

Senate Council  
February 20, 2017

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, February 20, 2017 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 Katherine M. McCormick called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:01 pm. Due to the large number of invited guests, the Chair suggested that SC members and guests introduce themselves, which they did.

1. Minutes from January 23 and February 6 and Announcements

The Chair said that there were a few changes to the February 6 minutes. There being **no objection**, the minutes from January 23 and February 6 were **approved** as amended by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair offered a handful of announcements.

- Any requests for In Memoriam (posthumous) degrees reviewed by SC will include the student's transcript.
- The Chair is continuing to engage with the Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL), an organization comprised of faculty leadership from Kentucky's public universities.
- A senator contacted the Chair to ask about the University Senate (Senate) taking a formal stance on the recent United States' presidential executive order on immigration. Given that national media was reporting an update to that order, those present thought it best to wait to take action.

Due to a guest's schedule, the Chair asked if agenda item number five could be moved up – there were no objections.

2. Proposed Change to 2016-17 Spring Semester Calendar (Change Time of May Commencement) - Jay Blanton, Executive Director of Public Relations/Marketing and John Herbst, Executive Director of Student Services

Guests John Herbst (executive director of student services) and Jay Blanton (executive director of public relations/marketing) spoke to SC members about the proposed change. Herbst explained the details of the proposal. There were a variety of questions and comments from SC members, as well as suggestions on how to minimize the disruption to final exams, such as not holding commencement ceremonies for colleges with large numbers of undergraduates on Friday, reworking the final examinations schedule so that no finals were held on Friday, or concentrating 100- and 200-level final exams on Friday, thereby lessening the possibility of affecting a graduating senior who planned to walk at commencement.

Schroeder asked for more information about what the role of the SC should be, given that there had been a wide variety of announcements and notices about the new date and time of commencement in May 2017; if the change had already been made, what was SC's role? Herbst clarified that the intent was to hold two commencement ceremonies on Friday for all future May commencement ceremonies, not just for 2017. Bird-Pollan wondered about the feasibility of approving the change for May 2017, but withholding approval about future May commencements until SC was able to appropriately deliberate on the matter.

Wood **moved** that the SC not disapprove the proposal for four commencement ceremonies (two on Friday and two on Sunday) in May 2017 but reserved the right to review a proposal for a permanent change for future May commencement ceremonies. Cross **seconded**. Reid commented that there were a number of students upset about the change and some families were forced to change travel and lodging plans to accommodate the new May schedule. Blonder expressed concern that some students would not be aware of the change, nor would many faculty. She passed along a suggestion that the Ombud send out notice of the different commencement schedule for May 2017.

Many SC members noted that while they supported the proposed change in principle, it was unfortunate that no one had reached out to SC prior to the change in order to solicit the SC's input and approval. Blanton apologized, noting that the communications were not right for this particular effort and it would be done better next time. There were additional questions and comments from SC members.

A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

3. Change to Midterm Grading Deadline (Proposed Changes to *Senate Rules 6.1.3.A.1* ("Academic Evaluation"))

Guest Anna Bosch (AS/Linguistics, associate dean for undergraduate programs) explained the rationale behind the change. The net result would be an additional 72 hours for faculty to grade exams and include them in midterm grade reports; the amount of time a student has to drop the class would decrease by one business day, although students would still have over a month to withdraw from a course.

Cross **moved** to change *Senate Rules 6.1.3.A.1* so that instead of midterm grades being due on the Friday of the end of the ninth week for fall and spring semesters, midterm grades would be due at the end of the Monday following the end of the ninth week. Schroeder **seconded**. After a comment by Grossman, Cross **amended the motion** to indicate that the SC would act on behalf of the Senate for the spring 2017 semester, but that the language would still go to Senate in March for a final change. Schroeder **agreed** to this modification. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

5. Proposal from Academic Excellence for Procedures to Transition Students in an Undeclared Status to Colleges – Interim Assistant Provost for Academic Enrichment Phil Kraemer and Associate Provost for Academic Excellence Kirsten Turner

Guests Phil Kraemer (interim assistant provost for academic enrichment), assisted by Kirsten Turner (associate provost for academic excellence), explained the two requests. First request involved students described as "undeclared (UNUS) and who are currently enrolled in the former Undergraduate Education College," and who remain in this status on February 24, 2017 (because they have not yet chosen a home college). Specifically, the request was to allow Kraemer, in his dual roles as interim assistant provost for academic enrichment and interim academic officer for undergraduate education and Adrienne McMahan (interim assistant provost for student and academic support) to administratively move these students into a college in which the students are admissible and for which their current coursework best aligns with the college's degree programs and is best suited for the students' individual needs. Kraemer and Turner answered questions from SC members.

