

FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Hickory/Hackberry Room
October 2, 2025 – 2:30pm
APPROVED MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 2:35 pm on Thursday, October 2, 2025 in MUC Hickory/Hackberry Room by President Wai Cheah.

No business was taken due to a physical quorum not being established, making it an informative session. Faculty Senate members attending via Teams are listed separately from those present in the room.

Present: **President** Wai Cheah, **President-Elect** Susan Wiediger, Undrah Baasanjav, Leah Baecht, Olga Bezhanova, Igor Crk, Jacob Del Rio, Stephen Duda, Mary Frazier, Carole Frick, Ruben Gomez, Mary Kaemmerer, Tim Kalinowski, Marie Klopfenstein, Julie Zimmermann for Susan Kooimann, Erik Krag, Tianyu Li, Ramana Madupalli, Cassandra Maynard, Mark McKenney, Lynne Miller, Steve Morrese, Barbara Nwacha, Jon Pettibone (ex officio), Beidi Qiang, Ken Rawson, Dan Segrist, Chrissy Simmons, Gloria Sweida, Kevin Tucker, Chin-Chuan Wei, Sophia Wilson, James Wulfsong, Kyong Yoon

Teams Attendees: Isabel Gay, Sungho Kim, Sorin Nastasia, Melissa Thomeczek, Saad Ullah, Jasbir Upadhyaya, Amy Winn

Absent: **Past President** Marcus Agustin, Jennifer Hooksfra, Nima Lotfi, Marion Prats, Mark Ruscin, Jeffrey Sabby (ex officio), Kamran Shavezpur, David Sherrill, Jason Stacy, Rebecca Swartz (excused), Jenna Tebbenkamp, Jessica Ulrich, Cinnamon VanPutte, Andrew Wesemann, Duff Wrobbel

Guests: James Minor, Denise Cobb, Andy Benoit

Consideration of Minutes:

Any consideration of minutes will have to take place at our next regular Faculty Senate meeting in which we establish a physical quorum.

Announcements:

- A.** Search Committee – one faculty member
 - i.** Position 1 – Associate Vice Chancellor for East St. Louis Educational Programming and Operations
 - ii.** Position 2 – Assistant Vice Chancellor for Educational Pathways and Community Engagement
- B.** Appointments
 - i.** Quadrennial Review for Dean Judy Liesveld – Dr. Min Liu

Guest Speakers:

Dr. James Minor, SIUE Chancellor, addressed the Faculty Senate. He highlighted the enrollment growth, which increased by 7.7% in Fall 2025, driven by growth in undergraduate, continuing, transfer, and early college students. Retention efforts, especially among African American

students, contributed to this growth, though international student enrollment and retention faced challenges. Chancellor Minor also discussed the Academic Convocation with the Faculty Senate and encouraged active participation.

Dr. Denise Cobb, SIUE Provost, addressed Faculty Senate on administrative support to departments, Power BI courses, and Program Prioritization. As the campus modernizes, each academic department no longer has a dedicated Office Support Specialists. Provost Cobb also discussed Power BI and available courses for faculty. Phase I of Program Prioritization has agreements with faculty associations regarding Chemistry, Art History, and Physics, with discussions ongoing with Music and Foreign Languages & Literature. Phase II aims to address challenges and explore alternative paths for program adjustments, focusing on collaboration. The university seeks proposals for program repositioning to address declining enrollment and ensure sustainability. Proposals must be submitted by February 26, 2026, with a review process involving UPBC, Faculty Senate, Graduate Council, and Student Government. Implementation of new programs is tight, with a goal of decisions by April 15, 2026, and potential fall implementation.

Dr. Andy Benoit, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management, introduced himself to the Faculty Senate. He outlined the division's vision: building relationships with students and families through targeted outreach to improve yield, enhance graduate programs, and address students with some college but no degree. This fall, the unit will focus on improving follow-up procedures for flagged student concerns using the Starfish system. To boost graduate and international enrollment, the university will target specific populations, build relationships with institutions in key markets, and utilize the new graduate-level CRM, Slate. Despite challenges, enrollment projections and retention efforts show positive results due to targeted communication, collaboration with housing and financial aid, and establishing benchmarks for registration.

Reports from Standing Committees:

IBHE Faculty Advisory Council: see attached report.

UPBC: see attached report.

Reports from Council Chairs:

Budget, Finance, & Academic Operations Council: see attached report.

Curriculum Council: see attached report.

Faculty Development Council: see attached report.

Governance Council: see attached report.

Graduate Council: see attached report.

Welfare & Adjudication Council: see attached report.

President: See attached report.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 pm

Submitted by Michael Tadlock-Jackson, University Governance

IBHE-FAC report for the SIUE Faculty Senate meeting on 2 October 2025

The IBHE-FAC met on 19 September 2025 at University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in Urbana.

