

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

Overview

- I. Why Shared Governance? Why Serve for our Faculty?
- II. Elected FS Officers, Co-chairs and Chairs in 2024-2025
- III. Welcome Newly Elected FS Members Aboard
- IV. A Quick Summary of FS Matters on May 14, 2024 and Heads up for July's Meeting
- V. Updates from the Chancellor's Office

I. WHY SHARED GOVERNANCE? WHY SERVE FOR OUR FACULTY?

Why Do We Advocate for Shared Governance? Why Do We Serve Our Faculty?

Yueh-Ting Lee, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Faculty Senate President

In American higher education, shared governance has become a part of institutional or organizational culture. On July 15, 2021, as the Faculty Senate President, I gave my first, but brief, presentation at the meeting of our SIU Board of Trustees about what we meant by shared governance. Shared governance means accountability/responsibility, communication and collaboration, transparency and respect. We are all held accountable and responsible for our words, actions or decisions, including the elected governor, (who appoints) the Board of Trustees, (who appoints) the president, chancellors, (who appoint) other administrators (deans, chairs/directors to whom the faculty report). Faculty members are held accountable as well. While we may disagree on certain issues, we agree to disagree and must be willing to collaborate with others to work toward realization of the same university mission and strategic directions. Communication (information sharing) and transparency help to build trust. This is independent of one's status in academia. It does not matter whether we are administrators, faculty, staff, or students. We should respect each other. Part of our purpose here is to serve for students, as well as, members of the community at large.

Why do we Faculty Senators serve our faculty? There is a transient nature to the academic environment where students come and move on to careers once they graduate; administrators will sometimes leave their administrative roles or move to a new university. Still many faculty stay at an institution such as ours to build and foster their own careers. Further, faculty members play the most important role in our student success, institutional reputation, knowledge dissemination and productivity, research/creativity, discovery, and local and global community engagement. Faculty Senate is the legitimate body to advocate for shared governance, for the faculty's interest and welfare, budget, university curricular and academic policies, and other university-related important business matters.

Two important notes are in order with respect to serving for the faculty. First, it has been approximately 60 years since SIU Carbondale's Faculty Senate began. To reiterate, it is the legitimate constituency for our faculty with the longest history at SIU. I am very honored and humbled to serve as the FS president. I believe in servant leadership, shared governance, student success and faculty

excellence. I strongly advocate for the faculty's interest and welfare and surely support the University's mission and strategic goals.

As a second note, I wish to express my great appreciation to Dr. Bethany Rader, an associate professor in microbiology, for her outstanding service to our Faculty Senate in the past years. Dr. Bethany did an excellent job as the FS vice president while I served as the FS president in 2021-2023. During 2023-24, she did a fantastic job as the FS president. In this newsletter, we extend our gratitude to Dr. Bethany Rader for her outstanding service for our faculty and Faculty Senate in the past years! Finally, I wish all our faculty members have a great summer and stay cool!

II. ELECTED FS OFFICERS, CO-CHAIRS AND CHAIRS IN 2024-2025

On April 30, 2024, the FS Members elected three officers. They are: Yueh-Ting Lee, FS President, Amber Pond, FS Vice President, and Michael Hylin, FS Secretary. The following senators were elected co-chairs or chairs and were approved by the entire FS membership at the May 14th FS meeting. They are: Jennifer Sherry and Gary Apgar as co-chairs (Committee on Committees), Jeffrey Punske as Chair (Undergraduate Education and Policy Committee), Rachel Whaley and Khalid Meksem as co-chairs (Budget Committee), Dale Aschemann & Gary Apgar as co-chairs (Faculty Status and Welfare Committee), and Christopher Wienke as chair (Governance Committee). Congratulations to those chairs and co-chairs! We appreciate them for their voluntary service for the FS and the faculty.

III. WELCOME NEWLY ELECTED FACULTY SENATORS ABOARD

We just elected six new faculty senators. We welcome them aboard! They are: Christopher Chiasson (College of Liberal Arts), Cinzia Padovani (College of Arts and Media), Jennifer Sherry (College of Health and Human Science), Jun Qin (College of Engineering, Computing, Technology and Mathematics), Laurel Jean Fredrickson (College of Arts and Media), and Timothy Hurley (College of Business and Analytics). Congratulations to those new senators. We appreciate their service!

IV. A QUICK SUMMARY OF FS MATTERS ON MAY 14, 2024 AND HEADS UP FOR JULY'S MEETING

1. The FS met on May 14, 2024. All meeting information, after it is approved by the FS, is available online via the FS website (<https://facultysenate.siu.edu/agenda-minutes/index.php>). The minutes for the two meetings in April that were approved on May 14, 2024, are also available there.
2. At the meeting on May 14, the FS membership approved the committee assignments and elected committee chairs and co-chairs as reported above.
3. Heads up for our next FS meeting: It is on July 9, 2024. If you have anything important to put on our July meeting agenda, please let us know by June 15 via email (facultysenate@siu.edu).

V. UPDATES FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

May 22, 2024

RECRUITMENT, RETENTIONS AND STUDENT SUCCESS

- Fall Break for students is Friday, October 18, 2024. There are no undergraduate or graduate classes that day and no assignments are due.
- The Recruitment & Retention Retreat will be Wednesday, October 16, 2024, in the Student Center.
 - While student success is focused across all student populations, we will pay particular attention to the first-time, full-time fall 2021 cohort as their four-year graduation date is spring 2025.
- The Enrollment Management Retreat will be Wednesday, November 13, 2024, in the Student Center.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research is pleased to announce six Undergraduate Research Awards under the "Susan C. Thrasher Undergraduate Research Fund." Awardees will work with a faculty mentor on a research project during the 2024-25 academic year. The award winners are:

Chloe Dennison is pursuing a degree in the Science of Nursing and will be researching "The Effects of Vaping on Youth Mental Health in Rural Schools and Educational Strategies to Promote Optimal Health."

Lisa Echols, pursuing a degree in Physiology, will work with Dr. Diana Sarko on "Quantifying Changes in Neuronal Density in Somatosensory and Limbic Brain Networks Following Tooth Loss in the Naked Mole-Rat."

Prisha Kittu, a student in Physiology in the School of Medicine, will use the award for the project "Exploring the Mechanical Developments of the Pituitary Gland."

Cohen Poe, who is studying Music Education, will be mentored by Dr. Rossana Cauti in the project "Pre-College Music Education in Southern Illinois Versus Europe: A Comparative Analysis for Implementation of New Teaching Methods at SIU."

Joseph Siegelman, a student in Computer Science, will work with Dr. Anas ALSobeh in "AI for Network Security: Enhancing User Experience with Embedded Education."

Finally, Yin Sun who is pursuing degrees in Communication Disorders & Sciences and in Linguistics, as well as a minor in Psychology, will investigate "Semantic and Phonological Representations in Inner Speech."

ADEI, PARTNERSHIPS AND BRANDING

University Communications and Marketing (UCOMM) is increasing support for ADEI enrollment management recruiting and awareness activities in Chicago. These include the Bud Billiken Parade and several other branding awareness opportunities reaching hundreds of thousands of Chicago area residents.

UCOMM is also planning to launch a new brand messaging platform that will be used in addition to “Imagine.” The team will also begin integrating programs and centers of excellence into digital and other marketing campaigns to elevate awareness of the institution’s points of pride.

We wish you a great summer. Thank you so much for your service and commitment to SIU and our students!