

Senate Council

Monday, January 10, 2022

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 PM on Monday, January 10, 2022 via video conference. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise.

Senate Council Chair Aaron Cramer (EN) called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:00 PM. The Chair welcomed those present. He informed everyone that the session was being recorded for note taking purposes and noted that it was an open meeting. He asked that all attendees state their name and affiliation prior to speaking, to ensure everyone knew who was speaking.

1. Minutes from December 6 and Announcements

The Chair reported that edits were received for the minutes from December 6, 2021. There being **no objections**, the amended minutes from December 6, 2021 were **approved by unanimous consent**.

The Chair announced that the SC's nominee for the Graduate School Dean Search Committee, the chair of Senate's Research and Graduate Education Committee (SRGEC), Allison Gustafson, asked for SRGEC member Chris Crawford to serve on behalf of the SRGEC. The Provost's office confirmed with the SC Chair that this was acceptable.

The Chair announced that SC members met with the President on January 6 at the President's request.

The Chair informed SC members that a new employee, Ann Eads, started in the SC office the week prior, fulfilling the role that Joanie Ett-Mims had previously served.

The Chair welcomed new SC members including elected faculty members Lauren Cagle (AS), Akiko Takenaka (AS), and Kaveh Tagavi (EN) (replacing ended SC terms for DeShana Collett, Aaron Cramer, and Gregory Hall) and student member Zachary Broyles (replacing student member Megan VanGilder, who could no longer serve due to a conflict). The Chair reminded SC members that while both his term and Vice Chair DeShana Collett's SC terms had ended, they would continue to serve as Chair and Vice Chair respectively, until June 1, 2022.

The Chair informed SC members that on behalf of the SC and Senate, he approved one-time, non-COVID requests for temporary distance learning (DL) delivery for Spring 2022 for the following courses: MUP 101, 201, 301, 401, 501, 601 and 701, and MUC 523. The Chair commented that all courses involved the same instructor, who would be teaching remotely while caring for a family member out of town. The Chair noted that the SC could have a discussion on temporary curricular changes during "Items from the Floor" if SC members were interested.

The Chair announced that there was a Coalition of Faculty Senate Leadership (COSFL) meeting on Friday, January 7, 2022 regarding two pre-filed anti-CRT (critical race theory) bills through the House of Representatives. The Chair explained that the makeup of COSFL included members analogous to himself and faculty trustees. The Chair noted that both he and Davy Jones were able to attend portions of the meeting. He informed SC members that during a portion of the meeting for which he was not present, COSFL chose to actively oppose the pre-filed bills, and noted that a rally for "truth in education" would be held on January 12, 2022 inside the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort. The Chair commented that the President was typically well-aligned with faculty on items such as this and noted the University's Government Relations team that was advocating on the University's behalf in Frankfort.

2. Degree Recipients

- a. Honorary Degree Recipients – Acting Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education Martha Peterson

The Chair introduced Acting Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education Martha Peterson to present the honorary degree recipient nominees from the University Joint Committee for Honorary Degrees (UJCHD). Peterson presented the principles for honorary degree recipients as outlined by the *Senate Rules* and presented the nominees to SC members. Peterson described the first nominee to SC members. The Chair reminded SC members that per Kentucky law and *Senate Rules*, only the senators elected by college faculty members may vote on degree lists. The Chair asked if there were any questions.

Tagavi asked if SC members could receive the honorary degree nominees prior to the meeting to have more time to consider the nominees before voting. The Chair noted this was a good point.

The **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the UJCHD that the SC approve for consideration to the Senate, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees, the honoree KK as the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was necessary. There were no other questions or debate. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed or abstained.

Peterson presented the information for the second nominee. The **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the UJCHD that the SC approve for consideration to the Senate, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees, the honoree WT as the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was necessary. There were no questions or debate. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed or abstained.

3. Results of the 2020-2021 Faculty Evaluation of the President

The Chair presented the results of the 2020-2021 Faculty Evaluation of the President. The Chair asked SC members to recall the SC conducts the survey annually and described the results of the most recent evaluation to SC members. SC members discussed the results. Some of the topics discussed included the following:

- The timing of the survey in relation to concerns about the search for the Dean of the Graduate School
- The visual representation of the data in the histograms presented
- The inverse relationship between the results of the faculty evaluation and recent compensation approved by the Board of Trustees for the President
- Best practices for interpreting missing data
- How and to whom survey results and comments were distributed (the Chair clarified that the data from the survey was de-identified and only the President saw the de-identified comments from the survey)
- The value of conducting a stratified analysis, which had been conducted the previous year
- How qualitative data was collected and assessed
- The possibility of collecting data through interviews for a mixed-method study

The Chair invited Trustee Blonder, Trustee Swanson, and SGA President Hawse to comment on the evaluation as participants on the Board of Trustees. Blonder described the process by which the Board of Trustees considered the evaluation of the President, noting she did not recall any specific discussion of faculty survey results. Blonder commented that it was not unusual for the Board of Trustees to not ask many questions. Swanson and Hawse both agreed with Blonder and provided additional perspective about the corporate nature of the Board of Trustees.

