

Senate Council  
October 7, 2019

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, October 7, 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 3:01 pm. The Chair welcomed those present.

1. Minutes from September 30, 2019 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits had been received for the set of minutes from September 30, 2019. There being **no objections**, the minutes from September 30, 2019 were **approved** as distributed by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair informed SC that the meeting scheduled for October 21, 2019 may be canceled due to quorum not being met. If anything changes, SC will be informed.

The Chair shared an update from Bill Smith (EN/Electrical and Computer Engineering), chair of the Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC). It lists the items that were held over from SAASC last year that they are currently working on. The Chair expressed her gratitude to Smith for chairing the committee.

The Chair reminded SC that the Board of Trustees (BOT) Retreat is next Thursday and Friday. Invitations will be going out to 20 faculty nominees of the 60 that were sent forward .

The Chair announced that the top three nominees that were sent forward by SC for the President's Evaluation were selected by the President's Office. Invitations will be going out to them soon. She will share more information once it becomes available.

2. Old Business

a. Phased Retirement Survey for Members of the University Senate.

The Chair informed SC that she met with Chief of Staff Bill Swinford. The President's Office remains reluctant about establishing different rules for different categories of employee trustees regarding service while on phased retirement, which is currently prohibited. The most recent survey draft was passed out to SC with their previously suggested revisions. There was discussion about more edits to the survey, specifically whether or not to include questions about faculty on phased retirement serving as trustee.

Grossman made a **motion** to remove the questions about trustees from the survey. Cramer **seconded**. There was extensive discussion. A **vote** was taken and four voted in favor and four voted against. In the case of a tie, the Chair casts the deciding vote. The Chair voted in **favor** of removing the survey questions about trustees, noting that if Collett had been present, she would have voted against the motion, given the opinions she expressed via email the night before

There was additional discussion. Vincent **moved** to place the narrative questions after the demographic questions but before the questions asked on the Likert scale. Brion **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

The Chair asked SC to send any further edits to her to be incorporated into the survey. The survey will be added to the next Senate meeting agenda as an announcement.

Given the number of invited guests, the Chair invited those present to introduce themselves.

b. Pre-Planning for the SACSCOC 10 Year Reaffirmation Report

Assistant Provost for Strategic Planning & Institutional Effectiveness Annie Davis Weber informed SC that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) 10 year reaffirmation report is due in fall 2020. Weber informed SC about Academic Standard 10.4, which addresses academic governance and asked questions for them to consider pertaining to the standard. Planning and Accreditation Coordinator RaeAnne Pearson also participated. Davis Weber asked SC for their comments and concerns. There was discussion about the answers to questions from the previous reaffirmation.

During discussion, a question arose regarding Senate's responsibilities regarding review of programs. The Chair noted that the *Senate Rules* describe program review responsibilities for the Undergraduate Council and other academic councils. There were a number of comments and questions about the program review process that is overseen by the Office of Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness.

When there was no further discussion, Weber commented that if SC members filled out the questions to consider and send their responses to her, she would value that input.

3. University Calendars

The Chair explained that the SC regularly had the responsibility to approve the University's academic calendars. Before SC members today was the final version of next year's calendars [2020-2021], as well as the tentative calendars for [2021-22]. Next year, the SC would be asked to approve the following year's final academic calendar [2021-22].

University Registrar Kim Taylor presented the calendars for the upcoming years. Some of the highlights included starting the fall semester on a Monday, fall break, registration dates, and orientation.

There was discussion about the feasibility of starting the spring semester on a Monday. Grossman made a **motion** to create an ad hoc committee to review starting the spring semester on a Monday and Soult seconded. The Chair noted that the Senate Rules charge the SC or an ad hoc committee identified by the SC should review the academic calendar on a yearly basis. Grossman suggested that the two extra days could be used as reading days, when students would not have any classes and could prepare for finals week. After some discussion, Grossman **modified his motion** to instead ask the Senate Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (SAPPC) review starting the spring semester on a Monday. Soult **seconded**. After some discussion, including comments from Guest Kim Taylor (registrar) about most calendars at most universities being one day short of national standards, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed**.

Taylor informed SC that the calendars are coming to them earlier this year and a five-year instructional calendar has been developed for reference.

Grossman **moved** to approve the following calendars: 2020-2021; 2022-2023 Tentative; 2020-2021 Dentistry; 2022-2023 Dentistry, Tentative; 2020-2021 Law; 2022-2023 Law Tentative; 2020-2021 Medicine; 2022-2023 Medicine Tentative; 2020-2021 Pharmacy; 2022-2023 Pharmacy Tentative; Cramer **seconded**. There was no discussion. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed**.

