

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

Overview

- I. A Quick Summary of FS Matters in November 2021
- II. Faculty-Student Forum on November 18
- III. Update from the Chancellor's Office

I. A QUICK SUMMARY OF FS MATTERS IN NOVEMBER 2021

1. FS Meetings. The minutes for the FS meeting on October 12 were approved and are available at the website (<https://facultysenate.siu.edu/agenda-minutes/fs-minutes-10122021.pdf>). The FS met on November 9 and a copy of the meeting agenda is available online (<https://facultysenate.siu.edu/agenda-minutes/fs-agenda-11092021.pdf>). The meeting minutes will be available after the FS approves the minutes in December.
2. At the November 9 meeting, the SIUC Faculty Senate passed two resolutions. One is “**Resolution to Recommend Approval of RME to Rename School of Journalism to School of Journalism and Advertising.**” Also the Faculty Senators voted to **approve the FS President to sign and send a letter to Attorney General Garland** in the U.S. Department of Justice on the China Initiative and racial profiling in support of Stanford University’s letter. Our SIUC FS letter was sent off on November 10. For more information on these two resolutions, please contact our FS constituency office via facultysenate@siu.edu.
3. A **special meeting** for the FS Executive Council and the FS has been called to discuss student issues (e.g., the posthumous degree and other concerns from students) on November 30. For more information, please contact our FS constituency office via facultysenate@siu.edu .
4. The regular meeting for the FS Executive Council will be held on December 7 and the regular general FS meeting will be held on December 14. If you have anything important to be included as part of the FS agenda for discussion or decision, please send it to us (facultysenate@siu.edu) by December 2.

II. FACULTY-STUDENT FORUM ON NOVEMBER 18

Under the leadership of USG (Undergraduate Student Government) President Isaiah Overton, we held a town-hall meeting (or faculty-student forum) from 5:30pm to 7:30pm on November 18 both in the Student Center Auditorium. The meeting was also livestreamed on Zoom. The simple message was that we are here because of our students. Without students, there is no SIUC, no administration, or faculty or staff member. Thus, our students should come first. I invite you to view recording of the profound meeting on Youtube if you did not attend it. Here is the info: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fuMY0JKs2JM> . Thank you for your continuous care and support for our students.

III. UPDATE FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

COVID-19

- As of late November 2021, employee vaccination rate is 83% and student vaccination rate is 76%
- On campus testing continues to be available to all who are required to test weekly
- SIU is in contact with the Illinois Department of Public Health about the potential to host a vaccine booster clinic on campus but not firm plan has determined.
- Positive cases remain very low on campus

Enrollment and Retention

- During the first three weeks of registration for Spring, almost 60% of expected student registration is complete.
 - Early registration was encouraged through a \$500 bookstore voucher drawing. Three winners have been announced so far: Ramsey Woolard, Senior in Linguistics; Alexa Jacobs, graduate student in Agribusiness, and Gabriel Ngwe, doctoral student in Philosophy.
 - A college contest is being held to see who registers the highest percentage of their students. Currently, the College of Agriculture, Life and Physical Science is leading with the College of Business and Analytics and College of Health and Human Services a close second and third.
- The total number of students who have applied for next fall is up more than 25% over last year and so far, and we have admitted 76.5% (1,550) more students than at the same point last year. This is, in part, due to the state's move to the common application in addition to a more proactive and engaged admissions team.
- Other recruitment number highlights as compared to last year at this time:
 - On-campus transfer student application are level with last year
 - Off-campus transfer student application are up 62.5%
 - Graduate Student applications are up 12.6%
- The Professional Development Workshop for Recruitment and Retention Efforts saw about 150 participants across the admissions and retention spectrum. The sessions were productive and feedback was generally positive as we make plans for an annual fall meeting such as this. Follow up work being done to set targets for Fall 2022 recruitment and retention numbers.

Research updates

- Applications for the SIU Foundation Grant program (<https://siuf.org/grant/>) are now being accepted. Deadline for submission of these applications is January 14, 2022.
- Applications for the SIU REACH program will open December 6, 2021. Deadline for submission of these applications is January 28, 2022.
- Save the Date! The Annual Research & Creative Activities Forum is scheduled for April 14, 2022.

General updates

- A search for an AP position of a faculty ombudsperson is on-going.
- The Gray Associates contract is completed and we will be working on implementation of the services

- Search updates: The search for the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate School Dean and the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance will be extended. The Athletic Director interview process is underway.
- The final editing to the SIU Strategic Plan is being done now.

We wish you a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving! We are very thankful to you-our faculty members for your great service and commitment to our Students and the University!