

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Mississippi/Illinois Room, Morris University Center
Zoom Meeting ID 989 5051 4481
September 2, 2021 – 2:30pm
APPROVED MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 2:33pm on Thursday, September 2, 2021 by President E. Duff Wrobbel.

Present: E. Duff Wrobbel, Jingyi Jia, Laurie Rice, Robert Bitter, Kevin Cannon, Heidy Carruthers, Kim Carter, Wai Cheah, Siv (Sue) Chung Chhay, Ivy Cooper, Igor Crk, Kay Gaehle, Chaya Gopalan, Valerie Griffin, Mitchell Haas, Michael Hair, James Hanlon, Cedrick Harville II, Keith Hecht, Jennifer Hernandez, Christienne Hinz, Amy Hubert, Shrikant Jategaonkar, Heather Johnson, Stephen Kerber (ex officio), Angela Kim, Joshua Kryah, Soondo Kweon, Yuliang Liu, Nima Lotfi Yagin, Yun Lu, Adriana Martinez, Cassandra Maynard, Barb McCracken, Kelley McGuire, J. Thad Meeks, Shadrack Msengi, Ann Popkess (ex officio), Corey Ragsdale, Alison Reiheld, Johanna Schmitz, Debbie Sellnow-Richmond, Kamran Shavezipur, Michael Shaw, Walter Siganga, Jayme Swanke, Ezra Temko, Carrie Vogler, Suranjan Weeraratne, Susan Wiediger (ex officio), Jie Ying, Xudong Yu, Jennifer Zuercher

Absent: Charles Berger (ex officio), R. Duane Douglas (ex officio), Kathy Mora, Edward Navarre, Dan Welch, Prince Wells (ex officio)

Excused: Carole Frick, Ram Madupalli

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Welcome and Faculty Senate Orientation:

New Senators were welcomed and introduced. Council meetings will help on-board new people with the Faculty Senate structure and operations.

Announcements:

Announcements were reviewed as listed on the agenda.

It was noted that virtual attendance for meetings that fall under the Open Meetings Act (OMA) is dependent upon the Governor issuing disaster proclamations. These have been issued month-to-month, and the current order is effective through September 20.

Steve Kerber was appointed to the Executive Director of Marketing and Communications Search Committee. Heidy Carruthers, Steve Kerber, and Nima Lotfi Yagin were appointed to the R2 Committee DPU Working Groups. John Foster was appointed to the Parking and Traffic Committee. Jennifer Miller, Anne Powell, Thad Meeks, and Kevin Stein were appointed to the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee

(ICAC). Volunteers are still needed for the Committee for Higher Administrator Performance Appraisal (CHAPA) and the Homecoming Committee.

Consideration of Minutes:

The minutes for the May 6, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

Action Items:

There were no action items.

Unfinished Business:

The Rules and Procedures Council was recognized for their work on the reorganization of the Faculty Senate. If the constitutional amendment is approved, there will be additional revisions of the Bylaws to incorporate it. The All Faculty Meeting in 2019 discussed shared governance and the organization of the Faculty Senate, and a working group with representatives from each Council was put together. A proposal was put forward in March 2021 and sent to the Councils for further discussion, and the Curriculum Council also looked at the undergraduate review process. Changes will be moved on in pieces to make the process more manageable, and the goal is to have all changes implemented effective next year; operating papers will also have to be adjusted before the start of next year to incorporate the restructuring.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Reports from Standing Committees:

The University Planning and Budget Committee (UPBC) and the Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council (IBHE-FAC) reports were posted to Teams and are attached.

There was a discussion about non-represented faculty being promised that they would receive the same increases as represented faculty, however that did not happen for FY21. They were excluded from the unionization vote. Wrobbel and Popkess will raise the question and bring information back to the Senate.

Reports from Council Chairs:

Carter and Reiheld will be co-chairing the Faculty Development Council. Information will be sent to Council members about meetings and goals. They are looking to invigorate the Teaching Excellence Award Committee (TEAC) and the Excellence in Undergraduate Education (EUE) program.

Hecht reminded the Senate that changes to admissions criteria made SIUE a test-optional university. Enrollment Management is monitoring it, but it will be about two years before the impact is seen. They are also considering a switch to a holistic admissions process.

The Welfare and Governance Council is going to look at the issue of junior faculty being over-burdened with service work. They will explore ways of quantifying service loads.

