probably the last year and a half, two years. They've done a tremendous job. We gave our first update report to the board at the last meeting. The board was very pleased with the progress and with the update, but it does highlight to your point some buildings that are of some concern. And I know that Bob and Marc have those buildings. We had a steering committee meeting with Susan and her team and our team. I think it was last week to go over the campus master plan and the buildings that you're talking about. Now, we have to shift to think about prioritization. How do we prioritize some of those buildings in terms of making sure we can enhance them? We have to look at funding in terms of where the funding will come from to do that. And the other piece, Susan, you may want to mention our process with the legislature in terms of our RAMP process. Can you talk a little bit about that? **VC Susan Simmer** stated once a year, the universities in Illinois submit a report called Capital RAMP. And this report outlines our priorities for both new capital construction or major renovations and then deferred maintenance. Deferred maintenance would be roofs, HVAC systems, our boilers, a tunnel system, all the different things on campus. So, there's a process. And then the legislature looks at that - goes through IBH - requests and the volume of it and the volume of

deferred maintenance at the universities. And that's how they make determinations about the capital appropriations bills that they pass. We are ending through the resources of our last funding from a capital appropriations bill, and I believe there's \$300 million on the table now with the legislature for capital appropriation. And we haven't heard what's going to happen with that yet.

J. Sherry stated I'm not sure who needs to address this question, but I'd like to revisit the situation with Melissa and her salary. I know that some staff salaries are based on a range, and it's not just a set number. And so, knowing what we know about what Melissa does and for not only our constituency group, but three constituency groups, I feel like her job is one person doing three different, or at least two different positions, possibly three different positions. So, not sure how the audit came out the way it did, but I just would like that to be on the radar to look into what possibly can be done without *"chasing someone out of a position that is very valuable in nature."* So, I'm not sure who can address that, but I think it needs to be further investigated. Thanks. **AVC Nick**

Wortman stated I'm not going to go into any specifics around a specific employee's employment situation, but what I will verify for this group is that she was afforded the same process to ask for a job audit. My team went through that normal process. And it was determined through analysis that she is classified appropriately. So, I think the next question came around range placement. So that's a lot of what we went through in terms of our Compensation 2030 Project. And so, we look at both their market alignment and then their compression, where we would expect someone to fall within their pay range based upon their years in the job. That was looked at holistically. I'll also say that Melissa's particular position is covered by the ACsE's bargaining unit. So, there are some rules that we have to follow in conjunction with that bargaining unit contract. But that group did adopt many of the same standards as a part of the Compensation 2030 Project through their current negotiations. And so, Melissa was reviewed the same as any other employee in her situation would be reviewed across campus. She was determined to be classified appropriately, and her compensation is in line with our current compensation structure and models moving forward.

Chancellor Lane stated Nick, I do have a question for you because I want to make sure we clear this up. I heard it earlier and I'm just trying to confirm - I heard that someone told her that she could resign. I would hope we would never do that, to tell someone that they needed to resign. I just want to make sure for the record and for the public, did we say anything or do anything like that?

AVC Nick Wortman stated would never say anything like that to an employee. Absolutely not.

Chancellor Lane stated okay, I just want to make sure that's clear, publicly. If we said that, then that would have been a problem, but I'm glad you're confirming that. And again, Dr. Meksem, or if Melissa, if you know of someone that has said that, we'd love to know who said it, and we would address that. **AVC Nick Wortman** stated absolutely. **K. Meksem** stated the classification of the person who was in this position before does not dictate how we should pay the person who took over the position, because that person might have been doing maybe A and B, and the new person might have now been doing A, B, C, D and E. So, there is a problem here that has to be really deeply looked at. And there is some irregularity, I would call it, that needs to be discussed further to come up with a solution on how we can move Melissa to the right pay. **AVC Nick Wortman** stated and again, I'm not going to have public discussions about individual employment situations. What I'll say is that we do have mechanisms and processes in place to make sure that when someone is moving into a new job, when we're posting a new job, if someone vacates a job, that we're looking at those duties independent of who held those positions. And so, Melissa's job audit that she just went through, again, confirmed based upon the duties that she told us that she was doing and that you confirmed as her supervisor that she was doing, Dr. Meksem, were appropriately classified in the current classification. I agree that Melissa does a great job. I've worked with her directly. There are many other folks across campus that also do a great job. What we have to be careful of as an institution is treating those people differently in the way that we approach their compensation based upon the volume of one's voice in terms of their supervisors asking for those pays, right? That's what's caused some problems, I think, in the past in terms of some of our pay discrepancies. She does afford the benefit of having a bargaining unit who is also working with us in

