

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee
University of Kentucky
Thursday, June 16, 2022

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky (UK) Board of Trustees met on Thursday, June 16, 2022, in the Harris Ballroom of the Gatton Student Center.

A. Meeting Opened

Chair Rachel Webb called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the ASAC answered the call of the roll: Michael A. Christian, Ron Geoghegan, Michael Hawse, Paula Leach Pope, Derrick K. Ramsey, C. Frank Shoop, Sandra R. Shuffett, Bryan Sunderland and Rachel Watts Webb. Cathy A. Black and Lee X. Blonder attended the meeting via Zoom.

C. Approval of Minutes

Chair Webb reported that the minutes of the April 29, 2022, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Shuffett 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: August 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 Senate Council Chair (on behalf of the Senate Council and 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 2022 Summer Session. Due to licensure or certification requirements for students pursuing job placement or additional education, degrees must be verified as soon as possible. Due to administrative error, the names were not previously submitted with all other August 2022 candidates for degrees.

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

E. ASACR 2: Transfer of the Institute for Biomedical Informatics

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the transfer of the Institute for Biomedical Informatics from the Office of the Provost to the Office of the Vice President for Research, effective July 1, 2022.

By way of background, The Institute for Biomedical Informatics (IBI) was launched in 2016 as part of the Office of the Provost. Since that time, several changes have altered the ideal organizational structure and location for the unit. Moving IBI to the Vice President for Research (VPR) positions IBI with other research centers and research cores and will help IBI better coordinate support of UK's Research Priority Areas and the strategic plan.

The faculty of IBI is composed of faculty in the Division of Biomedical Informatics, Department of Internal Medicine and other members who apply to participate in IBI's activities. In their capacity as the faculty body of IBI for purposes of the educational activities homed within the auspices of IBI (e.g., workshops, seminars, retreats), the faculty with a recurring assignment of time to duties in IBI, or their delegate body, will make any necessary educational policies and make other recommendations that arise from an educational unit faculty body.

Faculty and staff roles will not change with the move to the VPR and no faculty home appointments will be transferred. The reporting of staff homed in IBI will be changed from the provost area to the VPR area and the proposed change will not impact new faculty hires.

IBI's budget or financial resources will not be impacted, and the proposed change will not have any impact on enrollments, graduates, programs or courses.

This transfer has been approved by the IBI Steering Committee and the Division of Biomedical Informatics faculty; reviewed and recommended by the Senate Academic Organization and Structure Committee; reviewed and recommended by the Senate Council and endorsed by the University Senate. The provost and VPR of the university support this recommendation.

In attendance to answer any questions regarding ASACR 2 was Professor and Director of IBI, Jeffery Talbert.

Trustee Christian moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Shoop. 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 Andrew Laws provided an update regarding the student body and recent SGA activities, including:

- Election and appointment of new SGA leadership;
- Establishment of goals for the upcoming year related to:
 - Student engagement and involvement
 - Holistic well-being and mental health
 - Accessibility and transparency;
- Utilization of Wildcat Wardrobe for a successful graduation regalia program for May 2022 commencement; and
- Planning for growth opportunities in Fall 2022.

SGA President Laws closed his report by thanking past SGA President and Trustee Michael Hawse and past SGA Vice President Michaela Taylor for their service during the prior year.

G. Provost Report

Provost Robert DiPaola provided a recap of the Office of the Provost's efforts during 2021-2022, which were aimed at achieving greater impact and purpose, including:

- Contribution to the campus' efforts in navigating the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Enhanced communications with faculty, staff, students and leadership, including Partnership with the Provost sessions and regular meetings with SGA, Staff Senate and Senate Council/University Senate;
- Contribution to the university's strategic planning process;
- Coordination of the university's Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmation process;
- Support of multiple college and program accreditation reviews;
- Enhanced support and oversight functions of the Provost Budget Office (PBO) and closer partnership with the University Budget Office (UBO);
- Planned programmatic initiatives to align with workforce needs;
- Coordinated numerous university leadership searches;
- As part of the SACSCOC reaffirmation process, launched the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Transdisciplinary Educational approaches to advance Kentucky (TEK), in partnership with the University Senate;
- Created a distinct UK Online unit and named an acting director; and
- Contributed to refining of financial models to support college priorities.

Provost DiPaola provided an overview of the search for a Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, which recently concluded with the hiring of Ana Franco-Watkins effective July 1, 2022.

Provost DiPaola highlighted select future opportunities for the Office of the Provost, including:

- Contribute to the implementation of the university's strategic plan;
- Develop and implement the QEP;

- Continue to enhance partnership and communication efforts;
- Continue to coordinate key university leadership searches; and
- Enhance diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) partnerships.

