

Senate Council
August 3, 2020

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, August 3, 2020 via video conference. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise. Below is a record of what transpired.

Senate Council Chair Aaron Cramer (EN) called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:02 pm. The Chair welcomed those present. He informed everyone that the session was being recorded and asked everyone to use the chat box to sign in for attendance. He provided guidance on how to participate in the discussion.

1. Minutes from July 20, 2020 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the set of minutes from July 20, 2020. There being **no objections**, the minutes from July 20, 2020 were **approved** as distributed by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair reported that Assistant Provost for Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Annie Davis Weber requested a faculty representative for a committee to review *Administrative Regulation (AR) 1:5* ("Substantive Change Policy"). Melinda Wilson (ME) has agreed to serve.

The Chair reported that he approved a Fall 2020 calendar change regarding the midterm grading window. Prior to change, there was insufficient time for advisors to work with students before the last day to withdraw.

The Chair asked SC to think about ways to manage volunteers for campus-wide committees. He asked that they email him with any ideas.

The Chair welcomed Provost David Blackwell to the meeting and asked him if he had anything to share. Provost Blackwell announced that he plans to host weekly meetings on Fridays with deans, associate deans, chairs, directors, vice presidents, and associate provosts to share rapidly evolving information. He also expressed his appreciation to SC Chair Cramer and SC for their hard work developing and sharing clear messaging about COVID-19 policies with faculty.

Provost Blackwell then answered a few questions from SC including:

- How will faculty and staff be able to prove an occupational exposure to COVID-19 to Workers' Compensation if they are not being tested before returning to campus?
Provost Blackwell has not heard from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) regarding this but will be following up on it.
- Can SC attend the weekly meetings?
Provost Blackwell agreed they should be invited and will request they be included on the invitations.
- Are faculty members who are requesting to switch from face-to-face to remote instruction being asked to justify their requests?
Provost Blackwell responded that the movement of modalities after student registration opened created confusion for students and parents and it also created problems in matching up available classroom space and time slots. Therefore, there was a freeze in modalities, but an exception request was created. The justification on the requests are expected to be generic and most requests have been granted. Work arounds for some requests have been arranged to make sure sections are offered for students who prefer traditional instruction.
- What is the face covering policy for instructors who are teaching behind plexiglass?
The Chair explained that the recommended syllabus statement allows for the instructor to

choose to remove a mask when pedagogically necessary at the front of the classroom and behind a clear barrier.

2. Committee Reports

a. Senate's UK Core Education Committee (SUKCEC) - Patrick Lee Lucas, Chair

i. 2019-20 Report

The Chair welcomed SUKCEC Chair Patrick Lee Lucas (DE). Lucas thanked previous SC Chair Jennifer Bird-Pollan for her help during his transition as SUKCEC chair. He presented an overview of the annual report which included how the committee was formed, findings from listening sessions hosted by members, future action plans for 2020-2021, and assessment issues. Lucas expressed his appreciation for Joanie Ett-Mims, who works with SUKCEC to keep everything on track. He noted that SUKCEC does not have an administrator and there is currently no funding for administration. He suggested having a conversation about this issue.

Lucas shared data analysis and concerns about student experience of UK Core courses. He also shared findings about UK Core compared to other benchmark institutions' general education requirements and organizational structures. Lastly, he asked SC to consider: 1. What is the best way for SUKCEC to communicate regularly with leadership, faculty, students, SC, and Senate? 2. Should SUKCEC have administrative structure beyond what currently exists?

Questions and feedback included:

- What organizational structures did you find with our benchmarks?
Only one benchmark has a structure similar to ours, although they are creating a new office to house their general education program. The range of exactly where the programs are housed is very broad.
- The presentation should be shared with all senators. Perhaps they could facilitate conversations in their respective colleges.
- Ideas for SUKCEC communication:
 - Ask associate deans to share UK Core information with faculty.
 - Web-based training for instructors.
 - Share SUKCEC report with Provost's Council.
- The Office of Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness (OSPIE) supports UK Core assessment with one-half to three-quarters of a whole person's FTE to support core assessment, which is not enough support. OSPIE also has provided the software contract and platform to facilitate assessment and provide stipends for evaluators.

3. Nominees for Board of Trustees' Evaluation of the President

The Chair shared that the Board of Trustees' requested at least three faculty nominees for their evaluation of President Capilouto. He explained the nominees do not have to be senators, but any names that have been submitted before cannot be used again. There was discussion about possible nominees and how many names SC would like to submit. Jennifer Bird-Pollan (LA) **moved** to submit the five names discussed. Andrade (ME) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

4. Senate Institutional Finance and Resource Allocation Committee (SIFRAC, Joint Committee with Staff Senate) - Discussion on Structure

The Chair shared that he recently met with Staff Senate Chair Jon Gent. One of the items they discussed was the joint University Senate and Staff Senate Institutional Finance and Resource Allocation

Committee (SIFRAC). SIFRAC members consist of three faculty and three staff, with the chair as an additional member rotating between faculty and staff each year. The committee formation cycles of the Senate and Staff Senate are different, so it creates a problem in the summer because the faculty representatives are not appointed until August or September. The Staff Senate is interested in chairing SIFRAC every year in order to maintain consistency but would continue to report out to both Senates. The Chair asked SC if that arrangement was acceptable.

There was discussion of past difficulties in appointing members and the lack of reporting. Bird-Pollan (LA) **moved** to pursue conversation about the Staff Senate permanently filling the chair position for SIFRAC, instead of it alternating back and forth between the two Senates. Vincent (BE) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was discussion about looking at other committees that may need restructuring. SC members supported the Chair's comment that the motion would also reasonably entail the Chair asking the Staff Senate to identify a staff member to serve as chair this year and the Chair need not try to find a faculty member to do so. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

5. Senate Committee Compositions

The Chair shared the new senator committee preferences and the proposed committee compositions for 2020-2021. He asked SC to consider allowing him the authority to make substitutions as needed after they review committee compositions.

SC members discussed Senate committee compositions and made recommendations regarding membership. Brion (EN) **moved** to approve the committee compositions as discussed and give the Chair authority to make substitutions as needed. Collett (HS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. COVID Ongoing Discussion

- There was clarification that there will be movable plexiglass barriers for instructors to use in the classrooms.
- There was conversation about air filtration in buildings.
- There was clarification that course modality is not locked down, but instructors wishing to change need to ask for an exception. Traditional courses are regularly allowed to be 0%-50% online and hybrid courses at 51%-99% online.
- There was discussion about how student traffic will flow in and out of classrooms.

Bird-Pollan (LA) **moved** to adjourn. Vincent (BE) **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Andrade, Bird-Pollan, Blonder, Brion, Cantrell, Collett, Cramer, Hall, Soult, Swanson, Vincent, Wheeler, and Williams.

Guests present: David Blackwell, Sheila Brothers, Bob Grossman, Davy Jones, Patrick Lee Lucas, and Annie Davis Weber.

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Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on August 5, 2020.