

Senate Council
January 25, 2021

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, January 25, 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 December 7, 2020 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the set of minutes from December 7, 2020. There being **no objections**, the minutes for December 7, 2020 were **approved by unanimous consent**.

The Chair asked SC if there were any objections to adding two proposed calendar modifications to the current agenda, as a new items six and seven. There being **no objections**, the addition of new agenda items six and seven were **approved by unanimous consent**.

The Chair explained that *Governing Regulation (GR) IV* (The University Senate), which includes the naming of specific ex officio members, is problematic when there are administrative reorganizations. He plans to address the issue with President Capilouto and offer revised language drafted by Ms. Brothers. The revised language will mirror the language used by the Staff Senate in its *GR*, and would then allow Senate to maintain qualifications for membership, including the possible participation of faculty on phased retirement to serve on Senate. He asked SC if they had any suggestions about how to move forward. There were no suggestions, but he was asked to share the draft language with SC.

The Chair welcomed new SC members.

The Chair reported that an introduction to United Campus Workers (UCW) was added to the February Senate agenda by invocation of the "Ten Senator Rule." SC members can discuss that when the February Senate agenda is under discussion.

The Chair reported discussions about changing the name of "Dead Week" and clarified that the name change is not policy related. Associate Dean for Administration and Academic Affairs Kim Anderson will be presenting a proposal during the next SC meeting regarding the name change.

The Chair reminded SC of the test-optional admissions pilot program they approved last summer. He reported that the pilot will be evaluated by the Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC). He asked SC for feedback and there was none.

The Chair reported that he is looking for ways to improve senator engagement during Senate meetings and asked SC members to leave time for senators to make motions or second motions before stepping in during Senate meetings. If senators are more comfortable speaking up about routine matters, then they may be more likely to speak about substantive issues. There was a suggestion that the Chair announce this at the beginning of the next Senate meeting.

The Chair asked SC to consider and discuss via email the use of video conferencing after the pandemic ends. There was a suggestion to form an ad hoc committee to consider accessibility issues associated

with the continued use of video conferencing. The Chair noted that it would still be some time before in-person meetings would be possible.

2. Nominees for Search Committees

a. Ombud Search Committee

The Chair explained the appointment process of the Academic Ombud and SC members deliberated on nominees received through an email solicitation to senators. Grossman (AS) **moved** to send forward the two names agreed upon by SC. 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.

b. Nominees for Chief Academic Officer Reviews

i. Nursing (Janie Heath)

SC members deliberated on nominees received through an email solicitation to senators. Grossman (AS) **moved** to send forward the nominee for Nursing Chief Academic Officer Review agreed upon by SC and identified the alternate. Collett (HS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. There was brief discussion about a recent Zoom software update and changed icons. There were no objections from SC members about using “unanimous consent” to take the days’ votes, if possible. There being **no objections**, the motion was **approved by unanimous consent**.

ii. Health Sciences (Scott Lephart)

SC members deliberated on nominees received through an email solicitation to senators. Collett (HS) **moved** to send forward the nominee for Health Sciences Chief Academic Officer Review agreed upon by SC and identified the alternate. Grossman (AS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. There being **no objections**, the motion was **approved by unanimous consent**.

iii. Design (Mitzi Vernon)

SC members deliberated on nominees received through an email solicitation to senators. Oltmann (CI) **moved** to send forward the nominee for Design Chief Academic Officer Review agreed upon by SC and identified the alternate. Grossman (AS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. There being **no objections**, the motion was **approved by unanimous consent**.

3. Committee Reports

a. Senate’s Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) - Leslie Vincent, Chair

i. Proposed New Graduate Certificate in Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems

Vincent (BE) described the proposed new Graduate Certificate in Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems. The Chair asked if there were any questions of fact. There was a comment that rules about adding or subtracting faculty of record will need to be developed. Program Manager and Adjunct Assistant Professor Eduardo Santillan-Jimenez (AS) explained that the certificate will be sustained after funding ends by using their online library of content.

The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the SAPC that the University Senate approve, for submission to the Board of Trustees, the establishment of a new Graduate Certificate in Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems, housed in the Department of Biosystems and Agriculture Engineering, in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. There being **no objections**, the motion was **approved by unanimous consent**.

ii. Proposed Significant Change to MSNFS Nutrition and Food Systems

Vincent (BE) described the proposed significant change to MSNFS Nutrition and Food Systems. The Chair asked if there were any questions of fact and there were none.

