

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee
University of Kentucky
Friday, September 15, 2023

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky (UK) Board of Trustees met on Friday, September 15, 2023, in the Harris Ballroom of the Gatton Student Center.

A. Meeting Opened

Chair Rachel Webb called the meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the ASAC answered the call of the roll: Aaron Cramer, Brenda Gosney, Lizzy Hornung, Lance Lucas, Paula Leach Pope and Rachel Watts Webb. Cathy A. Black attended the meeting via Zoom.

C. Approval of Minutes

Chair Webb reported that the minutes of the June 16, 2023, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Gosney moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Pope seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

D. ASACR 1: Candidates for Degrees: December 2022 and August 2023

The recommendation was that the President be authorized to confer upon the individual whose name appeared on an attached list the degrees to which they were entitled, upon certification by the University Registrar that the individual had satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degrees for which application had been made and as approved by the elected faculty of the University Senate and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees.

By way of background, the individual whose name appeared on an attached list completed the work leading toward the degrees for which application was made at the close of the 2022 Fall Session and the 2023 Summer Session. Due to administrative error, their name was not previously submitted.

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

E. Provost Report

Provost DiPaola provided an update on the following three areas as they relate to putting students first: UK ADVANCE, Provost IMPACT Initiative and Transdisciplinary

Educational approaches to advance Kentucky (TEK). UK ADVANCE (Advancing Data utilization for Value in Academia for National and Campus-wide Excellence) has goals of reviewing emerging data and experiences, providing guidance and recommendations to the campus community and developing a training toolkit and communication strategy to enable faculty's familiarity with artificial intelligence (AI), as well as its implications and applications, especially in areas of assessment design and detection. UK ADVANCE consists of a team of 29 experts from across campus, including representatives from administration, faculty, staff and students. Guidelines and recommendations were created and are accessible online. Guidelines are focused on privacy, monitoring, course policies, opportunities for use and assignment design. UK ADVANCE was promoted on local news channels and via UKNow.

The Office of the Provost launched the Incentive for Mission Priorities to Accelerate Collaboration and Transformation (IMPACT) program to support transformation in colleges that align with the university's mission, vision, strategy and values. Each college could submit one application. The \$600,000 award funds are nonrecurring, non-discretionary and can be used in accordance with other state funding policies. Funds could be used for one-time costs, e.g., research and educational program start-up costs, capital improvements, equipment maintenance/replacement, marketing expenses, part-time instructors, visiting faculty, teaching assistants and travel expenses. An advisory group was formed to evaluate proposals and make recommendations for awards. Members were deans of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Lewis Honors, Nursing, Gatton Business and Economics and Libraries. Members recused themselves if an application involved their college and/or any unit they managed. The program's working timeline was reviewed, and current awardees were announced: College of Arts and Sciences, College of Dentistry, College of Design, College of Education, Stanley and Karen Pigman College of Engineering, College of Fine Arts, UK Libraries and College of Pharmacy.

An update was given on the UK quality enhancement plan, Transdisciplinary Educational approaches to advance Kentucky (TEK), which was approved earlier this year by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Transdisciplinary approaches involve teams composed of people from different disciplines who come together around a problem at the start of a project and utilize their collective perspectives and skills to create new solutions across disciplinary boundaries. This approach provides opportunities for students to learn critical skills they will need in the workplace, no matter their discipline, and helps UK achieve its mission to advance Kentucky. TEK goals are learning, leveraging and linking. TEK will provide opportunities for students to learn employability skills through new and redesigned courses. Created modules are focused on multiple disciplines to integrate into first-year experience courses such as UK101. Two new courses were created to engage students in team-based problem solving focused on learning outcomes. Another strategy is to provide support for faculty who want to retool an existing course focused on at least one of the TEK learning outcomes. The first cohort of TEK faculty fellows to support the development of the new and redesigned courses has been identified. Students will link with potential employers and community members through the Discover and Engage courses. Students who

complete both TEK 200 and TEK 300 will earn a Senate-approved badge in Transdisciplinary Workforce Skills. Everyone at UK is encouraged to support faculty engaging in TEK, support enrollment in the DISCOVER courses, urge students to be part of the TEK Student Ambassador Program, facilitate community partner connections for future ENGAGE courses and brainstorm the sustainability of TEK for the long term.

