

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2025
Via MS Teams & Morris Library Room 754/752
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order: Khalid Meksem

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

II. Roll Call: John Farrish

Present: Nwamaka Anaza, Randall Auxier, Erica Blumenstock, Lingguo Bu, Lavern Byfield, Christopher Chiasson, Kwangho Choiy, John Farrish, Erin Hascup, Timothy Hurley, Jenna Jamieson, David M. Johnson, Seung-Hee Lee, Sarah Lewison, Jia Liu, Khalid Meksem, Katie Moore, Shelly Page, Kaitlyn Poirier, Jun Qin, Jonathan Remo, Nicole Roberts, Mohtashim Shamsi, Jennifer Sherry, Angela Shultz, Kang Sun, Cassie Wagner, Jennifer Walker, Haibo Wang, Christopher Wienke, Geoffrey Young

Absent: Gary Apgar, Ghassan Ishak, Frances T. Lee, Cinzia Padovani, Ahmed Torky,

Guests: Iraklis Anagnostopoulos, Jebaraj Asirvatham, Kristina Boone, James Carter, Shelly Gehrke, Chun-Hsi Huang, Melissa Laake, Austin Lane, Xiaoqing (Frank) Liu, Robert Lopez, Jessica Mann, Robert Morgan, Kymberli Morgan, Marc Morris, Katelyn Petrolina, Jeffrey Punske, Kim Rendfeld, Marcia Kate Scott, David Shirley, Constantinos Tsatsoulis, Sheryl Tucker, Julianne Wallace, Lichang Wang, Wendell Williams

III. Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2025

Motion: J. Remo

Second: S. Page

A vote commenced: 22 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention. The minutes from October 14, 2025, were approved as presented.

IV. President's Report: Khalid Meksem

1. JRB – “12 members” listed in the policy for “Grievance Procedure for Faculty” – Section IV, E, 1. (Change from 12 JRB members to 11 [Chair+10] to fit current reorg. structure)

K. Meksem stated the JRB for many years has been representing different schools and colleges, however, we have been restructured and different units have come together. So, we don't have the number of schools and colleges as we did before. I'm proposing to move the JRB membership from 12 to 11 members. Each unit (college/school & Library Affairs) will be represented, plus one Chair.

Motion: J. Remo

Second: D. M. Johnson

A vote commenced: 22 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Abstentions. The motion was approved as presented – the Judicial Review Board will change from 12 members to 11 members (Chair + 10).

2. Low Producing Programs – Committee update

J. Remo stated UEPC Chair Jonathan Remo was asked by Faculty Senate President Khalid Meksem to provide feedback on a draft Academic Program Viability Rubric from the Provost's Office. Based on initial feedback from Drs. Meksem and Remo, Associate Provost of Academic Programs Julie Dunston requested a meeting with Dr. Remo, held via Teams on October 27, 2025. During this meeting, Dr. Remo requested a formal charge be provided to the committee, to review the rubric, and that the evaluation be quantitative and transparent. At President Meksem's request, Dr. Remo also recommended adding two criteria related to program support and facilities/infrastructure. The committee is currently awaiting on the charge from the Provost Office for the Low Producing Programs Committee. We are working on scheduling a meeting in December. **K. Meksem** stated we received an email today asking us for feedback on the rubrics. We have provided that feedback a long time ago. We have not heard anything concrete. We have not received any new rubrics with the modifications that we requested. I did advise J. Remo to

call for a meeting with the Low Producing Programs Committee to go over those rubrics and then forward them to APAP and hopefully we can have a charge soon by the Provost for this job.

3. International Student Process

The Faculty Senate has been discussing challenges faced by international students and newcomers at SIU, particularly an unclear path for requesting visas within the SIU system. The unclear path starts when people apply to our university and goes even to when they want to request for PTO. Students encounter confusion and delays due to fragmented responsibilities between the International Office and Personnel Office, leaving them to navigate complex immigration paperwork without proper guidance. This lack of streamlined procedures not only frustrates students but also risks losing talented individuals SIU aims to retain. The Senate calls for reforms to simplify these processes, emphasizing that students come to conduct research and study—not to master immigration law or to fill in papers that they are not familiar with. We have to do the effort to recruit students, because they help us fill the seats that are needed here to avoid any budget cuts in the future.

