

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee
University of Kentucky
Friday, April 29, 2022

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky (UK) Board of Trustees met on Friday, April 29, 2022, in the Harris Ballroom of the Gatton Student Center.

A. Meeting Opened

Chair Rachel Webb called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Chair Webb paid homage to Joe R. Bowen and Carol Martin "Bill" Gatton.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the ASAC answered the call of the roll: Cathy A. Black, Lee X. Blonder, 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.

C. Approval of Minutes

Chair Webb reported that the minutes of the February 18, 2022, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Sunderland moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Shuffett 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 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 elected faculty of the Senate Council (on behalf of the University Senate) and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. By way of background, since final grades are not due until the Monday following the last day of final examinations, it is not possible for the University Registrar to certify satisfactory completion of requirements prior to the degree conferral date for those candidates who complete their requirements in May.

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

E. ASACR 2: Candidates for *In Memoriam* Degrees: May 2022

The recommendation is that the president be authorized to confer upon the individuals whose names appear on the attached list an *In Memoriam* Posthumous Degree. The degree for which application has been made has been approved by the elected faculty of the Senate Council (on behalf of the University Senate) 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.

Trustee Shoop 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: 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 elected faculty of the Senate Council (on behalf of the 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.

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

G. ASACR 4: Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Design

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Master of Science degree with a major in Heritage Resources Administration, in the Department of Historic Preservation, within the College of Design, beginning in the 2022 Fall Semester.

By way of background, the proposed Master's in Heritage Resources Administration (MHRA) program offers curriculum that combines historic preservation coursework with training in public and non-profit administration.

A collaboration between the Department of Historic Preservation in the College of Design and the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, this program was developed to provide mid-career heritage professionals in preservation-adjacent fields such as architecture, archaeology and urban design with a pathway to advancement and leadership within their organizations.

The program will be delivered online. While the on-campus Master of Historic Preservation emphasizes basic knowledge of historic preservation history, theory and practice and technical preservation skills, the MHRA will address these topics while also meeting the needs of mid-level professionals who aspire to leadership positions and seek a greater degree of organizational management and administrative training.

The expected demand for this program is three students in year one, growing to 45 students in year five.

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 were Dean Mitzi Vernon and Associate Professor and Chair of Historic Preservation, Douglas Appler.

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

H. ASACR 5: Deletion of Degree: College of Education

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the closure of the Master of Arts in Middle School Education, within the College of Education, effective in the Fall 2022 semester.

By way of background, this degree program has not been in operation since 2012. There are no current students in the program and as such the deletion will not affect any faculty, staff or students.

This proposal has the approval of the College of Education and the University Senate. The provost of the university supports this recommendation.

In attendance to answer any questions regarding ASACR 5 was Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Student Success Margaret Rintamaa.

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

I. ASACR 6: Reorganization of School: College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the following actions, effective July 1, 2022:

- Move the Departments of Dietetics and Human Nutrition, Family Sciences and Retailing and Tourism Management from reporting to the School of Human Environmental Sciences to reporting to the Dean of the college.
- Move two graduate certificate programs to the School of Human Environmental Sciences.

By way of background, in Fall 2018, the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE) commissioned a task force to study the structure of the School of Human Environmental Sciences (HES). One key recommendation of the task force was to, “complete the integration of the three academic departments into CAFE and further clarify that the department chairs report directly to the Dean... not through the school.” This change to the departments’ reporting relationships would remove an administrative layer and would be consistent with the other 11 departments in CAFE.

In addition, this proposal seeks to move the graduate certificates in Positive Youth Development and Family and Consumer Sciences from their current home in the CAFE Center for Student Success to an academic home in HES.

No currently employed faculty or staff will lose employment as a result of these proposed changes. The proposed changes do not affect student enrollment or progression.

The proposed actions have been approved by the faculty of record of the impacted departments and certificate programs, the CAFE dean and associate deans, the CAFE Faculty Council and the CAFE department chairs; reviewed by the Senate Academic Organization and Structure Committee; reviewed and recommended by the Senate Council; and endorsed by the University Senate. The provost of the university supports this recommendation.

In attendance to answer any questions regarding ASACR 6 were Dean Nancy Cox and Professor of Biosystems Engineering and Associate Dean for Instruction Carmen Agouridis.

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

J. ASACR 7: Reorganization of Departments: College of Public Health

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the following actions, effective July 1, 2022:

- Consolidate the Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health with the Department of Epidemiology.
- Change the name of the Department of Epidemiology to the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health.

By way of background, in 2019, the College of Public Health (CPH) conducted an external evaluation of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health (PMEH) to determine how to move the small department toward excellence. CPH does not currently have the resources to hire the appropriate number of faculty to ensure a viable, stand-alone department. Therefore, this proposal seeks to establish an alternative administrative structure.

