

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee
University of Kentucky
Friday, February 17, 2023

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky (UK) Board of Trustees met on Friday, February 17, 2023, in the Harris Ballroom of the Gatton Student Center.

A. Meeting Opened

Chair Rachel Webb called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the ASAC answered the call of the roll: Aaron Cramer, Brenda Gosney, Andrew Laws, Lance Lucas, Paula Leach Pope, Derrick K. Ramsey and Rachel Watts Webb. Cathy A. Black attended the meeting via Zoom.

C. Approval of Minutes

Chair Webb reported that the minutes of the December 12, 2022, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Gosney moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Cramer 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 2023

The recommendation was that the president be authorized to confer upon each of the individuals whose names appeared 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 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 versus May 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 was Associate Dean

for Academic and Student Affairs Kalea Benner in the College of Social Work.

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

E. ASACR 2: Candidate for Degree: December 2007

The recommendation was that the president be authorized to confer upon the individual whose name appeared on the attached list the degree to which they are 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 2007 Summer Session. Due to administrative error, the name was not previously submitted.

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

F. ASACR 3: Candidate for Degree: December 2022

The recommendation was that the president be authorized to confer upon the individual whose name appears on the attached list the degree to which they are 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 2022 Fall Session. Due to administrative error, the name was not previously submitted.

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

G. ASACR 4: Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Social Work

The recommendation was that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Master of Science degree with a major in Criminal Justice, within the College of Social Work beginning in the 2023 Fall Semester.

By way of background, the Master of Science (MS) in Criminal Justice provides a comprehensive understanding of the integration of theory, policy and research within leadership and administrative roles in criminal justice systems. The degree cultivates critical thinking in examining the synthesis of social and legal systems, structures and institutions in implementing and evaluating outcomes. The Criminal Justice degree prepares students for careers as administrators in public and private criminal justice settings including advocacy, probation and parole, re-entry, prosecution and enforcement, correctional facilities and court systems. In order to access students across the Commonwealth and beyond, the MS in Criminal Justice will be offered as an online program.

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 4 was Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs Kalea Benner in the College of Social Work.

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

H. Bringing Together Many People; One Community

President Capilouto framed discussions around the progress associated with one of the important principles in the strategic plan, Bringing Together Many People; One Community.

Goals are accomplished through the creation of community campus- and state-wide via the technology used to increase knowledge and accelerate healing. Despite a world filled with challenges, UK's students are set up for success due to opportunity and diversity. The university's student backgrounds vary greatly by way of prior education, health, ethnicity, faith and identity; thus, the campus community reflects these differences.

Social determinants of health guide decision making to improve the Commonwealth's access to care, as well as account for the disparities faced by the community. The president stated, "Our pursuit of equity helps ensure everyone has a chance to be healthy."

More than 31,000 students are enrolled at UK. UK's students' education differs but our cohorts are larger and more diverse than ever. Faculty teach with expectations and students earn their grades. UK's measures to support students have yielded equitable results.

As companies work to make diversity and access to equitable opportunities a priority, bottom lines improve. Doing so is essential to their success and UK's. Former

SGA President, Jim Dinkle, was an engaged student but felt it necessary to hide his sexual identity while on campus. He moved to safe places post-graduation to forge a successful career which created many jobs throughout the nation. Had he, and others like him, stayed in Kentucky, perhaps our state would have been healthier, wealthier and wiser.

Given the increase in diversity throughout our state and campus, we have more perspectives, talents, etc., that cause challenges creating spaces where everyone experiences belonging. However, it allows insights into the journey that awaits our students once they leave UK.

As we continue our efforts to build a community of diversity, UK's students will lead us, as always, in making a difference.

I. Vice President for Institutional Diversity Report

Vice President for Institutional Diversity Katrice Albert recognized that February was Black History Month and Heart Health Awareness Month. Vice President Albert commended the hard work of more than 500 colleagues who manage accountability with the Council on Postsecondary Education, created the UK we know today, and have managed the recruitment and retention efforts for an increasingly diverse faculty, staff and student population.

Vice President Albert stated, "In alignment with Bringing Together Many People; One Community, we have worked to create student gathering spaces to mobilize a sense of belonging, partnered with diverse businesses in the area, and focused on responsible speech. Efforts and progress on the latter have been made possible by Drs. Leon Sachs, associate professor in Modern and Classical Languages, Literature and Culture in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Tukea Talbert, chief diversity officer for UK HealthCare."

