11/1/2017

Dear SIU Community Members,

Greetings. If you are receiving this email, it is because you attended the October 25th meeting to discuss the various aspects of the chancellor's Vision 2025 plan, including restructuring of academic units, changes to graduate assistantships, and program eliminations and additions, as well as the abbreviated timeline the chancellor has outlined for the adoption of his plan. Thank you for the energy, passion, and insight that you brought to that meeting. At this time, we are pleased to announce the formation of the Coordinating Committee for Change at SIU (the CCC), a cross-campus committee that--through dialogue, open deliberation, and collaboration--will continue to review the chancellor's proposals, identify their strengths and weaknesses, and develop our own vision for change, one rooted in the collective needs of students, staff, faculty, and community members.

Based on the concerns voiced at the October 25th meeting, we are proposing the formation of four working groups. Each group will take up a particular task that is necessary in order for the reorganization process to move forward equitably, productively, and in a genuine spirit of collaboration. Each group will need a chair, as well as a critical mass of at-large members. **We need volunteers!**

1) PRINCIPLES FOR CHANGE: Virtually everyone in the campus community understands that structural change is necessary in light of the ongoing fiscal and economic crisis facing our university. We wholeheartedly reject the charge that we are simply "anti-change" or "afraid of change." This group will draft a document tentatively entitled "Core Principles for Change" that both addresses the concerns of students, staff, and faculty about the current proposals and puts forth some shared principles that should animate our discussions of institutional change moving forward.

2) COLLEGE OUTREACH: We need more information about how constituents across the entire campus community feel about the chancellor's proposals. While we had a very good turnout at last week's meeting, some places on campus were not well represented. The purpose of this group will be to develop and implement mechanisms for reaching out to every corner of the campus for input.

3) ON-LINE RESOURCE PAGE: The devil is in the details. We have heard this a lot since the chancellor's proposal was first released, and it is true. This working group will be responsible for creating an on-line resource page where we can get certain key questions answered: Have similar plans been implemented at other universities? Are there any precedents for this? If so, how did they work out? Were they successful or not? This group will do some on-line research and help us come up with some answers.

4) COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Everyone knows that the fates of the university, the Carbondale community, and SIUC alumni are entwined. This group will focus on outreach to alumni and residents of Southern Illinois in order to understand how restructuring will impact the wider community. This group will also help us to stay in touch with the local press, which so far has done an excellent job of covering this story.

Please consider volunteering for one of these working groups. A willingness to chair one of them would be even better. We know that everyone is very busy and has many demands on their time. But we've designed these working groups in order to delegate labor so that no one person or group is excessively burdened. And our sincere hope is that by working together now, we can help to create an institution that we can all feel proud of in the years ahead. So let's say it again: **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.**

If you are willing to step up, please email us at cccsiuc@gmail.com and tell us what you'd like to do. And if you have any questions at all, please contact us there, as well.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Natasha Zaretsky, Holly Hurlburt, and Segun Ojewuyi

On behalf of the Coordinating Committee for Change at SIU