

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee  
University of Kentucky  
Tuesday, December 2, 2025

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky (UK) Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, in the Harris Ballroom of the Gatton Student Center.

A. Meeting Opened

Chair Alex Boone called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the ASAC answered the call of the roll: McKenna Dowell, David Figg, Brenda Gosney, Lance Lucas, Hannah Myers, Karen Petrone, Paula Pope, Hollie Swanson, Clark Williams and Elaine Wilson.

C. Approval of Minutes

Chair Boone reported that the minutes of the September 12, 2025, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Pope moved approval of the minutes, and Trustee Figg seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Chair Boone called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

D. ASACR 1: Candidates for Degrees: December 2025

The recommendation was that the President be authorized to confer upon each individual whose name appears on the attached list the degrees to which they are entitled, contingent upon final certification by the University Registrar. Such certification shall affirm that each candidate has satisfactorily fulfilled all requirements for the respective degree, as approved by the appropriate Colleges and endorsed by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees.

By way of background, final grades for the fall semester are due on the Monday following the last day of final examinations. As a result, the University Registrar will certify the satisfactory completion of degree requirements after the Board of Trustees meets. Therefore, the proposed degrees will be conferred following approval by the Board of Trustees, contingent upon the Registrar's final certification that each candidate has successfully met all academic requirements.

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

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

E. ASACR 2: Candidates for In Memoriam Degrees: December 2025

The recommendation was that the President be authorized to confer upon the individuals whose names appear on the attached list an *In Memoriam* Posthumous Degree. The degrees for which application have 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 Colleges. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

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

F. ASACR 3: Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Fine Arts

The recommendation was that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Film and Sonic Art in the College of Fine Arts.

By way of background, the proposed bachelor's degree in Film and Sonic Art (FASA) will provide students with real-world production opportunities within the evolving industry landscape fostering a new generation of creators ready to contribute to—and shape—the economy in Kentucky and beyond. FASA is designed to meet the growing demand for skilled, adaptable professionals in film and sonic arts. With a foundation that encourages both technical expertise and artistic exploration, students will be prepared for careers across diverse fields, including narrative, experimental and traditional filmmaking, animation and visual effects, sound design and audio production.

The proposed bachelor's degree has been recommended to the Provost by the College of Fine Arts faculty given their expertise within their respective disciplines. The Provost of the University supports the program faculty's recommendation.

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

G. ASACR 4: Undergraduate Certificate: Gatton College of Business and Economics

The recommendation was that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of an undergraduate certificate in Supply Chain Management in the Gatton College of Business and Economics.

By way of background, the proposed certificate in Supply Chain Management will provide students with essential knowledge and practical skills to manage the flow of goods, services and information across complex global and regional networks. The certificate program will equip students with the skills in understanding supply chain strategies, sourcing and purchasing decisions, productivity improvement and data-driven decision-making. Students with an undergraduate certificate in Supply Chain Management will be prepared to enter a fast-growing field where manufacturers rely on complex supply chains and a network of suppliers.

The proposed undergraduate certificate has been recommended to the Provost by the Gatton College of Business and Economics faculty given their expertise within their respective disciplines. The Provost of the University supports the program faculty's recommendation.

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

H. ASACR 5: Graduate Certificate: Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

The recommendation was that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a graduate certificate in Sustainable Food Systems in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

By way of background, the proposed certificate in Sustainable Food Systems will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the transdisciplinary concepts associated with food systems, including topics related to local food products, food access, dietary health and environmental challenges. The certificate program will equip students with the skills to contribute to solving complex problems in the food system, analyzing issues of sustainability and access and developing community-centered communication skills.

The proposed graduate certificate has been recommended to the Provost by the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment faculty given their expertise within their respective disciplines. The Provost of the University supports the program faculty's recommendation.

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

I. Provost Report

Provost DiPaola opened by focusing on a new productivity model designed to align purpose, passion and performance across the University, noting that although the model responds in part to House Bill 424, its broader aim is to promote growth, clarity and sustainability. He stated that productivity should not be viewed solely as numerical output but as a mechanism to strengthen the University's core mission of educating students, advancing discovery, delivering clinical care and serving communities across Kentucky.

