

Senate Council
March 23, 2020

The Senate Council met in regular session on Monday, March 23, 2020 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 Jennifer Bird-Pollan called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:04 pm. The Chair welcomed those present.

1. Announcements

The Chair welcomed everyone and explained that due to the COVID-19 situation, all SC meetings will be held via video conference until further notice. She informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded but would not be posted. She asked everyone to use the “raise hand” feature if they had comments.

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the set of minutes from March 2, 2020. There being no objections, the minutes were approved as distributed by unanimous consent.

The Chair announced that the SC Retreat is tentatively scheduled for May, but due to COVID-19 they may not be able to meet in person. She suggested options to meet via video conference or to postpone the retreat until August. She asked SC to let her or Ms. Brothers know their preference.

The Chair informed SC that she and Assistant Provost for Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Annie Davis Weber, UK Core Chair Patrick Lee Lucas, Chair-Elect Aaron Cramer, and Undergraduate Council (UC) Chair Corrine Williams met to discuss the Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR). The GCCR is a subcommittee of UC and currently has no members. Therefore, GCCR obligations under the Senate Rules are not currently being fulfilled. The group will be meeting again in April to further discuss the GCCR.

2. Old Business

a. Nominees for Committees (Senate's UK Core Education Committee (SUKCEC))

The Chair informed SC that recently updated *SR 1.4.3.2.1* allows SUKCEC members to serve a second term. SUKCEC requested that SC reappoint the four members whose terms are ending this year for a second term.

Cramer made a **motion** to reappoint the four members of the SUKCEC for another term. Soult **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

b. Discussion on Standards for Donor Agreements and Associated Naming of Units

The Chair explained that due to COVID-19 situation, the Provost's office has not been able to provide any updates about forming an ad hoc committee to look at standards for donor agreements and associated naming of units. She is unsure when there will be an update and suggested tabling this until the SC Retreat.

Brion made a **motion** to table the discussion about standards for donor agreements and associated naming of units until the SC retreat. Collet **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

4. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) – Bill Smith, Chair

i. Proposed Suspension and Closure of the BHS Physical Therapy (PHTH-BHS)

Smith explained the proposal. The Chair solicited questions of fact from SC. It was clarified that this was a compound motion to suspend and close. The Chair stated that the motion on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the College of Health Sciences request to suspend and close the Bachelors of Health Sciences Physical Therapy program. Because the **motion** came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was debate on the proposal. There was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

ii. Proposed Changes to Undergraduate Certificate in Nutrition for Human Performance

Smith explained the proposal. The Chair solicited questions of fact from SC. Associate Professor of Clinical Nutrition Travis Thomas confirmed that faculty feedback was positive from the three collaborating colleges. The Chair stated that the motion on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the College of Health Sciences request to change the grade requirements for the Undergraduate Certificate in Nutrition for Human Performance to be consistent with University of Kentucky Senate requirements for undergraduate certificates. Because the **motion** came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was debate on the proposal. There was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

The Chair noted that she had inadvertently skipped an agenda item but would return to it after the SAASC report was completed. There were no objections to this plan.

iii. Proposed Changes to JD and Senate Rules 5.3.4.1 ("Attendance and Academic Discipline in the Professional Programs," College of Law")

Smith explained the proposal. The Chair solicited questions of fact from SC. Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Douglas Michael confirmed that the rule would be effective for fall 2020 and there is still a mechanism for suspension for students with poor performance. The Chair stated that the motion on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the College of Law request to provide for probation and suspension, rather than dismissal and readmission, and to incorporate additional graduation requirements. Existing *SR 5.3.4.1.1* Exclusion of Poor Scholarship and Readmission (and subparagraphs *5.3.4.1.1.1* through *5.3.4.1.1.6*) would be replaced by the proposed *SR 5.3.4.1.1* Probation, Suspension, and Required Repetition of Courses (and subparagraphs *5.3.4.1.1.1* through *5.3.4.1.1.3*). Because the **motion** came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was debate on the proposal. There was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

3. Proposed Changes to Senate Rules 1.4.3.4 ("Senate Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee (SRWAC)")

Neither guest was present, so the Chair moved to the next series of committee reports.

b. Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) – Aaron Cramer, Chair

i. Proposed New Plan B Option for MS Plant Pathology

Cramer explained the proposal. The Chair solicited questions of fact from SC and there were none. The Chair stated that the motion on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the significant change to the MS: Plant Pathology, in the Department of Plant Pathology within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Because the **motion** came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was debate on the proposal. There was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

ii. [significant change] Proposed Change to Master of Music

Cramer explained the proposal. The Chair solicited questions of fact from SC and there were none. The Chair stated that the motion on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the significant change to the Master of Music, in the School of Music within the College of Fine Arts. Because the **motion** came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was debate on the proposal. There was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

iii. Proposed Change to Doctor of Musical Arts

Cramer explained the proposal. The Chair solicited questions of fact from SC and there were none. The Chair stated that the motion on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the significant change to the Doctor of Musical Arts, in the School of Music within the College of Fine Arts. Because the **motion** came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was debate on the proposal. There was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

iv. Proposed New USP between the BS Agricultural Economics and Master's of Public Administration (MPA)

