

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

Overview

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I. A QUICK SUMMARY OF FS MATTERS IN SEPTEMBER

1. FS Meetings. The minutes for the FS meeting on July 13 were approved and are available at the website (<https://facultysenate.siu.edu/agenda-minutes/fs-minutes-07132021.pdf>). The FS met on Sept 14 and a copy of the meeting agenda is available online (<https://facultysenate.siu.edu/agenda-minutes/fs-agenda-09142021.pdf>). The meeting minutes will be available after the FS approves the minutes in October.

2. Dr. Lee has been accompanying Chancellor Lane and Provost Komarraju to visit Colleges and traditional academic units (as part of listening and learning tours physically) where all faculty and staff members and students are invited. So far, we have visited College of Engineering, Computing, Technology and Mathematics, College of Health and Human Sciences and University Library. Please stay tuned when your college sends our visiting schedule to you this semester.

3. The following RME documents were approved by our FS at the Sept 13 meeting: RME for Minor in Business Analytics; RME for Addition of Specialization in Financial Economics to the B.S. in Economics; RME for Specialization in International Studies; RME for Fashion Design and Merchandising; and RME to Eliminate Public Service Specialization in B.A. in Political Science.

4. The meeting for the FS Executive Council will be held on October 5 and the general FS meeting will be held on October 12. 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) in September.

II. FS APPROVED A RESOLUTION TO FORM AN AD HOC COMMITTEE

The following resolution was approved by the FS members at the meeting on July 13 (<https://facultysenate.siu.edu/agenda-minutes/fs-minutes-07132021.pdf>)

Resolution to Form an Ad Hoc Committee

WHEREAS to, in order to increase enrollment and academic excellence and to support the University's strategic plan and educational functions of the university, SIUC Chancellor Austin Lane has asked the Faculty Senate to review the current US News and World Report ranking of SIUC, and

WHEREAS, based on the Faculty Senate's Operating Paper (i.e., II-C-1-b), a special ad hoc committee to review SIUC's ranking can be formed to examine and help to improve SIUC's ranking and shall be dissolved in accord with a termination date set at their creation or upon the completion of their assignment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that an ad hoc committee to review and identify factors to improve SIUC's ranking be established in the Fall 2021 semester and will provide a final written report for adoption to the Faculty Senate; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the ad hoc committee be composed of representatives from the Executive Council of the Faculty Senate, at least six SIUC faculty members who are not members of the Faculty Senate and at least two undergraduate students.

III. FS PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT THE BOT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 16

Presentation to the BOT on Thursday, Sept 16 by Yueh-Ting Lee, SIUC Faculty Senate President (leey@siu.edu)

"Good Afternoon, Honorable SIU Board of Trustees, Distinguished Guests and other Attendees and Viewers:

I am here to make three brief remarks on behalf of the SIU Carbondale Faculty Senate.

First, our SIU Carbondale faculty members have been working very closely with our campus administration, other parties and constituencies to support campus safety practices and to comply with vaccination requirements. We are following the Governor's order to implement vaccination and testing policies. With the cautionary steps taken, we believe that our campus is relatively safe.

Second, our faculty members and faculty senators have a vested interest in student enrollment and student learning. This year our enrollment has moved in a promising direction. But we still face many challenges as we strive to maintain this upward trend long-term, including more diversity or underserved student enrollment, international enrollment and other non-traditional student enrollment.

Finally and most importantly, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to you as BOT, President Mahony and Chancellor Lane for your continuous support for our faculty members. Based on the feedback from many SIUC faculty members, we also respectfully ask you BOT, President Mahony and Chancellor Lane to consider investing more in our current faculty (e.g., more raise) and also hiring more new faculty members as a top strategic priority in the future. It is our talented faculty members from diverse backgrounds, who help students in their academic success, and who make our SIUC an outstanding doctoral research university nationally and internationally.

Thank you so much for your time! "

IV. UPDATE FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE ON CAMPUS COVID TESTING REQUIREMENTS ON SEPTEMBER 22

"Status update on vaccinations and testing

As of yesterday, approximately 73% of our employees are verified as being fully vaccinated. For students, that number is 53%. We continue to accept information to verify those who are full vaccinated. Until an employee or student is verified as being fully vaccinated, they are required to participate in weekly COVID testing.

Earlier today, more than 500 employees and 3,400 students received notice they were not in compliance with the weekly testing requirement. These individuals are required to be tested by Monday and provide such proof to the university. The on-campus testing site in Grinnell Hall is open today until 6 p.m. and Thursday until 2 p.m. Those being tested need to bring a valid ID and insurance information.

As a reminder, there are real, impactful consequences for students and employees for being non-compliant. Please see the "Accountability" section below to learn more.

Hourly employees are required to use the on-campus site during their shifts, and supervisors must make reasonable accommodations to work schedules accordingly. We strongly recommend employees to use the on-campus testing service unless you are symptomatic, at which point you should contact your health care provider.

For those needing to use off-campus testing options, please send an email to pandemicinfo@siu.edu to request information on the procedures, along with ensuring your test meets the requirements of the governor's executive order.

Accountability for students and employees

Undoubtedly, a critical aspect of the Executive Order is compliance. The university is required to either confirm an employee is fully vaccinated or ensure they are participating in the weekly testing process. The Executive Order includes in Section 4, part c, the following (emphasis added): An Institution of Higher Education shall exclude Higher Education Personnel and Higher Education Students who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 from the premises unless they comply with the testing requirements specified in Subsection (d).

While we anticipate most students and employees will provide proof of their vaccination or participate in the weekly testing as required by the Executive Order, we also recognize some people will not. In these cases, the university will be required to take steps to seek compliance by the student or employee, which could be as easy as submitting an accepted COVID test result. That could be a result from the on-campus testing site or one from a community or commercial site so long as it meets the requirements as described in the Executive Order (<https://www.illinois.gov/government/executive-orders/executive-order.executive-order-number-20.2021.html>).

For **students** who are not compliant, the university will refer them to the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for disciplinary action, which will include disciplinary probation and potentially being suspended from campus.

For **employees** who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement, the university will require the employee to prove compliance with the Executive Order before being able to return to university

property. As such, these employees will be considered on “absence without pay” status until they are in compliance and able to return to campus to perform their duties. In addition, the university will implement the appropriate disciplinary process to determine whether and how to address the employee’s refusal to vaccinate or test as required.

For employees who are covered by a collective bargaining agreement, the university will follow the required steps for disciplinary proceedings as provided in the agreement. However, again, due to the Executive Order, employees who fail to comply with the Executive Order will not be permitted on university property and will be considered on “absence without pay” status until they are in compliance and able to return to campus to perform their duties.

Please note that for all employees, the remote work policy is not applicable to avoid the requirements of the Executive Order.

While we are doing everything in our power to make this process work as smooth as possible, the situation is ever-changing. Please know that we will address unique situations case-by-case as able. We also work diligently to keep records as updated as possible and if a student or employee is incorrectly listed on a non-compliant list for testing we will work to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. Currently, as we anticipate more than 4,000 individuals per week who need to go through the testing process we know that we will not be able to answer every email or address every concern as quickly as we’d like. Please be patient with the process. Employees are asked to remain in communication with their supervisors who can also assist in resolving issues. Students should work directly with the Dean of Students Office on their matters.”

**We wish you a happy and safe Fall Semester!
Thank you for your service and commitment to SIU and our Students**