V. Vice President's Report: Jennifer Sherry

A. Secured volunteers to serve on Low Producing Programs Committee

J. Sherry stated we have secured volunteers for the Low Producing Programs Committee, which it looks like it is in movement now. Thank you to all of you who have volunteered for that process.

VI. Invited Guests:

A. Chancellor Lane

Chancellor Lane stated thank you so much President Meksem for all you're doing. Thank you to all of our faculty. I want to personally tell you we appreciate all your efforts. I do want to invite you to our Faculty/Staff Service Awards on December 2, 2025. It means a lot to your colleagues when we're there celebrating those that have given us 5-40 years at SIU. We are busy at work with our applications that we have received from potential prospective students. Fall is typically a time when we recruit. We just had a wonderful trip to the Saluki Takeover in Texas. We met with a number of students in Dallas, Houston, and Austin. This past year, I think we got close to 40-some-odd students out of the state of Texas. We have a lot of interest from students there that would like to come to Illinois; we are seeing that at a number of schools and hearing it from a number of students. So, we're really excited about the tour that we just finished. I do want to bring on Wendell Williams to explain what they do to yield those applications. **VC W. Williams** shared a PowerPoint presentation titled, "Enrollment Management Update." Looking with eight weeks out for the spring semester, we are up overall in registrations at this point - a little bit more than 5%. We have roughly 6,700 students registered as of Monday. That is an increase at the undergraduate level as well as the graduate level. Our spring online enrollment at the undergraduate level is up 39%, up 53% at the graduate master's level, and 166% in admissions up at the doctoral level. I'm pretty cautiously optimistic for the spring semester that we should meet our enrollment target as for an increase of 4% over last year. For the fall, all we have right now since registrations have not started is to take a close look at the number of applicants that we have. Right now, we have about a 19% increase in the number of applications that we have. We are down in our actionable applications. The difference between the application and an actionable application is that we have everything that we need in order to make an admissions decision. You can see that a lot of students are applying to us through the common application, but we haven't received those transcripts yet. We're getting 400-500 transcripts in a day. As you can see, the number of students that we have admitted, we have almost 700 more students admitted with 39 weeks to go than we had at the same point. At the graduate level, the number of people who had been admitted is up significantly at the graduate and at the doctorate level. So overall, our spring outlook is really good; we should be on target. We have done a number of things to increase the services that we admit for students who are below 2.74. We have almost 6,000 applications in. Again, a lot of that is coming from the Texas common app process. You can see that our number of actionable applications, that's pretty slow to come in with the ones that we're needing transcripts on. And as we get the final approval for the admissions levels from

different colleges, we're starting to move toward approving some of those students to go into the conditional admit program. **Chief of Staff, David Shirley** presented a recap via PowerPoint ("10/28 Faculty Luncheon Recap"). We had 35 attend the luncheon (126 faculty were invited). We talked about reviewing some of our data, some strategies that we had in place and really trying to express appreciation for all the hard work that they do to teach our 326 new students from fall 2025 who came in with a high school GPA under 2.75. That is a substantial group of our incoming class, about 22%. And over time, we've noticed that we've had some pretty big performance variances as it relates to retention. Fall to spring you see these gaps between those who have a high school GPA above 2.74 and then those who come in with a high school GPA under 2.75. You see those same gaps with fall-to-fall retention. Again, same gaps, similar gaps with four-year graduation rates and six-year graduation rates. What we've done is identified these groups as a great pool for us to program and to think about how are we going to create some interventions and opportunities for us to help these students have success throughout their academic career with us. We will go through more in detail tomorrow at the Retention Retreat. I believe all of you have invites to that.