He emphasized that transparent, measurable expectations will allow faculty to pursue meaningful goals while contributing to the University's economic stability and long-term capacity to expand academic programs, research initiatives and service activities.

Provost DiPaola stated that significant disparities currently exist among colleges in distribution of effort (DOE), instructional volume, research funding coverage and discipline-specific outputs, underscoring the need for consistent and equitable evaluation practices. He reported that the model is being designed to promote transparency at the college and individual faculty levels, including clearer ties among DOE, teaching load, research productivity, external funding and scholarly contributions such as high-impact publications or creative performance. He explained that examples across colleges demonstrated how metrics should reflect disciplinary norms, confirm workload equity and highlight where centralized support or DOE adjustments may be warranted to help faculty meet expectations.

Provost DiPaola reported that the proposed framework will evaluate instruction, research and service using discipline-appropriate metrics developed by faculty, chairs and Deans, with final review by the Office of the Provost. He stated that all faculty will have individualized expectations aligned with DOE and that the model will include mechanisms to acknowledge exceptional performance, identify unmet expectations and provide supportive remediation plans when needed. He noted that discipline-specific outputs, such as top-tier journal publications, clinical service benchmarks, extension impact or nationally recognized artistic performance, will be incorporated to ensure fairness and relevance across diverse fields.

Provost DiPaola stated that the University must submit the model to the state in January, followed by intensive work through June to finalize college- and department-level criteria. He reported that July 1, 2026, is the implementation date, after which all faculty will operate under clear annual expectations that enable transparency and institutional alignment. He emphasized that the model will strengthen the University's ability to grow high-quality programs, support faculty passion and sustain its mission and he noted that the Office for Faculty Advancement, in partnership with the Deans, is ready to support colleges in implementation and ongoing refinement.

Provost DiPaola invited Associate Provost for Faculty Advancement, Rebecca Thomas, to discuss further outcomes of UK FRAME (Feedback-Responsive Allocation, Metrics and Evaluation). Associate Provost Thomas reported that the University's academic departments maintain statements of evidence that define discipline-specific indicators of faculty productivity and instructional expectations. She stated that these statements reflect the nuances across teaching modalities, class sizes and disciplinary norms and that evaluations will begin within departments, move through colleges and culminate in review by the Provost's Office. She explained that departmental chairs will work with faculty to conduct evaluations using existing rubrics, which will then be translated into a three-point scale of exceeds, meets or does not meet expectations. She noted that Deans' offices will ensure universal participation, flag faculty who do not meet expectations and coordinate remediation plans designed in partnership with shared governance.

Associate Provost Thomas stated that remediation may include adjusted workload

distributions, targeted developmental support, mentorship or skill-based workshops. She reported that Deans' offices will periodically refine review processes to preserve fairness, consistency and policy alignment, while also ensuring that college-level expectations remain fully aligned with publicly available unit standards. She added that faculty who exceed expectations will become eligible for additional recognition as part of the model. She emphasized that clarity and transparency will guide the process at each level to ensure consistency across the University.

Associate Provost Thomas reported that if the proposal is approved by the Board and accepted by the state, intensive implementation work will begin in the first quarter of 2026. She stated that metrics and criteria will be developed collaboratively among Deans, chairs, faculty councils and faculty, with all standards submitted to the Provost for review to guarantee equity and alignment across the University. She noted that April 2026 will serve as the review period, with finalized expectations communicated to all faculty by May 1. She stated that implementation will begin July 1, followed by a full performance year in 2026–2027 and the first annual review under the new model in 2027–2028. She concluded that the Office of Faculty Advancement will support planning, execution and ongoing assessment of the model and is available to address questions.

Trustee Swanson expressed appreciation for the Provost's responsiveness to faculty concerns and emphasized the importance of continued engagement as the process evolves. She suggested that, because the House Bill assigns the Board oversight authority, the Board should receive an update at the May meeting to ensure appropriate visibility into policy development.

Trustee Petrone also commended the Provost and his team for their engagement and affirmed a commitment to work closely with the Faculty Senate, shared governance bodies and the Office of the Provost over the next six months. She cautioned that numerical metrics alone may not capture the full spectrum of faculty contributions and urged attention to qualitative dimensions, as well as to the degree of control faculty have over assigned duties. She endorsed Trustee Swanson's request for a future report to the Board on how the process is progressing and how detailed metrics are being refined across the University.

