

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee
University of Kentucky
Tuesday, December 11, 2018

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky (UK) met on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, in Ballroom A of the Bill Gatton Student Center.

A. Meeting Opened

Trustee Angela Edwards called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the ASAC answered the call of the roll: Angela Edwards, Lee Blonder, Cammie Grant, Robert Grossman, Michael Hamilton, David Hawpe, Derrick Ramsey, Sandy Shuffett, and Rachel Webb. Carol Martin “Bill” Gatton was not in attendance.

C. Approval of Minutes

Chair Edwards reported that the minutes of the September 14, 2018, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Shuffett moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Ramsey seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Chair Edwards called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

D. ASACR 1: Candidate for Degree: December 2015

The recommendation is that the President be authorized to confer upon the individual whose name appears on the attached list the degree to which she is entitled, upon certification by the University Registrar that the individual has satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degree for which application has been made and as approved by the elected faculty of the University Senate and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. By way of background, the individual whose name appears on the attached list completed the work leading toward the degree for which application was made at the close of the 2015 Fall Semester. Due to administrative error, the name was not previously submitted. Trustee Shuffett moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Ramsey. Finding no further discussion, Chair Edwards called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

E. ASACR 2: Candidates for Degrees: December 2018

The recommendation is that the President be authorized to confer upon each of the individuals whose names appear on the attached list the degree to which he or she is entitled, upon certification by the University Registrar that the individual has satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degree for which application has been made and as approved by the elected faculty of the University Senate and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. By way of background, since UK will hold the December Commencement ceremonies immediately following completion of examinations, it is not possible for the University Registrar

to certify satisfactory completion of requirements prior to the ceremonies for those candidates who complete their requirements in December. Trustee Hamilton moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Grant. Finding no further discussion, Chair Edwards called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

F. ASACR 3: Candidate for *In Memoriam* Degree: December 2018

The recommendation is that the President be authorized to confer upon the individual whose name appears on the attached list an *In Memoriam Posthumous Degree*. The degree for which application has been made has been approved by the elected faculty of the University Senate and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. By way of background, an *In Memoriam Posthumous Degree* allows for recognition of a connection to UK for undergraduate, graduate, and professional students who were registered in a degree program and were in good academic standing at the time of their death, but did not complete degree requirements. Trustee Blonder moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Hawpe. Finding no further discussion, Chair Edwards called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

G. ASACR 4: Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Arts & Sciences

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in African-American and Africana Studies in the College of Arts & Sciences beginning in the Fall 2019 Semester. By way of background, the program will allow students to complete an interdisciplinary program of study that draws together the multifaceted understanding of the Africana experience. The rich and challenging coursework addresses historical, cultural, sociological, political, and psychological factors that affect the lives of African people. The proposed program will benefit from the strong demand for an undergraduate degree in this area. This interdisciplinary program will appeal to students who have interest in communication and media, education, non-profit, business, and government; equipping them as citizens, thinkers, and entrepreneurs. The initial estimated number of majors is 10, growing to 50 by 2023. The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate and has completed the 30 day review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

In attendance to answer any questions was Dr. Anastasia Curwood, Director of African-American and Africana Studies in the College of Arts & Sciences. Trustee Hawpe asked how the requirements outside of those specific to the major compare with the requirements that are outside specific majors in other disciplines. Dr. Curwood indicated that students will be exposed to a wide variety of courses and the program will pair well with other disciplines as a double major. The degree plan has been mapped out to ensure all UK core requirements will be covered. For example, the Graduate Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR) is built into the detailed degree plan. Trustee Hawpe indicated he is in favor of this major and asked how Dr. Curwood would respond to those who might ask if the degree is a “politically correct academic response” or a “soft major.” Dr. Curwood indicated it is impossible to understand American society today without understanding history and social circumstances surrounding African Americans in this country. Regardless of career path, the basis of knowledge provided by the program will lead to greater competence. This program also will serve as a powerful retention tool. All program faculty

members have appointments in various departments with stringent promotion and tenure requirements. Trustee Hawpe shared a quote from a New York Times article: “Race is the thread that has run so true through our entire history.” He indicated we cannot ignore the thread that has run throughout our history. Trustee Grossman thanked Dr. Curwood for putting together this major. Trustee Ramsey commended Dr. Curwood and indicated that for us to understand our world, we must understand our history as well. Trustee Hawpe indicated we are in the midst of a great renaissance of African-American writing which will complement this program.