B. Provost Tucker

Provost Tucker stated on the Low Producing Program's List, there's some confusion. I'll have Dr. Dunston and Dr. Remo get together, because we have provided the rubric back to Faculty Senate that included the updates that you requested. We will find out where the miscommunication is and resolve that so we can continue to move forward on that project. Some of us from Faculty Senate, Graduate Council, leadership, and Melissa met to talk about updating some of our manual processes for formal resolutions (how to track them). I think we have a pretty good database tool that we will be able to use so that resolutions can be tracked over time as officers change and as we all come and go. Dr. Wallace will be reaching out on the COLA Dean search to make sure we have Faculty Senate representation. We are working on that search committee. We received nominations from the college as well as some of the constituency groups already, and we will be looking at that ad in the next week or two as we move forward with getting that position out there. The last thing I wanted to finish up with was some good news, kind of following on Chancellor Lane with some of the takeover events. Many times when we talk about our resources at the institution, we talk about tuition and state funding, but we have had just incredible fundraising activity going on. Many of the takeovers have resulted in very large gifts to the institution. We were just out there Friday evening at the airport for the NewMyer lobby naming. We had the Suhler School of Journalism and Advertising naming earlier this year. Education and Business both have received large gifts. So, I just want to celebrate the work that faculty, our Deans, our staff and our fundraisers, those development officers are doing because we are seeing significant uptick.

C. VCR/Dean of Graduate School: Costas Tsatsoulis

VCR Tsatsoulis reminded everyone of the Open House at the Gower Translational Research Center today. The Center for Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatics is there, as well as Fermentation Science Institute and Bio Launch. We want more of our faculty to know about the capabilities that we have there. Our spring applications are down by 200 at the graduate level. Out of the 200, 182 are because of fewer international applicants. So, our domestic applicants are the same, and unfortunately, our international applicants are down. But here's the good news. Our fall international applicants are about the same that we had last year. So maybe this is starting to correct itself. Our admits for the fall are up by 38%. The numbers are small; it's 97 versus 70, but that's very positive. Our applications for the fall are up by 3%, but our admits in general are up quite a bit. The other good news is that our Ph.D. applications and admits, both for the spring and the fall are up. I want to thank the faculty of all the units, because recruiting Ph.D. students is from mentor to student; it's not at a generic level. Our faculty are doing a great job recruiting students and admitting them. We closed the books for October for research. In October, the federal government was shut down, so, our numbers for awards and proposals are not very good, because we could not submit a lot of proposals. We also received no awards from the federal government. Our awards (up to and including October) were at \$27M compared to \$29M in the same period of time last year. Proposals submitted were \$50M versus \$57M from last year. Again, a lot

of opportunities just disappeared; they didn't exist, because the government was shut down. Our expenditures are \$23M versus \$24M, so they're about the same as last year. For a number of reasons, during the month of October and part of November, we could not draw down funds. We are now able to draw down funds and because of that, I expect that our numbers will go up. Talking about expenditures and so on, we're in the process of collecting our HERD data. This is the Higher Education R&D data given to the National Science Foundation, and this is the data that establishes our ranking as an R1 institution.

D. Faculty Advisory Council to IBHE: Lichang Wang

The FAC to IBHE meeting was held on October 17, 2025, at Lake Land College (LLC), following my previous report at the Faculty Senate meeting on October 14, 2025. LLC president Dr. Josh Bullock welcomed the members of FAC IBHE and provided a brief introduction to the college. Dr. Josh Bullock noted that LLC is the second-largest community college in Illinois by land area, serving 53 communities and 31 school districts. One significant initiative at LLC is the “two-day-a-week” program model, which allows students to maintain employment on the remaining days of the week, thereby increasing the accessibility for working students. Ed Thomas, the Division Chair of Humanities and Communications at LLC, and Tara Blaser, Philosophy/English Instructor at LLC, presented their initiative, “Glow Up,” designed to connect faculty and staff with students. Two lab tours were then provided to attendees by Greg Powers, Director of Broadcast Operations/Speech and Communication, and Beth Hartrick, Director of the Dental Hygiene Program. These visits offered attendees a firsthand look at how the college continues to invest in modern facilities to support student success and program excellence. There was a guest presentation: “IBHE Updates”, by Dr. Valerie Lynch, Senior Managing Director at IBHE. Dr. Lynch noted that she had worked at LLC for 18 years and was also a graduate of the institution. She previously served as the VP for Student Services at LLC and collaborated closely with the VP for Academic Affairs. She then turned her attention to student needs, particularly the growing issue of food insecurity across campuses. She explained that the IBHE aims to inform campus policies through evidence-based research. She proposed that the FAC establish a working group dedicated to addressing this challenge and emphasized that our role as educators and council members is to help meet the evolving needs of students. She invited the council’s input and guidance on how best to move this initiative forward. Details of the meeting can be found at <http://www.facibhe.org/meetings/minutes.php>. The next FAC IBHE meeting will take place on November 21, 2025, on our campus. I am close to completing the planning activities, and many thanks go to Jodi Boese in the Chancellor’s Office for her support. I would also like to thank Chancellor Lane and VCR Tsatsoulis for agreeing to speak at the meeting.

