



Southern Illinois University System  
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July 1, 2021

Members of the Board Academic Matters Committee

Ed Hightower, Chair  
Tonya Genovese  
Subhash Sharma

Dear Committee Members:

The Academic Matters Committee will meet on Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 10:45 a.m. or immediately following the Board Executive Session via YouTube at [siusystem.edu](https://siusystem.edu) or Zoom. The agenda and minutes from the April 29, 2021, meeting can be viewed through the Board portal system.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gireesh V. Gupchup".

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

GVG/pm

Attachments

c:

Shaylee Clinton  
Ed Curtis  
J. Phil Gilbert  
John Simmons  
Roger Tedrick  
Maddie Walters

Dan Mahony  
Austin Lane  
Randall G. Pembrook  
Jerry Kruse  
Other Interested Parties

## AGENDA

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

Thursday, July 15, 2021  
10:45am  
or immediately following the  
Board's Executive Session Meeting

live stream video at [siusystem.edu](http://siusystem.edu) via YouTube,  
and through Zoom

1. Announcements
2. 2021 SIU System Distinguished Student Service Awards
3. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting April 29, 2021
4. Approval of New Programs, Reasonable and Moderate Extensions, Approval of Off-Campus Program Locations, and Academic Program Eliminations and Suspensions, July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021 (Board Agenda Item H)
5. Creation of the Southern Illinois University System Institute for Rural Health and Appointment of an Interim Director, (Joint Discussion with Finance Committee) (Board Agenda Item L)
6. Creation of the Southern Illinois University System Office of Community Engagement and the Appointment of an Interim Director, (Joint Discussion with Finance Committee) (Board Agenda Item M)
7. Presentation: Physician Assistant Program, Lincoln Scholars & Doctor of Medical Science

Presenters: Donald Diemer, DHSc, PA-C  
Physician Assistant Program Director  
Doctor Medical Science Program Director

Jacob Ribbing, DMSc, PA-C Director of Doctoral Education

Madi Nelson, Lincoln Scholars Student

Sami Stadts, Physician Assistant Student

8. Other Business

9. Adjournment

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

**Minutes of the Academic Matters Committee Meeting**

Thursday, April 29, 2021

Stone Center, Large Dining Room  
Southern Illinois University System Office  
Carbondale, Illinois

live stream video at [siusystem.edu](http://siusystem.edu) via YouTube and through Zoom

The Academic Matters Committee met at 11:01a.m on Thursday, April 29, 2021, via Zoom. Present were: Ed Hightower (Chair), Steven Gear, and Subhash Sharma. Other Board members present were: Ed Curtis, Tonya Genovese, Jacob Graham, John Simmons, and Roger Tedrick. Trustee and Board Chair J. Phil Gilbert was absent. Executive Officers present were: President Dan Mahony; Senior Vice President Duane Stucky; Vice President Gireesh Gupchup; Chancellor Austin Lane, SIUC; Chancellor Randall Pembroke, SIUE; and Dean and Provost Jerry Kruse, SIU School of Medicine.

**Announcements**

Dr. Gupchup commended the faculty, staff and students from the campuses for their resiliency during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He provided an update on IBHE's strategic planning stating there are nine design teams that are working on developing strategies in areas under the themes of affordability, attainment, talent and equity. A draft plan that includes 28 strategies is now in comment period. Work on the Common Application, Developmental Education and Open Education Resources continues at IBHE.

The National Association of System Heads (NASH) is also undergoing a visioning process called "The Big Rethink." The five areas being considered nationally for the Systems are 1) reframing student success, 2) fundamentally reducing the cost base, 3) restructuring the education model for quality and equity, 4) partnering with a purpose, and 5) leading the transformation process. Dr. Gupchup is serving on the design team that is reframing student success.

He also mentioned President Biden's American Families Plan, as some of the proposals might have implications for our System.

