

Senate Council
March 29, 2021

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, March 29, 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.

1. Minutes from March 15 and March 22, 2021 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the sets of minutes from March 15 and March 22, 2021. There being **no objections**, the sets of minutes from March 15 and March 22, 2021 were **approved by unanimous consent**.

The Chair reported that Provost David Blackwell met with a number of different groups to share updates about the College of Arts and Sciences budget situation, audit findings, dean search progress, and his intention to reappoint the current acting dean, Christian Brady, for another two years. In order to fulfill *Governing Regulations (GR) VIII*, Provost Blackwell will be consulting with the College of Arts and Sciences Executive Committee about reappointment of the acting dean. The Chair noted that he attended one of the meetings and has had conversations with the College of Arts and Sciences Executive Committee Chair about the matter.

The Chair reminded SC of previous discussions about the three-year test-optional admissions pilot and reported that information about approval was sent out to the deans of colleges that have selective admissions requirements that depend on test scores. The Chair explained that a number of colleges that are listed as having selective admissions programs simply do not accept Academic Preparation and Placement (APP) and the only colleges that have test score selective admissions are Engineering and Nursing. He noted that Engineering has scheduled a faculty meeting to vote and approve criteria for test score selective admissions and the Provost is following up on about the matter with Nursing. It was suggested that programs should be asked to look at their admissions requirements and make sure that they are consistent with current practice.

The Chair reported that the three-year test-optional admissions pilot has prompted discussion between the Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) Chair and himself. SAASC has plans to broadly discuss admissions and consider Senate's authority over admissions rules. The Chair noted that Enrollment Management has suggested appropriate test optional criteria for the Colleges of Engineering and Nursing. There was discussion on the floor about the current process for identifying programs with selective admissions and University Registrar Kim Taylor explained how admission information is updated by Enrollment Management for the Bulletin.

The Chair informed SC that he responded to a request for guidance about a temporary modality change for what is normally a study abroad class (EAP 599) to be taught in the United States for Summer 2021. He advised the International Center that the temporary alternative modality change is considered necessary because of the pandemic.

The Chair reported that he had asked ITS about how faculty using Scantron were consulted when ITS decided to end support for it. ITS has reconsidered their decision to end support for Scantron after consulting with programs that use it.

The Chair reported that Katherine McCormick (ED/Department of Early Childhood, Special Education and Counselor Education) was recently named as the new Associate Provost of Planning and Assessment. He reminded SC that McCormick most recently served as Senior Presidential Faculty Fellow under Vice President for Student Success Kirsten Turner. He noted that this was after Student Success was carved from the Office of the Provost. He explained that in McCormick's new role her responsibilities include SACSCOC reaffirmation broadly and the Office of Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness. He also reported that although there were previous conversations between the Provost and Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) about educational policy issues related to undergraduate education, this does not appear to be part of McCormick's portfolio of responsibilities. The Chair noted that reaffirmation work requires great attention to detail as well as dedicated focus and wished her well in this activity on behalf of SC. In response to a question from Blonder, he opined that McCormick will primarily report to the Provost and not to Student Success, but he was not sure if McCormick would continue to serve as Senior Presidential Faculty Fellow. The Chair explained he requested an organizational chart from Vice President Turner, but he has not yet received one. Assistant Provost for Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Annie Davis Weber confirmed that McCormick will be the leader of the ten-year SACSCOC reaffirmation process.

The Chair reported growing interest from administration about UK Core as part of the reaffirmation process. He explained that UK was previously approved for differentiated review, an abbreviated review process, by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and UK Core assessment would not have been a part of this review. However, SACSCOC rescinded their approval of differentiated review, citing a lack of administrative training in the area of student organizations and insufficiency of the student organizations *Administrative Regulation (AR)* (Student Success). Last year's cheerleading scandal appears to be the impetus for this and as an additional consequence of differentiated review there is the sense that reaffirmation will delve deeply into assessment of UK Core. He noted that questions are expected to come up regarding why or how nonacademic considerations affect the core curricular mission of the University. He expressed his continuing willingness to have broader conversations about UK Core with the President.