Trustee Grossman moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Grant. Finding no further discussion, Chair Edwards called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

H. Student Government Association (SGA) Update

SGA President Michael Hamilton provided an overview of activities during the semester:

- Funding:
 - SGA has awarded over \$83,000 to registered student organizations to fund events, travel, etc.
 - SGA has awarded over \$20,000 in child care grants.
 - SGA has finalized an application and evaluation process for graduate student conference and research travel grants. \$10,000 will be awarded.
- Services:
 - Wildcat Wardrobe: The opening of the service’s new space was delayed due to construction. Current needs are women’s professional clothing of all sizes as well as men’s and women’s shoes. Donations should be delivered to the SGA office in the Center for Student Involvement. Partnerships with local businesses for donations are in development.
 - Swipe Out Hunger: This program is for food insecure students. Aramark and other campus partners donated 1,000 extra meals, contributing to the over 2,000 meals that were awarded, serving over 100 students. In the future, social responsibility components will be incorporated.
- Events:
 - Civic Engagement Week: This week-long event included voter registration drives and various speakers. This prompted incorporation of civic engagement topics and voter registration into UK 101 curriculum.
 - Annual Fall Forum: This year’s forum had the highest attendance to date. Attendees were able to engage with UK administrators.
 - Second Annual Minority Student Forum: This event was held in partnership with the Black Student Union. Attendees had a conversation regarding minority student issues on campus. Feedback gathered will be used to help the SGA Coalition for Diversity and Inclusion with future plans.
 - Second Annual Minority Professionals Banquet: Minority professionals in the community were invited to have a formal etiquette and networking dinner with students.
 - Mental Health Awareness Week: The goal of this week was to destigmatize mental health treatment and to make students aware of services and resources

at UK. The slogan was “Self-care isn’t selfish.”

Overall Chair for DanceBlue Tyler Ward provided an update about DanceBlue. DanceBlue is a year-long fundraising effort which culminates in a 24 hour no sitting, no sleeping Dance Marathon hosted during the spring semester. Mini Marathons are hosted across the Commonwealth at elementary, middle, and high schools. All funds raised go to the Golden Matrix fund which benefits the DanceBlue Kentucky Children’s Hospital (KCH) Hematology-Oncology Clinic, its patients, and their families. In addition to fundraising, DanceBlue participants also volunteer at the Clinic: visiting patients while they receive treatment, hosting parties, etc. 2018 highlights include raising \$1.8 million and creating an endowed professorship. DanceBlue helps students learn about the joy of philanthropy. This year’s DanceBlue Dance Marathon will occur from 8 PM on March 2 to 8 PM on March 3 in Memorial Coliseum. Formal invitations to attend will be sent to trustees. If you are interested in becoming involved with DanceBlue, contact Tyler Ward. Trustee Webb mentioned the disparity of funding nationally between pediatric cancer and other types of cancer and asked if there is discussion about policy regarding funding for pediatric cancer research. Tyler Ward indicated this is a point of focus for DanceBlue. There is also a lack of funding for adolescent and young adult cancer. DanceBlue is developing a program to address this disparity. Trustee Hawpe commented that DanceBlue epitomizes service to the Commonwealth as the University “for” Kentucky.

I. Provost Report

Provost David Blackwell thanked SGA President Hamilton for his report. He also thanked SGA for their work to facilitate students helping other students.

Provost Blackwell discussed three ongoing Dean searches: College of Communication and Information, College of Education, and Libraries. Search firms are engaged to assist in developing a broad and diverse candidate pool. Diversity on UK’s leadership team is a priority; therefore, the structure of each search committee reflects broad representation and diversity across gender, employee classification, and ethnicity. Positions will soon be posted and applications collected. These searches will progress through the spring semester with the goal of filling all three positions by the end of the semester. Trustee Blonder inquired about the status of the College of Social Work Dean position. Provost Blackwell indicated he met recently with the College’s faculty, staff, and advisory board to gather their input regarding the future of the College. An announcement regarding this Dean search will come soon.

Provost Blackwell discussed a student success initiative, CATapult, developed in collaboration between the Office of Institutional Diversity (OID) and the Division of Student and Academic Life (SAL). While the focus is to improve the retention and graduation gaps between minority and non-minority students, CATapult also will address challenges faced by first-generation and low-income students. Although CATapult is still in the planning stage, the program was piloted last year. Students who have academic challenges are identified and contacted very early in the enrollment cycle. They are provided with programming that will allow them to be better prepared when they arrive on campus. Students also will have the option to participate in a summer bridge program that will allow students to come to campus for a period of time to facilitate earlier adjustment to college life. As CATapult continues to develop, additional updates will be

provided.

Provost Blackwell provided information regarding the status of the undergraduate admissions process. It is a dynamic process with ongoing changes implemented to ensure UK is utilizing best practices. In the current cycle, the number of total applications has decreased, but the number of completed applications has increased. On-campus visits each month have increased 10-12%. The early action deadline recently passed on December 1. The regular decision deadline is February 15. UK is focusing on new markets including Long Island, Rochester, Washington, D.C./Northern Virginia/Maryland, Dallas, Houston, Charlotte, Raleigh/Durham, Jacksonville, Denver, San Diego, and Los Angeles. In many of these areas, the number of applications submitted has increased. A High School Counselor Advisory Board was created, including counselors from Kentucky and other states. This group participated in a two-day campus visit to gain insight about UK. Minority student outreach is receiving intentional focus via new and enhanced recruitment events as well as recruiters focused on recruitment of under-represented minority (URM) students.