E. Graduate Council Chair: Kelly Bender

I. Anagnostopoulos stated the Graduate Council representation for university review of Low Producing Programs has been confirmed with the Provost’s Office. The Emeritus Policy Resolution was passed. The language is the same as that of the Faculty Senate policy resolution that passed in October. The Graduate Student Assistantship Funding Support Limits Policy Resolution was passed. It allows for funding support in the amounts of 3 years for MS and 6 years for Ph.D. students before exception requests are needed (previous numbers were 2 years for M.S. and 4 years for Ph.D.). The Inclusion of Certificate Completions on Transcripts as Completed Degrees Resolution was passed. The Program Reviewers for the M.S. in Physics and Ph.D. in Applied Physics have been approved.

F. Senator Jenna Jamieson (a doctoral study – faculty experiences in supporting students with mental health issues)

This study explored the lived experiences of SIU Carbondale faculty in supporting students with mental health challenges, a critical issue given that suicide is the second leading cause of death among U.S. college students and over 720,000 people die by suicide globally each year (WHO, 2025). Senator Jenna Jamieson, a public health educator, emphasized the urgency of mental health awareness, drawing on personal experiences of student suicides during prior teaching roles. Using qualitative, semi-structured

interviews with 12 faculty members—six tenure track and six non-tenure track—from diverse disciplines and with varying experience levels (3–20 years), the study identifies five major themes. First, faculty monitor mental health through observable behaviors such as classroom engagement, emotional cues, and preparedness. Second, confidence in addressing mental health varies widely, with many faculty expressing uncertainty about appropriate responses due to limited training. Third, faculty perceive key contributors to student struggles, including peer pressure, social media influence, academic workload, lack of time-management skills, and what it means to be a good student. Fourth, faculty demonstrate strong commitment to support, reassurance, and mentorship, often maintaining open-door policies and engaging in honest conversations to connect students with resources—especially vital for those lacking nearby family or friends. Fifth, faculty stress the need for institutional support to enhance their comfort and effectiveness, suggesting improvements such as timely feedback on Saluki Cares reports, quick-reference guides for crisis intervention, and better training on available campus resources. Overall, the findings highlight faculty's frontline role in promoting preventative care and self-care strategies while underscoring the importance of institutional collaboration to equip educators with tools and knowledge to address mental health challenges effectively. The researcher concluded with a call to action: even one life saved through these efforts is invaluable.

K. Meksem thanked Senator Jamieson and also Dr. Bu for recommending her to speak about this topic. Chancellor Lane stated great job to Jenna Jamieson and requested for her research on mental health.

