

University Planning and Budget Council

Approved Minutes

SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Third Floor Conference Room, Lovejoy Library

10:00 am

Members Present

Keith Becherer

Heidy Cuervo

Anne DeToye (ex officio)

Candace Hall

Kelly Jo Hendricks

Rex Jackson

Doug James

Kevin Leonard

Kimberly McClellan

Jonathan Pettibone (Chair)

Laurie Rice

Jeffrey Sabby

Michael Shaw

Ian Toberman

Kevin Tucker

Jim Wulfsong

Members Absent

Charles Berger

Barrett Larkin

James Minor (ex officio)

Mary Anne Pettit

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am

II. Recognition of the Public

There were no members of the public.

III. Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

IV. Old Business

- a. Program Prioritization Proposal: Department of Physics – UPBC Chair Jon Pettibone went over the Phase One timeline and how we are expected to proceed and offer feedback. Phase II proposals are expected to be presented next semester.

Kevin Tucker, Associate Professor in the Chemistry Department, circulated an open letter on behalf of faculty members of the Chemistry Department meant for Dean Leonard and Provost Cobb, expressing their concerns regarding the proposal to eliminate the Department of Physics and place the remaining Physics

faculty among the Chemistry Department. The open letter stated that the original proposal had serious flaws, such as: negative impact on quality of education; negative impact on the community; negative impact on the teacher-scholar model; negative impact on the future funding opportunities; negative impact on laboratory management and safety; negative impact on administrative organization of the Chemistry department; and negative impact on budget.

Kim McClellan asked a clarifying question—if Physics courses during the teach out period are under enrolled, will SIUE continue to honor them and have the class despite a small class size? Per Dean Leonard, yes.

While the conversation in the room leaned toward support of the proposal, many members wanted to express the problems with the proposal and how it was written. The response was worked on; it's available on Teams to continue adding feedback. First paragraph: *The University Planning and Budget Council recognizes the enrollment concerns and related budgetary realities presented by the Administration in this proposal. We also recognize that there will be significant cost savings to the University involved with closing the program, even with the cost associated with the restructuring. We, however, have recommendations for how this proposal should be revised to better support the students, faculty, and staff of the University. Physics as a content area, even if not permitted to move forward as a baccalaureate degree, is a vital academic pursuit that must continue to be supported and nurtured here at SIUE. As such, the plan for supporting Physics as an ongoing concern must be crafted collaboratively and with care by the faculty and staff who are to be entrusted with it.*

V. New Business

- a. Program Prioritization Proposal: Specialization of Art History – Due to time constraints, this item was tabled to our next special meeting.

VI. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, April 14, 10:00 am, Third Floor Conference Room, Lovejoy Library **(SPECIAL MEETING)**
- b. Thursday, April 24, 2:30 pm, Third Floor Conference Room, Lovejoy Library
- c. Tuesday, May 6, 10:00 am, Peck Hall, Room 3302 **(SPECIAL MEETING)**

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am

Next Meeting: ***Monday, April 14, 10:00 am, Third Floor Conference Room, Lovejoy Library (SPECIAL MEETING)***

Submitted by Michael Tadlock Jackson, Office of the Provost