

Senate Council
November 18, 2019

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, November 18, 2019 in 103 Main Building. 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 3:00 pm. The Chair welcomed those present.

1. Minutes from October 28, 2019 and Announcements

The Chair thanked everyone who came to the Council on Postsecondary (CPE) meeting with CPE President Aaron Thompson.

The Chair informed SC that there are no updates regarding the strategic plan, but she will share information as it becomes available.

The Chair informed SC of an upcoming request from the Registrar's Office that will be to change the application deadline for Summer/August graduation to April 1st.

The Chair informed SC that the President's Office has approved the purchase of a new laptop for the SC Office. Also, the SC Office is researching a new polling system to use at University Senate meetings because the current clicker system software for voting is no longer supported.

The Chair reported that an edit was received and implemented for the set of minutes from November 4, 2019. There being **no objections**, the minutes from November 4, 2019 were **approved** as amended by **unanimous consent**.

2. Committee Reports

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

i. Proposed Name Change of the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling to the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Counselor Education

Bray, chair of the Senate's Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC), described the proposal.

The Chair solicited questions of fact from SC and there were a few. The Chair then stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the SAOSC that the University Senate approve the proposed name change of the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling to the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Counselor Education. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. Guest Davy Jones commented that the motion would need to be for endorsement and not approval because the Senate only recommends the name change, not approves it. Bray indicated that SAOSC members would consider the change to the motion language. The Chair asked if there was debate on the motion. There was much discussion among some SC members about whether or not the proposed name correctly and grammatically described the department. Department Chair of Department of Early Childhood, Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling Ralph Crystal (ED) answered questions from SC about the name change. Crystal agreed to confirm the name change with unit faculty and inform SC if they would prefer any of the names suggested by SC members. There was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion to endorse **passed** with none opposed.

b. Senate's Academic Facilities Committee (SAFC) – Chris Pool, Chair

i. Proposed Changes to Senate Rules 1.4.2.3 (“Senate's Academic Facilities Committee (SAFC)”)

Pool, chair of the Senate’s Academic Facilities Committee (SAFC), described the proposal.

The Chair solicited questions of fact from SC and Pool answered some questions about what issues the SAFC has met about recently. When there was no more discussion, the Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the SAFC that the University Senate approve striking the second sentence of *Senate Rule 1.4.2.3*, which reads, “In this regard, it shall be concerned about such matters as classrooms, buildings and grounds, shops and other such real property, audio-visual and television equipment, computers, duplication and printing facilities, vehicle pools, and scientific and musical instruments.”. 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 thanked Pool and the SAFC for reaching out to administration to become more involved. Pool mentioned that the SAFC is considering conducting a senator survey to see what ideas they have and what needs are most critical. The Chair asked that the survey questions be reviewed by SC before sending them out to senators, which could be done on December 2 if Pool wanted an announcement made to senators at the December Senate meeting

3. Clarification of College of Engineering’s Freshmen Admissions Criteria

The Chair described a request from the College of Engineering to clarify admission criteria for freshman. She explained that the contact person was unable to attend but the Chair thought the SC might be able to review the proposal without the contact person being present. There were many questions of fact. Brion **moved**, on behalf of the University Senate, to allow the College of Engineering to clarify the admission criteria for freshman by changing the language in the Bulletin from, “Eligibility to enter MA 110 based on the UK Proctored Math Department Placement Exam.” to “A score of 61% or above on the Proctored ALEKS Math Placement Exam.”. Hamilton **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

Grossman noted that when the College of Engineering requirements for admission criteria for freshmen were approved last year, that *SR 4.2.2.10* should have been updated to reflect this change (in addition to the Bulletin) and was not. Grossman **moved** to ask the College of Engineering to draft language to update *SR 4.2.2.10* to reflect the requirements for admission criteria for freshmen and submit it to Senate’s Rules and Elections Committee (SREC). Collett **seconded**. There was some debate. When there was no more debate a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

4. Planning for 2019-20 Faculty Evaluation of the President

The Chair informed SC that due to the discussion at the Senate meeting on November 11, 2019 and the anticipated feedback from the Board of Trustees (BOT) that the faculty response rate was low, this agenda item (Planning for the 2019-20 Faculty Evaluation of the President) was added. A memo was distributed to SC from Ms. Brothers that included collected feedback for improving survey response rates for the SC’s faculty evaluation of the President.

There were a number of suggestions from SC to increase the response rate of the upcoming survey including: incentive for participation, targeted reminders, including past survey results, and graphs. There was also discussion about reviewing and analyzing comments from the survey.

The Chair noted that three new SC members would be joining the SC in January and that it might make sense to ask the work group that runs the survey to start working on these issues in January, rather than later in the spring semester. There were no objections to her suggestion.

5. Phased Retirement Survey Results

The Chair shared the results from the phased retirement survey with SC. The consensus was that faculty employees who enter phased retirement while serving on the Senate should be permitted to finish their terms and faculty employees on phased retirement should not be permitted to run for Senate. The Chair noted that these answers still leave open many questions, such as whether newly elected senators who go on phased retirement would be allowed to serve the majority of their term while on phased retirement and if senators on phased retirement would be eligible to serve on the SC. There was much discussion about whether the proposed changes should be reflected in the *Administrative Regulations (ARs)*, *Senate Rules (SRs)*, or both. There was also some support for the suggestion that the Chair inform President Capilouto about an ad hoc group to review possible changes to the *SRs* about allowing senators on phased retirement to continue to serve and ask the President if he thought the pertinent *AR* (AR 3:2 (“Phased Retirement Policy and Program”)) needed to be changed, too.

Regarding the results of the survey of senators, Cramer suggested that if the Chair discussed the survey with others, she make it clear that senators were asked to consult with their colleagues prior to completing the survey, which means the number of responses does not accurately reflect the level of feedback.

Grossman **moved** to create an ad hoc committee to formulate a proposal that would address the questions that were raised and suggest rule changes. Brion **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

SC members discussed the composition of the committee and determined that faculty membership would include Grossman (Chair), Collett, and Vincent. SC members asked the Chair to request that a specific member of the Legal Counsel Office be asked to serve as an ex officio nonvoting member.

6. Senate Meeting Roundtable

The Chair solicited comments from SC members about the November 11, 2019 Senate meeting. Below are various comments.

7. Items from the Floor

The Chair shared that she is planning to send out an email to senators who have missed all three Senate meetings this fall. There was broad support for this sort of communication.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Bird-Pollan,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Bird-Pollan, Blonder, Collett, Cramer, Cross, Grossman, Hall, Osterhage, Sout, and Vincent.

Invited guests present: Zack Bray, Sheila Brothers, Ralph Crystal, Larry Holloway, Chris Pool, Annie Weber.

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Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on Thursday, November 21, 2019.