

Senate Council  
April 5, 2021

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, April 5, 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.

The Chair asked if there were objections to adding the agenda item “Nominees for IT Advisory Council”. There were **no objections**.

1. Minutes from March 29, 2021 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the set of minutes from March 29, 2021. There being **no objections**, the set of minutes from March 29, 2021 were **approved by unanimous consent**.

The Chair asked SC to provide input to him by the close of business on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> about their preference for having an in-person or virtual SC summer retreat.

The Chair reminded SC of the motion to discuss *SR Section 7* at the May Senate meeting and that he is to describe the problem to Senate. He reported that in order to be better informed, he has scheduled a meeting with General Counsel Bill Thro and Deputy General Counsel Cliff Iler to convey Legal Counsel’s opinion about *SR Section 7*. Any learned information from the meeting will be shared with SC, prior to May Senate discussion.

The Chair reported that the general preference for Fall 2021 teaching modalities is to be as close to normal as possible, but it was acknowledged that there may be instances that require accommodations. He explained that he is working on a compromise framework with the Provost’s Office for faculty who are not comfortable teaching in-person this fall. He will share more information with SC as it becomes available.

The Chair reported that there has been discussion in the Coalition of Faculty Senate Leadership (COSFL) listserv about Gray Associates’ activity to evaluate the undergraduate programs in the state. Melissa Bell of the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) appears uninclined to meet with COSFL or Gray Associates. He will continue to keep SC informed of any updates.

Bird-Pollan (LA) asked the Chair if there were any updates about a potential requirement for students to be vaccinated for the Fall 2021 semester. The Chair reported that he is not aware of any push toward mandatory student vaccinations and asked SC for their thoughts about this. Swanson (ME) shared that since the Covid vaccine does not have full FDA approval, it cannot be required. There was discussion about the Senate’s authority in the matter and what “normal” will mean for the Fall 2021 semester.

2. Proposed Nonstandard Course Calendar for AT 640

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Education Karen Badger (HS) explained the proposal for the course AT 640 to begin two weeks early in the fall semester, in perpetuity. The floor was opened for questions. Program Director of the Professional Masters in Athletic Training Johanna Hoch clarified that the proposal is for two weeks and not one as stated in the proposal. There was also clarification that the program faculty are on eleven-month contracts. Kuhnlein (SGA) **moved to approve**

the proposed nonstandard course calendar for AT 640 with the noted revision of two weeks. Vincent (BE) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed. Badger confirmed that she would send the corrected proposal to the SC Office.

### 3. Proposed Nonstandard Course Calendar for GEN 300

Associate Professor David McNear explained the proposal for GEN 300 to begin the Fall 2021 semester two weeks early. McNear confirmed that the course is two credit hours and that there is a proposed new course in Curriculog that will be coming back to SC again to request an early start in perpetuity. There was also discussion about awareness of socioeconomic barriers for students and the brief overlap of the course with the summer semester. Vincent (BE) **moved** to approve the proposed nonstandard course calendar for GEN 300 for Summer 2021. Collett (HS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

### 4. Request for Extension of Badge Pilot

Associate Provost of Teaching, Learning, and Academic Innovation Kathi Kern explained the request to extend the digital badge pilot. She shared that a digital badge workgroup is exploring guidance for the future of a digital badging program and President Capilouto has encouraged the workgroup's efforts. She also offered detailed information about what digital badges are and their importance to students and the University. Vincent (BE), who is serving as the SC representative in the workgroup, added that they are researching governance and process for establishing digital badges. She also noted that digital badges at UK have been driven by faculty and that many are interdisciplinary. The Chair asked Kern if there were any concerns about asking faculty in the units that are offering the courses for digital badges to approve the digital badges and she did not have any concerns. The Chair asked if there were any concerns about bringing the digital badge pilot extension request to Senate in the April meeting and there were no concerns. Grossman (AS) suggested using the digital badge program implementation as part of the new Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

Grossman (AS) **moved** for SC to recommend that Senate approve the extension of the Digital Badge Program Pilot. Cantrell (ED) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was debate and there was discussion about the timeline of the pilot. Oltmann (CI) **moved** to amend the motion by adding that the Digital Badge Program Pilot is extended until the end of the 2021 calendar year. Cantrell (ED) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was debate and there was none. A vote was taken and the amendment **passed** with none opposed and one abstained. The Chair asked if there was any other debate on the motion and there was discussion about the approval of badge content. A vote was taken and the amended motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

### 5. Committee Reports

#### a. Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) - Leslie Vincent, Chair

##### i. Proposed Significant Change to MS Data Science

Vincent explained the proposed significant change to the MS Data Science. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there were none. The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the SAPC that the University Senate approve a significant change to the MS Data Science in the Department of Computer Science within the College of Engineering. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was any debate on the proposal and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

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6. Request from College of Engineering for Expedited Review of Proposed Deletion of *Senate Rules 10.5.1.3* ("Academic Probation, Suspension, and Dismissal Policies for Particular Programs," "College of Engineering")

Associate Dean for Administration and Academic Affairs Kim Anderson explained the proposed deletion of *SR 10.5.1.3* "Academic Probation, Suspension, and Dismissal Policies for Particular Programs" for the College of Engineering. There were no questions. Grossman (AS) **moved** to approve the expedited review process and recommend that Senate approve the proposed deletion of the *SR 10.5.1.3*, College of Engineering "Academic Probation, Suspension, and Dismissal Policies" effective Fall 2021. Duncan (ME) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate on the proposal and there was none. It was noted that the proposal document would be revised to remove an "error message." A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

7. Nominees for IT Advisory Council

SC members discussed and agreed upon nominees for the IT Advisory Council.

8. Tentative Senate Agenda for April 12, 2021

Corrections and additions were noted. Kuhnlein (SGA) **moved** to approve the proposed tentative Senate agenda with the noted corrections and additions for April 12, 2021. Grossman (AS) seconded. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed

9. Items from the Floor

There was brief discussion of possible questions to ask President Capilouto if he attends the April Senate meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 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, Oltmann, Swanson, Vincent, Wheeler, and Williams.

Guests present: Kim Anderson, Karen Badger, Anna Bosch, Roger Brown, Annie Davis Weber, Joanie Ett-Mims, Johanna Hock, Larry Holloway, Nathan Jacobs, Davy Jones, Kathi Kern, David McNear, and Kim Taylor.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on April 7, 2021.