

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee  
University of Kentucky  
Tuesday, December 10, 2019

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky (UK) met on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, in Ballroom A of the Gatton Student Center.

A. Meeting Opened

Chair Rachel Webb 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: Cathy A. Black, Lee X. Blonder, Joe R. Bowen, Robert Grossman, Michael Hamilton, Kimberly McCann, Derrick K. Ramsey, Sandra R. Shuffett, and Rachel Watts Webb. Carol Martin "Bill" Gatton was not in attendance.

C. Approval of Minutes

Chair Webb reported that the minutes of the September 13, 2019, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Blonder moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Ramsey seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

D. ASACR 1: Candidate for Degrees: December 2019

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 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 ASAC of the Board of Trustees. By way of background, since UK will hold December Commencement ceremonies immediately following completion of examinations, it is not possible for the University Registrar to certify satisfactory completion of requirements prior to the ceremonies for those candidates who complete their requirements in December. Trustee Hamilton moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Grossman. Finding no further discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

E. ASACR 2: Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Arts and Sciences

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Master of Arts degree with a major in Applied Environmental and Sustainability Studies, in the Department of Geography, within the College of Arts and Sciences, beginning in the Fall 2020 semester. By way of background, the proposed program will prepare students to analyze complex environmental problems from a variety of perspectives and apply their findings to facilitate change. The interdisciplinary structure of the program encourages a liberal arts approach that combines academic knowledge in environmental issues with critical thinking, independent learning, oral and written communication, and problem solving. The proposed curriculum, which will be offered online, consists of core, skills, and elective courses as well as a capstone or internship experience. Anticipated enrollment of 10 to 15 students is expected. The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate, and has completed the 30 day review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

In attendance to answer any questions was Mark Kornbluh, Dean. There were no questions or comments.

Trustee Blonder moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Black. Finding no further discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

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

The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Doctor of Philosophy degree with a major in Arts Administration, in the Department of Arts Administration, within the College of Fine Arts, beginning in the Fall 2020 semester. By way of background, the proposed program seeks to address the critical need in the United States for scholars in arts and culture. There are currently only two universities that offer comparable specialization in the area of art and culture research. UK would be the first university in the country offering arts administration degrees at the bachelor, master, and doctoral levels. The degree program is intended to be offered in an online format for courses and student mentoring, with most students currently working as arts and culture professionals. The program requires the previous completion of a master's degree and will consist of 42 hours of coursework plus additional research requirements. A natural recruitment pipeline from UK's Master of Arts in Arts Administration is anticipated. Possible opportunities for graduates include state and local arts councils; federal, state, and local government agencies; arts service organizations; large arts organizations including museums, performing arts organizations, and arts centers; economic and community development organizations; and think tanks. An initial cohort of four students growing to 16 students is anticipated.

The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate, and has completed the 30 day review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

In attendance to answer any questions were Mark Shanda, Dean; and Rachel Shane, Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Arts Administration. There were no questions or comments.

Trustee Grossman moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Shuffett. Finding no further 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 is that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Doctor of Social Work degree, within the College of Social Work, beginning in the Fall 2020 semester. By way of background, the proposed program meets a unique academic market need as it is designed to move social workers from the broader foundation of generalist social work practice to an advanced level of theory application, knowledge, and skills in a variety of practice settings. The degree program will be offered in an online format with required week-long summer residencies, offered in-person or via synchronous online software. The curriculum will consist of 42 hours, 33 of which are core and nine of which are to be taken in one of three identified concentrations: Administrative Leadership, Clinical Social Work, or Military Behavioral Health. Doctorate of Social Work (DSW) programs have gained traction nationally with social workers seeking advanced degrees to support professional practice, but who are not interested in the research components of a PhD. Similarly, in the College of Social Work, the DSW differs from the existing PhD program in that the purpose of the DSW is preparation for advanced professional practice rather than the research focus of the PhD. Obtaining a DSW degree has been shown to increase economic opportunities and job readiness for social workers. The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

In attendance to answer any questions were Kalea Benner, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Graduate Studies, and Associate Professor of Social Work; and Natalie Pope, Director of Doctoral Programs and Associate Professor of Social Work. There were no questions or comments.

