

Senate Council  
March 22, 2021

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:01 pm on Monday, March 22, 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 and Announcements

The Chair reported minutes were not ready to review but SC members could expect two sets for approval at the next SC meeting.

The Chair asked SC to consider if the Summer 2021 retreat should be held in-person in a large meeting space or digitally and to email their thoughts to him.

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

The Chair informed SC that the Vice Chair oversees the faculty evaluation of the president and reminded them that on February 15<sup>th</sup> Charnigo (PbH) and Vincent (BE) were approved to help Vice Chair Collett (HS) with this. He noted that the evaluation is moving forward and any thoughts about the process should be sent to Collett soon.

3. Planning for Outstanding Senator Award

The Chair informed SC that the Vice Chair oversees the Outstanding Senator Award and reminded them that on February 15<sup>th</sup> Cantrell (ED) and Grossman (AS) were approved to help Vice Chair Collett (HS) with this. He asked that any comments about the award be sent to Collett soon. He also asked SC to consider if the award should be presented in May or September.

4. Degree Completion Project – University Registrar Kim Taylor

The Chair welcomed University Registrar Kim Taylor who presented an overview of the Degree Completion Project. In addition to explaining background information, she explained how the degree audit system has been enhanced and how it is being used to incentivize student registration. Associate Registrar Mike Shanks presented an overview of myUK Graduate Planning System (GPS) and noted the improved timeline for conferring degrees. He shared a timeline and plan for implementing three stages of enhancements to GPS and explained how it will impact retention. The floor was opened for questions and comments. Below is a summary of comments by SC members.

- The degree audit helps students plan out their classes better so they can maximize their time at UK by working toward a minor or certificate.
- Transparency and full information are valuable tools for students and advisors, although quickly switching majors is does not always lead to a better outcome.
- It is not clear if a percentage of completion will be a meaningful comparator between majors.
- Adding more information about minors in GPS would be beneficial for students.
- GPS has allowed advisors to be more confident when advising students.
- Choosing a major is an important and personal choice so we should be careful to avoid shunting students into programs just because they have fewer credit hours required for graduation.
- All degree programs are not the same, but the trajectory of individual programs should become more apparent over time.

There was some conversation about possible scenarios that might require adjustments and the benefits of students knowing where they are in their degree program.

## 5. Nominees for Committees

### a. Other Tenure- or Rank-Based Committees

SC members discussed the obscure purpose and lack of activities for the Senate Advisory Committee on the Faculty Code. Grossman (AS) **moved** to skip nominations for the Senate Advisory Faculty Code Committee. Duncan (ME) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

SC members discussed the Senate Hearing Panel (Privilege and Tenure). Grossman (AS) **moved** to thank the member who recently became an assistant vice president for their service, explain the issue with them becoming an administrator and serving on this panel, and ask that they step down until they are no longer in an administrative position. Bird-Pollan (LA) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

SC members discussed and agreed upon nominees for other tenure- or rank-based committees.

### b. Administrative Committees Requiring SC Nominees

SC members discussed and agreed upon nominees for administrative committees requiring SC nominees. Because there was a lack of clarity about the number of nominees needed for the IT Advisory Committee, SC members opted to wait to name nominees for that committee.

### c. Other Administrative Committees

SC members discussed nominees for other administrative committees. There were a few brief discussions about a handful of nominees who were not considered to be a good fit for particular committees.

## 6. Items from the Floor

There were no items from the floor.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 pm with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,  
Senate Council Chair

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

Guests present: Sheila Brothers, Roger Brown, Annie Davis Weber, Joanie Ett-Mims, Larry Holloway, Davy Jones, Mike Shanks, and Kim Taylor.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on March 23, 2021.