Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee
University of Kentucky
Friday, June 13, 2025

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky (UK) Board of Trustees met on Friday, June 13, 2025, in the Harris Ballroom of the Gatton Student Center.

A. Meeting Opened

Chair Alex Boone called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the ASAC answered the call of the roll: Hubie Ballard, Cathy Black, Maddie Duff, David Figg, Ron Geoghegan, Brenda Baker Gosney, Hannah Myers, Paula Leach Pope and Hollie Swanson.

C. Approval of Minutes

Chair Boone reported that the minutes of the April 25, 2025, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Duff moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Ballard seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Chair Boone called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

D. ASACR 1: Candidates for Degrees: August 2025

The recommendation was that the President be authorized to confer upon the individuals whose names were attached the degrees to which they are entitled, upon certification by the University Registrar that the individuals have satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degrees for which application has been made and as approved by the Colleges and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees.

By way of background, each individual is scheduled to complete the work toward the degree for which application is being made at the close of the 2025 Summer Session. Due to licensure or certification requirements for students pursuing job placement or additional education, degrees must be verified as soon as possible.

This proposed action has the approval of the Colleges. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

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

E. ASACR 2: Candidate for In Memoriam Degree: May 2025

The recommendation was that the President be authorized to confer upon the individual whose name was attached an *In Memoriam* Posthumous Degree. The degree for which application has been made has been approved by the College 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.

The proposed action has the approval of the College. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Trustee Duff moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Ballard. Hearing no discussion, Chair Boone called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

F. ASACR 3: Deletion of Graduate Certificate: College of Education

The recommendation was that the Board of Trustees approve the closure of the graduate certificate in Senior Diversity Officer Leadership in the College of Education.

By way of background, in response to low enrollment and lack of student interest, the College of Education sought to close the graduate certificate in Senior Diversity Officer Leadership. This graduate certificate was intended to attract non-degree seeking students but there was a lack of interest and need for the program.

The proposed closure of this graduate certificate was recommended to the Provost by the College of Education faculty given their expertise within their respective disciplines. The Provost of the University supports the program faculty's recommendation.

Trustee Swanson moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Black. Hearing no discussion, Chair Boone called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

G. ASACR 4: Deletion of Degree Program: College of Education

The recommendation was that the Board of Trustees approve the closure of the master of science (MS) in Educational Policy Studies in the College of Education.

By way of background, in response to the department's 2017 external periodic review, and ongoing review of program enrollment and completion data, the Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation streamlined their degree offerings to better serve students. This resulted in a recommendation to close the MS in Educational Policy Studies.

The proposed closure of this degree program was recommended to the Provost by the College of Education faculty given their expertise within their respective disciplines. The Provost of the University supports the program faculty's recommendation.

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

H. SGA President Report

Maddie Duff, Student Government Association (SGA) President reported that the final initiatives of her administration included the completion of a project titled Service Spotlight, which was designed to highlight all resources the University has to offer. This was developed in collaboration with University Public Relations and involved visiting various offices to create short video clips, along with an introductory video outlining the purpose of the series. The content, titled UK Unlocked, is intended for social media release in the fall and aims to close informational gaps by helping students easily identify and access campus resources via mobile platforms.

Trustee Duff stated that the administration also hosted the first-ever President's Council meeting, which took place in late April following the last Board of Trustees meeting and was deemed a major success. She expressed gratitude on behalf of her team to the trustees, administration, deans, faculty, staff and students, describing the experience of working with all parties as amazing. She then transitioned to an overview of efforts by the incoming administration, noting their recent swearing-in and the passage of a new constitution during the past election, which will serve as their governing rules. Additionally, new governing codes, akin to administrative regulations, were approved during the first Senate meeting.

Trustee Duff reported that although the Kentucky Leadership Academy — where all Kentucky Student Government Associations convene — was unfortunately cancelled, there is hope that the incoming President, McKenna Dowell, will be able to reschedule it. She highlighted the successful Wildcat Wrap-Up event, held in May for graduating seniors through a collaboration among SGA, the Student Activities Board and the Alumni Association. Planned initiatives for the new administration include opening grants for active SGA members, raising awareness of campus resources and offering grants for off-campus opportunities. Incoming President Dowell has already engaged in several meetings focused on issues such as campus safety walks, mental health, potholes and parking solutions. In closing, Trustee Duff invited questions and responded to Trustee Swanson's inquiry by confirming that graduate students are becoming involved in SGA's new leadership team.