The Graduate Council is going to see if some of the COVID money could be earmarked for graduate students to help pay down debt.

Past President Rice participated in meetings over the summer, however most of the information is now out of date. There were more first semester students than anticipated when teaching sessions were set, which resulted in a shortage of instructors for the First Semester Transition course. It was opened for staff with required degrees to teach sections of the course as a short-term fix. The General Education Committee will look at the policy for how to handle the issue if it comes up again in the future.

President-Elect Jia asked Senators to pass information and proposals up through their Councils, which brings the information to the Executive Committee.

President Wrobbel asked Senators to report out information from Faculty Senate to their units, especially as it concerns the reorganization.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:39 pm.

Submitted by Anne Hunter, University Governance

FACULTY SENATE MEETING - AGENDA
Mississippi/Illinois Room, Morris University Center
September 2, 2021 – 2:30 PM

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT***
- III. WELCOME & FACULTY SENATE ORIENTATION**
- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - a. Board of Trustees Meeting – September 16 @ SIUE School of Dental Medicine
 - b. All Faculty Meeting – September 30 at 2:30pm
 - c. Chancellor Search Town Hall – October 1 from 12:00pm-1:30pm
 - d. Appointments:
 - i. Executive Director of Marketing & Communications Search Committee
 - ii. DPU Working Group Appointments
 - iii. Parking & Traffic Appointment
 - iv. Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Appointments
- V. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**
 - a. May 6, 2021
- VI. ACTION ITEMS**
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - a. Faculty Senate Reorganization
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS**
- IX. REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**
 - a. UPBC – Ann Popkess
 - b. IBHE Faculty Advisory Council – Susan Wiediger
- X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL CHAIRS**
 - a. Faculty Development Council – Kim Carter & Alison Reiheld
 - b. Curriculum Council – Keith Hecht
 - c. Rules & Procedures Council – Kamran Shavezpur
 - d. Welfare and Governance Council – Robert Bitter & Igor Crk
 - e. Graduate Council – Barbara McCracken
 - f. Past-President – Laurie Rice
 - g. President-Elect – Jane Jia
 - h. President – Duff Wrobbel
- XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Faculty Senate Meeting Thursday, October 7 at 2:30 p.m.

*The Faculty Senate is accepting public comments via email to encourage social distancing and safety. Submitted comments will be read aloud during the meeting and added to the minutes. Please submit any comments to the University Governance Office at anhunte@siue.edu prior to the start of the meeting.