Chair Webb called for questions and there were none.

F. Vice President for Student Success Report

Vice President for Student Success Kirsten Turner opened by stating that data suggested at least 90 percent of all first-year students attended at least one or more K Week event. She introduced Associate Dean of Students Brandon Thompson, who oversees many aspects of the student life organization. Getting students involved and engaged to positively impact student outcomes is the focus. There were more than 800 registered events attended by more than 12,000 students. More than 600 registered student organizations (RSO) exist at UK. There are nearly 1,400 Panhellenic potential new members and 900 interfraternity potential new members. The fraternity and sorority community consists of approximately 5,600 students.

Dr. Thompson provided an overview of BBNvolved, the website where students can find campus events of interest, including Bowman's Bucket List, a mechanism for students to track their progress. BBNvolved won Anthology's Catalyst award in the student success category for finding innovative ways to get students involved and influence connection to campus and retention.

Chair Webb called for questions. Trustee Swanson asked how student engagement this year compared to previous years. Dr. Thompson reported event attendance increased by nine percent. Trustee Brockman asked if all applicants received a bid to a sorority. Dr. Thompson explained because it is a mutual matching process, there is a chance that all will not receive a bid. The current placement rate is between 92 and 96 percent. Fraternities can offer a bid year-round. Trustee Brockman asked if there is anything in place to help students mitigate disappointment when rejected in the process. Dr. Thompson reported that Student Outreach connects students with involvement advisors to help them find other organizations that align with their interests.

Vice President for Student Success Kirsten Turner stated it is for this reason that sorority recruitment was moved to later in the semester so a student's first experience on campus would not be one of rejection. Trustee Shuffett asked if there had been any thought given to moving rush to the second semester like other institutions. Dr. Turner stated a benchmark analysis was conducted a few years ago. Through that, it was determined that delaying rush a few weeks into the first semester was the better alternative to hosting it in the spring semester.

G. Vice President for Institutional Diversity Report

Vice President for Institutional Diversity Katrice Albert and Vice President for Human Resources and Chief Human Resources Officer Melissa Frederick discussed how UK creates a culture of belonging for its stakeholders. Dr. Albert highlighted the Dave Ulrich model on employee sentiment: believing, becoming and belonging. Representation positively impacts academic development and success, improves cultural awareness, satisfaction with the college experience and acceptance. Dr. Albert shared a Gallup survey's results on national employee disengagement trends. Thirty-two percent of approximately 67,000 people surveyed are engaged in their work and those under the age of 35 do not feel heard and cared for at work. According to the 2022 College and University Professional Association (CUPA) for Human Resources Higher Education Employee Retention Survey, approximately 35 percent of employees are likely to look for new employment opportunities.

Vice President Frederick reviewed five-year turnover rates among UK, UK HealthCare and the CUPA Average. Engaged employees stay longer at the organization, are critical to student success and support long-term goals. Engagement is measured through the UK@Work employee engagement survey that is administered every two years. Feedback is sought in the areas of communication, working relationships, balance of workload stress, inclusion and belonging, leadership, environment and culture. UK HealthCare conducts annually a separate engagement survey. The feedback received was responded to by expanding well-being services and offering the following: paid parental and elder care leave, mental health therapists, student loan forgiveness, cap trust for financial well-being and retirement, increased support for personal and professional development, flexible work options and merit increases. UK has been recognized as an outstanding employer by *Forbes*, *Great Colleges to Work For*, and *Insight Into Diversity*.

Chair Webb called for questions and there were none.

H. SGA President Report

Student Government Association (SGA) President Lizzy Hornung highlighted activities in which the SGA participated this past summer and thus far this semester. Those included, but were not limited to, the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Exchange at Ole Miss, adding mental health resources on the student ID on one's smartphone, welcoming the incoming class at Big Blue U, Campus Ruckus, Cat-A-Palooza and updating the SGA mission statement.

Chair Webb called for questions and there were none.

I. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Watts Webb', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rachel Watts Webb
Academic and Student Affairs
Committee

RW/sjr