I. Vice President for Student Success Report

Vice President Turner opened by highlighting key achievements in student success from the past academic year, emphasizing that these accomplishments represent the efforts of numerous individuals across the University, including faculty, staff and student colleagues. She explained that the Office for Student Success operates within a conceptual framework based on four pillars: academic success, financial stability, belonging and engagement, and wellness. These pillars not only guide interventions and

data organization but also shape the internal organizational structure of the office. Each subunit, such as the Office of Student Well-Being and the Counseling and Prevention Centers, aligns with these categories. The presentation was organized accordingly to reflect a “year in review.”

Vice President Turner reported that significant progress was made in belonging and engagement, particularly through the efforts of the Dean of Students Office, led by Trisha Clement. Notable events such as K Week included a drone show held over the William T. Young Library and Campus Ruckus at Alumni Commons. Student involvement hit record levels, with 55,623 event attendees and 16,800 students participating in at least one student organization. Over 11,000 student organization meetings were hosted throughout the year and fraternity and sorority life reached over 6,000 participants. Additionally, more than 700 student organizations were active, a record for the University. She encouraged students to join three types of organizations: one related to a past interest, one aligned with their academic or career goals, and one entirely new, fostering both familiarity and exploration.

Vice President Turner highlighted major developments in financial stability, praising the Financial Aid Office for their work during a transformative year of FAFSA simplification. She also emphasized the success of UK Invest, with 60% of first-year students and over 30% of the entire student body now holding accounts. Participation in UK Invest correlated with higher GPAs and improved retention, with recent data showing statistically significant improvements in student retention. Furthermore, student earnings through UK Invest surpassed $1.5 million, with a current market value near $4 million. She reported that basic needs support was reorganized under a unified office, integrating the Big Blue Pantry and financial literacy services. A partnership with Libraries led to the creation of after-hours lockers in William T. Young Library, providing students discreet access to food and essential items.

Vice President Turner reported that significant progress had been made in the area of student excellence, with continued development of the FACT advising model, which focuses on financial, academic, career and transition support. As a pilot initiative, Student Excellence Committees were formed in collaboration with multiple University units, including the CARES First team, Integrated Success Coaches, Stuckert Career Center, academic advising and the Center for Supportive Intervention. This proof-of-concept has shown promise in coordinating efforts across departments to better serve students. She further highlighted efforts in student well-being, noting the expansion of the TRACKS triage support unit and the Counseling Center. The TRACKS team now ensures that referred students are typically seen within two business days and always within the same week. Importantly, she reported that there was no waitlist for counseling services during Spring 2025—a significant milestone.

Vice President Turner stated that Campus Recreation participation increased by 5% this year and commended the continued efforts of staff to promote wellness. She transitioned to enrollment management, emphasizing that the University is entering a critical five-week period of Big Blue Nation Orientations (BBNO), welcoming new students and parents. The enrollment team, she noted, had just completed the May 1 deadline and anticipates a record-setting incoming first-year class. She discussed a new pipeline project in partnership with UK HealthCare, aimed at recruiting high school students into

healthcare-related living learning programs, enhancing their academic experience through internships and speaker events, and ultimately assisting with job placement post-graduation. Additionally, she highlighted ongoing collaborations with Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) and other community college systems to deepen transfer and partnership pathways.

Vice President Turner reported that the year's accomplishments were the result of strong cross-campus collaboration, particularly among Student Success, UK HealthCare and Human Resources. Following her report, several trustees offered positive feedback. Trustee Swanson acknowledged the increased engagement among student organizations and inquired about comparative participation data from previous years. In response, Vice President Turner noted that post-COVID behavioral shifts have led to greater involvement in campus events and committed to retrieving historical data for further analysis. Trustee Ballard praised the improvements in mental health services, stating that the referral process was efficient and user-friendly and had yielded successful outcomes for students he had personally referred. She expressed appreciation for the feedback and emphasized the collective effort of the University team in achieving these results.