Name	School	Department	Council	Office	Box Number	Phone	E-mail	Term Expiration
Berger, Charles	Arts and Sciences	English Language & Literature	UPBC	PH 2216	1431	618-650-3176	cbberger@siue.edu	ex officio (2022)
Bitter, Robert	Dental Medicine	School of Dental Medicine	Welfare and Governance	Alton 285	1111	618-474-7037	rbitter@siue.edu	2022
Cannon, Kevin	Arts and Sciences	Criminal Justice Studies	Curriculum	PH 1231	1455	618-650-3295	kcannon@siue.edu	2023
Caruthers, Heidy	Arts and Sciences	Foreign Languages & Literature	Curriculum	PH 2321	1432	618-650-2016	hcaruth@siue.edu	2022
Carter, Kim	Arts and Sciences	Social Work	Faculty Development	PH 1306	1450	618-650-5645	kmcart@siue.edu	2022
Cheah, Wai	Arts and Sciences	Applied Communication Studies	Graduate	AH 3122	1772	618-650-5016	wcheah@siue.edu	2024
Chhay, Sivi(Sue) Chung	Dental Medicine	School of Dental Medicine	Rules and Procedures	Alton 263	1111	618-474-7228	schhay@siue.edu	2024
Cooper, Iw	Arts and Sciences	Art and Design	Welfare and Governance	ADW 2128	1774	618-650-3107	icopper@siue.edu	2024
Ork, Igor	Engineering	Computer Science	Welfare and Governance	EB 2053	1656	618-650-2341	icrk@siue.edu	2023
Douglas, R. Duane	Dental Medicine	School of Dental Medicine	UPBC	Alton 284	1111	618-650-7065	rdougl@siue.edu	ex officio (2023)
Frick, Carole	Arts and Sciences	Historical Studies	Rules and Procedures	PH 3218	1454	618-650-3237	cfrick@siue.edu	2023
Gaehle, Kay	School of Nursing	Primary Care & Health Systems	Graduate	AH 2230	1066	618-650-5836	kgaehle@siue.edu	2022
Gopalan, Chaya	Edu. Health, Human Behavior	Primary Care and Health Systems	Curriculum	VC 2612	1126	618-650-5372	cgopalan@siue.edu	2022
Griffin, Valerie	School of Nursing	Family Health & Community Health	Welfare and Governance	AH 3327	1066	618-650-3392	vgriff@siue.edu	2023
Haas, Mitchell	Library & Information Services	Library & Information Services	Faculty Development	LB 1051	1063	618-650-2766	mhaas@siue.edu	2024
Hair, Michael	Business	Management and Marketing	Graduate	FH 2125	1100	618-650-2586	mhair@siue.edu	2024
Hanlon, James	Arts and Sciences	Geography	Rules and Procedures	AH 1411	1459	618-650-2943	jhanlon@siue.edu	2024
Harville II, Cedrick	Edu. Health, Human Behavior	Applied Health	Welfare and Governance	VC 2604	1126	618-650-2876	chaville@siue.edu	2022
Hecht, Keith	School of Pharmacy	School of Pharmacy	Curriculum	UP 1130H	2000	618-650-5953	khecht@siue.edu	2022
Hernandez, Jennifer	Edu. Health, Human Behavior	Teaching and Learning	Curriculum	FH 3130	1122	618-650-3434	jhernan@siue.edu	2023
Hinz, Christienne	Arts and Sciences	Historical Studies	Graduate	PH 2221	1454	618-650-2414	chinz@siue.edu	2023
Hubert, Amy	Arts and Sciences	Biological Sciences	Curriculum	SLW 1170	1651	618-650-3406	ahubert@siue.edu	2023
Jategaonkar, Shrikant	Business	Economics & Finance	Curriculum	AH 3141	1102	618-650-5792	sjatega@siue.edu	2024
Jia, Jingli	Business	Economics & Finance	President-Elect	AH 3143	1102	618-650-2980	jia@siue.edu	2022
Johnson, Heather	Arts and Sciences	English Language & Literature	Graduate	PH 0220	1431	618-650-3190	heathcj@siue.edu	2023
Kerber, Stephen	Library & Information Services	Library & Information Services	UPBC	LB 0013	1063	618-650-2665	skerber@siue.edu	ex officio (2023)
Kim, Angela	Arts and Sciences	Music	Welfare and Governance	DH 2106	1771	618-650-2902	akim@siue.edu	2022
Kryah, Joshua	Arts and Sciences	English Language & Literature	Curriculum	PH 2223	1431	618-650-3541	jkryah@siue.edu	2022
Kweton, Scondo	Engineering	Mechanical & Mechatronics Engineering	Graduate	EB 3155	1805	618-650-2820	skweton@siue.edu	2022

