



Southern Illinois University System
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June 27, 2025

Members of the Board Academic Matters Committee

Ed Hightower, Chair
Mo Abuzaneh
Sara Salger
Toni Williams

Dear Committee Members:

The Academic Matters Committee will meet on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the SIU School of Medicine auditorium, 801 North Rutledge, Springfield, Illinois, with YouTube option.

The agenda, Annual Listing of Changes, and minutes from the April 17, 2025, 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/jl

Attachments

c: Hannah Connolly
Ed Curtis
J. Phil Gilbert
John Simmons

Dan Mahony
Austin Lane
James Minor
Jerry Kruse
Other Interested Parties

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AGENDA

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

Thursday, July 10, 2025
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 17, 2025 (attached).
3. Approval of New Programs, Reasonable and Moderate Extensions, Approval of Off-Campus Program Locations, and Academic Program Eliminations and Suspensions, July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025 (Board Agenda Item H)
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

**Minutes of the Academic Matters Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 17, 2025
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 9:10a.m on Thursday, April 17, 2025, in person and via YouTube. Present were: Ed Hightower (chair), Mo Abuzaneh, Sara Salger and Toni Williams. Other Board members present were: Hannah Connolly, Ed Curtis, J. Phil Gilbert, John Simmons, and Roger Tedrick. Executive Officers present were: President Dan Mahony, Senior Vice President Duane Stucky; 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 that the SIU System was awarded the “Seeding For Change” award at the March 2025 Annual Meeting of the National Association for Higher Education Systems (NASH). The award was given for the innovative SIU System Course Exchange. Dr. Gupchup thanked the entire team comprising of several departments across SIUE and SIUC. Dr. Gupchup specially mentioned the efforts of the Campus Leads Associate Provosts Ibroscheva and Dunston, and Registrars Frazier and Sears. The initial Campus Leads were VC Williams and Dr. Joplin.

Dr. Gupchup mentioned that the technique to develop the system was called improvement science, which is also being used in a second Network Improvement Community (NIC) to improve transfer rates on the campuses. Improvement science provides a grassroots – rather than top-down – approach to developing and testing measurable change. The hallmark of the NIC model is that it facilitates work on campuses so that the people closest to the problem are the ones engaged in creating, testing, and implementing change. A problem is identified and goes through a 45- or 90-day PDSA cycle (Plan, Do, Study, Act). The cycle is repeated, and when consistent results are received, it is scaled. Through participation in these efforts, the hope is to inculcate a culture of improvement science to make sustainable change.

Approval of Minutes of the Meeting February 6, 2025

Motion was made by Trustee Salger to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2025, meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Trustee Abuzaneh. Madam Secretary called roll call with Hightower, Abuzaneh, Salger, and Williams passing the motion.

Presentation: 2025 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: Penny Bordewick (SIUC Undergraduate), Caden Cockburn (SIUC Graduate), Sheraya Bernard (SIU Simmons Law School), Iyanuoluwa Emmanuel Fatunmbi (SIUE Graduate), and Lauren Wells (School of Pharmacy). Unable to attend were Nicholas Young (SIUE Undergraduate), Kevin Le Mentec (SIU School of Medicine), and Gabrielle Ramirez (School of Dental Medicine).

Information Report: FY2024 Centers and Institutes Report

Dr. Gupchup introduced and gave a brief overview of the report. He then introduced Drs. Boyd Goodson of Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), Aziz Khan from SIU School of Medicine (SOM), and Carrie Butts-Wilmsmeyer of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE).

Dr. Goodson presented on the Illinois Soybean Center, Dr. Khan presented on the Simmons Cancer Institute, and Dr. Butts-Wilmsmeyer presented on the Center for Predictive Analytics (C-PAN).

Trustee Hightower asked Dr. Butts-Wilmsmeyer what specific communities they are working with.

Dr. Butts-Wilmsmeyer stated they are working with East St. Louis and Alton. Past and continuing work relationships with Venice, Brooklyn, and Madison. Other communities that they work with are in the Gillespie area. These rotate based on projects they are bringing in at any given time.

Trustee Hightower mentioned that homelessness is a big issue in Madison County. Asked how the center is collaborating/partnering with varies communities to address that critical issue.

Dr. Butts-Wilmsmeyer mentioned that they just hired a new faculty fellow that is a research subject matter expert in mixed methods. The individual is working directly with community health partners and government officials across multiple sectors, starting at community level, to expand into the county levels, and seeing where it goes from there.

Trustee Hightower asked if the center is involved with the Office of Community Engagement in the SIU System in expanding and pushing this out.

Dr. Butts-Wilmsmeyer confirmed that C-PAN collaborates with the Office of Community Engagement.

Trustee Hightower thanked the presenters for their presentations and service.

Proposed Board of Trustees International Travel Registration Policy [Addition of 7 Policy of the Board Section Q] – Board Agenda Item J

Dr. Gupchup introduced Todd Wakeland, Executive Director of Export Controls, who provided an overview of the Board Agenda Item J, the new International Travel Registration Policy. The policy will allow us to follow research law as well as keep the faculty, staff, and students safe when going on international trips. Mr. Wakeland mentioned that concerns from Faculty Senate were received, but believed the concerns are best addressed in the written procedures rather than the policy.

Trustee Hightower asked for information about the app and the next step with the procedures.

Mr. Wakeland mentioned there is Terra Dotta software that the international travel information is entered into. The app is something that an individual can download to their phone. This allows the institution to know where they are in a country in case something would happen to them. Location is not actively monitored unless something would happen. Downloading the app is voluntary at this time.

Trustee Hightower ask President Mahony about the next step in development of the procedures for implementation to ensure this is “not perceived as big brother looking down.”

President Mahony mentioned the next step is working on the procedures with faculty. Having a broad policy will give an advantage in doing this. Keeping things in the procedures allows adjustments as the world around us adjusts. Requirements may change over time and will continually be discussed with faculty. How the app may be used may change and evolve over time but that will be within the procedures and will be discussed with the varies faculty groups.

Trustee Hightower asked that the procedures be presented to the Board once worked out, not for approval as the Board only approves policy, so that there is transparency and good communication.

President Mahony stated that an informational update will be given.

Trustee Williams asked if it is part of the policy to check in with the embassy.

Mr. Wakeland said not currently as that would be part of the procedures. Procedures will be different for each campus. It's perceived that the notification of the State Department will be for those countries more dangerous, level 3 or level 4 countries. There is a question whether we would even approve a level 4 country.

Trustee Hightower mentioned that this addresses his question on whether faculty, staff, and students would be approved to travel to level 3 or 4 countries.

Mr. Wakeland stated the campus' initial intent was that level 4 countries would not be approved unless there were extenuating circumstances. Reiterated that this is just for university business travel, not personal time.

President Mahony stated that this is in the best interest of the institution and the faculty so that it's known where they are at. If we do not know where they are at and the situation that they are in, we are less able to help them when things go wrong. This is why it is helpful for both the institution and faculty.

Trustee Hightower requested that there not be three different procedures for each campus.

President Mahony said the intent is to have consistent policy and procedures.

Motion was made by Trustee Abuzaneh to approve the International Travel Registration Policy. The motion was duly seconded by Trustee Williams. Madam Secretary called roll call with Hightower, Abuzaneh, Salger, and Williams passing the motion.

Trustee Hightower asked what the timeline is for developing a procedure.

Mr. Wakeland stated that there is a meeting with the Faculty Senate in May to discuss the procedure and they will need to speak with the School of Medicine and Edwardsville. Anticipates a draft form of the procedure sometime in June.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:57am.

GVG/jl