administration and increasing wages for folks across the university. **K. Meksem** stated well, the data, unfortunately, we all have seen that the CBIZ data that was produced, was actually skewed from the beginning, because when you compare us to universities that are actually much lower than us, I mean, universities that do not even have doctoral degrees, we have seen it, the data was presented in the last meetings. And you have seen that the salaries of the professors at SIU, even with that skewed data it still shows that we are paid far less compared to our peers. So, using data that's not good is not going to generate any good.

K. Meksem stated Chancellor Lane, if you remember, in one of the meetings in the spring semester, faculty raised a concern that within their own colleges the deans are not developing a plan. I know within the university we have Imagine 2030, which is the plan for the university, but every college should have their own plan, how to move the college further, how to recruit, how to hire more faculty, how to go over programs that can recruit more students. Most of the Deans did not actually meet with their faculty. There are almost no meetings with faculty in some of the colleges. The faculty are reporting that they are actually left with zero contact. And if we really care about shared governance, maybe the first thing that our Deans should start doing is meet with the faculty and look at the concerns of the faculty. They should feel closer to the faculty that they can actually listen to them and listen to their concerns. And they can develop together with the faculty plans for their colleges. We are just three and a half years now from 2030. So, we should not even be looking at five-year plans, just three-year plans with your faculty showing the college is moving toward this direction, and this is what we are doing to be there. This is what we are doing in terms of teaching, what classes we are looking at to increase our enrollment. This is what we are doing in terms of research, how we are encouraging our faculty to do more research and how are we assisting them to get more grants - not we are coming after their grant to take money from them, but we are also helping them to get more money. So, I really would love now that we have two interim Co-Provosts that they can work with their Deans to implement at least some kind of vision for our faculty that they know what they are doing and where they are heading. **Chancellor Lane** stated well that was the plan three years ago when I hired the Provost who supervises the Deans. The thought was that we would do just what you mentioned, and that obviously has not occurred. We do have new leadership that's here now. I do know Marc and Bob are all ears in terms of making sure that what used to be their colleagues will do just that. I think that's a very simple request that needs to happen. That's the expectation that I have, is that Deans are vocal and can talk and communicate with the faculty that they support. Everything cannot come from the Chancellor. We are a Research 1 major university, not a mom-and-pop operation. Everything cannot come from me. And I know we have leaders in place that are articulate, they're intelligent, and they're strategic in all the areas that you mentioned. That's what we're going to be pushing here in the next couple of months, and for the new leader that comes in as Provost, we'll be pushing the same thing. So, fully agree with you, and we'll get better.

K. Meksem stated the next question is for VC of Research. (*VCR Tsatsoulis was not present.*) There were concerns from the faculty. You mentioned Chancellor Lane about our R1 status and it's good that we have it. Again, I will use the expression, it's better if we can keep it. The faculty would like to see a plan for the next three years, how our Vice Chancellor for Research and his office is going to be assisting faculty to be more efficient in targeting grants and in actually targeting opportunities. How is he going to position our faculty in a way that they will be more competitive when they are submitting proposals to different agencies? And what kind of support is he going to be providing to faculty to start either new initiatives for the ones that are brand new or the ones that are already at SIU if they want to reconvert into another field? So, what are the possibilities that he's going to be providing to those faculty to be able to move toward other fields? So, the three-year plan is actually a request not only from our Deans, but also from our Vice Chancellor for Research. **Chancellor Lane** stated I wish he was here. Dr. Costas Tsatsoulis has done an amazing job, and you will see exactly what he has been doing. I want to go back in time a little bit. When I

