



Southern Illinois University System
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June 26, 2026

Members of the Board Academic Matters Committee

Ed Hightower, Chair
Sara Salger
Toni Williams

Dear Committee Members:

The Academic Matters Committee will meet on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the SIU School of Medicine auditorium, 801 North Rutledge, Springfield, Illinois, with YouTube option.

The agenda and minutes from the April 16, 2026, are enclosed.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gireesh V. Gupchup", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gireesh V. Gupchup
Vice President for Academic Innovation, Planning, and Partnerships

GVG/jl

Attachments

c: Ed Curtis
J. Phil Gilbert
John Simmons
Dan Mahony

James Minor
Jerry Kruse
Other Interested Parties

Austin Lane

Office of the President

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AGENDA

MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 9, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Auditorium, SIU School of Medicine
801 North Rutledge
Springfield, Illinois

Also available via live stream video at siusystem.edu

1. Announcements
2. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting April 16, 2026
3. Approval of New Programs, Reasonable and Moderate Extensions, Approval of Off-Campus Program Locations, and Academic Program Eliminations and Suspensions, July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026 (Board Agenda Item H)
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

**Minutes of the Academic Matters Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2026
9:00am**

Ballroom B, Student Center
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Carbondale, Illinois
live stream video at siusystem.edu via YouTube

The Academic Matters Committee met at 9:05am on Thursday, April 16, 2026, in person and via YouTube. Present were: Ed Hightower (chair), Hannah Connolly, Sara Salger and Toni Williams. Other Board members present were: Mo Abuzaneh, Deb Barnett, Ed Curtis, J. Phil Gilbert, and John Simmons. Executive Officers present were: President Dan Mahony; Vice President Justin Oates; Vice President Gireesh Gupchup; Vice President Sheila Caldwell; Chancellor Austin Lane, SIUC; Chancellor James Minor, SIUE; and Dean and Provost Jerry Kruse, SIU School of Medicine.

Announcements

Dr. Gupchup announced the SIU System participation in the Learning and Employment Records (LER) Accelerator sponsored by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (AACRAO). It is anticipated to have a significant impact in the future. The SIU System is the only public university system selected to participate. The SIUE and SIUC Registrars are leading this initiative to transform the current transcripts into an LER or comprehensive learning record. Current transcripts can accommodate for-credit courses, but LERs not only allow for-credit but also non-credit credentials, such as microcredentials, badges, credit for prior learning, military credit, athletics achievements and other experiences. This helps students provide a comprehensive picture of their skills and competencies achieved while at SIU. All of these processes need to be standardized. These LERs can be used after they graduate, where they can add credentials as they achieve them and can share them with potential employers. LERs are most-likely the transcript of the future.

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting February 5, 2026

Motion was made by Trustee Salger to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2026, meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Trustee Connolly. Madam Secretary called roll call with Hightower, Connolly, Salger, and Williams passing the motion.

Presentation: 2026 SIU System Distinguished Student Service Awards

Dr. Gupchup requested student trustees Hannah Connolly and Mo Abuzaneh who are also members of the Student Advisory Committee for the SIU System (SACSS), to present the awards.

Hannah gave a brief description of the SIU Student Distinguished Service Awards. Selected are one (1) undergraduate student and (1) graduate student from both the SIU-Edwardsville and SIU-Carbondale campuses. In addition, the SACSS selected one (1) student from each of the following schools: School of Medicine, School of Dental Medicine, Simmons Law School, and the School of Pharmacy. Each Awardee receives a plaque and a \$100 check.

Hannah and Mo read brief bios of the award recipients who received their award by Board Chair Judge Gilbert and President Dan Mahony. Present to receive their awards were: Zuzanna Gaik (SIUC Undergraduate), Tatiana Castillo (SIUC Graduate), Myla Croft (SIU Simmons Law School), and Lucia Knapp (SIUE Undergraduate). Unable to attend were Makayla “Mak” Mallon (SIUE Graduate), Alex Hamon (SIU School of Medicine), Nicholas Yuhas (School of Dental Medicine), and Karigan Harvey (School of Pharmacy).

Information Report: FY2025 Centers and Institutes Report

Dr. Gupchup introduced and gave a brief overview of the report. He then introduced Drs. Jim Garvey of Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), Erin Hascup from SIU School of Medicine (SOM), and Randall Pearson of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE).

Dr. Garvey presented on the Center for Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences, Dr. Hascup presented on the Dale and Deborah Smith Center for Alzheimer’s Research and Treatment, and Dr. Pearson presented on the GeoMARC.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:02am.

GVG/jl