Vice President Albert introduced Drs. Sachs and Talbert. An update was provided on the progress made by the Committee on Responsible Speech, which is committed to UK's right to academic freedom and speech protection and respecting First Amendment Rights and Kentucky's Constitution, Religious Freedom Restoration Act and Campus Free Speech Act. Key areas of focus are as follows: engagement of students, faculty and staff across many venues, work required to impact change in UK's educational culture, creation of culture to foster constructive communications, and transformation of conflict to opportunities for increased knowledge and perspective. Recommendations from phase one were reviewed and practices for phase two were discussed. Future plans consisted of the following: identifying framework to accomplish the plan, creating a timeline for achieving goals, focusing on the areas of climate, curriculum and communication, and launching a leadership series.

Trustee Melanson asked how some of these themes play out in the classroom. Dr. Sachs gave an example from a past seminar where a specific French passage translated

to the n-word even though that word did not exist in French. The seminar participants debated how to proceed and came to a compromise. Dr. Sachs stated the creation of proper classroom culture resonates elsewhere.

J. Provost Report

Provost DiPaola highlighted recipients of 2023 Great Teachers Award and thanked the UK Alumni Association for continuing the tradition. Award recipients were Dibakar Bhattacharyya, Jennifer Bird-Pollan, Candice Hargons, Derek Lane, Kenton Sena and Martina Vasil.

Provost DiPaola provided an update on the first initiative in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Implementation Plan, which is to improve professional development for faculty, instructors and teaching assistants. The committee makes recommendations related to professional development and critical pedagogical praxis for the teaching community, as well as reviews DEI efforts at other institutions for UK to consider. The Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) has conducted 48 workshops related to DEI matters. Nearly 900 faculty, staff and students have participated over the last two years. Four recommendations pertaining to the aforementioned are being refined and focus on developing, supporting, rewarding and evaluating efforts regarding inclusive and equitable teaching.

Provost DiPaola discussed the recently signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the president of Simmons College of Kentucky in Louisville, Rev. Dr. Kevin Cosby. This partnership is intended to provide opportunities for students, faculty and staff at both institutions to further professional and personal development. Provost DiPaola gave examples of the collaborative opportunities to potentially occur among the Colleges of Law, Education, and Arts and Sciences, although the potential collaborations are not limited to said colleges.

Provost DiPaola invited Dr. George Wright, special advisor to President Capilouto, to share the historical perspective behind the partnership between Simmons College and UK. It was important that the signing of the MOU occur the day after Martin Luther King Day since Dr. King was a proponent of higher education, especially for white people and black people to work together in a united front for such. Simmons College was originally called the Kentucky Normal and Theological Institution, opening in 1879, where it was the only African American school in Kentucky to offer both law and medical education.

K. Vice President for Student Success Report

Vice President for Student Success Kirsten Turner provided an update on student initiatives that align with Bringing Together Many People; One Community through collaboration with the Student Government Association, various student organizations, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, faculty and staff. Those initiatives are centered around redesigning the UK101 Module, implementation of a student module, mini-internship programs, distribution of the code of student conduct,

diversification of student success clinicians and advisors, and student advisory board.

Vice President Turner concluded by noting the preparation gap between first year cohort from the first fall to the first spring between underrepresented minorities and the overall population has decreased by a large margin. That decrease indicated progress and being on the right track.

Trustee Gosney questioned the logistics of the UK101 course regarding alcohol, DEI and sexual assault. Vice President Turner stated the alcohol and sexual assault courses are online and federally mandated for Title IV funding; UK101 is primarily an in-person course.

Trustee Shuffett suggested offering in-person sessions for various online modules to potentially prevent students from merely “checking the box.” Vice President Turner stated the recommendation would be discussed for more feedback.

L. SGA President Report

Student Government Association (SGA) President Andrew Laws provided updates from the fall and spring semesters. The data presented highlighted the number of students served through Headspace, Coats for Cats, Wildcat Wardrobe and other services. President Laws stated efforts continue to review processes and structures within SGA so students are better served with respect to DEI. President Laws met with the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Kentucky Board of Student Body Presidents to discuss financial aid, mental health and legislative priorities. President Laws concluded by announcing SGA elections would take place later in February.

M. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rachel Watts Webb
Academic and Student Affairs
Committee

RW/sjr