

Senate Council
April 23, 2012

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, April 23, 2012 in 103 Main Building. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise.

Chair Hollie I. Swanson was out of town, so Vice Chair Robert Grossman called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:05 pm, although a quorum of members was not present.

1. Minutes from April 116 and Announcements

The Vice Chair offered a few announcements.

- Ben Withers (FA/Art) is the new director of the Honors Program.
- The Outstanding Senator Award committee received three nominations, all of whom were qualified. The committee chose Shelly Steiner (AS/Biology) to receive the 2012 Outstanding Senator Award.

3. Old Business

b. Update on ad hoc Committee on Calendars – Margaret Bausch, Chair

Guest Margaret Bausch explained some of the deliberations of the Committee on Calendars with SC members. She said there were a variety of good reasons to deviate to non-standard calendars, including but not limited to offering courses to adult, employed students when they are able to take them, clinical courses, distance learning courses, students in the military who leave for active duty and students who may need a jump start during the two weeks in early August when there are no classes in session. The Committee is also opposed to the creation of any additional registrars on campus – there should be one Registrar who administers the calendar. Some changes to the calendar could also improve student retention.

Although the Committee has not finished its work, it is leaning toward a proposal for three terms – one in fall, one in spring, and one in summer, during which courses can last for different times as approved by colleges. There would be standard start dates for each term. The current winter intersession would be wrapped into the fall term, which would run through January 10 or so.

There were a few comments from SC members. Bausch also asked that additional questions and comments be sent to her.

Brion arrived and quorum was reached.

2. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee – Tom Nieman, Chair

i. Proposed Change to Senate Rules 1.4.3.2 ("Senate Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee (SRWAC)")

Guest Tom Nieman explained that the SRWAC wanted to increase the number of faculty numbers from four to five to improve the likelihood of reaching quorum. If just two faculty members cannot attend, quorum is not reached and it inconveniences the other SRWAC members, as well as student appellants who are attending the meeting.

Nieman and SC members discussed the proposed change. It was ultimately determined that the proposed language change did not solve the quorum problem. One suggestion was to change the language to state that a majority of faculty members defines quorum. Another suggestion was to change the voting status of students to make them non-voting.

Nieman withdrew the proposal and said he would take the suggestions back to SRWAC for further discussion.

4. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) – Andrew Hippisley, Chair

i. Proposed New Post-Graduate Certificate in Rehabilitation Counseling

Guest Hippisley explained the proposal. There was discussion about whether the certificate should be called a “post-graduate” or “graduate” certificate. Provost’s Liaison Greissman said that he had corresponded with Davy Jones, chair of the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee, who said that UK nomenclature would refer to it as a “graduate certificate.”

Jeannine Blackwell, dean of the Graduate School and liaison to the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) explained that the CPE changed its nomenclature and will refer to it as a post-baccalaureate certificate, although it can be referred to internally at UK as a “post-graduate certificate” to satisfy the department’s accrediting body. Greissman suggested it be called a “graduate certificate,” which shall be reported to the CPE as a post-baccalaureate certificate. Guests Blackwell and Ralph Crystal said that was acceptable. The Vice Chair said that the motion from the SAPC would need to be modified somewhat.

There were a few additional questions, which Crystal answered.

Hippisley stated that the **motion** from the SAPC was to recommend that the Senate approve the establishment of a new post-graduate certificate in Rehabilitation Counseling, to be reported to the CPE as a post-baccalaureate certificate, in the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling, within the College of Education. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Wood had to depart and quorum was lost.

ii. Proposed New Master of Arts in Linguistic Theory and Typology

Because Hippisley was the contact person for the proposal, Guest Marilyn Duncan, SAPC member, presented the proposal to SC members. She clarified that the proposal only intended to create a new MA degree – the language about closing a track in the MA in Literature was informational, not yet a formal proposal. Hippisley added that there were a few additional changes to the proposal, including that the program will be housed in the Department of English, not within the college as a whole. He verified that the Provost’s office agreed to that placement. He also confirmed for the Vice Chair that the dean of the Graduate School will appoint graduate faculty.

McCormick said that the Graduate Council (GC), of which she is a member, needed to do a better job of clarifying who the faculty of record will be for a proposal – she said a few times such an issue had arisen after GC approval. Brion asked that the proposal be revised to remove all references to the MA in English, since there was some language that implied the MA in Linguistics would replace the MA in English.

The Vice Chair asked about the number of 600-level courses. Hippiusley explained that the revised version he will submit addresses that issue directly, which satisfied the Vice Chair. Brion asked that the record reflect that the proposal was discussed prior to anticipating a vote will be taken at the next SC meeting.