G. Jessica Mann & Kim Rendfeld (New Faculty website – Experts Guide Categories)

K. Rendfeld, Director of Communications, stated when faculty profile pages are migrated to faculty.siu.edu, there's going to be a very exciting new feature; it's a new experts guide. It's to provide journalists and others including a prospective graduate student with a very easy way to search for SIU experts. From the journalist perspective, they're looking for people to interview for a story they're working on, often on very short notice. This is in addition to other resources we provide to journalists. This new expert list is going to be much easier to keep updated. A new expert can be added when they join the university, assuming they are willing to talk to reporters, and when someone moves on to another endeavor, then that list is updated. We can have up to 10 broad categories and many subcategories. You may have seen the list with your agenda. The word choices we used are really for how someone outside the university would be seeking information. So, in the case of a journalist, they might think of something more by a topic than, say, a formal name of a degree or a record department. It's good to keep in mind that journalists only have bachelor's degrees, they're overworked, and under tight deadlines. So, truly it is in our best interest to make it as easy as we can for them. Also, in our best interest too, as we make this move to keep the bios of the faculty up to date as possible and specify research areas, that way reporters and anyone else who's using this will know they're reaching out to the right person. So, as members of the Faculty Senate, we're asking you to look at the proposed categories and subcategories – which ones make sense in your disciplines, are there any that should be added or removed, and if there are gaps or overlaps or anything that may cause confusion? A shared Word document with track changes on is going to be sent to Melissa to give to Senate after this meeting. If you can weigh in by December 12th, that would be great. And the reason we're setting that as a deadline is so that we can begin the process to implement this in January.

H. Q&A

K. Meksem stated to Provost Tucker as you know, I attended the Takeover at Chicago and it was a really good experience, and I really appreciate all of what you, VC W. Williams and everybody are doing to recruit students. Thanks to VC Williams for paying for my travel expenses to the Chicago Takeover. I was told that we have a budget purpose for Faculty Senate that serves the needs of the Senate. I was told at the same time that no Faculty Senate President before was able to get hand on how much we have in that account. I hope this is going to end today. I have actually requested by e-mail that budget purpose to know exactly how much we have. I would like to offer [Senators] pizzas and maybe taking them for lunch, but when I don't even know how much money I have in that account it feels bad, because if we

talk shared governance and the Faculty Senate is on top and they don't even have access to know how much money they have in their account, then there is really no shared governance at SIU. **Provost Tucker** stated you are fiscal officer and Clarissa is who you would ask. **K. Meksem** stated I did ask her and emailed her. **Provost Tucker** stated she will get back to you, but there is almost no budget in the Faculty Senate. We were talking about it this morning, because there are other expenses, such as going to Takeovers and having signers; that's never been budgeted. I think we need to plan for fiscal year 2027. My guess is you would be lucky to have \$1,000. **Chancellor Lane** asked what did it start with, what did it have 2-3 years ago, was there ever a set amount received? **Provost Tucker** stated it's some sort of small amount that's always just been there. I don't know, because it's not changed since I've been here. It's not really budgeted. **Chancellor Lane** stated David Shirley and I will get together to find out exactly the history of what has been in there and get that back to you (find out what's been allotted). You do need a budget. Some of that travel I know with Dr. Lee we used funds from the Foundation for the Takeovers. So, there may be an opportunity there to just earmark funds there, especially for things that you mentioned, cookie here or something there. We'll get back to you later today. **VC Williams** stated K. Meksem did such a great job in recruiting and is welcome to go on any Takeover that we attend. **Provost Tucker** stated essentially if there are Senate expenses, the Academic Affairs just absorbs them. I do prefer you have a budget and know what it is. Right now, we just keep paying your bills. **Chancellor Lane** spoke about the return on investment – at the Houston Takeover we received a gift of \$2.1 million from our alums from Chicago who have been living in Houston. We're close to 40 students from Texas; they're paying \$29k per year to come here in various majors. **VC Williams** stated I want to be the first to let this group know we received 550 students who applied for the Chancellor's Scholarship, which means they had a 3.8 or higher, and we're now in the process of sending those names to all the Deans so that they could use whatever resources they have to try to make that decision, a firm decision to come to us.

