

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee
University of Kentucky
Thursday, April 23, 2026

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky (UK) Board of Trustees met on Thursday, April 23, 2026, in the Harris Ballroom of the Gatton Student Center.

A. Meeting Opened

Chair Alex Boone called the meeting to order at 1:46 p.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 April 23, 2026, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Figg moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Dowell seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Chair Boone called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

D. SGA President Report

President Dowell reported that the Student Government Association (SGA) had been actively concluding a productive and impactful year through advocacy and student support initiatives. She stated that in February, members attended the Rally for Higher Education in Frankfort, where they met with state senators and representatives to advocate for student needs and priorities. She further reported that nine SGA members traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Kentucky's congressional delegation and elevate student concerns at the federal level.

President Dowell explained that the SGA successfully conducted spring elections, electing a new president, vice president and 47 senators representing colleges and students across the University. She stated that by the final Senate meeting, the Appropriations and Revenue Committee had allocated more than \$184,000 to 159 registered student organizations, marking the largest distribution in University SGA history. She also noted that the leadership development program hosted both student leader and administrator panels, providing freshmen members opportunities to engage with leaders from across the University.

President Dowell shared that the SGA recently held its end-of-year banquet to reflect on the year's progress and campus-wide impact. She reported that the organization was recognized with the Student Organization of the Year Award at the annual Leap Blue ceremony hosted by the Office of Student Organizations and Activities. She concluded by

stating that the Director of Services distributed more than 200 raincoats to students at no cost, reinforcing the organization's commitment to meeting tangible student needs.

E. ASACR 1: Candidates for Degrees: May 2026

The recommendation was that the President be authorized to confer upon each individual whose name appeared on an attached list, the degrees to which they were 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 spring 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 Pope. Hearing no discussion, Chair Boone called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

F. ASACR 2: In Memoriam Degrees: May 2026

The recommendation was that the President be authorized to confer upon the individuals whose names appeared on an attached list an *In Memoriam* Posthumous Degree. The degrees for which applications have been made have been approved by the Colleges 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.

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

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

G. ASACR 3: Candidates for Degrees: April 2026 (Ft. Sam Houston)

The recommendation was that the President be authorized to confer upon each of the individuals whose names appeared on an attached list the degrees to which they were entitled, upon certification by the University Registrar. Such certification shall affirm that the individuals have satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degrees for which application has been made and as approved by the College and endorsed by 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.

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

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

H. ASACR 4: Deletion of Graduate Certificate: Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

The recommendation was that the Board of Trustees approve the closure of the graduate certificate in Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

By way of background, the graduate certificate in Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems was established in 2021. Due to low program enrollment, the faculty have decided that it is not sustainable to continue the certificate program.

The proposed closure of this graduate certificate has been recommended to the Provost by the 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 Gosney moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Swanson. Hearing no discussion, Chair Boone called for a vote. The motion passed without dissent.

I. ASACR 5: Deletion of Graduate Certificate: College of Education

The recommendation was that the Board of Trustees approve closure of the graduate certificate in Leadership for Deeper Learning in the College of Education.

By way of background, the proposed graduate certificate in Leadership for Deeper

Learning was created for experienced educators or professionals seeking to enhance their skills in fostering meaningful educational experiences. The most recent periodic program review recommended that the college evaluate and potentially condense, close or transform the graduate certificate into tracks within larger programs. Based on feedback from the periodic review, and consistently low program enrollment, the faculty have decided to close the graduate certificate in Leadership for Deeper Learning and integrate the certificate curriculum into existing MEd and EdS programs.

The proposed closure of this graduate certificate has been 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 Lucas moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Gosney. Hearing no discussion, Chair Boone called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

J. ASACR 6: Undergraduate Certificate: College of Social Work

The recommendation was that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of an undergraduate certificate in Victimology in the College of Social Work.

By way of background, the proposed undergraduate certificate in Victimology will prepare students for embarking on a career in criminal justice. The study of victims and victimization is central to understanding the unique challenges of our criminal justice system. The certificate program provides foundational knowledge of the discipline of victimology, including its origins, evolution and current application. The certificate program will fulfill a strong market demand for professionals with victim-focused expertise by providing students with comprehensive, victim-informed training that aligns with both employment opportunities and the interdisciplinary realities of modern criminal justice work.

The proposed undergraduate certificate has been recommended to the Provost by the College of Social Work faculty, given their expertise within their respective disciplines. The Provost of the University supports the program faculty's recommendation.

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

K. ASACR 7: 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 One Health in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

By way of background, the proposed graduate certificate in One Health will prepare students to address the connections between animals, humans and the environment. The certificate program is addressing workforce needs and emphasizes the importance of implementing a One Health approach that focuses on research, instruction and extension efforts to address major issues, such as zoonotic and vector-borne diseases, antimicrobial

resistance, bioterrorism, and food safety/security thereby enhancing human, animal and environmental health across Kentucky.

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

L. ASACR 8: Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Arts and Sciences

The recommendation was that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Applied Psychology in the College of Arts and Sciences.

