November 10, 2014

The members and leadership of the Graduate and Professional Student Council would like to send their most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Interim Chancellor Paul Sarvela.

Dr. Sarvela was a great role model for SIU’s student leaders. He was thoughtful and considerate of the issues affecting graduate education and open-minded when listening to student ideas and concerns. In meetings Dr. Sarvela often listened more than he spoke, and asked questions to make sure he understood the issue at hand. He felt that students should come first and that their concerns should help guide decisions made by university administrators. Dr. Sarvela was friendly, had a great sense of humor and was often smiling; his positive attitude put people at ease. These are characteristics of a great leader and as student leaders we will continue to learn from his example.

In the months that Dr. Sarvela was Chancellor, he worked hard to affect positive change which will benefit students and the university for many years to come. On behalf of the Graduate and Professional Student Council, we would like to thank Dr. Sarvela for his 28 years of service to the students of Southern Illinois University Carbondale. His passion for the university and the wider Carbondale community will not be forgotten.

Matt Ryg
President

Amanda Barnard
Vice President
for Graduate School Affairs

Patrick Hunn
Vice President
for Administrative Affairs