

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee
University of Kentucky
Tuesday, May 4, 2021

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky (UK) Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, via Zoom Webinar.

A. Meeting Opened

Chair Rachel Webb called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Chair Webb paid homage to UK alumna and former trustee Myra Tobin.

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 February 19, 2021, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Ramsey moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Shoop seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

D. ASACR 1: Candidates for Degrees: December 2020

The recommendation is that the president be authorized to rescind December 2020 degrees and confer upon the individuals whose names appear upon the attached list the degree to which they are entitled, upon certification by the University Registrar that the individuals have satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degree for which applications have 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 individuals whose names appear on the attached list completed the work leading to the degrees shown. Due to anticipation of a change in the degree program's accrediting agency, the program underwent revisions and the students received a Master of Arts in Counseling (MAC) degree with a specialty in Counselor Education. However, the students cannot be licensed by the Kentucky Counselor Licensure Board unless their transcripts reflect the conferral of a Master of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) degree with a specialty in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, rather than the MAC degree. The Counselor Education faculty of record has confirmed that the students meet the MRC degree requirements. The College of Education supports rescinding the MAC degree with a specialty in Counselor Education for both students and conferring the MRC degree with a specialty in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Trustee Blonder moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Black. Finding no further

discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

E. ASACR 2: Candidates for Degrees: May 2021

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 they are entitled, upon certification by the University Registrar that the individuals have satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degree for which applications have 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 final grades are not due until the Monday following the last day of final examinations, it is not possible for the University Registrar to certify satisfactory completion of requirements prior to the degree conferral date for those candidates who complete their requirements in May. Trustee Geoghegan moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Swanson. Finding no further discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

F. ASACR 3: Candidates for *In Memoriam* Degrees: May 2021

The recommendation is that the president be authorized to confer upon the individuals whose names appear 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 the recognition of a connection to the University of Kentucky 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. The Board of Trustees may approve the conferral of this degree upon a student who is a qualified candidate and meets all criteria, with exceptions permitted only for the timing of the student's death. Trustee Sunderland moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Pope. Finding no further discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

G. ASACR 4: Candidates for Degrees: August 2021

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 they are entitled, upon certification by the University Registrar that the individuals have satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degree for which applications have 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, each individual whose name appears on the attached list is scheduled to complete the work toward the degree for which application is being made at the close of the 2021 Summer Session. Due to licensure or certification requirements for students pursuing job placement or additional education, degrees must be verified as soon as possible. Trustee Ramsey moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Black. Finding no further

discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

H. ASACR 5: Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Engineering

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Aerospace Engineering, in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, within the College of Engineering, beginning in the 2022 Fall Semester. By way of background, the proposed program provides a rigorous foundation in modern engineering theory, technology and practice associated with the design, development, testing and production of aircraft, spacecraft and related aerospace systems. The program would be the only Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) accredited aerospace engineering program in Kentucky and would meet a demonstrated need, as currently 30 students per year leave the state through the common market to pursue similar degree programs. The program will prepare students for careers in the state's growing aerospace industry, with Kentucky's aerospace exports being the third-largest in the country, or national labs or government service. Students will also be prepared to pursue advanced graduate studies. Projected steady state enrollment is 250 students. The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate. The provost of the university supports this recommendation. Pending approval by the Board of Trustees, the program will begin the review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

In attendance to answer any questions were Dr. Rebecca Burchett Liebert Dean Rudy Buchheit, Professor and Associate Dean for Administration and Academic Affairs Kim Anderson and Tennessee Valley Authority Professor and Chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering Michael Renfro. There were no questions or comments.

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

I. ASACR 6: Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Engineering

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Computer Engineering Technology, in the Department of Engineering Technology, within the College of Engineering, beginning in the 2021 Fall Semester. By way of background, the proposed program offers a curriculum designed to provide in-depth knowledge of hardware and software design, development, applications and maintenance with a mix of both classroom and laboratory experiences that are in-demand by industry. The program is designed as a feeder-completer program in which students earn an Associate in Applied Sciences degree in Computer Engineering Technology (CPT) from the Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) and then a Bachelor of Science degree in CPT from UK. In this arrangement, UK will only offer Junior and Senior level coursework. The proposed program is designed to respond to shortages in critical manufacturing skills within the state. In addition to the collaboration with BCTC, the proposed program will incorporate industry partnerships to provide students with the needed industrial experiences and applications to be career-ready. The

program will prepare students for careers in creative industrial design, production and service and specifically for jobs such as embedded software technologist, computer support specialist, automation engineer and network administrator. Projected steady state enrollment is 145 students. The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate. The provost of the university supports this recommendation. Pending approval by the Board of Trustees, the program will begin the review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

In attendance to answer any questions were Dr. Rebecca Burchett Liebert Dean Rudy Buchheit, Professor and Associate Dean for Administration and Academic Affairs Kim Anderson and Assistant Research Professor and Associate Director of the Institute of Research for Technology Development Nelson Akafuah. There were no questions or comments.