Returning to announcements for a moment, the Vice Chair said that some SC members were planning to stop by Pazzo's after the last SC meeting on May 14 in recognition of the end of Swanson's second term as Chair. He invited everyone to attend. There was brief discussion on how to present a plaque to Swanson during the May Senate meeting; the Vice Chair said that during his report, he would yield the floor to Blonder, who, as chair-elect, could present the plaque to Swanson.

3. Old Business

d. IGEOC – Membership and Continuation

Mrs. Brothers explained the issue – the charge to the Interim General Education Oversight Committee ends in May and Bill Rayens, the chair, would like to have the charge extended. Also, because UK Core has been approved in full by the University Senate, it is time to change the name of the committee, including the removal of "interim." [Because quorum was not present, no discussion took place.]

5. Update on ad hoc Committee on Best Practices for Distance Learning – Sharon Lock, Chair

Guest Sharon Lock explained the discussions to date in the Committee on Best Practices for Distance Learning (CBPDL). She said that the original charges and organization into teams from the SC was seen as too restrictive by the CBPDL. Lock recalled that she contacted the Chair, who gave her blessing for the CBPDL to reconfigure the teams and modify the charges for each. Guest Kathi Kern, one of the team leaders of the CBPDL, said the group had not realized until very recently that there was a need to create a definition of a distance learning credit hour.

There were no objections from the SC on the reconfigured teams and charges, as per the descriptions in the handout. SC members and guests discussed the need to define a credit hour for a distance learning course. Lock and Kern said they could flesh out a definition from language sent by Dean J. Blackwell and send that language to Mrs. Brothers later in the week, for the SC to review on April 30.

SC members discussed the credit hour grid, which was currently being circulated to deans for input. The intent is to have the SC approve the grid at its meeting on April 30.

2. Academic Approvals Workgroup Report – Discussion Only

The Vice Chair began by saying that the Academic Approvals Workgroup (AAW) looked at a variety of curricular approval processes at other universities. The AAW determined that UK is roughly in the middle of the pack when it comes to the number of steps in the review process. What the AAW saw as the biggest problem was that people are frustrated to begin with when they do not know what information is required for a proposal. Currently, as an item moves through the approval process, there is constant communication back and forth with a contact person to get all the necessary information. The AAW thought that laying out the entire process and the required information would be very helpful, particularly if in the form of a narrative and/or flow chart.

Also, new members of the academic councils (Health Care Colleges Council, Graduate Council and Undergraduate Council) should receive some sort of orientation and training. The Vice Chair commented that when he became part of the GC, there was no training available, nor is there currently. As the SC

encounters issues, it should be able to report on them back to the originating academic council so that council is able to take care of those concerns in the future, prior to sending a proposal on to the SC.

The Vice Chair went on to explain that the AAW created definitions for a variety of terms such as “minor,” “dual degree,” “track,” etc. He acknowledged that some of the definitions might need to be revised in light of recent CPE changes. Another recommendation from the AAW deliberations is to have the SAPC document how it reviews proposals so that the academic councils can take over the reviews conducted by the SAPC. The council chair or investigator can then attend SC to explain the proposal. Although the SAPC regularly catches things that a council did not, there is no reason in principle that a council should not be catching them.

Anderson asked about the role of the SAPC if the review of new programs was no longer part of its charge. The Vice Chair replied that the SAPC could be charged with proposing standards for assessing the effectiveness of existing programs, and conducting such reviews, which heretofore have not been part of Senate discussions. He also wondered if the SAPC should consider the implications of housing certificates in multidisciplinary research centers.

Finally, the AAW recommended a change in scope for the Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee so that some decisions regarding admissions and/or academic standards would be made within the college. Mrs. Brothers commented that the SC seemed to be particularly interested in recent proposals to change or add admission and/or academic standards.

Anderson commented that Hippisley, the chair of the SAPC, had done a yeoman’s job this year and was always very clear. He went through the requirements for each program and made it very clean and easy to understand.

There was additional discussion about how to move forward with the report, since it was created a year ago in spring 2011. Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education Mike Mullen commented that council chairs should report on the outcome of programs to the SC, if that change was made. The Vice Chair said that the academic councils should be directed to formulate criteria to evaluate whether a proposal should be approved, which the SC can review, edit if necessary, and approve.

There was additional discussion about the AAW report.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Hollie I. Swanson,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Anderson, Brion, Grossman, McCormick, Wasilkowski, and Wood.

Provost’s Liaison present: Greissman.

Invited guests present: Margaret Bausch, Jeannine Blackwell, Ralph Crystal, Joanne Davis, Andrew Hippisley, Kathi Kern, Sharon Lock and Gina Lowry.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Thursday, June 21, 2012.