The meeting opened with a panel of UIUC administrators discussing some teaching initiatives, introduced by *Kristi Kuntz; Executive Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Policies*.

Kevin Jackson; Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, gave an overview of several programs and initiatives he oversees, but focused on the “So What? (What we seek to accomplish)” – promoting society and members of all populations at UIUC through Access, Assurance (compliance), and Community, with a key word being flourishing for the big picture – even if sometimes the focus at department level seems like employment. When asked about use of language such as inclusion, he said that UIUC is not shying away from providing services that may be of particular value to certain groups, but are making those service available to all and are not targeting invitations to particular individuals or groups.

Manny Rodriguez; Senior Assistant Director, Inclusive Teaching, Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL), went into more depth about their Inclusive Course Redesign Initiative (ICRI). CITL works to build collaborative partnerships with faculty for particular courses to investigate current practices and barriers and develop new strategies to address DFW disparities. For a Tier I project, this is typically a three-semester partnership where faculty receive \$3,000 per semester to work with CITL to do deep course assessment, (re)design, collect data on effectiveness, and create sharable resources. For some courses, there is already detailed data, but typically they have to start with collecting information from students in the courses, and draw on CITL expertise in surveying and data analysis. Tier II projects involve implementing strategies and resources from a Tier I project (e.g. in other sections of a course or in a similar setting) and receive partial financial support at \$1,000 per semester; assessment from these projects contribute to refining strategies and materials for potentially broader application. Tier III, which is implementation of proven strategies, receives minimal support. Some projects change course materials, assessments, or policies, while others develop resources for training TAs or supporting students. For these projects, CITL often initiates reaching out to specific courses, but there is a signed agreement between CITL, deans, chairs, and the faculty of the course. There is a lot of relationship building with conversations in informal settings (e.g. coffee dates outside the formal structure) between CITL staff and faculty. CITL resources are also available to faculty not engaged in this intensive project.

Eden Smothers; Project Manager for the Office of Online Learning, talked about their Dual Credit Learning Accelerator program, which is funded by the American Talent Initiative to develop and pilot UIUC courses as dual credit courses. They identified general education courses at UIUC that are popular and would not be part of the typical high school curriculum (e.g. Killer Skies: Astro Disasters; The Culture of Disability; Data Science Discovery; Introduction to Popular TV and Movies; and maybe Introduction to Sustainable Food Systems). They are developing all the guidelines and processes involved in starting to offer dual credit and starting to identify high school partners. They hope to provide a high-quality scalable model that will provide dual credit opportunities not otherwise available at low-income high school.

Nora Heist, IBHE Faculty Board Member and faculty member at Eastern Illinois University, talked about her experience and background at EIU and elsewhere, then highlighted a few IBHE initiatives she is particularly engaged with, such as the [Workforce Insights Dashboard](#) and [reports](#), the [One Click College Admit](#) direct admissions program, the equitable funding formula, and faculty support. During discussion, the following topics arose: whether GPA or school is a better predictor of success or can be inequitable, if one-click admission can be extended beyond Illinois, and general conversation about the admissions process and how the one-click and common app processes affect admissions.

Dave Tretter, President of the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities, talked with the FAC. He feels like there are some current tectonic shifts in education, including the level of confidence in the value of higher education and the levels of higher education funding in Illinois. The role of sports and the focus on jobs can result in a discounting of the long-term view of studying the liberal arts. Higher education has fallen from 12% of the budget to 3%, with a general loss of confidence and increasing belief that you don't need to college, Higher education keeps using the same approach, and needs to be more creative and come up with different ideas. The rapid turnover of legislators and college presidents are also issues.

A resolution of appreciation for Shawn Schumacher (chair of FAC for the last five years, member for 20 years) was approved by acclamation. *Dan Hrozencik, FAC Chair,* had attended two IBHE meetings since the last FAC meeting. He explained that the Zoom option for attendance at meetings was being significantly reduced and limited. *Jack Haines, FAC Vice-chair,* called for people to start thinking about hosting next year's FAC meetings and discussed a possible shift in the timing of the May meeting. *Mike Philips, FAC Legislative Liaison,* described an amendment to the Dual Credit Quality Act that passed the legislature at the last moment. Higher ed funding formula did not pass, but it will surely be back. *Jason Edgar, FAC Secretary,* circulated a membership list for updating. *Nkechi Onwaumeze and Jill Gebke, Academic Affairs for IBHE,* provided some IBHE staffing updates and talked about some IAI topics, particularly encouraging faculty to participate in review panels.