arrived, we did not have a Vice Chancellor for Research or a Dean of graduate school. That was six years ago. We didn't have anyone in that role. I think the last person who was in that role was probably out of it maybe two or three years. So, he has exactly what you're asking for. He and I meet on a regular basis about that. And it's important to remember that we're not the only institution with some of the things that are happening in Washington that this is happening to. As we meet with APLU, which I'll be there in about three weeks in Washington, DC, APLU is very vocal and is actually the group that has the lawsuit that is filed and really focuses on this indirect cost rate and some of the other pieces that are of concern. But I think you'll find that we're in good company with other R1 universities that are trying to essentially collaborate and go at this together. And so, David Shirley will make sure that you get that information. He shares it with us quite frequently at our cabinet meetings and also during our retreats. So, we can make sure we get that information to you in terms of what he does to support our faculty in terms of making sure that there is work that's going towards grants and other pieces that help us stay in that area that we want to be in. So, David help me out with that. Let's make sure we get back to Costas. **E. Hascup** stated can we also have that information for the School of Medicine as well? Because I know that we did contribute to the R1, and we are part of the R1. I do get School of Medicine as well as some of the SIU Carbondale emails and there seems to be differences in what's being done. **Chancellor Lane** stated yes, he has all of that. That's a great question there. We were just actually talking with a few of the candidates about that, Erin. So, we'll make sure that he gives a clear split on what that looks like as we are R1 together. Obviously, School of Medicine plays a very big role in that too. **K. Meksem** stated there is no doubt that Costas has done a lot of work. We're just trying to help him here to get that work to the knowledge of everybody. He's welcome to use the Faculty Listserv to get information everywhere.

K. Meksem stated please remember the International Office. We're going to have a meeting probably soon to go over how we can together raise that standard, work toward recruiting more international students, and make the international life better here at SIU.

VI. Reports

A. Executive Committee: Chair, Khalid Meksem

1. **Note: All Standing Committee Co-Chairs will need to keep a running record of *all* committee work. A "Final Report" will be due at the end of April 2027 and will be posted online.**
2. **Be prepared to submit your *monthly Faculty Senate reports* (before the FS meetings) to Melissa Laake. Your report is what you will state during the Faculty Senate meetings.**

K. Meksem stated I was contacted by the **Faculty Association** because of some issues of clarification. I was asked to give an estimate about the time that Senators will commit to working for the Senate. As you know today, you all have to come to this meeting. That's two hours per month. You have to meet with your committee, so that's at least one hour a month. Well, we all know from our teaching experience, when you go to meet for something, you prepare for it at least ahead of time. And then when you leave that meeting, you also have to prepare for a report or whatever the committee is charging you with. Also, we send you documents that you have to read before coming to the meeting. So, if you spend just one hour on those documents to read them before voting - I hope you don't come to vote without reading what we sent to you, because that's a responsibility that your colleagues are putting in your hand - you're voting for their future sometimes. And when you leave the meeting, you have ideas of things that you're pursuing. So, I was just giving a minimum estimate. So, I'm going to call it Senator at large because we have Senators that do attend only these meetings and their committee's meeting, but we also have Senators that serve on the EC (Executive Council). So, the minimum time that a Senator will actually dedicate to the Senate activity is six hours. That's if you're not actually doing more work, trying to understand maybe some processes or you're asking questions about budgets, and you have to meet with people to dissect the issues. So, you are learning about the budget, and you have to consult with faculty in different departments that can help you to