He provided an update on the SIU System Strategic Plan. The System Strategic Planning Committee developed the vision, mission and six goal themes. Goal Committees are formed and will develop objectives, strategies, and metrics, as well as identify responsible officers and individuals and estimate resources needed for each of the strategies. The Goal Committees will provide their final reports to the SIU System Strategic Planning Committee by June 15, 2021. They have already started their work.

Dr. Gupchup informed the Board of three SIU System-wide advisory committees/Boards—faculty, staff, and students that comprise the constituent stakeholder groups on all the campuses. The Faculty Advisory Committee is working on programming related to faculty wellness and teaching. A survey was sent to all faculty across the system by the presidents of the SIUC and SIUE Faculty Senates. The results of the survey will be used for planning programming for all System faculty this fall.

The System Staff Advisory Committee is also working on their own survey in forming professional development programming.

He introduced three representatives of the Student Advisory Committee for the SIU System (SACS) Dianah McGreehan (SIUC & co-chair), Luis Rubio (SIU School of Medicine & co-chair) and Brett Bertok (SIUE).

Mr. Rubio began by explaining how President Mahony and Vice President Gupchup formed the SACS as a collaborative channel between students at SIUC, SIUE, School of Medicine, School of Law, School of Dental Medicine and School of Pharmacy. They hope this portal will serve as an avenue to discuss issues that impact the SIU campuses and beyond, share ideas and projects, and find solutions to issues and possible concerns for students. They also hope to coordinate possible joint endeavors that can help citizens of central and southern Illinois.

Brett Bertok said the SACS is made up of 14 student representatives consisting of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from SIUC, SIUE, and various SIU System schools. During the past academic year, the student representatives met virtually with both President Mahony and Vice President Gupchup to lay out the mission, purpose and goals of the SACS. Dianah McGreehan and Luis Rubio were chosen as co-chairs to coordinate communication between the student representatives throughout the spring 2021 semester and the upcoming academic year. Mr. Bertok, Mr. Rubio and another student representative will be working on developing operating papers that will help to guide members of this group for years to come. Subcommittees will further discuss and develop key goals that will strengthen the System-wide identity and communication among students by developing and promoting System-wide student programming and opportunities.

Dianah McGreehan shared their newly launched (2021) System Distinguished Student Service Award. This award honors students from across the SIU System for their outstanding commitment to service that has impacted their fellow students, their campus and their community. The deadline to nominate students is Sunday, May 23. The awardee will be recognized at the July 15, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting.

Dr. Gupchup closed his announcements by thanking the students for taking the time to present their activities during exam week.

### **Approval of the Minutes of the February 11, 2021, Meeting**

Motion was made by Trustee Sharma to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2021, meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Trustee Hightower. Madam Secretary called roll call with Hightower, Sharma and Gear passing the motion.

### **Presentation: Cougar Connectors: REACH Award Winners**

Dr. Gupchup provided a brief overview of the 2020-2021 REACH program and introduced the faculty advisors.

Dr. James Conder, Professor of Geophysics began the presentation by providing information about working with students to better understand the planet through the study of earthquakes with the use of seismographs.

Ms. Birkhead is an SIUC junior studying geology and history. She chose to attend SIUC because of their commitment to research and community in every field. She continued by providing information about her current research on magma productions in the subduction zone by using numerical models to evaluate parameters to determine how much magma is created. She went on to explain how the Earth's crust is separated into many different plates of various sizes called tectonic plates. Her research focused on determining what parameters affect the total amount of melting in the subduction zones where cold plates push underneath warmer plates. The parameters included looking at the angle of where plates are pushed underneath other plates, changes in the amount of melt, speed at which they collide, the age of the plate that is pushed and material composition.

Dr. Aaron Scott, Professor and Design area head shared what research and activities are conducted in the design department. He indicated that design is about problem solving. In the design research studio they work on industrial and communication design. The mission is to leverage the creativity of students, faculty and individuals to develop through techniques, resources, and experiences to address product problems. They solve user issues and develop new products, new interfaces, and new designs. They use virtual reality, sketching in virtual spaces, computer design, and hand tools and techniques to develop prototypes. The goal for the students is to prepare them to become future innovators and breakthrough thinkers and doers.

