

Senate Council
February 18, 2008

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, February 18, 2008 in 103 Main Building. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise.

Chair Kaveh A. Tagavi called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. He said that there were no reported absences for the meeting.

1. Minutes from January 28 and Announcements

The Chair noted that the minutes were not yet ready, but would be available for the next meeting. The Chair then initiated a discussion that lasted approximately 45 minutes, regarding the honorary degree process.

SC members also discussed the quandary presented by Kentucky's open meetings law and the need to vote on honorary degree nominees during a University Senate (Senate) meeting. An unfortunate situation regularly occurred in which members of the news media present for the Senate meeting usually disclosed the names of the nominees in their news reports prior to the Board of Trustees even receiving the nominees' names.

2. Academic Area Advisory Committees

The Chair asked SC members to turn to their handouts. He directed their attention to: 1. the list of academic area and other advisory committees with current membership and the names of nominees; 2. the list of all full professors at UK; and 3. the list of administrative committees with the names of nominees. He explained that an email went out to all senators, faculty councils and department chairs to solicit nominees to serve on the academic area advisory committees; the Senate Advisory Committee on Privilege and Tenure; the Senate Hearing Panel (Privilege and Tenure); the Senate Advisory Committee on the Faculty Code; and the University Appeals Board.

For the next 45 minutes or so, SC members discussed possible nominees for the various committees. SC members also identified some individuals to serve on the Conflict of Interest Committee. Mrs. Brothers noted that the rest of the names, those of individuals on the list of administrative committees, would be passed on to the individual appointing the committee with a memo that explicitly stated that the Office of the Senate Council was merely transmitting the names – it would be clear the names were not voted on by the SC.

3. Top 20 Faculty Policies

The Chair and SC members engaged in a discussion on how to proceed with the whitepaper from Provost Subbaswamy on Top 20 faculty polices. After a short period of time, the Chair said that he would progressively send each pertinent

piece of the proposal to the SC listserv for discussion, after which a formal discussion during a regular SC meeting would take place.

4. Ongoing Discussion on Gen Ed Reform

SC members engaged in a discussion on what the next steps should be for gen ed reform but took no formal action.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 5 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kaveh A. Tagavi,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Aken, Anderson, Chappell, Finkel, Michael, Swanson, Tagavi, Wood, and Yanarella.

Provost's Liaison present: Greissman.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Tuesday, February 26, 2008.