

Senate Council
August 25, 2014

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, August 25, 2014 in 103 Main Building. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise.

Senate Council Chair Andrew Hippisley called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:00 pm

1. Minutes from August 18, 2014 and Announcements

The Chair reported that he approved the inclusion of an undergraduate student on the second August degree list; the student was left off the list due to an administrative error.

Ingram and McCormick were absent from the meeting.

The Chair explained that the SC's recent review of a re-revision to *Governing Regulations XI* ("University Appeals Board") and subsequent recommendation that the University Senate (Senate) endorse the new edits will require the Senate to formally reconsider its May 2014 vote on the earlier revision to *GR XI*. The Chair said that the Senate would need to take three separate actions: 1. move to reconsider the motion from the May Senate meeting; 2. move to substitute a new motion for the Senate to vote on; and 3. vote on the new motion.

Both the Chair and Vice Chair Christ attended the August 25 Provost's leadership retreat and talked with attendees about Senate committees. There was widespread support among attendees for the SC's intent to use existing Senate committees to support the plans and projects that administrators are interested in. One example was better use of the Senate's Academic Advising Committee for Provost Office initiatives in Undergraduate Education. Christ added that the discussion was positive.

The Chair said he received a request from Vice President for Student Affairs Robert Mock to address the Senate about a new health and safety implementation committee on campus. The four pillars for this committee will be UK's new alcohol policy, a new student code of conduct, Title IX, and a new Office of Civil Rights. The Chair suggested the presentation have a focus on faculty and educational concerns and said that Mock was agreeable.

Regarding agenda items, the Chair explained that Joseph Fink (PH/Pharmacy Practice and Science), chair of the University Appeals Board (UAB), was unwell and could not attend the day's meeting.

Anderson asked about the health and safety presentation and requested that, if the health and safety committee will include components of the national safe community America initiative regarding sexual violence, Mock's presentation include that information, as well.

Christ **moved** to approve the minutes from August 18 and Porter **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

In response to a request from Anderson, the Chair said that in the future he will try to arrange agendas so that invited guests can have their items attended to as quickly as possible, as opposed to having guests wait through a litany of announcements or a lengthy SC discussion.

2. August 2014 Degree List (second of two)

The Chair reminded SC members that the second August 2014 degree list would be approved by the SC on behalf of the Senate.

Anderson **moved** that on behalf of the elected faculty senators of the Senate, the SC approve UK's second August 2014 list of candidates for credentials, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees, as the recommended degrees to be conferred by the Board. Porter **seconded**. There being no discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

3. Ad Hoc Cmte on Faculty Performance Evaluation and Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

The Chair explained that the SC was asked to provide a handful of nominees to serve on an ad hoc committee that will look into issues of faculty performance evaluation and the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The ad hoc committee will, within the context of faculty performance evaluation (annual/biennial merit review), consider how the assessment of a faculty person's productivity and accomplishment might differ in light of approved FMLA leave. In addition, stemming from the committee's thoughtful discussions and reflection, recommend any policies and guidelines that the Provost might issue to all colleges regarding the impact of approved FMLA leave on the process of faculty performance review. The Chair explained that the ad hoc committee was a result of various recommendations, including those from the Senate's Advisory Committee on Privilege and Tenure's (SACPT) 12-13 report, in which a faculty member was unaware of the opportunity for a probationary period.

The Chair had asked the SACPT chair for possible nominees for this ad hoc committee. In addition, the Chair had queried the then-chair of the now-defunct Faculty Committee on Review, Reward and Retention for possible nominees because that committee's final report also included recommendations regarding faculty performance review and related issues.

Blonder opined that there was also confusion about how to evaluate a faculty member who has taken probationary leave and if that person should be held to the same standard as a faculty member who was not on probationary leave, as part of the regular faculty review process. She thought that aspect was missing from the ad hoc committee's charge. Wilson commented that individual college-level procedures regarding probationary leave widely varied across campus and there should be standardization about official policy. There was brief discussion about the diversity of the SC's nominees, as well as what the final composition of the ad hoc committee would look like. Because all the suggested nominees were female, SC members deliberated on additional faculty, particularly males, who also would be a good fit for the committee.