By way of background, the proposed bachelor's degree in Applied Psychology will provide students with access to one of the most versatile undergraduate fields of study. The degree program is designed for students who want to apply psychological science directly to real-world contexts by emphasizing applied skills in communication, critical thinking, cultural competence, workforce needs and ethical decision-making. These skills align with employer demand across Kentucky's key economic sectors, including health care, education and human services. This is a shift from the traditional psychology undergraduate degrees that focus on theoretical foundations, research methods and a broad understanding of human behavior, preparing students for graduate school or academic research. Students graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Psychology will be prepared to enter directly into the workforce while advancing the University's land-grant mission to serve the Commonwealth.

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

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

M. ASACR 9: 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 Music Industry in the College of Fine Arts.

By way of background, the proposed bachelor's degree in Music Industry will prepare students for careers across the commercial and nonprofit sectors of today's rapidly evolving music industry. The degree program is designed for students interested in pursuing careers in the commercial and nonprofit sectors of the music and creative industries, especially those drawn to the business, managerial, entrepreneurial or production aspects of music rather than performance. The foundational knowledge emphasizes applied learning and professional preparation in music business, artist management, copyright and licensing,

recording industry history, financial structures of the industry and creative sector entrepreneurship. By removing the barriers and embedding high-impact experiential practices, the degree program broadens access, supports interdisciplinary learners and aligns with growing areas in Kentucky's creative economy.

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

N. ASACR 10: Honorary Degree Recipient

The recommendation was that the Board of Trustees approve awarding an Honorary Doctor of Arts to Malcolm J. Wilson, as approved and recommended by the Honorary Degree Review Council.

By way of background, Pursuant to the Conditions of Merit for Honorary Degrees, the Honorary Degree Review Council reviewed and approved that the specified honorary degree be awarded to Malcolm J. Wilson.

A biographical sketch of the recipient was attached.

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

O. Provost Report

Provost DiPaola opened by providing an overview of how academic leadership is selected at the University of Kentucky, particularly regarding dean appointments. He emphasized that the process is consistent across the institution and guided by three principles: maintaining the integrity of the process, addressing the needs of the institution and the college now and preparing graduates to serve the Commonwealth. He reported that the dean search process is extensive, rigorous and includes continuous feedback, multiple debriefs and ongoing due diligence rather than waiting until the end for evaluation.

Provost DiPaola explained that since September 2022, the University has completed 12 dean searches across multiple colleges, including Public Health, Medicine, Design, Agriculture, Food and Environment and Education, with ongoing searches in Nursing and the Lewis Honors College. He stated that these searches have resulted in a collaborative and collegial group of deans contributing to the University's growth. He highlighted the recent searches for the College of Health Sciences and the J. David Rosenberg College of Law as examples of the established process.

Provost DiPaola reported that the search process includes multiple stages, with significant input gathered during Stage 3 through screening, off-site interviews and on-campus interviews. He explained that search advisory committees are carefully formed

with representation from faculty, staff, students, alumni and faculty senate members. He stated that these committees review applications independently, narrow candidate pools and provide recommendations, while he and the President review feedback, conduct additional due diligence and make final decisions. He noted that campus visits include meetings with University leadership, faculty, staff, students and advisory groups, with feedback also gathered through public forums, Qualtrics surveys, reference checks and social media reviews.

Provost DiPaola discussed the search for the dean of the J. David Rosenberg College of Law and explained that concerns arose regarding Judge Greg Van Tatenhove's lack of a traditional academic background, including questions related to American Bar Association (ABA) Standard 203 and faculty support. He reported that additional due diligence was conducted, including calls with more than 10 law faculty members, to assess concerns and determine whether there was broader support for the candidate. He stated that Judge Van Tatenhove was not seeking tenure and that the University believed the appointment complied with ABA standards under the "extraordinary circumstances" provision.

Provost DiPaola stated that extraordinary circumstances included financial pressures, rising costs, dependence on general funds, workforce alignment needs, the demand for new academic programs, the impact of artificial intelligence and legal technology and the need for external fundraising and stronger executive leadership. He explained that the J. David Rosenberg College of Law is at an inflection point and requires a leader with executive, fundraising and workforce-development skills to expand programs, support faculty scholarship and improve long-term sustainability. He cited examples from other institutions, including Duke University, where similarly experienced leaders without traditional academic backgrounds had successfully served as law deans.

Provost DiPaola summarized that the University followed its established, rigorous and compliant process with meaningful faculty and stakeholder involvement and that the final decision reflected careful judgment based on the institution's and the college's current needs. He expressed confidence that the appointment would support student success, faculty success, public service and Kentucky's legal workforce. He also recognized Dr. Phillip Gribble as incoming Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Judge Greg Van Tatenhove as incoming Dean of the J. David Rosenberg College of Law.

Trustees raised questions regarding faculty opposition, outside political influence, interpretation of ABA standards and the justification for extraordinary circumstances. He responded that the process remained free from outside influence, that all faculty concerns were taken seriously and that the J. David Rosenberg College of Law's financial and strategic challenges warranted a new direction. He reiterated that while Judge Van Tatenhove was not a traditional candidate, he was considered an extraordinary candidate for an extraordinary moment and expressed confidence that faculty would ultimately support his leadership over time.

P. Other Business

Trustee Swanson moved that Provost DiPaola provide an update on UK FRAME, including the faculty evaluation, metrics and processes, at the June 2026 meeting. Trustee Petrone seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Chair Boone called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

Q. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Chair Boone adjourned the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shavonna Ross
Academic and Student Affairs Committee Secretary