VII. Reports

A. Executive Committee: Chair, Khalid Meksem

1. International student recruitment (meeting with Chancellor & Provost)

K. Meksem stated I have a meeting with Provost Tucker and Chancellor Lane about international student recruitment that is going to start today at 3:00 p.m. J. Sherry will be chairing the session after that. I would like to report that international student recruitment is something that actually our upper administration is now taking seriously. We have a task force within SIU. The Chancellor has called for it, and he attended that meeting actually two weeks ago. We tried to brainstorm about ideas, #1 how to bring more international students in our undergraduate and graduate programs and #2 how we can facilitate students coming to SIU – including processing paperwork, and once they are here, what type of follow up we need to do with them to make them feel welcome. That's something that started, and I'm very happy with that. I would love one day to see the re-establishment of a Vice Chancellor for international students, as we used to have.

B. Election Committee: Chair, Jennifer Sherry

1. Judicial Review Board Election

J. Sherry stated the nominations have closed. The Elections Committee and I will be working on certifying the nomination list for the College of Business and Analytics, School of Education, College of Agriculture, Life and Physical Sciences, and College of Liberal Arts. Once nominations are achieved, the committee will request nominees submit their CVS and questionnaire sheets, which we have done and received. The meeting today at 3:00 p.m. will be for the Faculty Senate Executive Council, as well as the Committee on Committees to discuss each JRB candidate. Voting will occur at the December meeting. I had initially discussed with the JRB to select a Chair, however, that has been kind of taken back to wait until we have the voting and then the Chair and Vice Chair will transpire after that point.

C. Undergraduate Education Policy Committee: Chair Jonathan Remo

1. NUI – BS Artificial Intelligence

2. Quiet Week proposal update

3. Resolution to Revise UCC Requirements

4. Low Producing Programs Viability Rubric (meeting with APAP Julie Dunston) - *See President's report, Section IV., 2.

NOTE: Approval of Reviewers for the Physics Program - The UEPC received a request from Associate Provost for Academic Programs Julie Dunston to review and approve Dr. Chun-Hsi Huang, Director and Professor in the School of Computing, and Dr. Punit Kohli, Director of the IMAGE Center and Professor of Chemistry, as reviewers for the BS in Physics program. The committee unanimously approved these reviewers.

The Undergraduate Education Policy Committee (UEPC) met on October 28th and 30th to address several items on the committee's agenda. During the October 28th meeting, the committee met to discuss the "Quiet Week" proposal and the New Unit of Instruction (NUI) for the B.S. in Artificial Intelligence Plus (BSAIP). The UEPC members at this meeting were Drs. Bu, Chiasson, Choiy, Jamieson, Martin, Padovani, Remo, Sun, and the Undergraduate Student Vice President, Abby Tate (9 of 10 members present).

"Quiet Week"

The UEPC invited Undergraduate Student President Lydia Phelps to present the "Quiet Week" proposal. Following the presentation, committee members asked questions and shared comments, but no decision was made on the proposal.

New Unit of Instruction for the B.S. in Artificial Intelligence Plus (BSAIP)

The UEPC invited Director Huang from the School of Computing to the October 28th meeting to present his program's proposal for the NUI in BSAIP and address committee questions. After the presentation, the UEPC unanimously passed a resolution recommending the Faculty Senate (FS) support the NUI for the BSAIP.

Motion: K. Meksem

Second: C. Wienke

A vote commenced: 27 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention. The NUI-BS Artificial Intelligence was approved as presented.

During the October 30th meeting, the UEPC passed a resolution supporting the recommended changes to the University Core Curriculum proposed by Director Jeffery Punske. The committee also continued discussions on the "Quiet Week" proposal and the Ad-Hoc Committee on Addressing High DFW Rates Report. Members present included Drs. Bu, Chiasson, Choiy, Jamieson, Martin, Padovani, Remo, Sun, and Undergraduate Student VP for Student Affairs Abby Tate (9 of 10 members present).

Changes to the University Core Curriculum

The UEPC invited Undergraduate Core Curriculum Director Dr. Jeffery Punske to the October 30th meeting to present planned updates to the University Core Curriculum. After his presentation, the committee discussed the proposed changes and unanimously passed a resolution recommending that the Faculty Senate support the updates to align the curriculum with Higher Learning Commission accreditation requirements.

