

We've spared you a newsletter for much of this summer, but, as you may have noticed, it has not been an uneventful time for SIU. We here address five topics:

Enrollment**Reorganization****The end of the Dunn presidency****Bargaining****The Janus case**

But first an announcement relevant to the first topic. Dan Silver, leader of our paralegal studies program and founder of the sidoingsomething.com website, is organizing a community meeting (and potluck meal):

6:00-8:30 July 24 Carbondale Township Hall (216 Monroe Street)

The meeting is designed to allow people from campus and the community the chance to share ideas about what can be done to address the enrollment crisis at SIUC. More details on the meeting can be found [here](#), or feel free to [email Dan](#).

The enrollment crisis

Interim Provost Komarraju announced at the July 10 Faculty Senate meeting that overall enrollment will be down approximately 12%, with incoming students down a staggering 18%. We at SIUC have grown jaded with talk of crises, but when the stream of incoming students is down by almost 20%, there's not other word for it. This decline cannot be blamed solely on the Rauner budget crisis, and at least some of our peers (including SIUE and EIU) will do far better.

Chancellor Montemagno says that "[all hands are on deck](#)" to work on enrollment. We welcome this renewed focus on enrollment, and the overdue hiring of a head of enrollment management, and are hopeful that these efforts will be successful. But anyone who has attended a meeting on campus in the last year knows that the reorganization process has dominated the campus agenda.

While we have been debating reorganization, far too many students have decided to look elsewhere. We can and must, of course, continue to recruit and educate students as the reorganization process is underway. But the chancellor sold the reorganization process as a boon to recruitment, and a new organization will certainly have an impact on how we recruit students. Programs will remain, but we will be recruiting students into different units, whose makeup, names (and hence "brands") will change, as will the roles of chairs and others currently expected to do recruiting.

It is time to wrap up the restructuring process promptly, and turn, together, to initiatives that will have a direct impact on enrollment. The way to do this is to take the approach the FA has advocated from the outset: move forward with new schools where faculty and students support them, and allow for other academic structures, including disciplinary departments, where faculty and students believe those alternatives are superior to the schools the chancellor has proposed. We cannot afford to continue to argue about how to reorganize our academic units while the students those units should serve disappear from campus.

Reorganization update

A more detailed update on reorganization can be found [on our website](#). Here's a snapshot of where things stand after the [July 10 Faculty Senate meeting](#). The [most recent version](#) of the chancellor's scheme includes 20 schools, one of which, Accountancy, already exists. Of the remaining 19:

- Four have been **approved** by the FS without significant concerns being noted.
 - Computing
 - Earth Systems and Sustainability
 - Health Sciences
 - Psychological and Behavioral Sciences
- Two have been **approved** by the FS with significant concerns noted.
 - Applied Engineering and Technology
 - Biological Sciences
- Four have received the equivalent of **revise and resubmit**.
 - Analytics, Finance and Economics
 - Education
 - Human Sciences
 - Management and Marketing
- Two have been voted on by department faculty, but not yet by the FS.
 - Agricultural Sciences (rejected by departmental faculty)
 - Justice and Public Safety (approved by departmental faculty)
- Seven have yet to be voted on by department faculty, mainly due to faculty opposition. These include more than half of SIUC's TT faculty.
 - Engineering
 - Physical Sciences

- Transportation
- Architecture, Art and Design
- Humanities
- Media, Communications, and Performing Arts
- Social Sciences and Multicultural Studies

The Graduate Council has yet to approve any of the proposed schools. The least that can be said is that reorganization remains controversial, and that a great deal of work remains to be done on reorganization.

The end of the Dunn presidency

The FA took no official stance on the controversy about President Dunn. Given that we haven't hesitated to be critical of administrators in the past, this calls for some explanation. We took no stance was because our members were divided. It had become increasingly clear that Dunn was skeptical about Chancellor Montemagno's restructuring scheme, skepticism we in the FA have shared. This led many to hope that, under Dunn, the system office could play a positive role in the debate about restructuring.

On the other hand, Dunn was, paradoxically, as responsible as anyone for the hiring of Montemagno. Dunn's stubborn loyalty to Brad Colwell as a candidate for the chancellorship, long after Colwell had lost any support on the Carbondale campus, led the board to take direct control of the search. This sidelined not only Dunn but Carbondale faculty and students, who could not play a full role in evaluating candidates who came to Carbondale only for abbreviated summer visits. Montemagno had not made the original short list, but his longshot candidacy appealed to trustees who had lost confidence in Colwell and Dunn and were looking for a visionary.

Another reason we were hesitant to wade into the controversy about Dunn was discomfort about the fact that Dunn's emails were released as the result of requests made by his adversaries, whose own emails were not subject to the same scrutiny. But the FOIA documents do substantiate two major charges against Dunn. He worked in secret with SIUE leaders to reallocate state funds from SIUC to SIUE, without informing SIUC administrators, faculty, or students about what he was doing. And he worked in secret with SIUE leaders and Metro East legislators to support legislation calling for the breakup of the SIU system, including reassignment of the medical school to SIUE.

If we did not condemn Dunn, despite these concerns, neither did we support him, despite his critical stance toward Montemagno's restructuring scheme. At any rate, his time as SIU President is over, and we hope that his departure will allow the board, with the help of Interim President Dorsey, to start working together for the wellbeing of the entire system and all of its component parts.

Bargaining update

The FA Salary Team continues to meet with the administration in an effort to wrap up negotiations on the salary reopener from the 2017-2018 contract. Discussions include a modest 1% raise retroactive to a date to be determined in Fiscal Year 2018. The two teams have agreed to request the services of a federal mediator for the next steps in the bargaining process.

Bargaining over a successor to the 2017-2018 contract is in early stages. Figures compiled as part of the joint FA/administration salary study from last year showed that compensation for SIUC faculty was on average 15% below that of our peers. This is a problem that needs immediate attention. The FA has advanced a proposal that would provide additional compensation now and otherwise extend the 2017-2018 contract for an additional year. The FA proposal and administration response are under consideration by the two parties.

The Janus case

Last month, the conservative majority on the US Supreme Court [struck down decades of US labor law](#) and made it illegal for states to require all public employees in unionized environments to pay for the work the union does on their behalf—to make “fair share” payments. The plaintiff, Mark Janus, was a social worker for the state of Illinois, whose lawsuit was strongly backed by Governor Rauner. He has now retired from the state [to work for a right-wing Illinois think tank](#).

The ruling will have no direct effect on the FA, as our contract does not include a fair share requirement. But the ruling will harm the IEA, our parent union, as many other IEA locals had fair share, and will lose at least some revenue from this decision. The IEA and other public sector unions are working with allies in the state government to minimize the impact of this decision. But the overall impact will depend on whether employees support unions despite the temptation to stop paying for the work unions do on their behalf. This is a time for any one who supports the goals of the union movement, which include, in higher education, fair wages, shared governance, and tenure, to step up and join. To join the FA, follow [this link](#), or contact FA treasurer [Joe Shapiro](#).