Liu, Yuliang	Edu. Health, Human Behavior	Educational Leadership	Curriculum	AH 1109	1125	618-650-3293	ylu@siue.edu	2024
Lodi, Yaghi, Nima	Engineering	Mechanical & Mechatronics Engineering	Curriculum	EB 3075	1805	618-650-5180	nloidi@siue.edu	2022
Lu, Yun	Arts and Sciences	Chemistry	Rules and Procedures	SLW 3210	1652	618-650-3563	yulu@siue.edu	2023
Madupalli, Ram	Business	Management and Marketing	Welfare and Governance	FH 2126	1100	618-650-2701	rmadupa@siue.edu	2022
Martinez, Adriana	Arts and Sciences	Environmental Sciences	Faculty Development	SLW 2210	1099	618-650-5655	admarte@siue.edu	2024
Maynard, Cassandra	School of Pharmacy	School of Pharmacy	Welfare and Governance	UP 0220	2000	618-650-5950	cmaynar@siue.edu	2023
McCracken, Barbara	Dental Medicine	School of Dental Medicine	Graduate	Alton 285	1111	618-474-7208	bmcra@siue.edu	2022
McGuire, Kelley	School of Nursing	Primary Care & Health Systems	Curriculum	AH 2117	1066	618-650-3956	kahumph@siue.edu	2023
Meeks, J. Thad	Edu. Health, Human Behavior	Psychology	Welfare and Governance	AH 0126	1121	618-650-3659	jmeeks@siue.edu	2022
Mora, Kathy	Edu. Health, Human Behavior	Applied Health	Graduate	VC 2616	1126	618-650-3252	kmora@siue.edu	2024
Moeng, Shadrack	Edu. Health, Human Behavior	Teaching and Learning	Faculty Development	FH 3138	1122	618-650-3442	shadrack@siue.edu	2024
Navarro, Ed	Arts and Sciences	Chemistry	UPBC	SLW 3130	1652	618-650-2076	enavarro@siue.edu	ex officio (2022)
Popkess, Ann	School of Nursing	Primary Care & Health Systems	UPBC	AH 2117	1066	618-650-3934	apopkes@siue.edu	ex officio
Ragdale, Corey	Arts and Sciences	Anthropology	Curriculum	PH 0402	1451	618-650-2933	cragda@siue.edu	2023
Reiheld, Alison	Arts and Sciences	Philosophy	Faculty Development	PH 2208	1433	618-650-2574	areihel@siue.edu	2023
Rice, Laurie	Arts and Sciences	Political Science	Past President	PH 3220	1453	618-650-2075	larice@siue.edu	2022
Schmitz, Johanna	Arts and Sciences	Theater & Dance	Curriculum	DH 1037	1777	618-650-3133	johasch@siue.edu	2023
Sellnow-Richmond, Debbie	Arts and Sciences	Applied Communication Studies	Curriculum	AH 3110	1772	618-650-3090	dsellnow@siue.edu	2023
Shavezpur, Kamran	Engineering	Mechanical & Mechatronics Engineering	Rules and Procedures	EB 3045	1805	618-650-2884	mshavez@siue.edu	2023
Shaw, Michael	Arts and Sciences	Chemistry	Graduate	SLW 3120	1652	618-650-3579	mshaw@siue.edu	2024
Sjanga, Walter	School of Pharmacy	School of Pharmacy	Graduate	U2 2204	2000	618-650-5135	wsjanga@siue.edu	2022
Swanika, Jayme	Arts and Sciences	Social Work	Graduate – at large	PH 1307D	1450	618-650-5976	jswanika@siue.edu	2023
Temko, Tara	Arts and Sciences	Sociology	Rules and Procedures	PH 1230	1455	618-650-3713	ttemko@siue.edu	2022
Vogler, Carrie	School of Pharmacy	School of Pharmacy	Faculty Development	U2 220	2000	618-650-5164	cvogler@siue.edu	2024
Weeraratne, Suranjan	Arts and Sciences	Political Science	Welfare and Governance	PH 3227	1453	618-650-2637	sweerat@siue.edu	2022
Welch, Dan	Dental Medicine	School of Dental Medicine	Faculty Development	Alton 286	1111	618-474-7030	dawelch@siue.edu	2023
Wells, Prince	Arts and Sciences	Music	UPBC	DH 2107	1771	618-650-5038	pwells@siue.edu	ex officio (2022)
Wiediger, Susan	Arts and Sciences	Chemistry	IBHE-FAC	SLW 3160	1652	618-650-3088	swiedig@siue.edu	ex officio
Wrobbel, E Duff	Arts and Sciences	Applied Communication Studies	President	AH 3118	1772	618-650-3098	ewrobbel@siue.edu	2023
Ying, Jie	Business	Economics & Finance	Rules and Procedures	AH 3115	1102	618-650-2543	jying@siue.edu	2024
Yu, Xudong	Engineering	Computer Science	Faculty Development	EB 3039	1656	618-650-2321	xyu@siue.edu	2024
Zuercher, Jennifer	Edu. Health, Human Behavior	Applied Health	Graduate – at large	VC 2607	1126	618-650-5801	jzuerch@siue.edu	2023