If approved, faculty members in the Department of PMEH would transfer to the Department of Epidemiology and the Department of Epidemiology would be renamed as the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health. These changes will allow faculty currently in both departments to have access to necessary infrastructure and support while maintaining visibility for environmental health, a core educational and research discipline in CPH.

Upon this action, the college will maintain its Environmental Health concentration for the Master of Public Health degree program and continue to recruit faculty with academic and research interests in environmental health.

The proposed changes have been approved by the faculty of the impacted departments; reviewed and recommended by the Senate Academic Organization and Structure Committee and the Senate Council; and endorsed by the University Senate. The provost of the university supports this recommendation.

In attendance to answer any questions regarding ASACR 7 was Dean Donna Arnett.

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

K. ASACR 8: Change in Name of Educational Unit: College of Engineering

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the change in the name of the Department of Mechanical Engineering to the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, in the College of Engineering, effective July 1, 2022.

By way of background, the Department of Mechanical Engineering has been recently approved to add Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degree programs in Aerospace Engineering. Since the department will now offer two separate Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) accredited major undergraduate degree programs, the new name will better reflect offerings to students. All departments in the college with multiple major degree programs have such names reflecting multiple degrees. This is also common to other universities nationwide.

The name change will not impact the department's current structure, but will better reflect it.

The proposed change has been approved by the faculty in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the College of Engineering; reviewed and recommended by the Senate Academic Organization and Structure Committee and the Senate Council; and endorsed by the University Senate. The provost of the university supports this recommendation.

In attendance to answer any questions regarding ASACR 8 were Dean Rudy Buchheit and Professor and Chair of Mechanical Engineering Michael Renfro.

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

L. Student Government Association Update

Student Government Association (SGA) President and Trustee Michael Hawse introduced Director of Wildcat Wardrobe Claire Dzan to provide an update regarding the initiative, which is a free professional clothing service available to all UK students.

Director Dzan provided an overview of Wildcat Wardrobe activities since 2018, including:

- Moving to a new space on campus.
- Creation of a volunteer program.
- Holding multiple open house events.
- Collaboration with the Stuckert Career Center.
- Operation on virtual and hybrid platforms.
- Creation of a free graduation regalia initiative.
- Provision of services to a continually increasing number of students.

Trustee Swanson inquired how clothing donations can be made to Wildcat Wardrobe. Director Dzan indicated she could facilitate connections with the donations coordinator upon request. She also indicated that dry cleaning prior to donation is required.

Trustee Blonder inquired if donations could be picked up. Director Dzan indicated pick-up of donations could be arranged as needed.

SGA President Hawse provided an update regarding the student body and recent SGA activities, including:

- Election of new SGA officers including President Andrew Laws, who was introduced to the Committee.
- DanceBlue occurred in person and raised over \$1.4 million.
- Participation in the annual “SEC in DC” program with students from other universities in the Southeastern Conference (SEC).

SGA President Hawse closed his report by congratulating students graduating in May.

M. Provost Report

Acting Provost Robert DiPaola provided an update regarding the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmation process. The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) topic, Transdisciplinary Educational approaches to advance Kentucky (TEK), was announced to the campus in March. TEK will leverage the broad expertise of UK’s people to focus on student learning and outcomes. Development and implementation phases will soon be underway.

Acting Provost DiPaola emphasized the synergistic and collaborative nature of a transdisciplinary approach and how that aligns with UK’s strategic plan. To create a framework for upcoming transdisciplinary activities such as TEK, he described examples of current collaborative activities that have a transdisciplinary impact in the community, including:

- James B. Beam Institute – with a transdisciplinary team of faculty, staff and students, numerous nationally recognized initiatives have emerged from the institute, including the establishment of an undergraduate certificate, an apprenticeship program, a variety of research projects and an annual industry conference. A state of the art institute facility, including a teaching distillery, is under construction.
- Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS)/Project Graduate – a collaboration between the College of Arts and Sciences and the UK Registrar, to increase the number of degrees awarded.
- Crabtree-Cornell Fund for the Environment – a collaboration between the Lewis Honors College, College of Design, College of Engineering and other UK and community partners, to provide sustainability programming for students.
- Shoulder to Shoulder Global – a collaboration between the UK International Center, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, College of Health Sciences, College of Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Pharmacy and College of Public Health, to improve the health and well-being of residents in Santo

Domingo, Ecuador through interprofessional health care teams.

- UK Art Museum Digital Learning Gallery – a collaboration between the College of Fine Arts and the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, to increase access to art throughout Kentucky.

Acting Provost DiPaola provided an overview of the overall SACSCOC reaffirmation timeline. Regular updates will be provided to the Board of Trustees.

Acting Provost DiPaola provided an update regarding ongoing searches, including:

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

Trustee Christian thanked Acting Provost DiPaola for his service to the institution.