understand. So, the minimum is six hours. If you are serving in the Executive Council, that's another two hours that we spend with our upper administration. The agenda is set very similar to the EC meeting. Plus, you are chairing your committee, so you're spending time on issues that members of your committee or you are bringing. You're spending time on some of the stuff that the EC is actually working on. So, I estimated a minimum of 12 hours per month. Of course it depends. I can tell you sometimes we receive 3, 4, 5 RMEs and the Undergraduate Education Policy Committee (UEPC) will have to review them, and some of them are very long. Some of them require more digging and more calling or meeting with the department or school or unit that submits the paperwork. UEPC is one of the committees that spends a lot of time working on documents. They prepare them and then they send them to everybody. First, they have to approve them, vote on them, and then they send them to you, and then we make a vote on those things. They don't spend only 6 or 12 hours. They spend more time working on those things. So, it's one of the committees that actually is very busy in the Senate. So, knowing the information that you were communicated today, I know some of you are not a member of the Faculty Association, that's why I decided to inform you about the number of hours that I have actually estimated based on experience and communicated with everybody. I know a lot of you have either signed already your assignment/your workload, or you are signing it. When you are talking to your Dean and school director, keep in mind, those hours that you will commit to the Senate. They are part of your services. I don't know how much service you are claiming already, so you're going to have to be careful in the way you negotiate your services and your compensations. I hope there is overload that can be paid for services like it's going to be for teaching. This is no joke, but most R1 institutions pay overload for services. Service is everything that you provide to other people. A lot of us are either editors in chief or associate editors in journals – so, that's service. You're organizing conferences, doing many other services for your community, and serving for committees within your college, for example. I wish we will have more committees within our colleges that are going to make our life easy. I can tell you some of the committees that I would love to see again in every college are the Undergraduate Education Policy Committee, the Graduate Education Policy Committee, Budget Committee, and Faculty Policy Committee. So, those are committees that play a major role in moving the university forward. A lot of colleges reported that they don't have meetings of those committees. So, please go back to your college and try to revive some of the good stuff that can make this university better.

B. Undergraduate Education Policy Committee: Co-Chairs, Jonathan Remo & Brittainy Spears

1. Update on the Resolution Supporting the New UCC Course Requirements - **effective FALL 2026 (request for resolution from APAP Dunston)*

J. Remo stated concerns were raised by Professor Choiy regarding the supporting evidence for the proposed University Core Curriculum (UCC) policies related to the use of the Learning Management System and timely student feedback. In response, UCC Director Dr. Punske requested additional time to provide clarification and supporting information. Given this request, the previously scheduled meeting for Thursday, May 7, 2026, was postponed until August, when faculty are back on contract. The UEPC will reconvene in late August to discuss and then *determine whether to support the proposed UCC policies*.

A. Youpa stated you mentioned that those UCC requirements are fall 2026, but those aren't requirements, right? So, **they won't be implemented in fall 2026*. **J. Remo** stated yeah, you're correct. This is a title in my notes. Sorry for confusion.

2. Approval of Reviewers for the Communication Studies Program Review

The Undergraduate Education and Policy Committee (UEPC) received a request from Associate Provost for Academic Programs, Julie Dunston, to review and approve proposed reviewers for the Communication Studies Program Review. The reviewers included Dr. Devika Chawla, Stocker Professor of Interpersonal Communication, School of Communication Studies, Ohio

University; Dr. Alfred Frankowski, Associate Professor, School of History and Philosophy, Southern Illinois University; and Dr. Jyotsna Kapur, Professor, School of Media Arts, Southern Illinois University Carbondale. A majority of the committee, seven of the eleven members, voted to approve the proposed reviewers. Those voting in favor were Drs. Choi, Hopes, Jamieson, Mercer, Remo, Rendleman, and Youpa. The remaining four committee members did not submit a vote.

C. Budget Committee: Co-Chairs, Vjollca Konjufca & *Erin Hascup

As of 5/12/26, **Erin Hascup stepped down* as Co-Chair of the Budget Committee but will continue to serve on the committee. V. Konjufca stated I'm meeting with David M. Johnson tomorrow, and then I hope to call a meeting. I'm new to the Budget Committee.

D. Committee on Committees: Co-Chairs, Seung-Hee Lee & Mohtashim Shamsi

1. COC approved Senator Jenna Jamieson (FS Secretary) to be a member of UEPC – as of 5/6/26.

M. Shamsi stated seven voted yea and there were no nays.

a. Senate needs to approve Jenna Jamieson to be a member of UEPC

Motion: M. Shamsi

Second: J. Remo

A vote commenced: 34 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions. Faculty Senate Secretary, Jenna Jamieson, was approved as presented to be a member of the Undergraduate Education Policy Committee.

E. Faculty Status and Welfare Committee: Co-Chairs, Shelly Page & Mohtashim Shamsi

M. Shamsi stated based on the request from Dr. Meksem about collecting data on the diversity of faculty, we sent an email to AVC Nick Wortman on May 5th, and we asked him to provide us the data on the ethnicity and other diversity information about the faculty. We haven't received any response yet. No response about whether he will be providing or he won't be providing or if there's any technicalities in providing that data. So, we haven't gotten any sort of response from him so far.

