

Senate Council
February 15, 2021

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, February 15, 2021 via video conference. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise.

Senate Council Chair Aaron Cramer (EN) called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:00 pm. The Chair welcomed those present. He informed everyone that the session was being recorded and noted that it was an open meeting. He asked everyone to use the chat box to sign in for attendance and provided guidance on how to participate in the discussion.

1. Minutes from February 1, 2021 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the set of minutes from February 1, 2021. There being **no objections**, the minutes for February 1, 2021 were **approved** by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair reported that there is interest in moving forward with the badge pilot that happened during summer 2020. He thanked Senior Lecturer Leslie Vincent (BE) for providing input about the badge initiative on behalf of the University Senate for a group led by Associate Provost of Teaching, Learning, and Academic Innovation Kathi Kern. The Chair noted that any proposal would ultimately require SC and Senate approval. He asked that any comments about the badge initiative be shared with Vincent.

2. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) - Jennifer Bird-Pollan, Chair

i. Proposed Change to MSCHE Chemical Engineering

Bird-Pollan (LA) explained the proposed change to MSCHE Chemical Engineering to increase the total required credit hours from 24 to 30. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there were none. The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the SAASC to approve the proposed change to the MSCHE Chemical Engineering. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was debate on the proposal and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

ii. Proposed Suspension of Graduate Certificate in Rehabilitation Counseling

Bird-Pollan (LA) explained the proposed suspension of the Graduate Certificate in Rehabilitation Counseling, due to recent changes from the program's accrediting body. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there were none. The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the SAASC to approve the proposed suspension of the Graduate Certificate in Rehabilitation Counseling. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was debate on the proposal and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

b. Senate's Technology Committee (STC) - Mark Lauersdorf, Chair

i. Update on Activities

The Chair welcomed STC Chair Mark Lauersdorf (AS) and reminded SC that STC was charged to investigate resources for the management of research data and data about remote teaching. Lauersdorf gave background information about the two tasks.

He explained that the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) has been working on an Institutional Review Board (IRB)-approved study on teaching and learning at UK during COVID but the data has not been made available. He stressed the importance of evaluating this information and using it to improve hybrid and online courses. There was discussion about the possible overlap of STC with the

Senate Committee on Distance Learning and e-Learning (SCDLLeL). There was also discussion about how to determine the ways in which COVID has affected different types of student populations. Associate Provost of Teaching, Learning, and Academic Innovation Kathi Kern suggested sharing some preliminary information with SC or Senate at one of their upcoming meetings. She explained that it is currently not possible to share the data publicly. Inclusion of Senate's Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (SAPPC) was discussed. Also, looking at how tuition policy/incentives have shaped online learning was suggested. The Chair asked if there were any objections to charging STC to continue working on data about remote teaching and to work with Kern and Ellen Usher to specifically determine questions that the data about remote teaching might answer to inform policy recommendations to Senate. There were **no objections**. The Chair also asked if there were any objections to asking Kathi Kern and/or Ellen Usher to present preliminary findings to the Senate. There were **no objections**.

Lauersdorf gave background information about STC's charge to investigate resources for the management of research data. He explained that the Office of the Vice President of Research (VPR) has recommended a vendor for electronic research notebook service and has indicated that it will likely become the central, mandated repository for all UK research data and information. There is concern about the vendor's ability to fit all research needs for all types of UK's researchers. The floor was opened for questions and it was explained that the use of the electronic research notebook service is likely due to the need to monitor for potential fraud and misconduct, as well as ensure that data is always housed where it should be. There was discussion about intellectual property rights and access of data stored with the vendor. There was also discussion about whether the *Administrative Regulations (ARs)* or *Governing Regulations (GRs)* address the enactment of policy of this magnitude. The Chair asked if there were objections to charging STC to continue to investigate resources for the management of research data. There were **no objections**.

Lauersdorf explained that STC would like to re-engage with investigating various technology related topics on campus like the Smart Campus initiative and e-sports. SC members were supportive of the activity but requested that any future report be submitted in writing. Therefore, the Chair requested that STC prepare a report for SC outlining important, current technology-related topics on campus and identifying issues that the Senate should be thinking about.

3. Senate Meeting Roundtable

The Chair invited SC members to offer feedback on the most recent University Senate meeting. Below is a summary:

- There needs to be more transparency of the work SC, Senate, and Student Government Association (SGA) do.
- The restoration of previous retirement benefits was welcome news.
- The meeting was jam packed with a lot of hard work coming to fruition, like the syllabus initiative, calendar initiative, and updates to the *Senate Rules (SRs)*.
- It would be helpful to have a written policy about outside groups on Senate agendas, especially if the group seeks to discuss non-academic matters.
- The budget presentation from Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Eric Monday was beneficial.
- SC should be mindful of outside groups for underrepresented individuals, to be sure that non-traditional voices are not disenfranchised.

The Chair expressed his appreciation that so many action items were completed during the meeting. He explained that he would take everyone's comments into consideration moving forward. There was further discussion and debate about allowing the circumstances under which it would be appropriate for outside groups to present to Senate about non-academic matters.

4. Planning for 2020-21 Faculty Evaluation of the President

The Chair explained that the Vice Chair is responsible for the faculty evaluation of the president and asked for two or three volunteers from SC to participate in coordinating the survey. Charnigo (PbH) and Vincent (BE) agreed to participate. The Chair asked if there were objections to this. There were **no objections**.

5. Outstanding Senator Award

The Chair explained that the Vice Chair is responsible for the Outstanding Senator Award and asked for two or three volunteers from SC to participate in coordinating the award. Grossman (AS) and Cantrell (ED) agreed to participate. The Chair asked if there were objections to this. There were **no objections**.

6. Discussion of Senate Council Priorities

The Chair invited SC members to offer thoughts about SC priorities. Below is a summary:

- Top priorities should include providing the best educational experiences for students, supporting faculty to provide these experiences, and communicating with administration to enlist their support of these goals.
- Teacher-course evaluation (TCE) equity issues as a result of the pandemic, especially when TCEs are used in promotion and tenure decisions.
- Continuing research-related delays related to COVID at the University. It may take a couple of years to understand the effect on tenure/promotion regarding delays in conducting research and publishing articles.
- Even if faculty are vaccinated by Fall 2021, many students still may not be.
- Proactively communicating with administration, especially with the transition of a new provost, as well as SC being allowed to actively engage with others in the search.
- Ensuring that communication with faculty at large is well-structured.
- Reviewing SRs to be more clear, as well as ensure that Senate's role on campus is clearly delineated and described.
- Thinking more creatively about distance learning.
- Rethinking curricular proposal deadlines in response to changing deadlines at the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE)
- Priorities should include:
 1. How do we get out of the pandemic?
 2. How do we apply lessons learned from the pandemic?
 3. Defining our role in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.
- Improving the Chair's interaction with new faculty.

The Chair expressed his appreciation for their thoughtful comments and explained that he will use them to develop a list of possible next steps that he could share with them.

7. Items from the Floor

The Chair confirmed that the Senate Hearing Panel (Privilege and Tenure) is still active.

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The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Bird-Pollan, Blonder, Cantrell, Charnigo, Collett, Cramer, Duncan, Grossman, Hall, Kuhnlein, Oltmann, Swanson, Vincent, Wheeler, and Williams.

Guests present: Anna Bosch, Sheila Brothers, Roger Brown, Joanie Ett-Mims, Larry Holloway, Mark Lauersdorf, Davy Jones, Steve Rankin, Kim Taylor, and Steve Wilson.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on February 17, 2021.