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

J. ASACR 7: Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Engineering

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Lean Systems Engineering Technology, in the Department of Engineering Technology, within the College of Engineering, beginning in the 2021 Fall Semester. By way of background, the proposed program offers a curriculum designed to provide in-depth knowledge of lean operations along with the skills needed to improve quality output, streamline operations and reduce waste. The program is designed as a feeder-completer program in which students earn an Associate in Applied Science in Integrated Engineering Technology from BCTC and then the BS in Lean Systems Engineering Technology from UK. In this arrangement, UK will only offer Junior and Senior level coursework. The proposed program is designed to respond to shortages in critical manufacturing skills within the state. In addition to the collaboration with BCTC, the proposed program will incorporate industry partnerships to provide students with the needed industrial experiences and applications to be career ready. The program will prepare students for careers in creative industrial design, production and service and specifically for jobs such as lean continuous improvement engineer, supplier quality engineer and lean manufacturing specialist. Projected steady state enrollment is 145 students. The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate. The provost of the university supports this recommendation. Pending approval by the Board of Trustees, the program will begin the review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

In attendance to answer any questions were Dr. Rebecca Burchett Liebert Dean Rudy Buchheit, Professor and Associate Dean for Administration and Academic Affairs Kim Anderson and Assistant Research Professor and Associate Director of the Institute of Research for Technology Development Nelson Akafuah. There were no questions or comments.

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

K. ASACR 8: Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Engineering

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Master of Science degree with a major in Aerospace Engineering, in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, within the College of Engineering, beginning in the 2021 Fall Semester. By way of background, the proposed program provides students with the opportunity for advanced study and research opportunities in modern engineering theory, technology and practice associated with the design, development, testing and production of aircraft, spacecraft and related aerospace systems. The program was developed in response to an increasing aerospace industry within Kentucky and increasing demand from students for a structured graduate program in the discipline. The target audience is primarily recent graduates from Aerospace and/or Mechanical Engineering undergraduate programs. The program is designed to prepare students for aerospace research and development in industry, government and academia. Projected steady state enrollment is 15 students. The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate. The provost of the university supports this recommendation. Pending approval by the Board of Trustees, the program will begin the review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

In attendance to answer any questions were Dr. Rebecca Burchett Liebert Dean Rudy Buchheit, Professor and Associate Dean for Administration and Academic Affairs Kim Anderson and Tennessee Valley Authority Professor and Chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering Michael Renfro. Trustee Ramsey inquired if UK works to enhance Kentucky's aerospace engineering job market. Dean Buchheit indicated there is an emerging relationship with the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG), which is a growing and impactful logistics center. This is just one example of industry partnership efforts.

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

L. ASACR 9: Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Public Health

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Master of Science degree with a major in Biostatistics, in the Department of Biostatistics, within the College of Public Health, beginning in the 2021 Fall Semester. By way of background, the proposed program is designed to train students in the methodological skills that are foundational in biostatistics. The program will meet the needs of individuals who seek to work in industries where advanced knowledge for the analysis of health science data is required. The target audience is individuals with an undergraduate degree who seek to further their education in the analysis of biomedical data, including students

planning to work in healthcare, health agencies, biomedical research or pharmaceutical industries. Projected enrollment is five for the first cohort, eventually increasing to 25. The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate. The provost of the university supports this recommendation. Pending approval by the Board of Trustees, the program will begin the review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

In attendance to answer any questions were Kate Spade & Company Foundation Endowed Professor and Chair of the Department of Biostatistics Heather Bush and Assistant Professor Amanda Ellis. There were no questions or comments.