#### 4. Committee Reports

##### a. Senate's Library Committee (SLC) – Debra Chung, Chair

The Chair welcomed SLC Chair Debra Chung (CI/School of Journalism and Media). Chung reported that she has met with the new Dean of Libraries Doug Way and the SLC will be reviewing applications again this year for the Alternative Textbook Grant. There was some discussion about the grant. Soult shared that she has received the grant in the past and used the money for software and salary support for summer work on the software. Grossman suggested providing more statistics for the October Senate report. Chung responded that she has the report from two years ago that she can share. Osterhage commented that she has received the grant before and it has saved millions. The Chair thanked Chung for the report.

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

###### i. Proposed New PhD Arts Administration

Cramer, chair of the Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC), described the proposal.

The Chair solicited questions of fact from SC and there were some

The Chair asked if there were further questions of fact, but 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 PhD degree: Arts Administration, in the Department of Arts Administration 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.

##### c. Senate's Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee (SRWAC) – James Donovan, Chair

###### i. Report for 2018-19

The Chair welcomed James Donovan (LA), chair of the Senate's Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee (SRWAC). Donovan explained that the number of appeals has continued to increase. The SRWAC has submitted proposed rule changes to the Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC). Highlights of the changes include higher standards for partial withdrawals, elimination of waivers, and extending the time limit from two to three years to file an application.

Donovan responded to questions from SC members. It was noted that someone with medical knowledge would be helpful when reviewing medical withdrawals, but it is not always possible to find a faculty member with that skill set who is willing to serve on that committee. The Chair thanked Donovan for the report and noted the report would be on the Senate agenda for October.

##### d. Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) – DeShana Collett, Chair

###### i. Recommendation Regarding *Senate Rules 5.1.8.2.1, 2 and 3* ("Unilateral Withdrawal," "Time Period")

The Chair welcomed guest Davy Jones (ME/Toxicology and Cancer Biology) who was filling in for SREC Chair DeShana Collett. Jones shared the SREC recommendation regarding *Senate Rules 5.1.8.2.1, 2 and 3* ("Unilateral Withdrawal," "Time Period"). The SREC recommended to SC that the issue be referred to the Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) as a policy matter. There was some discussion, with the Chair noting that the SAASC already had many proposals under review. Grossman commented that the SC could approve the policy matter and refer it back to the SREC for codification. There were a handful of comments.

Grossman made a **motion** that the SREC be given authority to rewrite *SR 5.1.8.2.1* to reflect the Registrar's current practice calculating 70% of the time of the course expired as the deadline for unilateral withdrawal in any term. Brion **seconded**. Questions of fact were answered. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

ii. Recommendation Regarding *Senate Rules 5.4.2.2* ("Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors")

Jones shared the SREC recommendation regarding *Senate Rules 5.4.2.2* ("Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors"). The University has three professional degrees with honors: Pharmacy, Law, and Dentistry. Pharmacy and Law use the cum laude series and Dentistry has college honors of "Distinction" and "High Distinction." Jones explained that the SREC was suggesting that the SC review the types of graduation honors that are appropriate for a given degree program.

The Chair explained that she had a conversation with Dean Christian Brady of the Lewis Honors College in which he asked if SC would consider an ad hoc committee to consider the honors issue writ large. With the participation of Vice Provost Larry Holloway, SC discussed possible committee compositions and how to make a committee as representative as possible without having one member from each college. Holloway commented that in terms of representation, it might be sufficient to just ensure that no one college was overrepresented.

The Chair suggested that the matter be discussed again at the next SC meeting, when current committee compositions could be shared with SC members, to help in identifying a representational Senate committee to charge with this issue. There were no objections.

Noting the time, the Chair suggested deferring further discussion on this and the other SREC item until the next SC meeting because of time constraints and there were no objections.

5. Tentative Senate Agenda for October 14, 2019

The Chair went over the tentative Senate Agenda for October 14, 2019. Soutl made a **motion** to approve the agenda. Cramer **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. Items from the Floor

There were no items from the floor.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Bird-Pollan,  
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Bird-Pollan, Brion, Cramer, Cross, Hall, Eastham, Grossman, Osterhage, Soutl, and Vincent.

Invited guests present: Sheila Brothers, Debra Chung, Jim Donovan, Davy Jones, RaeAnne Pearson, Rachel Shane, Kim Taylor, Annie Davis Weber

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on Friday, October 11, 2019.