Schroeder **moved** that the SC waive, on a one-time basis and on behalf of the Senate, relevant *Senate Rules (SR)*, such as *SR 4.2.1* and *SR 4.2.4* (that indicate the decision to transfer a student into

a college is the decision to be made by the student) in order to allow the Interim Academic Officer of Undergraduate Education and the Interim Assistant Provost for Student and Academic Support to administratively move University-admitted but college-unregistered students who have not registered in a college and are currently registered in an undeclared status (UNUS) prior to registration in a college, to colleges in which the students are admissible and to which the students are otherwise best academically aligned, with an end date of this waiver being June 1, 2017. Mazur **seconded**. The Chair reiterated that the day's actions were to provide students immediate assistance, although more formal changes would be proposed for SC to consider to take care of longer term considerations. The motion to waive would be done on behalf of Senate due to timing issues. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Kraemer then moved to the next issue, a calendar change. He explained all currently college-unregistered students who have not registered in a college and are currently registered in an undeclared status (UNUS) who remain outside of a college students can theoretically be registered within a college before the deadline of February 26, 2017 (as codified in the spring 2017 academic calendar). However, there may be instances where it is not possible to transfer a student into a college prior to that deadline. In these instances, the Interim Academic Officer of Undergraduate Education (IAOUE) and the Interim Assistant Provost for Student and Academic Support (IAPSAS) would like the ability to continue working with and on behalf of the student beyond the date of February 26.

Schroeder **moved** that SC waive the academic calendar restriction so that if a case arises where a decision cannot be made by February 26, 2017 about transferring a college-unregistered student (who has not registered in a college and is currently registered in an undeclared status (UNUS)) into a college, either the IAOUE or the IAPSAS may help a student during the period of February 27 – April 19. The IAOUE and the IAPSAS further request that this calendar waiver be documented only in the SC minutes (and then reported to the Senate), because changing the academic calendar posted online could be confusing to other students. Mazur **seconded**. After a few comments, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Mazur (co-chair of the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC)), who was participating via speakerphone, asked to present her agenda items next and there were no objections.

#### 4. Committee Reports

##### c. Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) – Joan Mazur and Davy Jones, Chairs

##### i. Update on Recent Activities

Mazur explained that the SREC had finished its review of the 2014-2016 changes to the Senate Rules. They would be updated soon and posted on the Senate's website.

##### ii. Recommendation Regarding Provost Tracy's Communication of February 13, 2017 (Appointment as Interim Academic Officer for Undergraduate Education)

Mazur explained the request by the SREC for the SC to clarify Provost Tim Tracy's communication of February 13, 2017. The **motion** from the SREC was that the SC affirm via motion that the Provost's phrase "Academic Administrator for Undergraduate Education" in his Feb. 13, 2017 response to the Senate Council's Jan. 23, 2017 means to be referring to the individual authorized by *Senate Rules* to make academic decisions about students who are not (or were not) registered in a college. Because the

motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no discussion. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

iii. Recommendation from Senate's Rules and Elections Committee Regarding *Senate Rules 10.3* ("Senate-Approved Policy for Determining Meeting Times and Number of Credit Hours for Courses")  
Mazur explained that in the course of reviewing SR 10.3 in regards to distance-learning courses, the SREC realized that the arithmetic in equivalency grid simply did not add up. These equivalencies are causing a problem as the SREC works with the Senate Committee on Distance Learning and eLearning (SCDLLeL) on some distance-learning related issues. Mazur explained that the SREC **moved** to ask the SC to refer issues about *SR 10.3* to the Senate Admissions & Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) for review and possible correction. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

a. Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) – Margaret Schroeder, Chair

i. Proposed New Graduate Certificate in Baroque Trumpet

Schroeder, chair of the Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC), explained the proposal. The **motion** from the SAPC was a recommendation that the Senate approve the establishment of a new Graduate Certificate in Baroque Trumpet, in the School of Music within the College of Fine Arts. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There were a few questions and comments from SC members. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

ii. Proposed New University Scholars Program: BA Social Work and MA Social Work

Schroeder explained the proposal. The **motion** from the SAPC was a recommendation that the Senate approve the establishment of a new University Scholars Program of a BASW Social Work and MSW Social Work within the College of Social Work. There were no questions from SC members. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. Update on Parking and Transportation Initiatives - Director of Parking and Transportation Services Lance Broeking

