

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

Overview

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- II. Resolution to Recommend Approval of the Revised SIUC Policy for Awarding Posthumous Degrees
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I. A QUICK SUMMARY OF FS MATTERS ON JULY 9, 2024 AND HEADS UP FOR SEPTEMBER'S MEETING

1. The FS met on September 10, 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 July 9 meeting that were approved in Sept. are also available there.
2. We invited the following groups as our special guests: Vice Chancellor Matt Kupec and Associate Vice Chancellor Jeffrey Gleim gave a talk about the fundraising support for students and professors; Center for Teaching Excellence Director Craig Engstrom talked about guidelines/specific tips for artificial intelligence policies and teaching effectiveness; and Dr. Michelle Kibby gave us a brief update as our faculty ombudsperson. Their presentation information is available upon request via email (facultysenate@siu.edu).
3. Heads up for our next FS meeting: It is on October 15, 2024. If you have anything important to put on our October meeting agenda, please let us know by September 30, 2024 via email (facultysenate@siu.edu).

II. RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE REVISED SIUC POLICY FOR AWARDING POSTHUMOUS DEGREES

WHEREAS the SIUC Awarding Posthumous Degrees policy (<https://policies.siu.edu/other-policies/chapter1/posthumous-degrees.php>) has not been updated since 1974; and

WHEREAS the current SIUC Awarding Posthumous Degrees policy lacks benchmark criteria for issuing posthumous degrees; and

WHEREAS the lack of benchmarks for degree conferrals has led to confusion and inconsistencies in posthumous degree evaluation; and

WHEREAS grieving friends and families of the deceased student may not feel comfortable receiving a posthumous degree at a commencement ceremony; and

WHEREAS the current SIUC Awarding Posthumous Degrees policy committee was charged by the administration to update the current SIUC Awarding Posthumous Degrees policy to include benchmark criteria for nomination and approval of posthumous degrees, and procedures for issuing the degree outside of commencement; and

WHEREAS the revised policy is similar to posthumous policies from a diversity of US Universities and Colleges;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senators recommend approval of revised SIUC Policy (see below) for awarding posthumous degrees.

Policy Revision:

Degrees may be awarded posthumously to any student who, at the time of death, has completed the necessary work for a degree as outlined in this policy. Each university shall file guidelines in the office of the president for implementing this policy (SIU Board of Trustees Policies 1. 4. D. 1. c.).

Southern Illinois University Carbondale has established guidelines as follows for recommending the posthumous awarding of degrees.

I. Undergraduate

An undergraduate degree may be awarded posthumously when the student has completed approximately 75% of the requirements of their degree program, is currently enrolled and/or actively pursuing the degree and is in good standing with the institution at the time of death. This determination rests with the Dean of the degree-granting program.

II. Graduate

A graduate degree may be awarded posthumously when the student has completed approximately 75% of the requirements of their degree program, is currently enrolled and/or actively pursuing the degree and is in good standing with the institution at the time of death. For graduate degrees requiring a research project, thesis or dissertation, the student should have made substantial progress toward the completion of the above as supported by the student's advisor and/or advisory committee. PhD students must have been admitted to candidacy. This determination rests with the Graduate Dean in consultation with the administrative officers and faculty of the degree program in which the student had been enrolled.

Nomination/Approval Process:

1. Anyone may identify a student for a posthumous degree. To begin the formal process, a request must be made to the Dean of the appropriate college. The Dean of the college in

which the student was enrolled will recommend the student for a posthumous degree in the form of a formal written request to the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The request must include the name and ID number of the student, the degree/program plan to be awarded, a copy of a completed graduation clearance form and the recommended semester for degree conferral.

2. If supported by the Provost, they will submit the recommendation to the Chancellor for formal approval. If supported by the Chancellor,
 - a. The Chancellor will notify the Registrar's office or the Graduate School via memo to begin the process for degree posting. The Registrar's office will notify Events and Outreach for degree conferral arrangements.
 - b. The immediate family will be informed of the University's decision and desire to recognize their student with this honor.