During the business meeting, minutes were approved. During public caucus, the discussion focused on enrollment numbers, student support, and the possible impacts of the One-Click Admit system. Private and Two-Year caucuses discussed some membership issues as well as topics for the year. Working groups started planning for the year's activities.

The next IBHE-FAC meeting will be October 17th, at Lake Land College in Mattoon, IL.

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. SIUE's alternate representative is Shelly Goebel-Parker, egoeb1p@siue.edu.

UPBC will hold scheduled meetings on Friday Oct. 3rd from 9:30 am to 11:00 am in the Third Floor Conference room of Lovejoy Library and on Friday, Nov. 7th, at the same time, in Peck 0306. For the Oct. 3rd meeting, our agenda includes discussing the Phase 2 program prioritization proposals with Dr. Denise Cobb, Provost, efforts to reduce energy usage on campus, and a proposed merger of UPBC with the University Quality Council as part of an attempt to better align shared governance with the current processes of both the Chancellor's and Provost's office. For the Nov. 7th meeting we will continue that discussion as well as review the SPA process with guests from the Provost's office and hopefully from the office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Pettibone
Chair, University Planning and Budget Council

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

EDWARDSVILLE

Budget, Finance, and Academic Operations Council Report to Faculty Senate 10.02.25

Prepared by Kevin Tucker, Chair BFAOC

I. BFAO Meeting 9/18/2025

- a. Meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.
- b. BFAOC bylaws were distributed electronically to Council members.
- c. Agenda for the next meeting is to focus on our Academic Operations and develop a survey to distribute to faculty to ascertain priorities for academic support.

Curriculum council report 10/2/25

At the September meeting we:

- Selected a vice chair (Mary Kaemmerer), secretary (Marie Klopfenstein), UCC chair (Erik Krag) and UPC chair (Olga Bezhanova), and assigned members to either UCC or UPC subcommittees.
- Conducted a first read of proposed changes to General Education policy 1H1 relating to the Changemakers initiative and documents describing the transition of courses bearing the IS designation to Changemakers courses.
- Approved changes made by the Graduate School to policy 1L17 (Combined Baccalaureate and Graduate Degrees) as they relate to undergraduate curriculum. This will have a first read at the October full senate meeting.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

EDWARDSVILLE

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL Report to Faculty Senate 10.02.2025

Prepared by Christine Simmons, Chair FDC

- I. Continuous Improvement Conference (CIC) – Spring 2026**
 - a. Save the date for the Spring 2026 CIC – February 27th, 2026!
 - b. More information to follow - We are currently exploring topics and potential speakers

- II. Vaughnie Lindsay New Investigator Award**
 - a. Nomination by a Chair or Dean are due no later than 4:30pm on October 20th, 2025
 - b. <https://www.siu.edu/funding/internal-funding/newinvestigator.shtml>

Governance Council Report
for
October 2, 2025

Voted that Governance Impact Committee will be Council Chairs.

Discussed & assigned various tasks for the year – including Quadrennial Review of the Chancellor and the Provost.

Discussed timelines for various tasks/activities.

Determined open meetings act designee

-- Tim Kalinowski, Chair

Report of the Graduate Council to the Faculty Senate 10/2/25

The council had its first meeting on 9/25/25

Announcements

Student Affairs Announcements: Rony Die informed the Council that he will be out of the office for the next month. The school year is off to a strong start and there are no other specific announcements at this time.

International Affairs Announcements: Cheryl Borowiak let the Council know that the international enrollment is down due to an increase in difficulties in obtaining visa appointments and approvals, a trend which is likely to continue into the spring semester. Social media vetting is now occurring with visa appointments, which extends the time needed in the process for visa approvals. There are around 720 total international students on campus this fall.

ISSS is doing OPT workshops for students graduating this fall, occurring next week. Details are on their website.

ISSS is also hosting a Study Abroad fair next Tuesday, and they encourage graduate students to participate.

Graduate School Announcements: Dean Chris Slaten thanked the Council for their service on the committee, and for their dedication to graduate education and graduate students. He informed the Council that graduate students and recent alumni were surveyed in the spring, and that those survey results indicated graduate students were generally very satisfied with their experience. Areas of improvement that were noted included opportunities for students to connect to campus and their peers. He and Liz Cali have submitted a grant proposal to enhance online student engagement for the Council of Graduate Schools.

Jill Smucker informed the Council about two new initiatives to support graduate students and graduate programs launching this fall.

GradConnect is a dedicated time/space for graduate students to connect to peers in a relaxed environment, and is being hosted in Lovejoy Library.

Graduate Studies is also launching a **weekly office hour** on Teams for Graduate Program Directors and grad advisors to provide an alternative avenue to receive quick assistance for any questions or concerns that may arise.

Other Announcements

Andrea Keller reminded the group that homecoming is next weekend. She also mentioned that the faculty/staff advancement campaign will be coming to mailboxes soon.