J. ASACR 6: UKFRAME: Feedback-Responsive Allocation, Metrics and Evaluation

The recommendation was that the Board of Trustees approve the UK FRAME (Feedback-Responsive Allocation, Metrics and Evaluation) faculty productivity evaluation structure, to take effect July 1, 2026, with the faculty to be informed by January 1, 2026.

By way of background, Kentucky's General Assembly passed legislation in Spring 2025 requiring evaluation of the performance and productivity of faculty members at least once every four years (i.e., House Bill 424, which amended KRS 164.230) using a centralized review process under the authority of the colleges and/or the University President. The legislation states that, "The evaluation process shall be established by the board and provided to all faculty members by January 1, 2026, to become effective July 1, 2026."

The Faculty Senate, in its advisory capacity, was engaged by the Provost to develop faculty productivity review models for consideration that are transparent, encourage professional development, ensure accountability and reward excellence. One of their recommended models provides the basis of UK FRAME, which has been further developed with additional consultation. The Provost of the University supports the program faculty's recommendation.

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

K. Vice President for Student Success Report

Vice President Turner opened by stating that the University receives roughly three-quarters of its undergraduate applications by December 1 and that work is already underway to evaluate the next first-year class. She reported that the purpose of the discussion was to offer insight into how units within Student Success are assessed and introduced Dominick Williams, Associate Vice President for Student Success. She explained that Associate Vice President Williams oversees the evaluation of Student Success units and would describe how those reviews are conducted.

Associated Vice President Williams reported that around 2001–2002 the University developed a more coherent and comprehensive assessment system for Student Success, modeled in part on national program-review processes used in academic units. He explained that the University uses the Council for Advancement of Standards in Higher Education as its primary framework, applying standards across more than 35 functions within Student Success. He stated that each review begins with a semester-long self-study, followed by an external review panel of national experts who meet with students, faculty and staff before producing a written report. He emphasized that this process supports continuous improvement, strategic planning and alignment of goals with desired student learning outcomes.

Associate Vice President Williams reported that since 2022, 11 units have completed program reviews, producing tangible improvements. He stated that the Transformative Learning unit used its review to reconfigure space in the Boone Center, enabling expansion of supplemental instruction, while Campus Recreation used its review to evaluate national benchmarks and plan strategically for facilities, including future renovations to the Johnson Center. He concluded that these outcomes demonstrate how program reviews strengthen service delivery across Student Success and affirmed enthusiasm for the continued use of this process.

L. SGA President Report

President McDowell opened by stating that the Student Government Association (SGA) held an in-person Safety Walk on November 4, bringing together executive members and campus administrators to identify dimly lit areas, unsafe crossings and other risks across the University. She reported that several lighting issues identified during the walk have since been repaired and that a full report is being compiled to share with administrators, with plans to reassess progress in the spring semester. She emphasized

appreciation for campus staff who partnered in the effort and noted that another Safety Walk will occur in the spring.

President McDowell reported that several student-support initiatives have been active this semester, including Coats for Cats, which provided free winter coats, gloves and hats to students, fulfilling 229 requests with 150 pickups. She stated that 400 parking vouchers offering three hours of parking each were distributed and quickly sold out. She explained that the Wildcat Wardrobe held more than seven pop-up events and provided professional attire to more than 260 students and that SGA's graduate and professional exam prep book grants have already supplied 73 free prep books. She noted that SGA funding for student organizations has drawn more than 50 applications, with 26 approved so far.

President McDowell shared that SGA collaborated with the Student Activities Board and Alumni Association to support the Fall 2025 Wildcat Wrap Up, celebrating graduating students. She reported that SGA members also participated in the Big Blue Crush Blood Drive, and that a Thanksgiving Dinner hosted in partnership with the Alumni Association, International Center and UK Dining provided students with a holiday meal on campus. She concluded by noting that the Board of Kentucky Student Body Presidents met on November 10 at Eastern Kentucky University to discuss statewide collaboration and received updates from the University's representative to the Council on Postsecondary Education.

M. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Chair Boone adjourned the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shavonna Ross  
Academic and Student Affairs Committee  
Secretary