

Senate Council
April 5, 2010

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, April 5, 2010 in 103 Main Building. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a voice vote unless indicated otherwise.

Chair Dave Randall called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

1. Minutes and Announcements

The Chair reported that Kelly and Nokes were absent.

2. First Annual Substantive Change Policy Notification - Discussion on Administrative Procurement of Such Senate Advice

The Chair invited Davy Jones, chair of the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee, to explain the substantive change announcement from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

Guest Jones explained that part of the purpose of the announcement was to offer a regular opportunity for employees internally to know the routing approval process for different types of academic proposals, such as closing a degree or opening an off-campus branch. SACS is so concerned about these issues that they want each university to inform its campus of the rules twice a year, in part so that changes in personnel, etc., do not develop into policy/process changes.

Jones went on to explain that UK's liaison to SACS, Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness Connie Ray will contact deans and department chairs twice annually about UK's substantive change processes. The SC Chair will be notified of the announcement when it occurs, and it is up to the Chair as to how senators are informed, perhaps via email or a meeting announcement. In addition, substantive change process information will be shared with new senators during new senator orientation. The Chair is unfettered when it comes to determining the best method to transmit substantive change information. Jones expressed satisfaction with the requirement for substantive change announcements, commenting that such reminders from Vice President Ray will reinforce to existing and to new administrators the faculty's role in substantive change processes.

Jones then walked SC members the various approval roles and processes for proposals considered substantive, and the approval/endorsement process for each. He answered a few questions.

3. 3. Proposed Changes to *Governing Regulations IV* ("The University Senate")

Jones went on to explain information about changes to *Governing Regulations IV* ("The University Senate"). There were a few changes to titles, due to changes in administrative structure.

Jones then noted that prior to when the *Governing Regulations (GRs)* were updated in 2005, there was no explanation given to who/what entity made the decision to terminate a degree program. Discussions in 2005 led to language being inserted that gave faculty the final decision-making authority on the closing of degree programs. Vice President Ray recently learned, however, that SACS wants university boards to make final decisions. Jones explained that although the final decision to close a program rests with UK's Board of Trustees (BoT), the language was tightly parsed and as little power as possible left the hands of the faculty. Jones related that Vice President Ray agreed that if a proposal to close a degree program came to the University Senate (Senate) and the Senate rejected the proposal on its academic merits, the proposal to close would stop at the level of the Senate and not proceed to the BoT.

In response to Grossman, Jones explained that degree-granting programs were the curricular process affected by the revision, and that faculty still controls the academic aspects of other things. Jones answered additional questions from SC members.

After discussion ceased, SC members agreed that it was unnecessary to send the proposed changes to *GR IV* to the Senate for endorsement since the changes were largely clerical (titles) or mandatory (SACS requirement). The Chair opined that he understood from SC members that the Senate should be informed, but not asked to vote on the issue; SC members concurred.

4. 4. Advising Network Calendar Discussion

The Chair suggested that Chappell explain the item, and Chappell did so. He also explained the comments from various queried campus groups. After his explanations, he summed up by saying that faculty were largely opposed to a shortened summer break, which would decrease summer research hours, as well as concerns that the rationale for the proposal was just not strong enough.

SC members then discussed the proposal and the comments. Eventually, Chappell **moved** that the SC not consider the calendar proposal from the Advising Network further, and that it be returned to the Advising Network with a recommendation that other ways (than changing the academic calendar) be found to address the difficulties advisors face around the winter holidays when faculty do not turn grades in within 72 hours. Grossman **seconded**. Grossman commented that even though nationwide health care reform was incredibly complex, it was eventually dealt with, unlike proposed changes in the UK academic calendar. He noted that there was probably no such thing as a perfect academic calendar, although revising the academic calendar was still worth discussing, just in a different fashion.

After brief discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

There was some subsequent discussion about the possibility of Grossman and the students developing a carefully written calendar proposal. It seemed likely that such discussions would occur.

Jensen **moved** that the SC lead an education project to help faculty understand the importance of submitting final grades in a timely manner, particularly during the fall semester, and that the Office of the Provost be asked to do the same, through communications with deans and department chairs. Grossman **seconded**. After brief discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed. It was determined that Anderson and Jensen would organize such educational efforts, with a report back to the SC prior to semester's end.

5. 5. Discussion on Revised *Administrative Regulations 2:9* ("Lecturer Title Series")

Provost's Liaison Greissman reported on the very good input he received after the SC suggested vetting the proposed changes with senators and faculty councils. He particularly noted the outstanding service given to the *Administrative Regulations/Governing Regulations* workgroup by Kaveh Tagavi (EN/Mechanical Engineering and former SC chair) for the past several years.

Greissman then went over the changes made since the last review by the SC, and answered many questions. SC members were satisfied with his responses.

Eventually, Grossman **moved** to endorse the proposed changes to *Administrative Regulations 2:9* ("Lecturer Title Series") and send them to the Senate with a positive recommendation. Chappell

seconded. There being no further discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. UK May 2010 Degree List

Anderson **moved** to approve UK's May 2010 degree list, and send it to the Senate for a vote by the elected faculty senators. Kirk **seconded**. There being no further discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

The Chair noted that the degree list was organized by department this time, and said he would send a thank-you missive to the Registrar's office, specifically to Jacquie Hager.

8. Proposed New Name for Cardiovascular Research Center

The Chair shared that it was possible he could be perceived as having a conflict of interest with respect to renaming the Cardiovascular Research Center (CRC), so he asked Swanson to take over the duties of the Chair, which she did.

SC members discussed the proposal to rename the CRC, and expressed some concern over the issue of naming a unit after a current employee, and the issue of who would have control over the donated funds. SC members felt uncomfortable being placed in a position whereby they needed to offer endorsement on behalf of the Senate regarding the academic merits of such a name change, because of the need for approval prior to the Senate meeting.

Ultimately, Grossman **moved** to endorse the renaming of the Cardiovascular Research Center to the Dr. Sibu and Becky Saha Cardiovascular Research Center, on behalf of the Senate. Jensen **seconded**. There being no additional discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion passed with a majority in favor and two abstentions.

Grossman **moved** that the Chair work with the administration to establish a joint academic and administrative committee to formulate a policy on the naming and renaming of educational units. Jensen **seconded**. There being no discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Chair Swanson noted that it was possible the SC could discuss the proliferation of centers across campus, and informal suggestions from the vice president for research, James Tracy, on setting up criteria by which to evaluate the effectiveness of centers. She then returned chair duties to the Chair.

10. Tentative Senate Agenda for April 12

After some discussion, it was determined that tentative agenda item number seven should be removed and a reminder to senators about new business added. The Chair noted that he would specifically check for quorum at the beginning of the Senate meeting.

9. Winter Intersession - Additional Information

Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs Mike Mullen presented data, as previously requested by members of SC, to the effect that student performance in courses offered in Winter Intersessions, to date, had not differed markedly from grades for those same courses taken during spring or fall terms, and that, financially, Winter Intersession was viable.

The meeting was adjourned about 5:15.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Randall,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Anderson, Chappell, Grossman, Jensen, Kirk, Randall, Smith, Steiner, Swanson, Thelin and Yanarella.

Provost's Liaison present: Greissman.

Invited guests present: Davy Jones, Mike Mullen, Kaveh Tagavi.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Thursday, April 22, 2010.