SC members discussed the perspective provided by Blonder, Swanson, and Hawse. Former Trustee Davy Jones commented the environment of the Board of Trustees differed from other academic environments, noting there was less debate. Former Trustee Sheila Brothers agreed, noting the environment of the Board was not like academic environments where inquiry was encouraged.

The Chair asked if there were other considerations from SC members. Duncan expressed concerns about the lack of information provided to evaluate the President when responding to the survey, noting that it could be cause for low response rates. Grossman noted the Board of Trustees received the President's self-evaluation, but that it was not currently distributed for faculty to use for evaluation. To help resolve issues discussed by SC members, Charnigo suggested the President's self-evaluation be distributed to faculty in the future for evaluation in a timely manner, and for a qualitative portion of the survey to be included to be assessed by the SC and Senate.

4. Senate Meeting Roundtable

The Chair invited SC members to participate in a Senate meeting roundtable to discuss the December 13, 2021 Senate meeting. SC members discussed the meeting, noting it was efficient and uneventful. The Chair noted that the meeting conflicted with the Board of Trustees meeting, which did not permit for Hawse, Lee, or Swanson to be present. Charnigo suggested inviting the President to some of the spring Senate meetings.

5. Tentative Senate Agenda for January 24, 2022

The Chair asked if there were any questions or feedback about the Senate agenda. SC discussed the following topics:

- Updates about re-accreditation (the Chair explained the President was still determining what the QEP would be)
- Distribution of KN95 masks on campus (Hawse clarified he spoke with student success about the details and would be sharing)
- A COVID update for Senate members at the Senate meeting (the Chair stated he would request a COVID update from administration at the Senate meeting)

Grossman **moved** to approve the agenda with the tentative COVID update. Duncan **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. There being **no objections**, the motion **passed** with unanimous consent.

6. Items from the Floor (Time Permitting)

The Chair welcomed items from the floor.

Tagavi requested that honorary degree nominees be distributed to SC members earlier for consideration. The Chair reminded SC members that the nominee names were embargoed, and noted Peterson had been agreeable to the request. Cagle asked if diversity was taken into consideration by the UJCHD and if historical data was available. The Chair responded, noting that Peterson was no longer present, and commented that diversity was included parenthetically in the criteria. The Chair also reminded SC members that there was generally a very small number of nominees. Former SC Chair Katherine McCormick suggested that Morris Grubbs may be able to provide longitudinal data.

Senior Associate Provost for Administration and Academic Affairs Kathryn Cardarelli provided an update to SC members about the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) initiative "Kentucky Graduate Profile Academy." Cardarelli informed SC members that she followed up with the CPE about SC's feedback regarding additional faculty and student involvement, noting the response from the CPE was enthusiastic. She explained the CPE had

intentions to engage a broader audience to include student voices. Cardarelli informed SC members she would continue to provide updates. The Chair thanked Cardarelli.

Hawse reported two concerns from the SGA graduate student representatives. He explained that graduate students were both students and instructors and were facing issues with relationships with their advisors and other professors, and how to report possible student misconduct within sections they teach. Hawse informed SC members that modality was another concern for graduate student instructors, and the question of whether TA's had the right to change the modality of a course due to COVID. The Chair noted this was an important item to take into consideration. Hawse noted he was not seeking any SC action, but rather was ensuring they were aware that ensuring graduate students' awareness of the resources available to them was something the SGA would be advocating for this semester.

SC members also discussed the previous Thursday meeting between SC and the President. Tagavi felt the meeting format did not promote an engaging dialogue. Duncan noted that student mental health was discussed but felt there was not sufficient discussion about the risks or benefits associated with not having moved classes to an online modality for two weeks at the beginning of the spring 2022 semester. Takenaka mentioned an email from the Provost distributed on Friday that suggested campus was the safest place for students and inquired about data to support the email. The Chair said he would request data from the Provost. Hawse commented that, though generally students preferred in-person modality, student mental health was being used by some as a singular point in a simplified nature on an issue that was much more complex.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm with **no objections**.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
Senate Council Chair

SC Members Present:

Invited Guests Present: Sheila Brothers, Martha Peterson

Prepared by Katie Silver on Tuesday, January 11, 2022