

Senate Council
November 2, 2020

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, November 2, 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 Aaron Cramer (EN) called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:01 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 October 19, 2020 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the set of minutes from October 19, 2020. There being **no objections**, the minutes for October 19, 2020 were **approved by unanimous consent**.

The Chair reported that he met with Provost David Blackwell and Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Eric Monday. They discussed work being done at the presidential level regarding work-life. The Chair invited Provost Blackwell to describe a request to SC about work-life.

Provost Blackwell reported that Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Eric Monday and he were charged to conduct interviews in each college about managing work-life responsibilities during the pandemic. Representatives from the Office for Faculty Advancement and Human Resources conducted these interviews with academic leaders in each college. All comments were documented and an executive summary including five major themes was created. President Capilouto charged his direct reports to circulate the summary and identify their area's top five needs which will be shared with University leadership. The Provost asked SC to look at the executive summary and identify their top five priorities. He noted that the SC Chair shared SC's draft summary of the COVID-19 pandemic in Fall 2020 survey and there is some overlap with the executive summary.

Provost Blackwell took questions. The SC Chair commented that the executive summary should be considered separately from SC's since they had different questions. He also confirmed with Provost Blackwell that the executive summary may be distributed to SC for their consideration. The Provost encouraged SC to think about specific faculty issues this fall that will still be there in the spring and said he would make sure their issues are heard by deans and elsewhere moving forward. There was discussion about the University's collaboration with Fayette County Schools. Also, it was noted that the executive summary was focused on administration, but the SC survey was directed at faculty.

The Chair reported that he and several other Senate-related individuals (Corrine Williams (HS), Leslie Vincent (BE), Alan Brown (AS), and Alberto Corso (AS)) participated in the second of two, day-long workshops with Gray Associates. He credited Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) members Brown and Corso for going above what they were asked to do and asking good questions at the workshop. He explained that during the first day of training they focused on data and during the second day they reviewed inventory of undergraduate degree programs. The programs were put in "buckets" of sustain, grow, fix, and sunset. He noted that extremely few were recommended to sunset and almost everything else fell into sustain or grow. There was also discussion about reporting programs using color codes to the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE). This was the conclusion of workshops with Gray Associates. Vice Provost Larry Holloway added that the metrics being used were proposed by the University of Kentucky and University of Louisville to CPE in order to be more appropriate for research universities.

The Chair reported that he attended a UK Core Education Committee (UKCEC) meeting. He noted that they had good discussion and he has a better understanding of their issues.

2. Old Business

a. Impact of Administrative Reorganization on Senate Activities

The Chair explained that ex-officio members on some of Senate's committees that are named in the *Senate Rules (SRs)* have changed or no longer exist. He brought this issue to the attention of President Capilouto and asked SC to think about engagement with the realigned administration. Other issues noted were academic courses that are housed in the Provost's Office and planning for future reorganizations. It was suggested that the Provost be named on some committees so he may designate a representative. The Chair asked SC to think about this issue and be ready for more conversations after Board of Trustee personnel actions occur.

3. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee (SRWAC) - Jim Donovan, Chair

i. 2019-20 Annual Report

Donovan (LA) went over the report and noted that requests did not go up this year, perhaps due to the ongoing COVID-19 environment. Also, he expects that the revised procedural rules will be approved.

He reported ongoing difficulties for applicants because of administrative reasons. There was clarification that the administrative reasons are often due to students who think they have withdrawn online for a semester but have not. He explained that this happens because the system will not drop a student's last course online. They must do it in person, but they aren't always aware of this. University Registrar Kim Taylor offered that going forward her office could identify these students and communicate with them.

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

i. Proposed Change to *Senate Rules (SR)* for Gatton College of Business and Economics (Add New "Direct Admissions" Section)

Bird-Pollan (LA) went over the proposal to allow direct admission into upper-division for incoming, first-time freshmen meeting the Gatton Direct Admit Program standards. Associate Dean for Undergraduate Affairs Jennifer Siebenthaler clarified that incoming freshman must still follow the same prerequisite requirements as all other current students and that seats for graduating seniors are protected. She also noted that analysis was done to ensure that the admission of freshman would not have a negative impact on diversity. 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 SAASC to approve the proposed change to *SR 4.2.2.9.1.1* to allow direct admission into upper-division for incoming, first-time freshmen meeting the Gatton Direct Admit Program standards for Gatton College of Business and Economics. 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 and one abstained.

4. Update on Summer Pilot for Badges - Associate Provost of Teaching, Learning, and Academic Innovation Kathi Kern

The Chair reminded SC of their previous approval of the summer badge pilot that was done in the interest of summer enrollment. He welcomed Associate Provost of Teaching, Learning, and Academic Innovation Kathi Kern for an update on the pilot.

