

FA News: Announcements & restructuring update **3/7/18**

Four announcements, then an update on restructuring, including an analysis of the calm before the (restructuring) storm.

1. BOT retreat this Friday

The Board of Trustees has just announced that they will hold a retreat at Touch of Nature this **Friday, March 9**. The meeting begins at 9:00 am with a public comment period. If you are interested in speaking to the board, contact board secretary Misty Whittington at mistyw@siu.edu. The meeting includes an update on restructuring on the Carbondale campus, which could be of interest.

2. Primary day

Primary day in Illinois is March 20, the Tuesday after break. To avoid falling afoul of ethics rules, I'll not say anything political here, but you can find a post on our [Facebook site](#) with more information in that line.

3. General membership meeting 3/22

The FA has scheduled a general membership meeting for Thursday, March 22 at 4:30 in Lawson 121. The primary agenda item will be an update on restructuring, and on the FA grievances, together with a discussion of FA strategy as that process goes on. All FA members are encouraged to attend.

4. Bargaining

The FA is looking for a few good faculty to serve on our bargaining team for the next contract with the administration. Bargaining requires a significant time commitment, but also gives you a real chance to help shape the future of SIUC and of the FA. If you would like to help with bargaining in a less intensive way, we will also be looking for people to serve on the bargaining support team. If you are interested in either sort of work, contact [Bret Seferian](#).

Restructuring: the calm before the storm

First a quick review of the most relevant stages in the Article 9 process.

Discussion period (CBA 9.04). The 90-day review period ended the middle of February for faculty in proposed schools who did not vote for extensions; the review period for faculty in schools with 30-day extensions ends on or around March 13, with seven days thereafter for the filing of "dissenting views and other materials."

→ Faculty assigned to proposed schools with extensions should submit any materials (minutes, votes, dissenting views, straw polls, etc.) they wish included in Program Change Plans to Associate Provost DiLalla **by March 20**. Materials included in these plans will be shared with faculty in proposed schools, and eventually with the Graduate Council, Faculty Senate, and relevant college committees. Materials only submitted via other means (as to the chancellor's website) may not be shared with these bodies.

Formal faculty votes (CBA 9.05). Once the 90-day deadline (or deadline as revised by faculty votes) has passed, and seven days have been allowed for submission of additional materials, the administration will present the plan to faculty in the potential school and schedule two meetings, one at the department level and one for all the faculty in the future potential school. After those meetings the faculty will vote and the plan, the vote, meeting minutes, and the FA's written review of the plan will go the Faculty Senate and Graduate Council.

I think most campus observers had anticipated that formal Program Change Plans would have been presented for faculty votes by the administration by now, in keeping with the chancellor's intention to present his plan to the board in time for their April 12 meeting. Many such plans could have been presented to faculty more than two weeks ago. Instead we have had something of a lull, during which the chancellor released a new version of his overall plan ([Version 3.0](#)), but did not yet the review process forward.

In Graduate Council last week, the co-provosts could not shed much light on what is going on with restructuring (the chancellor did not attend the meeting). They did say that the Carbondale administration was consulting with the system office and board about just what the board would need to review, and how it would go about reviewing it. Those inclined to skepticism regarding this administration could well conclude that, now that the proposed schools have met so much resistance, the administration is trying to figure out how they can do as much restructuring as possible with as little faculty and board review as possible.

Another notable feature of the Grad Council meeting was the lack of action on fronts other than restructuring. The co-provosts could provide no report on the budgetary impact of the dire enrollment figures predicted for next fall. They in fact came to the meeting with no enrollment figures at all, though they were able to look them up during the course of the meeting. The council was informed that the search for a Vice Provost for Enrollment Management has stalled out; a search firm's inability to present the campus with a deep pool of candidates was cited as the reason that the search had stalled. But it seems fairly clear that this search, which one would think absolutely essential to a campus in an enrollment crisis, has not been afforded the priority it deserves. At one point, Vice Chancellor for Research Jim Garvey admitted that the administration had been "consumed" by restructuring.

We have now learned that the administration plans to move some program change plans forward in a week or so, and also to put forward proposals for the new college structure called for in the chancellor's plan. Administrators have been speaking of this as a mere "renaming" of colleges, but much more would be involved. Two colleges would be eliminated, and departments would be rearranged across campus in keeping with the chancellor's plan. In at least some cases the administration evidently plans to secure approval for colleges without eliminating their departments or arranging them into schools. That is, college proposals will go forward before the proposals for the schools within those colleges. The chancellor thus plans to pivot from pushing for schools, which have proven controversial and require the formal Article 9 process, to pushing for colleges, which he apparently hopes can be implemented quickly.

We cannot be sure of precisely what this administration will do until it does it. But we in the FA will firmly resist any effort to short-circuit the shared governance process by a change in tactics, late in the spring semester, intended to push through college-level changes that lay the foundations for the chancellor's schools before those schools are approved themselves. The rationale for these colleges will apparently be that we "need a place to put the schools." But the schools have yet to be approved. You don't rearrange campus in order to "have a place to put the schools" before those schools are approved unless you regard their approval as a mere formality. Doing so implies that you regard faculty votes on schools, graduate council and faculty senate votes on schools, and even BOT approval of schools as meaningless afterthoughts. I don't think faculty will stand for this, and I certainly hope the BOT will not, either.

The right way to restructure the campus into schools—or at least those parts of campus where such changes make sense—would be to start with the schools, which are the focus of the chancellor's plan, and only then move to colleges. This would allow the administration to present a coherent set of changes, one that included both colleges and the schools within them and could be adopted all at once, for faculty and constituency body review.

Adopting the chancellor's colleges now, while leaving their internal organization to be determined later, would leave SIUC in the worst of all possible worlds. We would have undone our current structure only to replace it with a half-way house of new colleges designed to facilitate schools that do not yet exist. In short, if the chancellor manages to push through colleges after failing to get his schools approved on time, that might allow the chancellor to claim a win, but it would not be a win for SIUC.

In solidarity,

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