

University of Kentucky Senate Academic Structure and Organization Committee

Summary of activity 2009-10

Members: Charles Griffith (chair), Deborah Reed, Dwight Denison, Sue Humphrey, Tim Sellnow, Bill Smith, Josh Ederington)

1. The proposal to create the Center for Interprofessional Healthcare Education, Research and Practice was discussed by our committee, and we unanimously supported the proposal.
2. The proposal to move the graduate center for biomedical engineering from the graduate school to the college of engineering was reviewed and discussed by our committee, and we unanimously supported the proposal.
3. A more complicated process involved discussion of moving the Master's of Health Administration degree from the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration to the College of Public Health. Our committee noted some reluctance on the part of Martin School faculty in the documents supplied, but we initially supported the proposal. Senate Council asked us to answer a number of questions, which necessitated a separate face to face meeting with leaders of both schools. We provided the answers to the Senate Council's questions, and supported the proposal.
4. The proposal to create the Quantitative Institute for the Social Sciences was discussed by our committee. The consensus of our committee was the the proposal had academic merit, but important supporting documents were missing, which were especially important in light of the negative recommendation from the College of Arts and Sciences Executive Council. Given that we could not gauge general social science faculty and departmental support for the proposal, we suggested the proposal be re-submitted next Fall if/when such documents are obtained. .

Concerns:

Our committee had mixed opinions regarding approving proposals that would require start up funding, even modest funding, in these times of fiscal duress. Some felt our committee should focus on the academic merit of the proposal, and defer issues of fundability to higher administration. However, our committee's specific charge is to recommend to University Senate "priorities" for proposals of new educational units, including interdisciplinary initiatives. Judging priority is difficult for our committee when considering proposals in isolation, judging them as they are submitted rather than in aggregate against other proposals soliciting funding, when our committee has no information about what funds are or are not available. Some clarification of our committee's charge would be appreciated, especially the language of recommending "priorities".