

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee
University of Kentucky
Thursday, October 15, 2020

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees met on Thursday, October 15, 2020, via Zoom Webinar.

A. Meeting Opened

Chair Rachel Webb called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the ASAC answered the call of the roll: Cathy A. Black, Lee X. Blonder, Ron Geoghegan, Paula Leach Pope, Derrick K. Ramsey, C. Frank Shoop, Bryan Sunderland, Hollie Swanson, Rachel Watts Webb and Courtney Wheeler. Carol Martin "Bill" Gatton was not in attendance.

C. Approval of Minutes

Chair Webb reported that the minutes of the September 11, 2020, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Shoop moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Sunderland seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

D. Student Government Association Update

Student Government Association (SGA) President and Trustee Courtney Wheeler provided an updated regarding SGA activities during the Fall 2020 semester, including:

- Hosting a watch party for the University of Kentucky vs. Auburn University football game.
- Launching the Leadership Development Program for freshman students.
- Co-hosting The Kentucky Debate between Mitch McConnell and Amy McGrath.
- Holding Freshman Senator elections.
- Awarding Childcare/Dependent Grants.
- Launching an online option for Wildcat Wardrobe.

E. Provost Report

Provost David Blackwell provided an update regarding three current dean searches, including search committee membership and process timelines:

- College of Arts and Sciences
- Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education and Dean of

the Graduate School

- J. David Rosenberg College of Law

Trustee Geoghegan inquired how many dean positions are typically vacant at one time. Provost Blackwell indicated it is not atypical to have multiple dean vacancies at one time. Trustee Swanson inquired how the final report of the Blue-Ribbon Panel on Graduate Education (BRP) will guide the Associate Provosts for Graduate and Professional Education and Dean of the Graduate School search. Provost Blackwell indicated that filling the position on a permanent basis was the first of a set of prioritized recommendations from the BRP Implementation Team. In addition, two members of the BRP serve on the search committee. The committee will reference the BRP report and subsequent implementation recommendations throughout the search. Trustee Blonder inquired about the scope of the searches. Provost Blackwell indicated that the College of Arts and Sciences search is a national search, the Graduate and Professional Education and Graduate School search is an internal search and the J. David Rosenberg College of Law search is an internal search. Trustee Ramsey inquired about the history of the J. David Rosenberg College of Law position. Provost Blackwell indicated that the prior dean participated in an American Council of Education Fellowship from July 2020 to June 2021. Upon consultation with the college, an interim dean was named to lead during that time period. During his fellowship, the prior dean decided to step away from the position. Therefore, the interim dean has remained in place until the position can be filled on a permanent basis.

Provost Blackwell indicated that while the pandemic may have created challenges, faculty and staff have adapted in creative, heroic and innovative ways. This is evidenced by the following noteworthy accomplishments in Provost area units:

- College of Design launched the Bachelor of Science in Product Design.
- College of Education partnered with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to establish a civil rights, education and law initiative.
- College of Fine Arts adapted instruction and performance during the pandemic, including the use of non-traditional rehearsal space and specialized masks.
- Martin School of Public Policy and Administration launched the Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy.
- College of Nursing Bachelor of Science in Nursing class of May 2020 achieved a 100 percent passage rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).
- College of Social Work launched the Doctorate of Social Work.
- Office of Faculty Advancement closely monitors faculty retention and progression during the pandemic.
- UK International Center reimagined international education and operations, including International Health, Safety and Security processes.

- Teaching, Learning and Academic Innovation established the Center for Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) Teaching Innovation Institute.

Trustee Ramsey congratulated the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration for the recent Wendell Ford Lecture featuring Charlie Cook and the College of Nursing on the NCLEX passage rate achievement. He then inquired about availability of tutoring services and other student resources during the pandemic. Vice President for Student Success Kirsten Turner indicated The Study (UK's tutoring service) works with students in a variety of ways, including via in-person or virtual tutoring services and outreach based on academic alerts. In addition, some colleges have discipline-specific tutoring programs (e.g., chemistry).

F. Vice President for Student Success Report

Vice President for Student Success Kirsten Turner provided an overview of the Student Success Strategic Roadmap, which will guide progress toward goals such as increased retention and graduation rates. The Strategic Roadmap includes:

- Closing the opportunity gap for first-generation students.
- Creating a holistic well-being experience.
- Developing an integrated first-year experience.
- Implementing an integrated coaching model across all student services.
- Building out a unified research agenda that marries the academic and student affairs perspective.

These areas were selected using the following criteria: possible areas of distinction, areas of existing strength and areas of existing campus and community needs.

Dr. Turner stated closing the opportunity gap for first-generation students would set UK apart among Research I-designated institutions. Currently, 25 to 30 percent of UK undergraduate students are first-generation. These students experience the largest opportunity gap of any other student population. Closing this opportunity gap would impact not only individual students, but also their families and communities.

In follow up to discussion at the September 2020 ASAC meeting, Vice President Turner provided information regarding UK's retention rates compared to other Kentucky state-support institutions. UK's 2019 first to second year retention rate was highest among these institutions.

Trustee Swanson inquired who would lead the student care teams mentioned as part of the integrated coaching section of the Strategic Roadmap. Vice President Turner indicated this is to be determined. Trustee Shuffett inquired how UK compares to other institutions in terms of support for students with learning disabilities. Vice President Turner indicated she would request this information from the Disability Resource Center. Trustee

Geoghegan indicated he was pleased to learn about the Strategic Roadmap, which is both passionate and compassionate.

G. Vice President for Institutional Diversity Report

Interim Vice President for Institutional Diversity George Wright provided an update regarding the institution's diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) plan, which has considered stakeholder feedback regarding the plan's intentions, methodology and goals. Leads for the workstreams and project teams have been appointed. Overall, more than 200 faculty, staff and students have volunteered to participate in the implementation of the DEI plan, which includes:

- Examination of responsible speech on campus.
- Establishing a diverse art fund for capital projects.
- Expansion of supplier diversity.
- UK leadership participation in anti-racist training.

Dr. Wright emphasized the importance of effectively communicating regarding the DEI plan activities. To this end, he recently began a blog, which will highlight various aspects of the plan as well as members of the campus community who contribute to implementation.

Trustee Swanson inquired if the recent Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping could impact future DEI training offerings at UK. Interim Vice President Wright indicated that the training previously described is acceptable within the parameters of the Executive Order.

H. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rachel Watts Webb
Academic and Student Affairs
Committee

RW/afc