K. Meksem stated can you please forward me that email? This way I can forward it to the appropriate sources. M. Shamsi agreed to the request. **K. Meksem** stated in the meantime, we're going to conduct a kind of data that if you would like to volunteer and tell us about your race, ethnicity, or other information that you would like to volunteer, please send it to Dr. Shamsi. This way we can compare if we fall within the diversity of our university or if we are far away.

F. Governance Committee: Co-Chairs, Jun Qin & Katilyn Poirier

K. Poirier stated the committee is in the process of establishing a standing date/time for meetings. The first meeting will be in August. In August, the committee will discuss options for reaching out to the Graduate Council about the Faculty Senate having representation and voting rights in the Graduate Council and vice versa. **J. Sherry** stated just a correction; we do have representation on the Graduate Council. I attend all the meetings as Vice President, but I do not have voting rights on the Graduate Council. **K. Poirier** stated correct. I think when we discussed this at the Executive Council, we talked about if there was a potential where Faculty Senate had voting rights on Graduate Council and vice versa. That might be a good place to start those efforts.

VII. Old Business – (none)

VIII. New Business

- **J. Sherry** stated thank you for those who donated to the Saluki Food Pantry for our initiative. We don't have an update from them to show how successful that was, but anything that was done or donated is great. And thank you to Jenna Jamieson for helping in that initiative with me.

- **J. Remo** stated it's come to my attention recently, UEPC passed a supporting resolution for the NUI in AI+ Bachelor of Science degree. There were a suite of minors that were associated with that degree, and it was my oversight and the UEPC's oversight that those minors that were supporting this new unit of instruction were not consulted. So, moving forward, UEPC will take on in the fall, looking at a better system to make sure all programs who are being leveraged for new or enhanced programs have a say in if that program can be affiliated or should be affiliated with this new program or enhancement. The Dean of the College of Engineering, Computing and Technology and Mathematics said some problematic things in the media about this new unit of instruction, something along the lines, and I'm paraphrasing here, that AI does a better job of communicating and doing art than human beings. So, yeah, we're going to work on that.

- **K. Meksem** stated I'm going to be attending a conference next week. It's the Faculty Senate conference from different universities. It's going to be in Pittsburgh. If you have any concerns or anything that you would like to know - our colleagues, what they are dealing with - I'm happy to discuss it and bring more insights about how our other universities are actually doing business in their Senates and how our other universities are actually engaged more in shared governance. Shared governance is a word that means a lot, but in the same time, in practical life, it means nothing. And if we can actually bring it to life, if we can actually make it something that our fellow colleagues can enjoy and it can make their life easy, that would be a great thing. I would like to remember everybody and remind you that the first survey that was done with SIU to try to get a sense of our faculty morale was very shocking. So please do a good job in representing your colleagues and do an excellent job in raising your voice. **J. Sherry** stated this actually came up yesterday. I'm on the SIU System Strategic Plan Committee, and I really hammered this home as far as what our survey had shown within SIUC. And it was confirmed that all three entities through the System have the same exact concerns as far as mental health is concerned with not only students, but faculty. And I even went so far as saying that when a student comes up to a faculty and they're concerned about the faculty, there's some serious issues with that. And so that was definitely conveyed yesterday at the Strategic Plan SIU System meeting.

- **V. Konjufca** stated people who are gravitating to the types of jobs that we do are people who are highly driven, generally speaking, and that a lot of what their life's work, so to speak, depends on success. And a lot of what faculty face at SIU are roadblocks that make their success and their work impossible, leading to desperation, leading to these mental health issues. It is not a simple thing as, oh, some faculty have mental health issues. It's nothing to do with that at all. It's the job that kind of brings about those issues of many faculty and many faculty basically resigning to, I cannot wait to retire from this place because they just give up on their creativity, and these are kind of systemic issues that every time we speak about we're kind of trying to address with lack of facilities, with overburden, with other things that I feel very often upper administration don't see, don't deal with on a daily basis, and is just kind of out of sight out of mind. And faculty are left to struggle with those issues, and ergo the mental health issues and types of other things that faculty deal with that we really don't appreciate or pay too much attention to.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: J. Remo

Second: J. Jamieson