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

M. ASACR 10: Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Engineering

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Doctor of Philosophy degree with a major in Aerospace Engineering, in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, within the College of Engineering, beginning in the 2021 Fall Semester. By way of background, the proposed program provides students with the opportunity for advanced study and research opportunities in modern engineering theory, technology and practice associated with the design, development, testing and production of aircraft, spacecraft and related aerospace systems. The program was developed in response to an increasing aerospace industry within Kentucky and demand from students for additional graduate-level learning opportunities in the discipline. The target audience is primarily recent graduates from Aerospace and/or Mechanical Engineering undergraduate programs as well as recent graduates from the companion Master of Science program wishing to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy. The program is designed to prepare students for aerospace research and development in industry, government and academia. Projected steady state enrollment is 25 students. The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate. The provost of the university supports this recommendation. Pending approval by the Board of Trustees, the program will begin the review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

In attendance to answer any questions were Dr. Rebecca Burchett Liebert Dean Rudy Buchheit, Professor and Associate Dean for Administration and Academic Affairs Kim Anderson and Tennessee Valley Authority Professor and Chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering Michael Renfro.

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

N. ASACR 11: Establishment of the Center for the Environment

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of the Center for the Environment, a multidisciplinary research center, effective July 1, 2021.

By way of background, as a land grant institution, UK was built on the premise that the environment is deeply connected to human health. The evidence of this relationship can be seen across every college and in the broad range of research programs across the university. The establishment of the UK Center for the Environment will support and expand environment research as well as create education and outreach opportunities. The Center will be a leader in addressing environmental challenges, particularly those that impact human health and well-being in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the nation and the world through innovative, transdisciplinary research and community partnerships. The Center will report to the vice president for research (VPR) and will also have an Executive Committee and an External Advisory Board for oversight. The Center will not host credit-bearing academic programs but will provide education and outreach for the university and community in the form of symposia, workshops and seminars. The Center's organization does not involve the transfer of personnel and will not impact faculty distributions of effort. The proposal has been reviewed and recommended by the Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure and the Senate Council and was approved based upon its academic merits and endorsement of resources and placement of the Center by the University Senate. The vice president for research and the provost of the university support this recommendation.

In attendance to answer any questions was Professor, Chair of the Department of Epidemiology, Interim Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health and Proposed Director of the Center for the Environment Erin Haynes. There were no questions or comments.

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

O. Student Government Association Update

Student Government Association (SGA) President and Trustee Courtney Wheeler provided an update regarding SGA activities, including:

- Raising more than \$1 million during virtual DanceBlue 2021.
- Partnering with local restaurants to fight food insecurity.
- Hosting a mental health speaker.
- Hosting the SGA Spring Forum to foster open communication between students and administrators.
- Reviewing over 120 applications for SGA scholarships and creation of a new scholarship.
- Co-hosting the 2021 Lead Blue Awards for student organizations.
- Partnering with the Stuckert Career Center to administer the Wildcat Style business professional clothing program with Macy's.

Trustee Wheeler introduced incoming 2021-2022 SGA President and Trustee Michael Hawse.

P. Provost Report

Provost David Blackwell reviewed several recent noteworthy accomplishments in provost area units, including:

- College contributions to statewide vaccine efforts.
- College of Agriculture, Food and Environment contributed to Eastern Kentucky flood recovery efforts, including clean-up efforts and collection and distribution of donations.
- College of Design student-coordinated and designed Pocket Park opened at the corner of East Maxwell Street and South Limestone Street.
- College of Education Next Generation Scholars dual credit program will expand, bringing the total number of participating high schools to 14.
- J. David Rosenberg College of Law hosted a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) event in partnership with the U.S. Holocaust Museum, which was attended by over 800 participants.
- Libraries accepted applications for the Alternative Textbook Grant Program. Now in its sixth year, the program has saved students more than \$1.25 million.
- Office of Faculty Advancement (OFA) concluded the 2021 Chairs Academy II program, providing academic leadership development for current and future faculty leaders.
- UK International Center is coordinating safe summer experiential education opportunities informed by current travel recommendations, including select education abroad programs and domestic study away programs in collaboration with Student Success and Aramark.
- Teaching, Learning and Academic Innovation continues to support students and faculty, who have drastically increased the use of technology such as Zoom and Echo360.
- Gaines Center for the Humanities announced a new cohort of Gaines Fellows representing eight colleges.