J. Provost Report

Provost DiPaola opened by offering a brief update on UK Core and then transitioned into how artificial intelligence (AI) intersects with service, education and research—particularly in healthcare. He revisited five major components of the UK Core assessment: curricular framework and competencies, the reduction of excessive student learning outcomes, student experience, assessment of instructional quality and program oversight and communication. He noted that oversight of UK Core now resides within the Provost's Office and includes a newly formed committee with broad representation, including students, faculty and staff. The development of detailed assessment rubrics, course mapping efforts and a student-facing website are underway to clarify how competencies align with coursework.

Provost DiPaola reported that steps have already been taken to streamline learning outcomes, reducing them to approximately 30 high-priority, clearly defined items. He mentioned that too many courses currently carry competency labels, some without the expected rigor, and efforts are underway to improve alignment. The curriculum is also evolving to address emerging needs, including competencies in emotional intelligence and AI/digital literacy. These additions aim to enhance students' interpersonal and technical skills. The update emphasized a shift toward fewer, more meaningful courses tied directly to competencies, with the goal of improving both instruction and measurable student outcomes over time. He reiterated the importance of applying these competencies in ways that align with the University's broader mission of preparing students for purposeful lives and careers.

Provost DiPaola emphasized the growing role of AI in the University's curriculum, noting that 15 current courses incorporate AI and that a computer science-based AI certificate was recently launched by the Stuart and Karen Pigman College of Engineering. Plans for a Bachelor of Science in AI are also in development. He credited Dr. Ian McClure for assembling a cross-disciplinary working group to approach AI education more comprehensively and collaboratively across campus. The aim is to expand offerings

related to AI fundamentals, AI ethics and discipline-specific AI applications. He recognized the Center for Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT), led by Trey Conatser, for hosting over 130 AI-focused events since January 2023 and for contributing to the development of campus-wide guidelines under the UK ADVANCE initiative. He expressed the need for a more unified and strategic approach to AI across the University.

Provost DiPaola reported on an integrated initiative called HeartLens, a transdisciplinary program that brings together research, service and education, driven in large part by AI. He explained that this effort emerged from the restructuring of UK HealthCare, through the establishment of the Executive Clinical Expert Leadership (EXCEL) committee. HeartLens, supported by UK HealthCare, the College of Medicine, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the Provost's Office, is led by Drs. Haque and Seales. The program features a collaborative leadership team and includes educational mentorship, highlighting its broad, cross-campus scope.

Provost DiPaola stated that the initiative exemplifies the advantages of a comprehensive University structure, integrating expertise from the Stuart and Karen Pigman College of Engineering and the College of Medicine in fields like cardiology and radiology. HeartLens focuses on addressing cardiovascular disease in Kentucky, especially in high-risk rural areas, using AI-enhanced imaging to analyze coronary vessels. He noted the potential for using non-invasive imaging techniques to detect calcifications and improve patient outcomes, aiming to reduce cardiovascular-related deaths across the state.

Dr. Haque reported on the staggering burden of cardiovascular disease in Kentucky, emphasizing the critical need for modernized detection methods. She stated that while third-party programs like Ambient and Clinical Evidence are helping clinicians diagnose disease earlier, HeartLens uniquely leverages the interdisciplinary expertise within the University across colleges. She highlighted that HeartLens is supported by the EXCEL platform and utilizes UK's advanced imaging infrastructure, Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS), which houses over 130,000 CT scans, enabling programmatic access that integrates six pillars of service including event monitoring, analytics and workflow processes. She described HeartLens as a scalable model that delivers real-time, explainable cardiovascular risk predictions directly into the electronic medical record system, Epic, providing trustworthy decision support that enhances clinical care.