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

#### H. ASACR 5: Change in Name of Educational Unit: College of Education

The recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve the change in the name of the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Rehabilitation Counseling to the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Counselor Education, in the College of Education, effective January 1, 2020. By way of background, the current name of the department does not reflect the doctoral Counselor Education and Supervision and master's Clinical Mental Health programs. The proposed name change remediates that problem and will aid in recruitment of applicants as the variety of available counselor education programs will be more readily apparent. 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 of the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Rehabilitation Counseling; 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 was Ralph Crystal, Chair and Professor, Department of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Rehabilitation Counseling. There were no questions or comments.

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

#### I. Provost Report

Provost David Blackwell indicated the forthcoming presentations would highlight UK's focus on student success, which is defined by how students grow in the areas of academics; financial stability; health and wellness; and belonging and engagement. UK's dedicated team of faculty and staff takes a student-centered approach in endeavors at all points during a student's trajectory at the institution.

The first presentation was given by Sonja Feist-Price, Vice President for Institutional Diversity. The inaugural Diversity Summit was held on November 7, 2019. The Summit was centered around a theme, "When Different Perspectives Meet, the World Opens Up," and acknowledged that learning often takes place among peers, outside of a traditional classroom. Invited attendees were current UK students, students from other Kentucky post-secondary institutions, and multicultural juniors and seniors from Kentucky high schools. The Summit included speakers from UK and around the country. The event's successful outcomes for all attendees would not have been possible without campus partnerships, collaboration which exemplifies inclusive excellence.

The second presentation was given by Kirsten Turner, Associate Provost for Academic and Student Affairs. Four years ago, the Board of Trustees and President Capilouto set an ambitious first-year to second-year retention goal of 90 percent. Efforts toward achieving this goal have been strategic and evidence-driven and have incorporated units across campus and all facets of student success, which has resulted in an upward trajectory. For the Fall 2015 cohort, first-year to second-year retention was 81.7 percent. For the Fall 2018 cohort, first-year to second-year retention was 85.0 percent. Even with this meaningful overall improvement, effort is still needed to address achievement gaps that exist among racial and ethnic groups and between first-generation and non-first-generation students.

Trustee Grossman commented that it would be important to look at any achievement gaps that impact students who identify as two or more races as the number of students identifying in this category has increased over time.

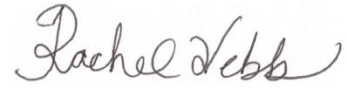
The third presentation was given by Melynda Price, Director of the Gaines Center for the Humanities. The Gaines Center for the Humanities is part of the Division of Student and Academic Life. It was created in 1984 via a gift from John and Joan Gaines to cultivate the humanities among students and faculty. The main initiative of the Gaines Center is the two-year undergraduate fellowship program. Recent efforts to increase the number of students who apply for this fellowship program have yielded a more diverse and representative junior cohort, in both identity and academic discipline. Former Gaines Fellows have achieved success in the community as well as on campus as UK employees. Outside of the undergraduate fellowship program, the Gaines Center prioritizes outreach, including the annual Bale Boone Symposium that is open to the public. In addition, Director Price has initiated evidence-based efforts in order to strengthen the Center's work, including site visits to humanities centers at neighboring and peer institutions.

The final presentation was given by Provost Blackwell. At the Board of Trustees' October retreat, representatives of the Educational Advisory Board (EAB) facilitated robust and productive conversations regarding the future of higher education among trustees, faculty, staff, and students. Later that month the Provost's Council (academic deans, associate provosts, and other administrative leaders) participated in a similar retreat. In addition, Provost Blackwell was able to attend several meetings that provided valuable information regarding UK's state, regional, and national context. These conversations and events produced key themes that will guide the Strategic Plan in a way that supports the institution's missions while also facilitating innovation to position UK for success in a dynamic future. Provost Blackwell will provide additional Strategic Plan updates at future ASAC meetings.

J. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Webb".

Rachel Watts Webb  
Academic and Student Affairs  
Committee

(ASACR 1, ASACR 2, ASACR 3, ASACR 4, and ASACR 5 are official parts of the Minutes of the meeting)

RW/afc