Kern expressed her appreciation for SC's trust and flexibility to try the pilot for badges and University Registrar Kim Taylor for her work to get the vendor in place for them. She shared the report of badges earned over the summer and emphasized that there would need to be faculty leadership if there was interest in continuing with the badge program. The Chair noted that a more tangible definition of what a badge is would be needed if the program goes forward.

The floor was opened for questions. There was clarification that the badges do not appear on the student transcripts and that badge requirements usually consist of two to four courses that are determined by faculty. There was discussion about badges being used as a marketing tool and the possibility of badges leading students to earn certificates and degrees. Although student feedback about badges were generally positive, it was noted that more data is needed going forward.

Taylor gave a brief overview of how the badge system works and how employers can use badges to search for individuals with specific skill sets. She noted that UK recently signed a contract with Credly, a badge vendor, that students use to display earned badges. The service is free for students, but the university pays a yearly fee.

There was no objection to investigating badges further. SC agreed to participate with Kern's group working on the future of badges at UK.

5. COVID Ongoing Discussion

a. Soliciting Opinions from University Community

The Chair reminded SC of their previous discussion about next steps in making recommendations based on the responses from senators regarding COVID-related concerns. He explained that SC's recommendations were compiled into a summary and asked them to go through the summary to address concerns. SC reviewed the document and had the following suggestions and concerns.

Section 1 - Compliance with Covid-19 Safety Protocols (Faculty)

- Education on proper mask usage. This information could be included on one of President Capilouto's email communications.

Section 3 - Faculty Workload (Faculty)

- There was discussion about possible Senate endorsement of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) statement about faculty choice of course modalities. Since this is a Senate related item, it does not need to be listed in the summary.
- The wording of 3.b. should be clear that it is the instructor's decision whether remote participation is appropriate for an in-person course.
- The wording of issue 3.f. should be changed to, "Special Concerns for Promotion Eligible Faculty, Tenure Track Faculty, and NonTenured Faculty".
- Change the proposed solution wording of 3.g. to, "Create a mechanism for expedited leave to help colleagues".

Section 6 - Compliance with Safety Protocols (Students)

- Correct numbering.
- The wording of 6.d. should be changed to, "Encourage safety during any break".
- Student members agreed to rewrite 6.b. (Currently 6.c.).

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Section 8 - Student Interactions with Faculty (Students)

- The proposed solution wording of 8.c. should be changed to, "Suggest/demand instructors publish syllabi at least 5 days before classes start".

The Chair said he would send the revised document to SC for comments and once completed, send to President Capilouto and Provost Blackwell.

6. Tentative University Agenda for November 9, 2020

The Chair noted that survey results from senators regarding COVID-related concerns would not be included on the agenda unless recommendations are finalized. Vincent (BE) **moved** to approve the proposed tentative agenda for November 9, 2020 and Andrade (ME) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken on the motion to approve the tentative Senate agenda for November 9, 2020 and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

7. University Calendars

- a. 2021 - 2022 Calendar
- b. 2023 - 2024 Calendar, Tentative
- c. 2021 - 2022 Dentistry
- d. 2023 - 2024 Dentistry, Tentative
- e. 2021 - 2022 Law
- f. 2023 - 2024 Law, Tentative
- g. 2021 - 2022 Medicine
- h. 2023 - 2024 Medicine, Tentative
- i. 2021 - 2022 Pharmacy
- j. 2023 - 2024 Pharmacy, Tentative

The Chair reported that the proposed calendars were sent via SC listserv to them prior to the meeting for consideration. He explained that some of the questions on the listserv about the proposed calendars are due to the outstanding calendar proposal that was approved by SC during the spring that has not been voted on yet by Senate.

The floor was opened for questions. University Registrar Kim Taylor addressed a concern about inconsistency of dates for the 2021-2022 winter intersession calendar. There was extensive discussion about reading days and dead days that were not included in the winter intersession or summer session calendars. There was also discussion about what is in the *Senate Rules (SRs)* regarding reading days and dead days. Taylor emphasized the need for expediency in finalizing the Fall 2021 calendar.

Brion (EN) **moved** to approve the proposed Fall 2021 calendar. Vincent (BE) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

The Chair asked if there were any objections to tabling the other calendars until the concerns were addressed at the next meeting and there were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
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SC members present: Andrade, Bird-Pollan, Blonder, Brion, Cantrell, Collett, Cramer, Kuhnlein, Sout, Swanson, Vincent, and Williams.

Guests present: Sheila Brothers, Roger Brown, Bob Grossman, Larry Holloway, Davy Jones, Kathi Kern, Jennifer Siebenthaler, and Kim Taylor.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on November 18, 2020.