All Faculty Meeting

SIUe

Thursday,
September 30

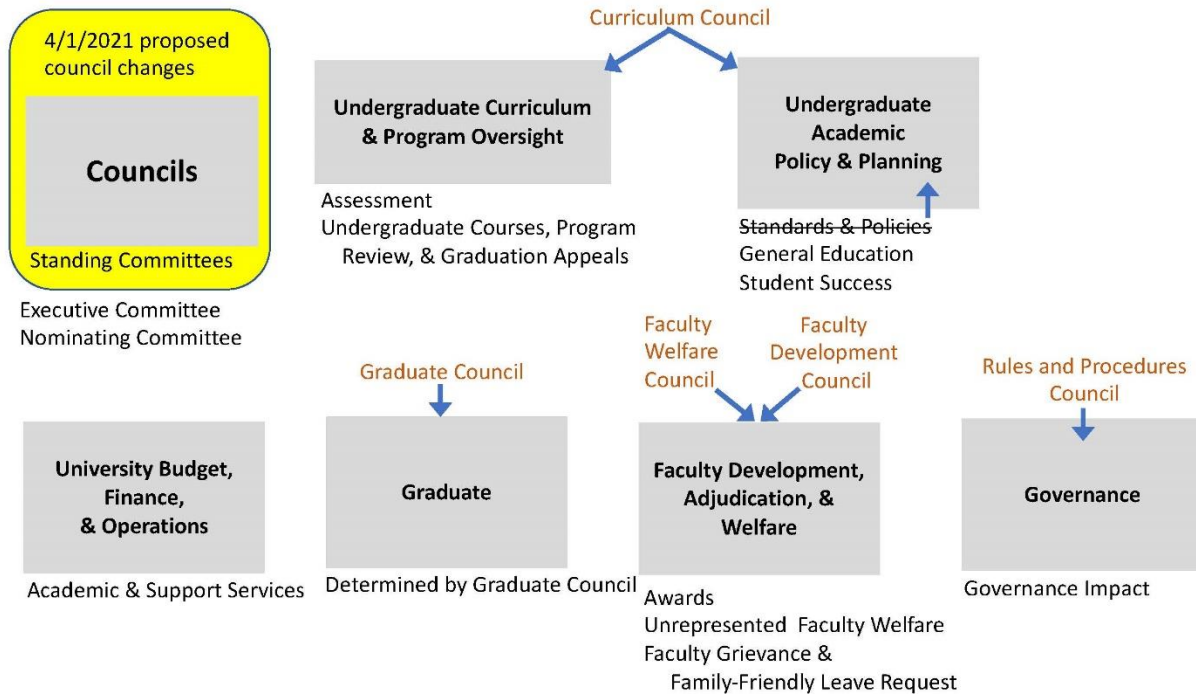
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

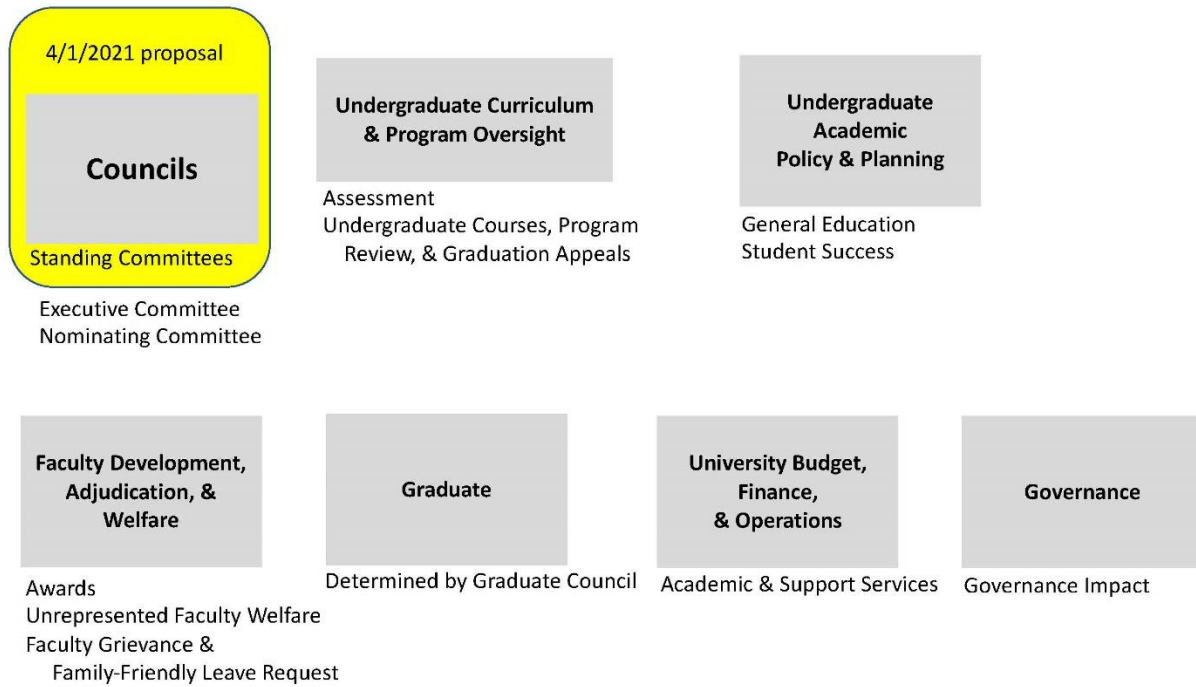
Mississippi/
Illinois Room

To discuss a
constitutional
amendment
expanding the
representation
of the Faculty
Senate