Watt **moved** to approve the list of 10 nominees for the Ad Hoc Cmte on Faculty Performance Evaluation and FMLA and Anderson **seconded**. There being no further discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed. The Chair added he would mention to the President the SC's interest in expanding the ad hoc committee's charge to include the issue of what effect, if any, a delay of the probationary period should have on a faculty member's performance evaluation.

4. Identification of Representatives for Various Committees/Councils

SC members deliberated on nominees received in advance through an email solicitation to faculty councils and senators, as well as identified additional nominees for the same committees.

a. Nominees for College of Medicine Dean Search Committee

Christ **moved** to approve the nominees for the College of Medicine Dean Search Committee and Pienkowski **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

b. Nominees for College of Public Health Dean Search Committee

Christ **moved** to approve the nominees for the College of Public Health Dean Search Committee and Anderson **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

c. Nominees for Senate's Advisory Committee on Privilege and Tenure (SACPT)

Brown **moved** to approve the nominees for the Senate's Advisory Committee on Privilege and Tenure and Anderson **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

d. Nominees for Health Care Clinical Sciences Area Advisory Committee

Christ **moved** to approve the nominees for the Health Care Clinical Sciences Area Advisory Committee and Brown **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

e. Nominees for Extension Title Series Area Advisory Committee

The nominees for the Extension Title Series Area Advisory Committee were **approved by unanimous consent**.

f. Nominees for Humanities and Arts Area Advisory Committee

The nominees for the Humanities and Arts Area Advisory Committee were **approved by unanimous consent**.

g. Nominees for Social Sciences Area Advisory Committee

Anderson **moved** to approve the nominees for the Social Sciences Area Advisory Committee and Brown **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

h. Nominees for Librarians Area Advisory Committee

Anderson **moved** to approve the nominees for the Librarians Area Advisory Committee and Brown **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

i. Naming of SC-Appointed Representatives to Academic Councils

SC members discussed various senators as possible SC appointees to one of the Senate's academic councils.

- Graduate Council 2014-15 Roster
- Undergraduate Council 2014-15 Roster

Senate Council identified two individuals who could serve on the SC-appointed representative to the Graduate Council and the Undergraduate Council. The two were **approved by unanimous consent**.

- Health Care Colleges Council 2014-15 Roster

Porter volunteered to serve as the SC's representative to the Health Care Colleges Council. His nomination was **approved by unanimous consent**.

The Chair suggested a general principle that if a presentation or report to Senate does not require a motion, the presentation can be given to Senate without first being given to SC.

5. University Appeals Board Report and Trends: 2011-12 UAB Report; 2012-13 UAB Report; 2013-14 UAB Report

The Chair reminded SC members that the University Appeals Board (UAB) chair, Joseph Fink (PH/Pharmacy Practice and Science), was unwell and unable to attend. There was extensive discussion among SC members about the content and format of the reports. SC members expressed a desire to see additional information in UAB reports that would offer more information. For example, SC members were unsure what the phrases "appeal was upheld" and "appeal was denied" meant practically speaking. SC members thought that some additional information could inform a discussion about lessons learned, as opposed to merely reporting statistical information.

At the end of discussion, the Chair recapped the main points for SC members and they concurred with his summary of the discussion.

- Because SC members already have a variety of questions they would like to ask, SC would like Fink to present the reports to SC prior to going to Senate so that he has an idea of the types of questions that may be asked in advance of the Senate meeting.
- SC would like UAB reports to contain sufficient information to help determine what lessons can be learned from the cases that the UAB hears.
- References to appeals that were upheld or denied could include a little more information to better frame the situation, and could do so without violating confidentiality requirements.