The Chair reported ongoing issues with dual credit-related activities that involve Student Success, Enrollment Management, and the College of Education and its Center for Next Generation Leadership, the major challenge being that there seemed to be misunderstanding about the Senate's role in overseeing dual credit. He also reported having conversations with the College of Education and receiving a draft proposal to document Education's current activities around dual credit (as opposed to the dual credit activities originally approved by Senate), so that their current practices can be formally approved. He noted that Undergraduate Council is likely to request a simpler list of programmatic offerings for approval in the short term and SC should determine next steps to ensure appropriate governance of the program. There was clarification that the courses are taught by UK faculty and there was general discussion about dual credit.

In response to a question from Jones about communicating the Senate's responsibilities, the Chair noted that while he regularly communicates with various members of senior leadership, some areas of campus do not always recognize Senate's authority in matters that it has oversight of.

The Chair announced that the Senate Hearing Panel has a current case and will hold a formal hearing beginning on April 22nd. The hearing will be live-streamed and the link will be made available on the Senate website.

2. Proposed Change to 2020-21 College of Pharmacy Calendar

The Chair explained the proposal from the College of Pharmacy to change their graduation date from May 7, 2021 to May 14, 2021. There were no questions. Vincent (BE) **moved** to approve the proposed change to the 2020-21 College of Pharmacy Calendar. Kuhnlein (SGA) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

3. Proposed Change to Academic Calendar (Add Commencement Dates of May 14-16)

The Chair explained the proposal to add commencement dates of May 14-16, 2021 to the academic calendar. There were no questions. Vincent (BE) **moved** to approve the addition of May 14-16 to the 2020-21 academic calendar as the May Commencement dates. Cantrell (ED) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed. Taylor confirmed for the Chair that she would add the commencement dates to the calendar.

4. Assessment, Evaluation, Feedback, & Intervention System (AEFIS) - Assistant Provost for Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Annie Davis Weber

Assistant Provost for Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Annie Davis Weber explained how AEFIS was chosen as the new assessment management system. She noted that existing policies and procedures around assessment are not changing and went over the AEFIS phased implementation plan. The floor was opened for questions and there was clarification that an AEFIS student portfolio would not show up in an official UK transcript and that the course evaluation pilot using AEFIS does not currently include any changes related to academic policy or the content of the evaluations. She confirmed that colleges can continue using Digital Measures instead of AEFIS but centralized support for Digital Measures will be going away so they will need secure their own contracts.

5. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) - DeShana Collett, Chair

i. Student Organizations Sponsored by an Educational Unit

SREC Chair Collett was not available so SREC member Davy Jones presented. Jones explained the history related to *SR 5.2.5.2.1* ("Excused Absences," "Acceptable excuses") and the more recent administrative consideration of revisions to *Administrative Regulation (AR) 4.1* ("Registration and Recognition of Student Organizations") by the University Regulations Committee in December 2020. He reported that SREC discussed what does "educational unit" mean, what does "sponsored by" mean, and the Senate's jurisdiction to promulgate an excused absence educational policy concerning "student organizations." The SREC decided that the issue involved substantive policy that was not discernable by the SREC as a simple matter of SREC interpretation and has requested that SC ask an appropriate entity to review the matter. There were no questions of fact.

Grossman (AS) **moved** to refer the matter to the Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC). Oltmann (CI) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. Senate Rules Section 7 ("Code of Faculty Responsibilities")

The Chair reminded SC of their previous discussion regarding *SR Section 7* and asked how they would like to move forward. There was discussion about the possibility of deleting *SR Section 7* and the extent to which it was valuable. Grossman (AS) **moved** to explain the problems regarding *SR Section 7* to Senate and ask senators if they want to compose an ad hoc committee to consider *Section 7* (i.e. deleting, revising, addressing in some other way, etc.). Oltmann (CI) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was

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debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

7. Items from the Floor

Vincent (BE) gave an update about the committee she is on that is working on a proposal for digital badges. She explained that due to short timelines the committee is considering making a request to extend the digital badge pilot, for Summer 2021, and would like feedback from SC about this possibility. There was general discussion about what digital badges are and how they were processed last year. SC encouraged the committee to bring forward a formal request to extend the digital badge pilot.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 pm with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Blonder, Cantrell, Cramer, Duncan, Grossman, Kuhnlein, Oltmann, Swanson, Vincent, and Williams.

Guests present: Sheila Brothers, Roger Brown, Annie Davis Weber, Katherine McCormick, Joanie Ett-Mims, Davy Jones, and Kim Taylor.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on March 31, 2021.