

Senate Council  
October 29, 2012

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, October 29, 2012 in 103 Main Building. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise.

Chair Lee X. Blonder called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

1. Minutes from October 15, 2012 and Announcements

The Chair offered a variety of announcements.

- Anderson, Debski and Pienkowski are absent.
- The faculty representatives on the Provost's Financial Model Implementation Committee are Jeff Suchanek (LI), David Pienkowski (EN) and Connie Wood (AS).
- SC members discussed possible faculty members to serve on the Budget Metrics Committee. The Chair, a faculty member from the Gatton College of Business and Economics and an extension faculty member from the College of Agriculture were identified to serve.

Some SC members expressed concern about the lack of dissemination of information during the time when input is still being sought. There were also concerns about how input affects implementation. SC members asked the Chair to contact the Provost to learn details relating to implementation of the new budget model.

- The Senate's Research Committee (SRC) had questions about the intent of the SC's charge that the SRC "Work with other Senate committees on guidelines and evaluation of multi-disciplinary research centers (MDRC)." After brief discussion, SC members determined that the intent was to ask the SRC to work with the Senate's Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC), Senate's Academic Programs Committee, and Mia Alexander-Snow, director of institutional planning and effectiveness, on creating criteria for evaluating MDRCs and when to dissolve them.

SC members were asked to identify a handful of faculty to serve on Periodic Program Review Committee for the College of Agriculture, for the Committee on the Summative Evaluation of the Dean of the College of Design, and the University Appeals Board.

- Cindy Beeman, the College of Dentistry's Assistant Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs, will chair the Health Care Colleges Council for the next three years.

2. Faculty Response to Budget Cuts

In response to a request from the Chair, SC members offered their thoughts and opinions on the recent special University Senate (Senate) meeting. SC members touched on a variety of areas.

SC members discussed the reaction of the Board of Trustees (Board) to the SC's memo of October 8, 2012 and whether support for shared governance is falling. There was also extensive discussion about a grass-roots petition. It was decided that the SC will not endorse the petition nor put it as an agenda item for discussion at the University Senate meeting. However, it may be mentioned in the trustee report.

There was extensive discussion about the SC setting up a survey to send to all faculty in the very near future, regarding the faculty's opinion on recent events on campus. SC members discussed the specific questions as proposed by Wilson and made some modifications to the language.

Wood will create and disseminate the survey via REDcap after the final version has been approved by the SC. SC members also discussed who would receive the survey.

Brion **moved** that the SC charge Wood with preparing a survey based on the six questions as discussed in the meeting. McCormick **seconded**. Wood **offered a friendly amendment** to add language to “charge the SC chair with requesting from Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness a list of all faculty (and email addresses) that are in EEO categories 20, 2a and 2b with demographic variables to be specified. It was understood that the specific content of the survey will be approved at a future SC meeting.

A **vote** was taken on the motion that the SC charge Wood with preparing a survey based on the six questions and charge the SC chair with requesting from Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness a list of all faculty (and email addresses) that are in EEO categories 20, 2a and 2b with demographic variables to be specified. The motion **passed** with none opposed.

The Chair asked SC members’ opinion on a request from one college’s senators regarding a resolution to send registered letters to the home addresses of administrators receiving the extra retirement contribution, requesting that they forfeit the perk. SC members largely thought that such an action was unwarranted and noted the President’s explanation that no hires after July 1, 2012 had that extra compensation as part of their contract. In addition, the SC recommended that the Chair communicate to the college senators that the SC would pursue revising the *Administrative Regulation* authorizing this benefit, rather than approaching individual recipients.

SC members discussed the evaluation of the President and the previously-discussed questions developed by Wasilkowski and Coyne. That survey will be sent out to faculty in the spring.

The Chair asked SC members about inviting the President to a future Senate meeting. The general consensus was that the President is the Chair of the University Senate and can attend at any time he wants.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 5 pm

Respectfully submitted by Lee X. Blonder,  
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Blonder, Brion, Edwards, Grossman, McCormick, Swanson, Wasilkowski, Wright and Wood.

Provost’s Liaison present: Greissman.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Friday, November 2, 2012.