Provost Blackwell discussed work occurring to expand UK's online program offerings in the context of Our Path Forward (OPF). The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) is considering allowing UK to obtain simultaneous academic program approval from the Board of Trustees and CPE. This will be beneficial given each body's staggered deadlines. If either body does not approve, the program would not move forward. He thanked Trustee Blonder and Chair Brockman for their communication regarding this process. Trustee Blonder inquired if advertisements for a new program could commence once it has been approved by both CPE and the Board of Trustees. Provost Blackwell affirmed this was correct.

Trustee Grossman inquired what the goal is for first-time freshman (FTF) enrollment in Fall 2019. Provost Blackwell indicated the goal is 5,450. Transfer student enrollment, online student enrollment, and Project Graduate participation also will receive increased focus. Trustee Grossman inquired about plans to increase the number of faculty members to teach the growing student population. Provost Blackwell indicated one goal of OPF is to share the net tuition revenue growth that results from new initiatives with the colleges. In general, this will be allocated based on where students are taking courses. This will enable colleges to increase their number of faculty and staff members as needed. Trustee Grossman inquired if this revenue sharing will have a delayed impact. Provost Blackwell indicated that is correct, but that impacted colleges will be assisted in ensuring they are appropriately staffed initially. Trustee Christian stated that in the previous two cycles, FTF enrollment had decreased. He inquired about the cause of this decrease and how the higher FTF enrollment goal for the current cycle would be reached. Provost Blackwell indicated FTF enrollment in previous enrollment cycles in recent years was flat or only increased slightly. Enrollment Management is deliberately implementing new ideas as described previously. Although difficult to know which will be most effective, he expects significant progress toward the increased FTF enrollment goal.

J. Online Education Report

Associate Provost for Teaching, Learning, and Academic Innovation Kathi Kern provided an update regarding current online education efforts. UK's online mission grows out of its land-grant history and identity. When land-grant universities were created, the intent was to bring

knowledge and new technology in agriculture and the mechanical arts without excluding scientific and classical studies to average people. Our goals for online education closely align with our land-grant mission. Those goals include: expanding the portfolio of high-quality online programs to facilitate learning; growing program offerings to increase access to higher education to current and new populations, including adult learners; and increasing the number of degrees awarded at UK. The vast majority of students choose an online program within 100 miles of their home. Fifty-seven percent of students choose an online program within 50 miles of their home. This emphasizes the importance of considering UK's regional reputation. At the same time, we are working to reach populations outside of the immediate geographic region.

Associate Provost Kern discussed the changing landscape of higher education. Nationally, the number of students studying online is increasing. At UK, however, only 1% of undergraduate students are taking their courses exclusively online. Twenty-two percent of undergraduate students are taking some courses online. Seventeen percent of graduate students are taking their courses exclusively online. Nine percent of graduate students are taking some courses online. Project Graduate is a statewide initiative to assist adult learners who have accumulated 80 or more credit hours to return to finish their bachelor's degree. There is currently a pilot program in the College of Arts & Sciences in which student transcripts are audited and individualized degree completion plans are created. Most of these completion plans involve online courses, showing that the online education and Project Graduate missions are intimately connected.

Associate Provost Kern shared that there was a campus-wide call for proposals which has resulted in 26 new online programs. These programs are currently under development and will join 36 existing online programs once they have completed the rigorous, multi-step approval process. While most are master's degrees or graduate certificates, there are three completter bachelor's degrees. A completter degree is similar to the concept of Project Graduate – students who have a certain number of credits and have been away from campus for a certain amount of time are eligible to pursue these degrees. Additional examples of the new online programs are: master's degree in entomology within the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment; bachelor's degree in nursing designed for working professionals who have their licensed practical nurse (LPN) certification; and undergraduate certificate in distillation, wine, and brewing studies. Decisions about which programs to develop took many factors into consideration, including labor market data.

Associate Provost Kern addressed quality of instruction and learning in online education. The Center for the Enhancement of Learning & Teaching (CELT) and Information Technology Services (ITS) have been brought together to form the Office of Teaching, Learning, and Academic Innovation. This group looks at new technology and best practices for engagement to ensure the quality of online programs matches the quality of on-campus programs. Research shows that online programs and on-campus programs are, at a minimum, approximately equal in terms of effectiveness. Public Relations, Academic Excellence, CELT, and ITS have created a website and marketing plan for new online programs.

Trustee Hawpe stated he was pleased to hear about UK's new online programs in the context of our land-grant mission.

I. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Chair Edwards adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Edwards
Academic and Student Affairs Committee

(ASACR 1, ASACR 2, ASACR 3, and ASACR 4 are official parts of the Minutes of the meeting)

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