

Senate Council
April 13, 2021

The Senate Council met in a specially called session at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, April 13, 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 4:00 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.

1. Discussion and Possible Action on Graduate School Dean Search

The Chair explained that the meeting was called to discuss the Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education and Graduate School Dean search, possible SC actions in response to the recent announcement of only one finalist for the position being offered to campus, and if the issue should be referred to the University Senate. He opened the floor for questions and comments. SC members discussed the last few steps in the search and noted that their concern related to the process, not the final candidate. There was consensus that the search committee deserved appreciation for a job well done, but the administrative act of presenting one finalist to campus, particularly for an internal search, was inappropriate.

Grossman (AS) **moved** the SC request that the Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education and Graduate School Dean search be halted and resumed when a new Provost is in place. Hall (GS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was discussion about possible timelines for identifying a new Provost. Several SC members commented that they wanted the search to only be halted until the candidate pool is expanded. A **vote** was taken and the motion **failed** with none in favor and eight opposed.

Trustee Blonder (ME) **moved** the SC request that the President and Provost refrain from making a decision on the Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education and Graduate School Dean search until the campus has had the opportunity to provide consultative feedback on multiple candidates publicly. Oltmann (CI) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was discussion of possible implications if no additional candidates were willing to participate. Oltmann (CI) **moved** to amend the motion to replace, "the campus has had the opportunity to provide consultative feedback on multiple candidates publicly" with, "additional candidates have been offered the opportunity to be candidates, publicly." Grossman (AS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was discussion about making sure that it is clear that SC's concern is about process and not the candidates themselves. One of the search committee co-chairs expressed concerns that SC's action could be interpreted by the sole finalist as a judgment on her capabilities. At the search committee co-chair's recommendation, SC expressed that the SC Chair should contact the sole finalist to indicate that this was not the case. Both search committee co-chairs were present, and neither expressed concerns that this would negatively affect the search. Similarly, the Vice Provost was present and also did not indicate concerns. A **vote** was taken and the amendment **passed** with six in favor and two opposed. The Chair asked if there was any debate on the amended motion. A **vote** was taken and the amended motion **passed** with seven in favor and one opposed.

SC discussed other possible topics to include in the communication and who should receive it in addition to the President and Provost. Grossman (AS) **moved** to refrain from communicating with the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees at this time. Vincent (BE) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any

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debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with five in favor and none opposed.

The Chair agreed to send a draft to SC with a short timeframe for their review.

Oltmann (CI) moved to adopt the course of action as described and directed SC Chair Cramer to prepare the letter as SC described it. Trustee Blonder (ME) seconded. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with six in favor and none opposed.

Grossman (AS) **moved** to adjourn. Trustee Blonder (ME) **seconded**. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Bird-Pollan, Blonder, Cantrell, Collett, Cramer, Duncan, Grossman, Hall, Kuhnlein, Oltmann, Swanson, and Vincent.

Guests present: Kim Anderson, Donna Arnett, John Balk, Susan Barron, Kalea Benner, Molly Blasing, Anna Bosch, Zachary Bray, Sheila Brothers, Roger Brown, Alberto Corso, Joanie Ett-Mims, Rebecca Freeman, Larry Holloway, Davy Jones, Robert Lorch, Sarah Lyon, Bryan Rymond, Richard Schein, Kay Shenoy, Mel Stein, Akiko Takenaka, and Tom Troland.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on April 15, 2021.