Provost Blackwell provided an update regarding dean searches during his time as provost, which has included 15 successful permanent and interim dean searches. Each search follows the same process, involving voices from the units affected—faculty, students and staff—and others, including other members of the university leadership team and alumni. Search committees, formed based on open nominations and recommendations from the University Senate with great attention to diversity, vet candidates. Input is gathered from the campus through interview meetings with various constituency groups and campus-wide open forums. All are invited to provide anonymous input on the candidates which is then shared with the search committee. At the end of this process, each search committee member articulates strengths and concerns about each candidate to the provost. The provost confers with the search committee co-chairs to get their sense of the fairness of the process and to request their assessment of the strengths and concerns regarding each candidate. The provost also solicits input from other members of the university leadership team before making a hiring decision.

Provost Blackwell then provided an update regarding current dean searches. According to Governing Regulation VIII, interim deans can be appointed for up to one year but may be reappointed after a review and consultation with a committee including faculty from the unit. Regarding the College of Arts and Sciences, the provost conducted an annual performance evaluation for Interim Dean Christian Brady, consulted with the college's Executive Committee, and sought input from college department chairs, associate deans and staff members. Based on this input, Interim Dean Brady will be reappointed. Regarding the Lewis Honors College, the provost conducted an annual performance evaluation for Acting Dean Laura Bryan and consulted with the Lewis Honors College Council. Based on this input, Acting Dean Bryan will be reappointed. Regarding the Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education and Dean of the Graduate School, based on all input received during the process, which aligns with the process previously described, a sole finalist was named. This finalist participated in campus interviews. Anonymous input was collected and shared with the search committee, who then met with the provost. Next steps are pending.

Trustee Swanson provided information about another leadership development program coordinated by OFA, the Women's Executive Leadership Development Program (WELD). This year's WELD cohort began the program last month with a kick-off program featuring Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton. Provost Blackwell indicated this is a fabulous program, with program graduates serving in leadership roles across campus.

Q. Vice President for Student Success Report

Vice President for Student Success Kirsten Turner introduced Health Corps Associate Project Manager Hannah Simms to provide a report regarding Health Corps case management operations.

Associate Project Manager Simms indicated the Health Corps team has been active since August 2020 as part of UK's pandemic response and has evolved with a high-tech, high-touch case management approach. Daily health screener results, internal test results, self-reported test results and identification of high-exposure contacts create cases that trigger individual outreach to a student from a Health Corps team member. When a student must quarantine or isolate, a strategic communication timeline is established in order to anticipate, identify and address student needs, including needs related to housing, food, finances, academics and mental health, through referral to campus resources and services. Health Corps' combination of data, technology and human resources serves to facilitate proactive intervention and referrals.

Trustee Swanson inquired about the role of Health Corps during the 2021-2022 academic year. Vice President Turner indicated that pilot projects will take lessons learned from Health Corps operations and apply those to issues unrelated to the pandemic (e.g., student referrals based on responses to daily attestation for overall health and wellness). Related to the pandemic, if current trends continue, Health Corps would have a smaller, more targeted footprint during the upcoming academic year. Trustee Swanson indicated a focus on student mental health is important. Trustee Black inquired

if UK would require students to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Vice President Turner's decisions regarding vaccine requirements have not been made. UK is monitoring the status of the pandemic locally and statewide as well as vaccine requirement decisions of other institutions. Trustee Blonder inquired about physical distancing requirements in classrooms. Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Eric Monday indicated that while the campus is preparing for a full reopening, physical distancing requirements for the upcoming academic year are currently under review and multiple plans are being made should there be a need to pivot. Trustee Geoghegan inquired if students are receiving individual contact from UK as they did in Spring 2020. Vice President Turner indicated that communication plans have been tailored for students who need specific messages (e.g., regarding retention). Student Success' focus is aligning students with the specific resources they need.

R. 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) activities. All 17 projects are in some phase of implementation, which indicates measurable progress. For optimal implementation, several projects are collaborating with other projects, units on campus and external organizations for optimal implementation and conducting surveys to collect input from the UK community.

Vice President Wright indicated that DEI work during this year has been rewarding but has also presented challenges, including discussions of academic freedom and free speech versus responsible speech. Varying views on these and other topics have been expressed by members of the UK community in a way that emphasizes shared values. DEI efforts will be sustained if they are at the core of UK's values, and success will be achieved when there is a transformation of UK's operations and culture.

S. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rachel Watts Webb
Academic and Student Affairs
Committee

RW/afc