

Senate Council
November 28, 2011

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, November 28, 2011 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 called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:07 pm.

1. Minutes from November 21, 2012 and Announcements

McCormick **moved** to approve the SC minutes from November 28, 2011 as distributed and Grossman **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

2. Old Business

b. SC ad hoc Committee on Faculty Productivity and Accountability

The Chair offered two suggestions for moving the SC ad hoc Committee on Faculty Productivity and Accountability (CFPA) forward: she is willing to chair the CFPA and would like to expand its charge, so that the CFPA is also responsible for putting forth recommendations for not only accountability and productivity, for also for incentives, mentoring and development. There were no objections.

Peek commented that he was aware of another university that used a point system to more easily illustrate a faculty member's effort towards teaching, research, mentoring, administration, etc. The Chair commented that the CFPA could recommend any type of general concept, with departments having responsibility for creating specifics.

SC members then spent a significant amount of time looking at the list of volunteers for the CFPA. The Chair identified about 15 faculty members as possible committee members. SC members then discussed the proposed composition and offered many suggestions to improve different types of diversity. It was determined that two individuals with administrative responsibilities would be asked to participate as resource individuals.

The Chair said she would follow up on the membership suggestions and communicate results to the SC.

2. Old Business

c. Honors College/Academy

The Chair explained that last week she was under the impression that the Honors Program was undergoing a name change and needed to be on the University Senate's December agenda. However, earlier in the morning she had spoken with Jay Blanton (Executive Director of Public Relations) and learned that Public Relations had run a focus group; she shared a handout of the focus group's comments with SC members. The Chair went on to say that due to the negative nature of the comments, it seemed premature to go forward with the proposed new name ("Honors Academy"). It was acknowledged that the information was not statistically significant (there were seven members of the focus group), but it was the only student feedback the SC had to go on. Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education Mike Mullen said that the name change would be returned for further deliberation. SC members spent a few minutes asking questions about the proposed revised design and content of the Honors Program.

Lengthy discussion followed on how to move the proposal forward appropriately, beginning with the identification of the unit faculty most closely associated with the Honors Program. The Chair also clarified that the name change was no longer under consideration by the SC/Senate, but that the proposed changes to the Honors Program's design and content still needed to move forward.

Regarding unit faculty for the Honors Program, Grossman reminded SC members that the SC had, the previous week, moved a motion that the Senate will need to approve a committee to serve as the unit faculty for the Honors Program, from which recommendations for changes can appropriately emanate. Grossman suggested that the establishment by the Senate of a committee to serve as the unit faculty be placed on the Senate's agenda for December, while nominations for said committee could still be solicited in the meantime. The SC can use the names if the Senate approves having the committee serve as the unit faculty for the Honors Program.

It was determined that the motion moved on November 21, 2011 by the SC ("that the SC recommend that the faculty of record for the Honors Program is a University Senate committee appointed by the elected faculty members of the University Senate, appointed in consultation with the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education") did not quite capture the SC's intent for the SC to appoint the composition only if the Senate approved the existence of such a committee.

Grossman **moved to amend** the SC minutes from November 21, 2011 to change the language of the motion such that the SC appoints the committee, not the Senate.

That the SC recommend that the faculty of record for the Honors Program is a University Senate committee ~~appointed~~ established by the elected faculty members of the University Senate, appointed in consultation with the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education.

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

The Chair asked if any SC member wished to suggest someone from the Honors Program Review Committee for membership – there were a few suggestions. She said she would solicit additional nominations from SC members via email.

The Chair thanked everyone for their comments. Moving to the next agenda item and invited guests, those present introduced themselves.

3. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC) – Herman Farrell, Chair

i. Proposed New Multidisciplinary Research Institute for Sustainable Manufacturing

Guest Herman Farrell, chair of the Senate's Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC), explained the proposal for a new (multidisciplinary research) Institute for Sustainable Manufacturing.

There were a few general comments made during the discussion.

- There is no one within the proposed new Institute to be responsible for deriving income for the Institute on an ongoing basis.

- Given that sustainability is a hot topic, there are hopes that the Institute’s faculty will double their funding within two years.
- One primary function of the Institute is to facilitate the submission of grants that require a certain administrative structure.
- Upon approval of the Institute, the College of Engineering will initiate paperwork to dissolve the Center for Manufacturing. This may be the first such dissolution of a center in UK’s history.

There being no further questions for Guests Farrell, Bob Gregory (EN) or Keith Rouch (EN/Mechanical Engineering), the Chair thanked them for attending and they departed.

SC members engaged in additional discussion about the proposed new Institute for Sustainable Manufacturing. There were a few concerns expressed about possible unintended, negative effects on existing departments; the lack of a clear strategy for academics within the Institute; and whether or not the faculty in the College of Engineering approved the proposal.

The issue about review by College of Engineering faculty was most problematic for SC members. There were three members of the College of Engineering faculty present, and none could recall seeing the issue on a recent college faculty meeting agenda.

Grossman **moved** that the SC recommend to the Senate that the Senate approve the proposed new Institute on Sustainable Manufacturing on its academic merits, subject to confirming that the college followed its procedures for obtaining approval of college faculty for the proposed new Institute. There was brief discussion. The Chair read from the College of Engineering’s rules to ensure understanding of Engineering’s rules. Wasilkowski **seconded** the motion. Mrs. Brothers asked for clarification about the second part of the motion. Pienkowski suggested that she ask for a copy of the minutes of the meeting at which the review took place. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Grossman **moved** that that the SC recommend to the Senate that the Senate approve the proposed new Institute on Sustainable Manufacturing on its non-academic merits. Wasilkowski **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed and one abstaining.

3. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SA&ASC) – Raphael Finkel, Chair i. “What is a credit hour?” for 13 Different Course Meeting Patterns

Guest Raphael Finkel, chair of the Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee, explained the proposed definitions of a credit hour for 13 different course meeting patterns, in response to the SC’s charge to the SA&ASC. It was noted that defining a credit hour for distance learning was the responsibility of the SC’s ad hoc Committee on Best Practices for Distance Learning. SC members asked a variety of questions, which Finkel satisfactorily answered.

In response to Pienkowski, Finkel confirmed that the word “hours” needed to be changed to “minutes” in three places. Mrs. Brothers agreed to make the changes to the proposal.

Grossman **moved** to receive the report (““What is a credit hour?” for 13 Different Course Meeting Patterns”) from the Senate’s Admissions and Academic Standards Committee and Pienkowski **seconded**. There being no discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

SC members decided that the proposal should be reviewed by other councils of the Senate and asked Mrs. Brothers to send the report, with indicated changes, to the Undergraduate Council, Graduate Council, and Health Care Colleges Council for input, including how the meeting pattern descriptions should be used (as recommendations, rules, etc.), with responses back to the Senate Council by mid-January.

There was a brief discussion among SC members about SC officer elections. Nominations will be formally solicited by a nominating committee, comprised of Kelly, Steiner and Wood, who will also solicit input from elected faculty senators on their thoughts about the next SC chair. The actual election will occur during the SC meeting on December 19.

The meeting was adjourned around 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Hollie I. Swanson,
Senate Council Chair

Guests present: Coyne, Grossman, Kelly, McCormick, Peek, Pienkowski, Steiner, Swanson, Wasilkowski, Wimberly and Wood.

Provost’s Liaison present: Greissman.

Invited guests present: Herman Farrell, Sonja Feist-Price, Raphael Finkel, Bob Gregory, Mike Mullen and Kevin Rouch.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Tuesday, November 29, 2011.