*While standing committees (as opposed to ad hoc committees) are required to be in FS bylaws, only Curriculum Council's standing committees are there at present. The rest are in council OPs.





UPBC Faculty Senate Report

September 9 2021

UPBC met for the first time on August 27th 2021

Enrollment is strong--- up overall about 150 students

Tuition revenues will be flat due to increased scholarship and “free” tuition promise for need-based students

Proposing a 2% salary increase for non-represented employees at BOT 9/16. Would be retroactive to July 1, 2021 (impact: 900-1.0 million)

CHAPA Process- Discussed evaluation process and timeline for Chancellor and 5 Vice Chancellor positions. Reviewed “short form” for alternate years. Will bring process and form to FSEC in October for review. Looking for ways to streamline and make process more transparent and efficient

Discussed Executive order from Governor regarding COVID testing. Seeking some clarification regarding “requirement” language.

COVID Planning:

-Approx 60-65% of students and 87% of fac/staff are vaccinated. Positivity rate is 1-2% for those on campus, and significantly lower than the 7-8% seen in Mad County at this time. Keep up the good work.

-Question re: how are contingency funds determined and allocated across units? Chancellor explained the history of how contingency needs determined based on enrollment deficits and budget shortfalls. Current plan is for a 6.6% fee. The Chancellor offered to hear UPBC thoughts on allocation to the units and whether all are equal or not under this process. To be continued.

Thank you.

IBHE-FAC report for the SIUE Faculty Senate meeting on 2 September 2021

The IBHE-FAC has met twice since the last Senate meeting in May. For new senators, the Faculty Advisory Council to the Illinois Board of Higher Education is unusual in the country – we have representatives from each of the twelve public four-year institutions, twelve from private and proprietary four-year institutions, and twelve from community colleges. We meet ten times a year, are advisory to the IBHE, and discuss a range of topics. The FAC website is <http://www.facibhe.org/>.

The IBHE-FAC met on 21 May 2021 via Zoom.

There was discussion of legislative bills and their status; of particular interest are on creating a task force to develop a funding formula for public universities (community colleges already have one), and another creating a baccalaureate degree at community colleges.

Hosting plans for next academic year were discussed, including options or requirements for in-person attendance. A statement about academic integrity and issues associated with online proctoring was brought forward and approved.

Significant time was allotted for working groups and caucuses, which met and then reported out. One working group (Student Mental Health) is essentially finished with their task and will not continue next year. Other groups have or are preparing materials but will continue next year: Institutional Closures, Equity: Racial issues; Dual Credit/online & Remote Learning; and Performance Based Funding.

The IBHE-FAC met on 18 June 2021 via Zoom.

Appreciation was extended to officers and members rotating out of positions. Most new members have responded to the invitations. The re-districting that has been proposed was briefly discussed. IBHE is working with the Illinois Department of Public Health about Phase 5 COVID-19 plans for higher education, but there is not a date for when those recommendations might be released.

The Strategic plan, officially called *A Thriving Illinois*, is available on the website: <https://ibhestrategicplan.ibhe.org>. There are clear calls for mental health supports, equitable dual credit access, and some other topics that were a subject of FAC working groups. The emphasis on working adults would be something for the FAC and higher education institutions to think about how they might support, such as specific populations, relevant programs and updates, and flexible options for competing programs or updating knowledge for career shifts.

moving forward. Some approaches related to working adults that arose in discussion might involve emphasizing flexible options for completing degrees; reaching out to niche populations; considering some of the updates that would be most relevant to adults changing fields; developing an employers council.