Dr. Haque reported further on the architecture of HeartLens, describing it as a transformative platform that integrates data across the care continuum—from imaging and labs to physician input and social determinants of health—to provide real-time, contextualized cardiovascular risk assessments. She noted the programmatic data backbone required extensive coordination across IT, informatics, compliance, privacy and legal teams, with six months devoted to ensuring security. The AI pipeline, developed by a multidisciplinary team, uses machine learning to analyze calcium deposits from routine chest CT scans, enabling earlier and more precise intervention. She emphasized that HeartLens moves from a manual, fragmented workflow to an integrated ecosystem where AI assists clinicians at every step, from test selection to treatment planning, ultimately aiming to improve outcomes while reducing clinician burden.

Dr. Haque highlighted the practical impact of HeartLens on patient care and the health system. He stated that automation of image acquisition and interpretation will free providers from time-intensive tasks, allowing more focus on patient care. She noted that HeartLens will help UK HealthCare not only meet but exceed clinical quality metrics such as statin therapy targets by enabling earlier, more accurate risk identification and treatment. From a patient perspective, this innovation promises shorter visits, avoidance of unnecessary contrast or radiation and faster clinical decisions. She affirmed that HeartLens represents precision technology in action—serving patients, supporting providers and strengthening the University's health system—and called for continued leadership support to overcome challenges and realize its full potential.

Dr. Seales began by discussing the initial stages of the project, emphasizing the importance of data accessibility in clinical research. He stated that while physical models allow hands-on exploration, clinicians must rely on virtual tools. At the University, although there is an abundance of chest X-ray data, access limitations have hindered researchers' ability to experiment freely. He reported that the team started with a publicly available Stanford dataset of 400–500 anonymized cases, which helped establish a foundation. They later accessed over 100,000 archived University X-rays and distilled them into 3,200 structured cases. He emphasized that it took six months to build the necessary protocols to enable collaboration across researchers, clinicians and IT specialists. Structured data was finally secured in a facility, enabling AI experimentation—critical because, as he stated, "if you're going to do AI, you have to have the data."

Dr. Seales reported that in the first year, the team made significant breakthroughs in understanding and replicating semi-automated scoring systems used in imaging analysis. He compared their efforts to "jailbreaking a phone"—expanding functionality beyond the original system's intent, allowing deeper insights into the rich imaging data. He explained that one example of this involved detecting heart calcification automatically via AI, bypassing traditional physician-driven processes. He stated this work opens doors for more advanced, automated clinical decision-making. He acknowledged current limitations, especially the need to reverse-engineer proprietary systems, but noted that the team is well-equipped to tackle these. Looking forward, he described a landscape metaphor to explain AI's potential: by calculating the proximity of patient cases in a data-rich environment, clinicians can determine the best treatment paths based on past exemplars.

Dr. Seales reinforced the mission of the Heart Lens project, clarifying that it is not an acronym but a fusion of "heart" and "lens"—symbolizing AI's capability to visualize internal conditions and reshape patient care. Dr. Haque stated that AI represents a transformative force akin to electricity and the internet and affirmed that the University is well-positioned to lead this revolution. She emphasized the need for fast, explainable, equitable and trustworthy tools, and stressed the importance of rigorous real-world testing across diverse populations.

Trustee Swanson asked if any genetic analysis is done to understand the genetic predisposition to these disease states. Dr. Haque clarified that while this project focuses on coronary calcification from non-cardiac CTs, genetic risk stratification is a parallel area, typically pursued in outpatient settings. She stated that the goal is to identify high-risk patients earlier—even those unaware of underlying lipid disorders—and intervene proactively, potentially decades in advance, to prevent heart disease progression.

Trustee Swanson also inquired about academics and the UK Core portion of the report, specifically whether the committee had considered implementing a Humanics framework. She explained that this framework is a three-pronged model, beginning with a foundation in digital technology, including an understanding of artificial intelligence; followed by a focus on data, covering its origin, interpretation and analysis; and finally, the human component, which encompasses critical thinking, creativity, ethics and related areas. Provost DiPaola stated it had been discussed by the committee, particularly in relation to how it could be applied across specific disciplines. He reported that, for example, in areas like computer science or engineering, one aspect of the framework might be emphasized more heavily than others, while still maintaining instruction across all three components. He concluded by stating that further detail could be shared as the model becomes more fully developed and implemented.

Chair Boone called for additional questions. There were none.

K. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Chair Boone adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shavonna Ross
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
Secretary