Guest Lance Broeking (director of parking and transportation services), with the assistance of Melody Flowers (executive director for strategic analysis and policy), shared information with SC members about the proposed new tiered cost rates for parking on campus, to begin with the 2017-18 academic year. There were a number of questions from SC members. The Chair invited Broeking and Flowers to attend the March 20 Senate meeting and they said were willing to do so.

4. Committee Reports

b. Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) - Scott Yost, Chair

i. SGA's Proposed Changes to *Senate Rules 5.2.4.2* ("Excused Absences")

Reid explained the rationale behind the proposal from the Student Government Association (SGA), which was to include interviews for full-time job opportunities post-graduation and interviews for graduate or professional school. She explained that there had been instances of students who wanted and needed to one or the other of the two types of interviews but whose professors had refused to grant the students an excused absence.

Guest Scott Yost, chair of the Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC), explained the SAASC's deliberations. Yost explained that there was almost unanimous opposition to the SGA's proposal, in part due to beliefs that the problems were not so widespread as to warrant a change to *SR 5.2.4.2*. Additional aspects that were considered included the possible disruption to a course if a

student was part of a group project and also that the primary focus of students while enrolled at UK should be their academic studies; getting a job was something that would occur after graduation.

There were a number of comments from SC members. SC members that spoke about the proposal were in favor of approving the change as proposed by the SGA. Below are representative comments.

- The problem may not be widespread, but that is not a reason to reject the proposal.
- Students typically have no control over the scheduling of interviews for law school and medical school.
- If a student had the flu and missed a major project or exam, that would be similarly disruptive to the classroom and the student's education, but the student would have the opportunity to make up missed work.
- There is no recourse for a student who is denied the opportunity to make up work missed due to an interview.
- In some disciplinary fields it is common to have an interview spread out over three or four days, which would mean a student could miss more than one class period for one interview.

Two concerns were raised: appropriate verification of an absence if student missed a final exam; and differentiating between a full-time job in the student's academic career area and a non-professional job, such as working at a coffee shop. Reid responded that the proposal included language that allowed the instructor to request whatever they wanted for verification purposes. Reid continued, noting that no differentiation was made among types of jobs to avoid assumptions that one profession was better than another. There were additional comments.

Schroeder **moved** to recommend the Senate approve the SGA's proposed new language<sup>1</sup> to *SR 5.2.4.2.E* ("Excused Absences") and moving the current language in E to a new subsection F. Grossman **seconded**. Yost commented that the any faculty member could categorize any absence as excused; SAASC's suggestion was to add the language proposed by SGA as part of a "such as X" phrase to be inserted into the *SR*, to indicate that it was a type of excused absence. Grossman opined that if a faculty member was inclined to deny a student the opportunity for a job interview, having non-binding language in a "such as" phrase would not be meaningful. Reid thanked Yost for the suggestion, but indicated that she shared Grossman's concern.

There being no further discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed. Given the time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm by a **motion** from Grossman and **second** from Wood.

Respectfully submitted by Katherine M. McCormick,  
Senate Council Chair

---

<sup>1</sup> "Interviews for full-time job opportunities post-graduation and interviews for graduate or professional school. The student must notify the Instructor of Record prior to the occurrence of such absences. Instructors of record have the right to request appropriate verification."

Senate Council  
February 20, 2017

SC members present: Bird-Pollan, Blonder, Botts, Cross, Grossman, Lauersdorf, Mazur [attended via phone], McCormick, McGillis, Mills, Schroeder, and Wood.

Invited guests present: Kalea Benner, Jay Blanton, Anna Bosch, Jason Dovel, John Herbst, Phil Kraemer, David Timoney, and Kirsten Turner.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Wednesday, February 22, 2017.