Provost DiPaola provided an overview of the overall SACSCOC reaffirmation timeline.

Provost DiPaola provided an update regarding ongoing searches, including:

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

Trustee Blonder inquired about the status of the Associate Provost for Faculty Advancement position. Provost DiPaola indicated that due to the timing of the search process, the position will be filled in an acting capacity until the permanent search can be completed during the upcoming academic year.

Trustee Swanson inquired what lessons learned from the Purdue Global acquisition of Kaplan University can be applied as UK moves forward with online initiatives. Provost DiPaola indicated analysis of such lessons will be taken into consideration when recruiting a permanent director for UK Online.

H. Vice President for Student Success Report

Vice President for Student Success, Kirsten Turner, introduced Director of Orientation and Outreach, Taylor Blair, to provide an overview of programs welcoming incoming undergraduate students for the upcoming academic year. Vice President Turner indicated that a more detailed update regarding the incoming class of students will be provided at a future meeting.

Director Blair provided an overview of orientation activities for incoming undergraduate students, Merit Weekends and Big Blue Nation Orientations (BBNO). Many BBNO will occur over the summer, supported by collaborative efforts from campus partners, including current students who help mentor incoming students. Families and guests are also invited to participate and may stay in a residence hall before or after BBNO. BBNO includes pre-, day-of, and post-activities, focused on early engagement for lasting success, in order to build a path to graduation.

Trustee Hawse thanked Director Blair for his efforts in these activities.

Trustee Vance inquired about the composition of the incoming class of students. Director Blair indicated that the composition is still in flux, specifically related to transfer students who have a confirmation deadline of July 1, but all programs are intentionally flexible to be applicable to the appropriate student population.

Trustee Swanson inquired about the campus' capacity for the incoming class of students. Vice President Turner indicated there is currently an active work group, led by the Office of the Provost and with participation from colleges and other appropriate units, to analyze and address potential capacity issues in areas such as course registration. Provost DiPaola indicated that faculty to student ratios are good overall. Trustee Swanson inquired how quickly a chair or dean would be able to address potential capacity issues. Provost DiPaola indicated that communication with such leadership is occurring regularly.

I. Vice President for Institutional Diversity Report

Vice President for Institutional Diversity Katrice Albert acknowledged the upcoming Juneteenth and Father's Day holidays.

Vice President Albert provided a recap of the Office for Institutional Diversity's efforts during 2021-2022, including:

- Alignment of the DEI implementation plan with UK's strategic plan and achieved progress toward the plan, including:
 - Hosted DEI Officer Advance to discuss roles, responsibilities and structures to facilitate growth opportunities;
 - Neared finalization of the DEI campus plan, focused on enhancing accessibility, inclusivity and diversity in physical spaces;
 - Enhancement of the supplier diversity program; and
 - Contributed to the inaugural UNited In True racial Equity (UNITE) Research Showcase;
- Celebrated the 35th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Center;
- Sponsored and participated in the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE);
- Participated in One Day for UK; and
- Engaged with the community, including An Evening with Heather McGhee and the UK Neighborhood Healers Project.

Vice President Albert provided an overview of honors and awards received by UK related to DEI, including:

- Highest diversity report score (tie) from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE);
- Three awards from Forbes including "America's Best Employers for Diversity 2022";

- Two awards from INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine including the “Jesse L. Moore Supplier Diversity Award 2022”; and
- Society for College and University Planning Excellence in Planning for a District of Campus Component.

Vice President Albert highlighted select future opportunities for the Office for Institutional Diversity (OID), including:

- Advance and accelerate all DEI implementation plan projects;
- Advance OID strategic commitments;
- Continue to improve CPE DEI outcomes;
- Commitment to diverse faculty success;
- Alignment of employee affinity groups; and
- Alignment of DEI advisory groups.

Trustee Swanson inquired how affinity groups will be supported to ensure effectiveness in improving belonging and community. Vice President Albert emphasized the importance of these groups for new employees and described future efforts to ensure alignment among and hearing from the various groups about their needs.

Trustee Blonder inquired how a campus community member should proceed if they observe or experience an issue related to DEI. Vice President Albert indicated there are many outlets for campus community members to address their lived experiences. If there is an issue within a college, chairs and deans should be involved. A bias response process is also available for those who would like to manage any issues anonymously. The Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity can provide a formal process for investigating grievances. Vice President Albert indicated she is also available to help.

Trustee Swanson inquired what support opportunities are available across the university for new faculty. Provost DiPaola agreed with the importance of orienting, mentoring and guiding new faculty. The Office of Faculty Advancement coordinates programs to address these needs.

J. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rachel Watts Webb
Academic and Student Affairs
Committee

RW/afc