Trustee Swanson indicated that the creation of transdisciplinary programs will require alignment with established processes as well as benchmarking with other institutions. Acting Provost DiPaola indicated that the QEP, to be co-chaired by the occupant of the Provost position and Senate Council member Susan Cantrell, will incorporate these necessary processes. Trustee Swanson inquired if successful programs at other universities, in areas such as enology, could be used as blueprints for establishment of programs at UK. James B. Beam Institute Director Seth DeBolt indicated that strategic benchmarking with such programs occurred during establishment of the Beam Institute. He emphasized that, in comparison to other disciplines, distilling is truly transdisciplinary.

Trustee Vance inquired if Kentucky's environment would be conducive to growing grapes to enhance the state's wine industry. Director DeBolt indicated this has been an area of focus for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's extension and research areas for nearly 20 years, including long-term breeding of grape varieties for optimal growth in Kentucky.

N. Vice President for Institutional Diversity Report

Vice President for Institutional Diversity Katrice Albert provided a review of "An Evening with Heather McGhee" on April 28. She indicated that "taking care of our people" is a hallmark of the work done by Institutional Diversity, to benefit the campus as well as the community.

Vice President Albert provided an update regarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Implementation Plan Project 12 related to facilities and spaces. UK has partnered with Sasaki to work toward a DEI campus plan to help all on campus feel a sense of belonging. Part one of this plan is currently under review, with parts two and three to be underway shortly.

Vice President Albert provided an update regarding DEI Implementation Plan Project 14 related to supplier diversity. In 2021, UK Purchasing implemented a module to allow the campus to easily shop with diverse suppliers. Work will continue toward increasing the number of diverse suppliers available. UK's supplier diversity initiative recently received the Jesse L. Moore 2022 Supplier Diversity Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine.

Vice President Albert indicated that UK was recently named a 2022 Best Employer for Diversity by Forbes. This is the fifth year UK has received this recognition.

Vice President Albert introduced Associate Vice President for Research in Diversity and Inclusion Danelle Stevens-Watkins to provide an update regarding DEI Implementation Plan Project 15 related to the UNited in True racial Equity (UNITE) Research Priority Area.

Associate Vice President Stevens-Watkins provided an overview of the vision and mission of UNITE, which includes participation from over 300 faculty members across 16 colleges. Following the establishment of UNITE, awarded grants and contracts focused on racial equity increased substantially to a total of \$32 million in Fiscal Year 2021. UNITE's governance structure includes an executive committee and an internal advisory board. UNITE has collaborated with campus units to fund numerous initiatives, including research pilot projects and increasing the pipeline of underrepresented scholars. The 2022 UNITE Research Showcase will be held on May 4, 2022.

Vice President Albert provided an overview of the Associate Vice President/Associate Provost for Diverse Faculty Success position, for which the search process is currently underway. This innovative position will help recruit, retain, support and advance faculty.

Trustee Swanson inquired about best practices for increasing the pipeline of underrepresented scholars. Associate Vice President Stevens-Watkins indicated that UNITE is examining the research and implementing best practices for addressing this multi-faceted problem, including investments in undergraduate research success, mentoring efforts and recruitment of post-doctoral scholars. Vice President Albert indicated the Associate Vice President/Associate Provost for Diverse Faculty Success position will be able to help in this area as well.

O. Vice President for Student Success Report

Vice President for Student Success Kirsten Turner provided an overview of end-of-semester student activities on campus, including a First-Generation Pinning Ceremony and a UK LEADS (Leveraging Economic Affordability for Developing Success) reception.

Vice President Turner provided an overview of the ways Student Success emphasizes “taking care of our people.” In 2019, a pilot project was launched to provide all Student Success staff members with a \$300 wellness credit eligible for use toward numerous services contributing to self-care. Overall, the pilot was well received by participants and will be re-launched for a full study, given that the initial pilot was interrupted by COVID-19.

Vice President Turner indicated Work-Life Survey results varied substantially between units within Student Success. To address these results, units were asked to make recommendations for solutions based on local results. In addition, suggestions have been solicited from all staff members across all units.

Trustee Swanson inquired how UK can help students and faculty manage expectations related to academic performance post-pandemic. Vice President Turner indicated that during the pandemic, students multi-tasked on multiple virtual platforms, which they were not able to continue upon returning to in-person campus activities. Over time, as students continue to adjust back to in-person campus activities, she expects that student behaviors related to academic performance will resemble such behaviors pre-pandemic. However, Student Success will help continue to reinforce such expectations. Trustee Swanson indicated this could also apply to social interactions. Vice President Turner indicated that the full impact of the pandemic related to student mental health will continue to emerge and will need to be addressed.

P. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rachel Watts Webb
Academic and Student Affairs
Committee

RW/afc