Cramer explained the proposal. The Chair solicited questions of fact from SC and there were none. The Chair stated that the motion on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the establishment of a new University Scholars Program: BS Agricultural Economics, in the Department of Agricultural Economics within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, and Master of Public Administration, in the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration. Because the **motion** came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was debate on the proposal. There was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

v. Proposed New MA Liberal Studies

Cramer explained the proposal. The Chair solicited questions of fact from SC and there were none. The Chair stated that the motion on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the proposed new MA Liberal Studies within the College of Arts and Sciences. Because the **motion** came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was debate on the proposal. There was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

c. Senate's Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC) – Zack Bray, Chair

i. Proposed Move of BSHPS in Plant and Soil Science from Department of Plant and Soil Science to Department of Horticulture

Bray explained the proposal. The Chair solicited questions of fact from SC and there were none. The Chair stated that the motion on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the change in ownership of the BSHPS degree from the Department of Plant and Soil Science (PSS) to the Department of Horticulture (HORT). Because the **motion** came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was debate on the proposal. There was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

3. Proposed Changes to Senate Rules 1.4.3.4 ("Senate Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee (SRWAC)")

The Chair suggested moving forward with the discussion and ask Assistant Provost for Student and Academic Support Adrienne McMahan to attend the next SC meeting if there are questions for her. The Chair explained the proposed change to add a representative from the Provost's Committee on Advising to SRWAC. SRWAC Chair James Donovan shared that the committee voted, and they are not in opposition to the additional member. There was concern that the additional member be aware of confidentiality.

Since there were questions about the purpose of adding a new member, SC asked to hear from McMahan before moving forward. Those present agreed to defer discussion until McMahan could attend.

5. COVID-19 Ongoing Policy Discussions

The Chair expressed her gratitude for SC's input. She shared that the Provost is also very proud and happy with the work SC is doing. The administration has emphasized the importance that the University Senate is the voice of the faculty and they are checking in with the Chair and Senate as much as possible. The Provost requested SC wait to make decisions regarding grading until administration receives feedback from the Deans. The Chair and Cramer will be meeting with the Provost's Council meeting and will be gathering information.

The Chair reminded SC of the conversation on March 13th SC meeting about upcoming Senate meetings. SC will meet electronically on the Senate dates and act on their behalf. SC will share the agenda and solicit input from Senate before the meeting. The Chair explained that the reason for SC acting on the behalf of the Senate is because it is not feasible to hold a Senate meeting via video conference. The law states that public meetings must be suspended if any voting member loses connection and there are significantly fewer SC members than Senate. The Chair will send Senate an email explaining this and give them a chance to raise objections.

The Chair informed SC that the Colleges of Dentistry and Pharmacy have let her know they are planning to submit calendar changes (specifically graduation dates) to SC so students can still graduate. SC discussed the possibility and is supportive. There was discussion about the possibility of more colleges requesting a later date. University Registrar Kim Taylor's preference is to have only one additional spring 2020 commencement date that would be the same for all colleges who need it. The originally scheduled commencement date will remain for all programs who do not need an alternate date.

The Chair asked SC for their thoughts about various aspects of the recent decisions regarding pass/fail grading. There was a very lengthy discussion. SC members agreed that the decision for a class to be pass/fail should be made by students, but only after careful guidance from their advisor. There was a strong sentiment that advisor input would be critically important for helping students make good decisions about opting for pass/fail grading. SC noted that there could be potential problems with accrediting agencies and graduation requirements if all courses were made pass/fail as a blanket policy across the University. SC also agreed it is good that the departments decide to opt in or out of pass/fail grading for the same reasons. There was much discussion of different scenarios that students may face as a result of pass/fail grading. The Chair shared that she will give a brief summary of the SC's discussion to the Provost's Council the next day.

Grossman made a motion to adjourn. Hamilton seconded. The motion passed with none opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Bird-Pollan,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Andrade, Bird-Pollan, Blonder, Brion, Cantrell, Charnigo, Collett, Cramer, Grossman, Hall, Hamilton, Richardson, Shaikh, Soult, and Vincent.

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Invited guests present: Carmen Agouridis, Kim Anderson, Anna Bosch, Zack Bray, Sheila Brothers, Roger Brown, Rudolph Buchheit, Janet Carver, Jacob Coleman, Jeff Clymer, Jim Donovan, Richard Durham, Larry Holloway, Davy Jones, David McNear, Doug Michael, Jennifer Siebenthaler, Bill Smith, Kim Taylor, Travis Thomas, Annie Davis Weber, Courtney Wheeler.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on April 13, 2020.