Dr. Scott introduced REACH awardee Roshni Choudhary. Ms. Choudhary is a senior studying communication design with a focus in user experience design. She chose to attend SIUC because of the personal attention from teachers and because of the abundant opportunities. She said REACH was a great opportunity and she was fortunate to take part. Her project was designing and developing an augmented reality application to assist pre-Alzheimer's patients. Ms. Choudhary was in charge of the user experience design and was project manager. She credited Trenton Spencer with the

face recognition development and Renee Davis for the object detection development. She also recognized Dr. Scott for his mentorship.

Her research and design taught her how to code for augmented reality to help those who have pre-Alzheimer's and how to design for people with memory problems. Through her research experience, she has also learned about multidisciplinary collaboration, project management, and organization.

Dr. Vjollca Konjufca, Professor in Microbiology within the School of Biological Sciences, recognized four REACH students Morgan Burmeister, Matthew Blalock, Sharvath Kathi, and Katalina Kuzanga. They worked on two separate projects. One project was developing vaccines against chlamydia that may result in the students becoming published authors. The other project looked at the aspects of chlamydia pathogenesis and the role of immune cells. Her research focus and interests are in developing vaccines against infectious diseases. She also enjoys working with students to provide cutting-edge training so they may have fantastic careers.

Sharvath Kathi is a sophomore studying microbiology with a minor in chemistry. He began by stating his driving force behind his decision to attend SIU was for the undergraduate research opportunities. He began participating in a research lab the first week of his freshman year. He strongly believes that his research experience will help him to excel in his graduate studies.

He went on to explain his REACH research project studying the role of immune cells in Chlamydia pathogenesis—more specifically understanding the role of CD8 T cells and monocytes in the transmission of chlamydia within the body. Working on this research provided him an opportunity to master tissue staining techniques of tissue sections as well as examining the tissue sections using Immunofluorescence microscopy. He also used the Velocity software to create an analyze 3D model fluorescence photographs for identifying the immune cells present in infected organs.

Dr. Jensik, Assistant Professor in Physiology, is researching a gene called DEAF1. Research shows that mutations in this gene results in a number of disorders including intellectual disabilities, autism and seizures. His research is trying to understand how the mutations result in the disorders. His mentorship and involvement in research training of the next generation of scientists is the main part of his job. He introduced Alana Campbell.

Alana Campbell is a senior studying physiology who was intrigued by Dr. Jensik's work because of the clinical aspect of it. She indicated that 2% of the world's population are diagnosed with intellectual disability and several mutations responsible for this are identified in DEAF1. She indicated that Associated Neurodevelopmental Disorders (DAND) is a mutation in a person's DNA that subsequently leads to a mutation of the DEAF1 protein. She indicated that proteins serve many functions throughout our life, but specifically play a role in feeding back to the level of the DNA and regulating the expression of various other genes and proteins extremely important to cognitive internal development.

The goal of her research is to understand how mutations in DEAF1 are changing its function and possibly leading to the pathogenesis associated with neurodevelopmental disorders such as intellectual disability and autism. She went on to share a technique she used to analyze protein interactions which was important in learning and memory.

She ended her presentation by sharing how this research experience allowed her to apply undergraduate studies, form close relationships with faculty mentors, and led her to consider other careers such as research.

Dr. Hightower thanked the students for a very impressive presentation and further stated that undergraduate research opportunities need to be advertised more heavily outside the Carbondale area.

**Informational Report: Centers and Institutes Report**

Dr. Gupchup introduced Sharon Locke (SIUE), Erin Hascup (SIU School of Medicine), and Joseph Tanner (SIUC) who presented on centers from their respective campuses.

Sharon Locke presented on the Center for STEM Research, Education, and Outreach.

Erin Hascup presented on the Dale and Deborah Smith Center for Alzheimer's Research and Treatment.

Joseph Tanner presented on the Touch of Nature.

**Other Business**

Having no further business before it, the Academic Matters Committee adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

GVG/pm