Prior to moving to the next agenda item, the Chair introduced Michael Healy (LA), the new Ombud. Guest Healy explained that Fink invited him to attend so he could be introduced to SC. Healy added that the discussion about the content of reports was helpful to him as he considers what to include in the Ombud's report to the Senate.

6. Three Honorary Degree Recipients - Susan Carvalho, Interim Dean of the Graduate School

Guest Susan Carvalho (AS/Hispanic Studies), associate provost for internationalization and interim dean of the Graduate School, began by offering her thanks to Morris Grubbs, assistant dean for graduate student development, for his assistance and guidance during Carvalho's transition to interim dean. Guest Grubbs was also present to answer questions.

Via a PowerPoint presentation, Carvalho presented the candidates for honorary degrees. The University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees (UJCHD) recommended that nominee BD receive an honorary doctor of science and that nominee DJ receive an honorary doctor of humanities. An additional nominee was identified as having been withdrawn by the nominating unit after deliberations by the UJCHD. Carvalho emphasized that while the nominees who were presented to SC during the meeting had all been approved by the UJCHD last spring, the UJCHD had not been informed about the request for withdrawal of the third nomination (JC). Carvalho explained that the rescindment of the nomination was in no way due to a lack of qualifications on the part of the nominee. Rather, the nominating unit wished to rescind the nomination because the nominating unit strongly desired the degree be awarded at a special time during the spring semester (not at Commencement in December or May) to allow the nominee and students in the discipline opportunities to interact and engage with each other, as opposed to simply recognizing the honoree during the December Commencement ceremony. The nominating unit was also concerned that the nominee could be uncomfortable with aspects of the procedure for approving nominees for the Honorary Degree.

There was extensive discussion among SC members about the nominating responsibilities of the UJCHD and whether a rescindment needed to be approved by that body. There was further discussion about the manner in which nominees are contacted to ascertain their ability to attend a particular Commencement, and about the need for nominators to be fully informed about the process before presenting the nomination to the UJCHD. Also under discussion were the potential protocols by which the withdrawn honoree could receive the degree at a time other than Commencement so that the honoree's visit could also include student interaction.

As discussion wound down, the Chair recapped the gist of the discussion – the SC will leave the honorary degree agenda item intact for the September 2014 Senate meeting while Carvalho queries the UJCHD to determine if that body is willing to approve the rescindment of JC's nomination, deferring it for reconsideration with the Spring 2015 slate of nominees. Further, in the future, the process of contacting honorary degree nominees to ascertain their ability to attend a Commencement ceremony will be simplified and standardized, and conducted by a member of the Graduate School. There were no objections from SC members. Interim Dean Carvalho will report the final vote of the UJCHD on this matter, to determine whether two or three candidates will be presented to the Senate in September 2014.

7. Revised New Undergraduate Pgm Form (Time Permitting)

8. New Undergraduate Certificate Form (Time Permitting)

Due to the time, the Chair said agenda items number seven and eight would be postponed until the next SC meeting.

8. Tentative Senate Agenda for September 8, 2014

SC members discussed the tentative Senate agenda for September 8 and made a handful of changes. Anderson suggested that the item about vote documentation simply be an announcement whereby the Chair explains that the three ways of documenting votes (keep on file, post online, or include in minutes) have been sent to the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) for deliberation. The matter will return to the Senate with the SREC's recommendation as well as language to codify it in the *Senate Rules*. Grossman **moved** to approve the tentative Senate agenda for September 8 as an ordered list, including the changes made by SC, with the understanding that items may be rearranged to

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

The meeting was adjourned by **unanimous consent** at 5:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Andrew Hippisley,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Anderson, Blonder, Brown, Christ, Debski, Grossman, Hippisley, Pienkowski, Porter, Watt, and Wilson.

Invited guests present: J. S. Butler, Susan Carvalho, Morris Grubbs, and Michael Healy.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on August 29, 2014.