

February 24, 2006

Members of the Board Academic Matters Committee

Ed Hightower, Chair
Samuel Goldman
Tequia Hicks
Keith Sanders

The Academic Matters Committee will meet following the Architecture and Design Committee on Thursday, March 9, 2006, in Ballroom B in the Student Center, Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

The following items are suggested for the agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the December 8, 2005, Meeting (enclosure)
2. Information Item: *Briefing Paper: Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization* (enclosure)
3. Information Report: *Fiscal Year 2005 Performance Report* (enclosure)
4. Recommendation for Honorary Degree, SIUC [Daisaku Ikeda] (Board Agenda Item JJ)
5. Recommendation for Honorary Degree, SIUC [Abner Joseph Mikva] (Board Agenda Item KK)
6. Recommendation for Honorary Degree, SIUE [Peter Pastreich] (Board Agenda Item LL)
7. Recommendation for Distinguished Service Award, SIUE [Rita Hardy] (Board Agenda Item MM)
8. Presentation: McNair Scholars Program

Presenters: John Dunn, Provost and Vice Chancellor, SIUC
John Bowen, Senior, Food and Nutrition and Exercise Science
Sydney Dillard, Senior, Advertising/Integrated Marketing Communications
Nadia Lopez, Senior, Zoology
Lynn Vaughn, Senior, English

9. Other Business

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

John S. Haller, Jr.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

JSH/mam

Enclosure

c: John Simmons	Glenn Poshard
Roger Tedrick	Vaughn Vandegrift
Matthew Townsend	Walter V. Wendler
Stephen Wigginton	Constituency Heads
Marquita T. Wiley	Other Interested Parties

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Minutes of the Academic Matters Committee Meeting

December 8, 2005

The Academic Matters Committee met following the Architecture and Design Committee on Thursday, December 8, 2005, in Ballroom B in the Student Center, Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Present were: Tequia Hicks, Acting Chair; Samuel Goldman; and Keith Sanders. Absent was: Ed Hightower. Other Board members present were: Roger Tedrick, Matthew Townsend, and Stephen Wigginton. Absent were: John Simmons and Marquita Wiley. Executive Officers present were: Interim President Duane Stucky; Chancellor Vaughn Vandegrift, SIUE; Chancellor Walter V. Wendler, SIUC; and Vice President John S. Haller, Jr.

Minutes

The minutes of the November 10, 2005, meeting were approved as submitted.

Presentation: Student Representatives From the *Daily Egyptian*

Associate Provost Thomas Calhoun introduced the presentation in the absence of Provost John Dunn. Students Monique Garcia, Lane Christiansen, Marques Anderson, Alejandro Ayala, and Zak Quaintance talked about the benefits of working for the campus' student newspaper.

Other Business

Trustee Keith Sanders introduced a report produced by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems titled *As America Becomes More Diverse: The Impact of State Higher Education Inequality*. He commented that it was a superlative report and would be available for review in the Board office and in the campus libraries.

Dr. Sanders read the following excerpt from the report: "The U.S. population is becoming increasingly diverse. By the year 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau projects a 77% increase in the number of Hispanics, a 32% increase in African-Americans, a 69% increase in Asians, a 26% increase in Native Americans, and less than a one percentage point increase in the White population."

Dr. Sanders commented that the majority of the growth among SIU's faculty and particularly among its students between now and 2020 would be from those populations, and he encouraged the University community to

continue to assiduously promote diversity, affirmative action, and equal employment.

Having no further business before it, the Academic Matters Committee adjourned.

JSH/mam

Briefing Paper: Higher Education Act (HEA) Reauthorization

Background:

In July 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce approved an HEA reauthorization bill (H.R.609), and in September the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions approved a companion bill (S.1614). Despite this flurry of activity, Congress has yet to reauthorize the HEA as a whole.

The HEA was set to expire on December 31, 2005, under the provisions of the Higher Education Extension Act. However, on December 30, President Bush signed a Second Higher Education Extension Act to continue all mandatory and discretionary HEA programs through March 31, 2006.

In the meantime, Congress recommended a total of \$34.7 billion in spending cuts over five years for purposes of deficit reduction, a process referred to as budget reconciliation. This bill passed December 19, 2005.

The prospects for HEA reauthorization in 2006 are now unclear.

The most significant debate over the bill is how best to help low-income students afford a college degree. Republicans say the bill will make college more affordable by expanding Pell grants and by increasing the amount of money students can borrow for education and reducing the fees associated with those loans. Democrats and student advocacy groups point out that the bill's \$11 billion in cuts from the student-loan program will be used to balance the federal deficit instead of being directed back into aid for students.

The American Council on Education sees some positive elements about the bill concerning accreditation and reporting requirements but notes that the bill's approach to student loans is "deeply troubling."

In the meantime, the U.S. Department of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education is expected to issue its report by August 2006 and has suggested that its recommendations may address accreditation.

Components of House and Senate Bills H.R.609 and S.1614:

- The bills would repeal the limit on the number of distance education courses that an institution may offer in order to participate in federal student financial aid programs.
- The bill would require accreditors to monitor the enrollment growth of distance education to ensure that an institution experiencing significant growth has the capacity to serve its students effectively.

- The bill would still allow accreditors to review distance education programs without separate accreditation standards.
- The for-profit education community is expected to continue to advocate changes in such provisions as the transfer of credit.
- The bill would prohibit institutions from refusing to consider transfer requests based solely on the accredited status of an institution as long as the accreditor is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education.
- The bill would require institutions to make their transfer policies publicly available.
- The bill would require an institution to disclose the list of institutions with which it has established articulation agreements and the percentage of students at the institution who successfully transfer academic credits.
- The bill would call for a transfer of credit study.
- The bill would add a new requirement that institutions disclose the placement in employment of, and types of employment obtained by, graduates of the institution's degree or certificate programs.
- The bill would give the Secretary of Education responsibility for publishing the college consumer profile, i.e., cost, student enrollment, faculty/student ratios, and completion rates.
- The bill would require institutional accreditors to evaluate board governance within the context of the institution's mission.
- The bill would specify new forms of evidence for accreditors to examine with regard to student achievement: retention, program completion, and other student performance information selected by the institution, particularly that information used by the institution to evaluate or strengthen its programs.
- The bill would call for a study of best practices in evaluating student learning outcomes.
- The bill would not modify current law regarding institutional disclosure of completion or graduation rates except to address students who leave school to serve in armed services, on official church missions, or with federal foreign aid service and to require that such information be disaggregated by gender, by race and ethnicity, and by income status.