Award Considerations:

1. The Registrar or the Graduate School will mail the diploma to a family member or, if preferred, provide it to the Dean or another appropriate university official for presentation at a private gathering of the university, college and/or school's choosing. Events and Outreach will assist in coordinating this setting and conferral.
2. A posthumous degree will be printed in the commencement program within the appropriate college section.
3. The statement "awarded posthumously" will be printed on the student's academic record, but not on the diploma.

Exceptions:

In special circumstances, an exception to the Posthumous Degree Policy may be made by the University Chancellor. Such requests should follow the process outlined here in the policy.

V. UPDATES FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

September 23, 2024

Enrollment

Enrollment has risen for the second year in a row for the first time since 2000. And the freshman class increased for the fifth consecutive year. Overall enrollment for fall 2024 grew 3.8% to 11,790, or 431 more students than last year. This is the highest overall boost in the number of students since 1991 and the highest percentage increase since 1987.

The university welcomed 1,758 new freshmen this fall, 137 students or 8.45% more than 2023. Cumulatively, the increase in the freshman class is 69.5% since 2019. And these students are well prepared: New students with a GPA of 3.0 or better have increased 8.4% over last year.

Efforts to help students become alumni include strengthening the first-year experience, launching the HEROES program to help students meet basic needs and reinstating the Dr. Seymour Bryson Future Scholars summer program. Advisers also proactively reach out to students when they see early signs of the need for assistance.

The student body is also diverse, with about 9% more Black students, about 12% more Hispanic students and about 2.5% more international students. Undergraduate enrollment rose about 4.5%, and enrollment in graduate and professional programs is up about 2.3%.

New transfer student enrollment increased about 2% to 1,255, and 47% have GPAs above 3.0. Part of that increase can be attributed to Saluki Step Ahead, which allows graduates of partner community colleges to earn their SIU Carbondale bachelor's degrees online. Enrollment in Saluki Step Ahead increased 111%, including about 62% in the Southern Illinois region.

Celebrate our success on Oct. 2 - The university's recent successes, which include a 3.8% enrollment increase for fall 2024, will be celebrated with a campus appreciation cookout from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2, between the Student Services Building Pavilion and Faner Hall.

Retention Retreat

On October 16th we are hosting the 2nd annual Retention Summit. We will break down the data on retention, progression and graduation rates and then collaborate on strategies to improve our service to our students.

Research

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research at SIUC has partnered with Hanover Research to provide proposal review and revision services to faculty members seeking external funding. Hanover Research has extensive experience supporting both complex multi-PI and individual grants submitted to federal agencies like the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Defense (DoD), as well as private and non-profit foundations. This partnership aims to improve the quality of grant proposals and increase the success rate of funding awards. For more detail visit <https://vcresearch.siu.edu/>.

Recent Research News

[\\$500K SIU study focuses on removing 'forever chemicals' from water](#) - Life itself springs from the ground in the form of water, and a researcher at Southern Illinois University Carbondale is seeking to eliminate PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals," from this life-giving substance by using nanoparticles and light.

[Students led by a Southern Illinois University Carbondale researcher](#) may have the rare opportunity to present their research on using microalgae to grow crops in regolith, like the surface of the moon, to scientists and other professionals.

In FY24, SIUC faculty received \$77.8 million in Research, Training, and Service-based grants and contracts. We also had expenditures totaling \$76.0 million: faculty at SIU Carbondale expended \$53.9 million, while the School of Medicine in Springfield had \$22.1 million in expended externally awarded funds.

ADEI

Diversity Week

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Anti-racism, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ADEI) hosted a wonderful Diversity Week on campus August 26-30. The highly attended events included NAACP Voting Registration, Women's Equality Day Luncheon, Global Inclusion, Safe Zone Training and the "Diversity is" Project.

Also held were welcome back meetings for the Hispanic/Latino Faculty and Staff Council, the LGBTQ Faculty and Staff Council, the Black Faculty and Staff Council, and the Asian American Pacific Islander Faculty and Staff Council

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month is in full swing through October 15. The theme this year is "Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future by being Unified and Together." There are an incredible number of activities for all audiences listed on the [Student Multicultural Resource Center website](#).

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