The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the SAPC that the University Senate approve the significant change to the MSNFS: Nutrition and Food Systems, in the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition within the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. There being **no objections**, the motion was **approved by unanimous consent**.

iii. Proposed Significant Change to BS Dietetics and Human Nutrition

Vincent (BE) described the proposed significant change to BS Dietetics and Human Nutrition. The Chair asked if there were any questions of fact. Lecturer & Coordinated Program Director Liz Combs explained that the removal of the requirement for a C or better in certain courses was made because students must still complete an accredited dietetic internship before becoming a registered dietitian.

The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the SAPC that the University Senate approve the significant change to the BS: Dietetics, in the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition within the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. There being **no objections**, the motion was **approved by unanimous consent**.

iv. Proposed New MS Strategic Human Resource Management and Analytics

Vincent (BE) described the proposed new MS Strategic Human Resource Management and Analytics. The Chair asked if there were any questions of fact and there were none.

The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the SAPC that the University Senate approve, for submission to the Board of Trustees, the establishment of a new MS degree: Strategic Human Resource Management and Analytics, in the Department of Management within the Gatton College of Business and Economics. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. There being **no objections**, the motion was **approved by unanimous consent**.

4. Discussion on Provost Search

The Chair reported he would be speaking with the President about the Provost search and requested feedback from SC about the questions emailed to them previously about the search. Questions included:

1. What do you think are the priorities and challenges for the Office of the Provost? (Campus-wide vs. Senate)
2. What are the key characteristics, talents, and skills the next Provost will need to be successful?
3. What do you think the process to select the next Provost should be?

SC members broadly provided input, emphasizing the need for a strong commitment to shared governance. SC also noted concerns about the effect of the Provost situation on current open searches.

5. Syllabus Initiative

Senate Council
January 25, 2021

The Chair welcomed Senior Lecturer and Director of General Chemistry Allison Soult (AS) to present recent changes made to the Syllabus Initiative including the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) statement. Soult updated SC on the background, recent activity, and next steps of the Syllabus Initiative. She thanked Ms. Brothers for putting together webpages with boilerplate language and for her support throughout the process. She explained that there was recent discussion about the use of a DEI statement other than the SC approved version and requested that item #25 in *SR 6.1.1.1* be replaced with the following:

“Policy on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Instructors must include a statement on diversity, equity, and inclusion approved by a relevant faculty body. Inclusion of the URL to, or the text of, the Senate Council-approved <URL statement> on diversity, equity, and inclusion or any other equivalent faculty body-approved statement can be used to meet this requirement.”

The Chair asked if there were any questions. Grossman suggested that the Senate be given only the part of the *SRs* that has the substantive changes. Vincent (BE) **moved** to approve the Syllabus Initiative with the modified DEI statement. Grossman (AS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. There being **no objections**, the motion was **approved by unanimous consent**.

Bird Pollan (LA) expressed her gratitude to Soult and Ms. Brothers for their years-long work to carry out the Syllabus Initiative.

6. Proposed Change to Spring 2021 Academic Calendar - Refund Period

University Registrar Kim Taylor explained the proposed change to the Spring 2021 Academic Calendar to extend the 100% refund period to Friday, January 29th. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there were none. Grossman (AS) **moved** to approve the proposed change to the Spring 2021 Academic Calendar. Cantrell (ED) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. There being **no objections**, the motion was **approved by unanimous consent**.

7. Proposed Change to Summer 2021 Academic Calendar - Graduate School

The Chair explained the proposed change to the Summer 2021 Academic Calendar for the Graduate School. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there were none. Vincent (BE) **moved** to approve the proposed change to the Graduate School Summer 2021 Academic Calendar. Grossman (AS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. There being **no objections**, the motion was **approved by unanimous consent**.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 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, Liz Combs, Joanie Ett-Mims, Larry Holloway, Marion Rust, Eduardo Santillan-Jimenez, Scott Soltis, Allison Soult, Kim Taylor, and Annie Weber.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on January 27, 2020.