Public Comments - None

Committee Reports

Educational and Research Policies (ERP) Committee:

GR2526-01: Policy 4F1 – Earned Summer Tuition Waivers for Graduate Assistants. Chin-Chaun Wei provided an overview of the changes to this policy approved by ERP, which was a regular review. The committee approved the changes.

Programs Committee: 91A from Management Information Systems – Addition of Cybersecurity Management Specialization. Duff Wrobbel gave the Council an overview of this 91A, which includes a RisePoint collaboration. There will be two tracks within the specialization. They hope to launch in fall 2026. The committee approved the 91A.

Course Retention Recommendations from Grad Course Review Committee - None

Continuing Business: The Grad Council Executive Committee nominated Ram Madupalli as Grad Council Chair-Elect. All voted unanimously to elect Ram as the Chair-Elect.

Volunteer for Open Meetings Act Representative: Joe Kohlburn volunteered to serve.

New Business

Graduate Dean Evaluation Discussion: I discussed that although policy requests that Graduate Council coordinate an annual evaluation of the Graduate School Dean, I proposed to forgo the evaluation this year since Dean Slaten has only been in the position since this July. Duff Wrobbel commented that it would not make sense to do an evaluation this year, and agreed that waiting until 2026 makes sense. He also commented that there is precedent for this delay in prior years.

All voted in favor with no opposition.

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 PM.

Faculty Senate Report for Welfare and Adjudication Council

October 2, 2025

1. Last meeting September 18, next meeting October 17
2. Tom Jordan scheduled to attend next meeting to discuss needs of the WAC for this AY
3. Following up with the Ombuds on workload/compensation
4. Honorary Degree and Distinguished Service Award Committee
 - a. WAC Chair met with HDSAC Chair David Auldt
 - b. Seeking update from the Dean's of Academic units on HDDSAC rep elections
 - c. HDSAC seeking degrees/awards selections be based upon the individuals primary contributions to the University's Public Image
 - d. Faculty Grievance Committee
 - i. Seeking updated list of appointed/elected faculty to FGC, need chair, etc

WAC members:

Sorin Nastasia,

Barbara Nwacha,

Jason Stacy,

Andrew Wesemann,

Jasbir Upadhyaya,

Rebecca Swartz,

Igor Crk,

Leah Baecht,

Mark Ruscin

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President's Report to Faculty Senate

October 2, 2025

Constituency Heads Meeting (September 30, 2025)

- A. The attendees of this meeting include Chancellor Minor, President of Student Senate (Ms. Jenna Nestor), President of Staff Senate (Mr. Steven Green), President of Faculty Senate (Dr. Wai Hsien Cheah), Chair of UPBC (Dr. Jonathan Pettibone), Chair of the Graduate Council (Dr. Gloria Sweida), and Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (Dr. Jessica Harris).
- B. Accomplishments achieved by the constituency we each represent were shared with Chancellor Minor.
- C. Issues we faced were also discussed.

Meeting with Chancellor Minor (September 30, 2025)

- A. Discussed the issue of AI, and how it is impacting students' learning. The idea of needing a university-wide statement was raised.
- B. Discussed the issue of DEI. The issue of fear was raised, and the Chancellor shared his thoughts about what faculty should do when teaching DEI related courses.

Attended the Board of Trustees Meeting (September 18, 2025)

- A. Introduced the Faculty Collaboration Award to the Board of Trustees, and together with Dr. Khalid Meksem (Faculty Senate President of SIUC), we announced the 2025 Faculty Collaboration Award recipients.

Meeting with Provost Cobb (September 12, 2025)

- A. Changemakers Initiative
 - Discussed collaborative efforts between Faculty Senate and Provost's Office.
- B. Academic Program Prioritization
 - Our respective reflections were exchanged.

Meeting with Professor Megan Robb, President of the Faculty Association (September 10, 2025)

- A. Discussed collaborative efforts between Faculty Senate and Faculty Association, as well as challenges faced by the faculty.

Attended the University Quality Council (UQC) Meeting (September 4, 2025)

- A. Discussed the outcomes of the HLC visit.

Other Faculty-Senate Related Activities

- 1) Attended the Chancellor's University Budget Update on September 4, 2025.
- 2) Attended the Student Government Luncheon held on September 5, 2025.
- 3) Recommended Dr. Min Liu as the Faculty Senate representative to serve on Dean Judy Liesveld's (School of Nursing) Quadrennial Review Committee.
- 4) Attended Representative Hoffman's meet-up with SUAA members at SIUE on September 23, 2025.
- 5) Participated in the competency-based education focus group conducted by Mr. Ryan Specht-Boardman of C-Ben on September 23, 2025.