

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee  
University of Kentucky  
Friday, February 18, 2022

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky (UK) Board of Trustees met on Friday, February 18, 2022, in the Harris Ballroom of the Gatton Student Center.

A. Meeting Opened

Chair Rachel Webb called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the ASAC answered the call of the roll: Cathy A. Black, Lee X. Blonder, Michael A. Christian, Michael Hawse, Paula Leach Pope, Derrick K. Ramsey, C. Frank Shoop, Sandra R. Shuffett, Bryan Sunderland and Rachel Watts Webb. Carol Martin "Bill" Gatton and Ron Geoghegan were not in attendance.

C. Approval of Minutes

Chair Webb reported that the minutes of the December 14, 2021, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Shoop moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Hawse seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

D. ASACR 1: Candidates for Degrees: May 2022

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 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, in 2016, the University of Kentucky established a partnership with the Department of Defense (DoD) to develop well-qualified clinical social workers to fill positions across the military service branches. A satellite site was established within the Army Medical Department Center and School at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, and implements the College of Social Work's full-time, 60-hour Master of Social Work (MSW) program. The curriculum is delivered in a condensed format over 14 continuous months of study with graduation occurring in April each year. The approval of these candidates for degrees in February will allow the graduates to receive physical diplomas at their April graduation, a requirement which was instituted by the DoD.

In attendance to answer any questions regarding ASACR 1 were Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Kalea Benner and Associate Professor Chris Flaherty.

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

E. ASACR 2: Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Education

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Leadership for Community Education and Human Learning, in the Department of Educational Leadership Studies, within the College of Education, beginning in the 2022 Fall Semester.

By way of background, the proposed program offers curriculum designed to prepare students to become effective leaders in implementing educational programs within community contexts. This includes individuals seeking a professional career in educational programming for youth and adult learners within communities and organizations outside of the traditional school and classroom structure.

This degree is a collaboration between the College of Education and the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and builds upon the current collaborative Undergraduate Certificate program in Educational Leadership. This program was developed for undergraduate Education majors that have completed general education requirements but do not wish to complete a Teacher Education Preparation Program, as well as non-traditional students that desire a two-year completer degree to support matriculation from Kentucky Community and Technical College System programs.

The expected demand for this program is 15 students in year one, growing to 60 students by year five.

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 regarding ASACR 2 was Professor Beth Rous.

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

## F. Student Government Association Update

Student Government Association (SGA) President and Trustee Michael Hawse provided an update regarding the student body and recent SGA activities, including:

- DanceBlue will occur March 5-6, 2022. Since its founding, DanceBlue has raised \$17.3 million for the Golden Matrix Fund, which supports the DanceBlue Kentucky Children's Hospital Hematology/Oncology Clinic.
- SGA elections will occur February 28-March 1, 2022, and will be conducted using a rank choice voting model.
- Wildcat Wardrobe recently held an open house. More than 100 students received free professional clothing at this event.

SGA Vice President Michaela Taylor provided information regarding SGA's efforts to serve and represent graduate and professional students, including:

- Existing representation of graduate and professional students in the various branches of SGA.
- In Fall 2021, SGA allocated nearly \$150,000 to graduate and professional students through various programs, including childcare/dependent grants and graduate and professional readiness grants.
- SGA advocates for graduate and professional students during participation on institutional committees.
- The Coats for Cats and Wildcat Wardrobe initiatives allocate large portions of their budget for graduate students.

SGA President Hawse discussed areas of opportunity for improvement in SGA's efforts to serve and represent graduate and professional students, including:

- Increase representation of graduate students from non-professional colleges in the various branches of SGA.
- Increase funding for graduate and professional students outside of childcare/dependent grants.
- Communicate more effectively and intentionally with graduate students.
- Increase advocacy efforts with UK administration specific to issues facing graduate students.
- Continue to discuss the allocation of graduate senator seats.

SGA Vice President Taylor discussed possible threats to SGA's efforts to serve and represent graduate and professional students, including:

- The changing state and national landscape regarding childcare/dependent funding assistance.
- SGA leadership will transition at the end of the semester, which may bring new priorities. However, there are ongoing efforts to ensure that the prioritization of graduate and professional students continues beyond this transition.

Trustee Swanson thanked SGA for their efforts related to graduate and professional students.

Trustee Blonder inquired about the relationship between SGA and the Graduate Student Congress (GSC). SGA President Hawse indicated that this relationship is productive and discussions regarding a possible unification of SGA and GSC are ongoing. As the designated representative body for students at UK, SGA will continue to strive to represent all students as best possible, including graduate and professional students.

G. Vice President for Institutional Diversity Report

Vice President for Institutional Diversity Katrice Albert recognized that February is Black History Month and emphasized via Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "The Other America" speech the necessity of UK leveraging privilege for inclusive excellence and inclusive integrity.

Vice President Albert provided an overview of UK's participation in "The Big Read" of *The Sum of Us* by Heather McGhee. Each Trustee received a copy of this book. "An Evening with Heather McGhee," hosted in collaboration with community partners, will occur on April 28, 2022.

Vice President Albert provided an overview of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Implementation Plan Project 12, related to DEI Facilities and Spaces. This project has included work on a campus master plan in collaboration with several of the other DEI Implementation Plan projects. The project team conducted listening sessions and campus tours and facilitated equity-driven engagement with various constituencies. Through this work, seven overall themes were discovered, leading to nine big ideas for moving forward, with a specific vision related to the academic core of campus.