K. Meksem asked J. Punske what is the deadline that you are working with? **J. Punske** stated for Senate, ideally it would be passed today. That relates to our ability to update our assessment protocols even though the implementation wouldn't start until Fall 2027 on the actual updates. We could start assessing classes that aren't going to have changes in preparation for a report which is due in May.

Motion: K. Meksem

Second: S. Page

A vote commenced: 28 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstention. The Resolution to Revise UCC Requirements was approved as presented.

"Quiet Week" Proposal II

After further discussion at the October 30th meeting, the UEPC agreed to ask the Provost's Office to consider the friendly amendments to the "Quiet Week" Proposal suggested by Faculty Senate members. Once the final language is set, the UEPC will vote on a supporting resolution. If approved, the resolution will be presented to the full Faculty Senate for a vote in December.

DFW Report

During the October 30th meeting, the UEPC discussed how they would like to proceed with the recommendations made by Faculty Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on addressing High DFW Rates. The committee agreed to draft six resolutions on the topics of 1.) active learning 2.) faculty training 3.) DFW data review 4.) course redesign support 5.) advising support and 6.) long-term accountability. UEPC plans to vote on these resolutions in November and present them to the full Faculty Senate in December.

D. Budget Committee: Chair, David M. Johnson

D. M. Johnson stated we've been trying to schedule a meeting with members of administration to talk about some questions we have about SIU's budget. We've gotten very quick and detailed responses from them to some of our questions so far. Right now, we are looking at the student/staff ratio; the student to all employee ratio at SIU looks a little strange. It looks like we have lots of employees given the size of our student body compared to our peers, and also at the percentage spent on instruction as it's reported to the Department of Education in the IPEDS' figures, which is a little bit low. So, those are the two things that still look a little bit unusual to us, and we look forward to a conversation with Chief of Staff David Shirley and VC Susan Simmers to try to get at the bottom of whether they're kind of real discrepancies or whether they're just issues of how the data is sliced and diced at various different institutions.

E. Committee on Committees: Co-Chairs, Cheryl (Shelly) Page & Jonathan Remo - *(no report)*

F. Faculty Status and Welfare Committee: Co-Chairs, Frances T. Lee & Gary Apgar - *(no report)*

G. Governance Committee: Co-Chairs, Randall Auxier & Jun Qin

R. Auxier stated we haven't met, but we're going to meet in the next week or so. I'm gathering information; I need to get some from J. Remo and from the Faculty Association regarding the underperforming programs' review. There are a few concerns that we need to discuss in the Governance Committee, but we can't discuss them until we have some very clear idea of what the charge is, what you're being asked to do and also what the Faculty Association is being asked to do relative to Article 9 the program review process. That's what we will be discussing as soon as I have the information to present to the committee. Matt Romero and Rachel Tollet are meeting with the Provost tomorrow I think to get what's supposed to come from Provost Office to them. So, as soon as this information exists and we have a chance to go over it as a committee, we'll have a meeting.

K. Meksem stated I can give an update. The Provost Office sent us some rubrics. I asked J. Remo to lead this initiative. We sent back our feedback in which we included other things that should be considered and we did not receive, actually yes or no; we did not receive the final rubrics. Today I received an e-mail from the Provost asking me about the rubrics, but there is no charge yet. **R. Auxier** stated yeah, we need a charge and the same for Faculty Association. You need a charge that she gives them. **K. Meksem** stated as soon as we have that e-mail clarified, we're going to move with the final rubrics and then send them back. **Provost Tucker** stated APAP J. Dunston and I believe that we did return the rubric back to the committee with your suggested changes which we are happy to incorporate. We will follow up.

J. Remo stated I was waiting for a charge. I have those corrections but didn't know the next steps with APAP Dunston. We'll get that clarified and move forward.