A panel of five librarians from a range of institutions and including a representative from the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) joined the FAC to respond to some questions about access for varying populations to library resources. The power and value of CARLI, representing 127 Illinois institutions, was a major theme. The intersection of the

academic research libraries with the network of public libraries as well as with K-12 libraries is complex but provides significant access to resources for many Illinoisans. However, utilization of the resources varies by community, and physical proximity can be a factor, since many databases and electronic resources are only accessible *remotely* to members of a particular community, even if the public has access to them when in-person. Even for in-person users, there can still be barriers such as needing a computer login or a temporary ID for access. There was discussion of the interactions and varied benefits of direct subscription, professional memberships, aggregators, database services, and publishers, as well as the intersection of databases, inter-library loan services, and embargoes. Overall, librarians are excellent resources focused on equity and student success and service – faculty are encouraged to direct students to meet with librarians for assistance, as this has been shown to have positive effects on student success.

Caucuses and working groups met. They will be preparing short summaries for Shawn to capture the main themes of the year. There was interesting discussion about the roles of student evaluations, particularly in tenure or merit evaluations, and the practices at different institutions.

The next IBHE-FAC meeting will be September 17th, most likely via Zoom, although we hope to have some in-person meetings next academic year.

With regards, Susan D. Wiediger, representative for SIUE to the IBHE-FAC. For more information about any of these items, please contact me via email at swiedig@siue.edu.

Graduate Council Report (meeting on May 6, 2021) to

Faculty Senate September 2021

By Yuliang Liu, Chair of the Graduate Council

- I. **Announcements:**
 - a. International Affairs Announcements
 - President Biden signed a proclamation banning travelers from India into the U.S., but this does not include international students. The students can come into the country on August 1, 2021. Homeland Security is going to continue relaxed rules for online/hybrid courses. Returning and continuing students will be able to keep online/hybrid courses for next year.
 - b. Graduate School Announcements
 - The search has been completed for the Graduate School's Compliance Specialist position and the Director of Award Management position has been posted.
 - c. Other Announcements
 - The Graduate School Dean Evaluation Committee has finished the report and it has been sent forward.
- II. **Approvals**
 - a. **Report of the Programs Committee**
 - a) Form 91A: Business Administration
 - The department would like to create a concurrent program for completion of the MPH and MBA degrees. The combined program has the potential to increase retention and recruitment among current prospective students while strengthening their leadership and administration skills.
 - b) Form 91A: Instructional Technology
 - The department would like to eliminate the two current 18-credit hour post-baccalaureate certificates (PBCs) and replace them with three 9-credit hour PBCs. The proposed change is in line with the revised university policy that allows 9-credit hour PBCs to be offered. This change will better serve potential students by meeting market needs and creating flexibility.
 - b. **Report of the Educational and Research Policies (ERP) Committee**
 - a) GR2021-19 – Graduate Student Forgiveness Policy – Proposed 1L18
 - This is a new proposed policy. A couple of years ago, Policy 1F1 was updated to include language that students had to have a 3.0 within their graduate program, which was a manual calculation for the Registrar's Office. The Registrar's Office proposed having a

separate forgiveness policy so they could exclude grades from GPA calculations. With the new policy, grades would show up on the transcript marked as excluded, and there would be no need for manual calculations. Several policies from other universities were looked at in the creation of this policy and multiple meetings were held. This policy incorporated everyone's comments. The Schools of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Dental Medicine all reviewed the policy and agreed that the professional degree programs should be exempt from this policy.

b) GR2021-20 – Graduation Requirements – 1F1

- Changes were made only to the graduate portion of the policy (Part C) to reference and align with the newly created forgiveness policy and add clarifying language. Language was also added around substitution of program courses that aligns with the transfer credit policy. Input was received from the Registrar's and Provost's Offices.

c) GR2021-21 – Authorization of Contracts and Leases – 5B1

- Changes were made to 5 and 6 in the policy. 1M13 was created and approved and it came to Susan Morgan's attention that this policy needed to refer to Policy 1M13. Language was changed to make the policy clear and consistent and align the ORP portions with procedures and policies.

d) RPAB Nominee – Sue Chhay

- Sue Chhay is running unopposed to represent the School of Dental Medicine on RPAB. The candidate was forwarded by ERP and Graduate Council voted to approve Dr. Chhay as a new RPAB committee member.

➤ The items and RPAB nominee were approved with no opposition.

III. **New Business**

- Dean Weinberg thanked the Committee Chairs and the Graduate Council for serving and for a productive year.