Vice President Albert provided an overview of the DEI Implementation Plan Project 14, related to Supplier Diversity. A supplier diversity manager has been hired to enhance UK's impact in this area. A construction diversity accelerator program has been launched in collaboration with industry partners. An economic development collaborative has been launched with community partners and a student internship program has been launched to enhance professional pipelines.

Trustee Swanson inquired if a list of diverse suppliers will be made available as part of Project 14. Vice President Albert indicated that the supplier diversity manager is working to increase the number of diverse suppliers who are registered as UK vendors and will provide information about these vendors to the campus.

H. Vice President for Student Success Report

Vice President for Student Success Kirsten Turner provided an overview of two "moonshot" initiatives of Student Success, related to first-generation students and the UK

LEADS program (Leveraging Economic Affordability for Developing Success). These initiatives, conducted in collaboration with Institutional Research, Analytics and Decision Support (IRADS), are aligned with the “Putting Students First” principle of the strategic plan. Efforts to create a culture of evidence with models and analytics, alignment of data, and implementation of strategic communications, outreach and intervention are focused in four main areas: academic success, financial stability, belonging and engagement, and wellness.

Vice President Turner discussed Student Success’ focus on closing the gap for first-generation students, which persists in retention and graduation rates at all levels of the student preparation scale. This is a unique goal that has an impact on our broader communities. Strategies to achieve this goal include:

- Program offerings through First-Generation Student Services, including Wildcats First!
- Membership in the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators First Scholars Cohort

Vice President Turner discussed Student Success’ focus on UK LEADS, which seeks to reduce unmet student financial need through predictive analytics in order to improve retention. This initiative, which incorporates both need-based and merit-based aid principles, has received national attention and awards. This effort is supported in part through philanthropic gifts.

Trustee Bowen inquired what opportunities for improvement exist within Student Success. Vice President Turner indicated such opportunities for improvement include mental health and wellbeing, retention of Black male students and helping students navigate the institution’s infrastructure.

Trustee Blonder inquired if UK LEADS funding is related to net tuition revenue received by the colleges. Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Eric Monday indicated that UK LEADS is primarily funded through philanthropic gifts and the institution’s scholarship program. The net tuition revenue model is netted against aid.

Trustee Hawse inquired how co-curricular and extra-curricular involvement impacts retention and if graduate student retention functions similarly to undergraduate student retention. Related to co-curricular and extra-curricular involvement, Vice President Turner indicated although it is more difficult to utilize predictive analytics in this area, IRADS uses creative strategies to do so, such as the incorporation of data from the BBNvolved platform. Related to graduate student retention, Vice President Turner indicated that although there are common variables that impact both retention of undergraduate and graduate students, retention of graduate students has a greater number of variables (e.g., number of years required for a program) to consider than retention of undergraduate students.

Trustee Swanson inquired if academic units are incentivized to play a role in retention and career readiness for first-generation students. Vice President Turner indicated there is a regular meeting series for Associate Deans of Undergraduate Education and Academic Affairs to discuss such topics. Models for funding allocation to the colleges also take retention efforts into account.

#### I. Provost Report

Acting Provost Robert DiPaola provided a transdisciplinary research framework example related to coffee. Research regarding coffee spans various disciplines and includes medicinal, behavioral, nutritional, economic, agricultural and other components. If UK pursued transdisciplinary research related to coffee, it would be beneficial to bring experts in these areas together, which would lead to greater impact and is possible because of UK's niche as a comprehensive campus.

Acting Provost DiPaola emphasized the synergistic and collaborative nature of a transdisciplinary approach and how that aligns with UK's strategic plan, as such an approach could allow for consideration of workforce and other mission-based outcomes at the question phase of an initiative. He described examples of educational programs at UK that embrace a transdisciplinary approach, including:

- Neuroscience Bachelor of Science – a collaboration between the Colleges of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Arts and Sciences, Medicine and Pharmacy
- Agriculture Nursing Scholars program – a collaboration between the Colleges of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Nursing and the Center for Interprofessional Health Education
- Engineering/Master of Business Administration (MBA) dual degree program – a collaboration between the Gatton College of Business and Economics and the College of Engineering

Acting Provost DiPaola provided an update regarding ongoing searches, including:

- Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
- Dean, Graduate School and Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education
- Dean, College of Nursing
- Associate Provost for Faculty Advancement
- Chellgren Chair and Director, Chellgren Center for Undergraduate Excellence
- Associate Vice President/Associate Provost for Diverse Faculty Success (in partnership with the Office for Institutional Diversity)

Acting Provost DiPaola provided an update regarding the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmation process. The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) process is underway and the selected topic will be announced soon. Following that announcement, an implementation team will be formed.

The overall reaffirmation timeline was reviewed, which includes engagement with a consultant. Regular updates will be provided to the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Shuffett inquired if the Engineering/MBA program, which is currently open to engineering undergraduate students, could be expanded to engineering graduate students. College of Engineering Dean Rudy Buchheit indicated that although such a pathway does not exist at this time, many engineering graduate students do pursue an MBA, typically after they have joined the workforce, as the combination of those degrees provides additional opportunities for graduates.

J. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Webb", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Rachel Watts Webb  
Academic and Student Affairs  
Committee

RW/afc