VIII. Old Business

1. Faculty Senate operating paper vs. employee handbook (faculty ranks)

K. Meksem stated you received an attachment for the definitions of memberships within the Senate for faculty, however, the definition seems to be very old and outdated, so there is a new one that is in place. After consulting with APAA Juliane Wallace, she recommended that we could use the definition that the university is using now. We would like to start using the definition for faculty that's in the employee handbook. We do have different titles that are given (Research Assistant Professors, Professors of Practice, Clinical Professors – we have different titles that used to exist many years ago). So, we don't want to miss any representation in the Senate from our faculty. D. M. Johnson stated the operating paper can't be changed without the vote of the faculty. K. Meksem stated if you go to Article 5 of the Board of Trustees - the Faculty Senate does have all the powers to decide, vote, and make any decisions that they want, because we do represent the faculty within the university. Based on the Faculty Senate's operating paper, it was decided that *all faculty* will need to vote after Senate's approval of the changes.

Motion: K. Meksem

Second: R. Auxier

A vote commenced: 21 Yeas, 0 Nays, 3 Abstentions. The new wording to define faculty for membership in the Faculty Senate operating paper was approved as presented. (The rest of the operating paper – same paragraph – will remain the same.) *Note: The faculty on campus will now need to vote to approve the changes to the Faculty Senate operating paper.

*[The proposed change will state “. . . faculty shall consist of all **faculty** appointees as **tenured, tenure track, and non-tenure track with at least 50% appointment through the Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor or the School of Medicine.** Research, visiting, adjunct, and clinical categories holding the above-mentioned ranks in academic units (college, department, or school level) shall also be considered faculty, providing faculty bearing those titles hold at least 50% appointment through **the** Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor or the School of Medicine.]*

IX. New Business

- Proposal to create new Ad Hoc Committees

1. Business Practice Committee – (facilitate concerns from faculty)

SIU has been facing significant challenges with its accounting processes, causing frustration among faculty members who struggle to get timely support. Tasks such as processing travel vouchers, accessing grant reports, and closing accounts have become stressful, especially when agencies expect reports promptly. Faculty members are not trained accountants, yet they spend hours reconciling P-cards, handling paperwork, and securing contracts for graduate students, often without clarity on responsibilities or compensation. Despite transitioning from paper-based to PDF-based systems, delays persist because forms get stuck in offices or lost in emails, and accountability remains unclear. This outdated, inefficient system creates unnecessary layers of approval and slows progress, even in an era where advanced solutions are widely available. To address these issues, it is proposed that the Senate establish an ad hoc committee to identify problems and optimize processes, ensuring SIU moves beyond antiquated practices and embraces modern, streamlined systems suitable for 2025 and beyond.

K. Sun asked how the committee will be formed. K. Meksem stated J. Sherry will be calling for volunteers for the committee. There will be a Chair and it's requested that the committee discuss the issues we are trying to tackle. The committee should put together a priority list to bring to Senate so that it can be communicated with upper administration to help them identify problems and solutions. This will be for a one-year term.

Motion: J. Farrish

Second: D. M. Johnson

A vote commenced: 24 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention. The Business Practice *Ad Hoc Committee* was approved as presented.

2. Global Engagement Committee - (help recruit international students)

Faculty members at SIU often collaborate with overseas universities and see great potential in inviting international students, professors, and researchers to join our programs. When attending international meetings, faculty represent SIU and have opportunities to promote the university globally. While recruiting is not part of faculty contracts, discussing SIU's strengths with prospective students can significantly impact enrollment, as many international students choose SIU because of faculty connections. To enhance this effort, a proposed Global Engagement Committee would advise the Senate and communicate concerns to upper administration, ensuring international students feel welcomed and supported. Addressing issues such as delayed contracts and payments is crucial for improving their experience. A positive environment encourages students to become ambassadors for SIU, attracting more talent and strengthening our programs. Given SIU's R1 status, international graduate students are vital to maintaining this designation. Therefore, establishing an ad hoc Global Engagement Committee within the Senate for one term, with the option to renew, is recommended.

Motion: J. Jamieson

Second: K. Meksem

A vote commenced: 25 Yeas, 0 Nays, 2 Abstentions. The Global Engagement *Ad Hoc Committee* was approved as presented.

X. Adjournment

Motion: J. Remo

Second: D. M. Johnson