

Senate Council Minutes
July 28, 2003

The Senate Council met on July 28, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. in the Gallery of the W.T. Young Library and took the following actions.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05.

1. The Chair introduced the first item on the agenda, the proposed distance learning course STA 200 from Lexington Community College and the Department of Statistic's objection to it. The Chair provided some background material, including the current applicable rules for the submission of LCC transmittals, that they are currently circulated for information only, LCC's "accredited for good cause and placed on probation" accreditation status due to autonomy issues, and the basis for the Department of Statistic's argument. The Chair stated that since all of the parties to whom this issue was of concern could not be present at the meeting, the Senate Council would not address the particulars of the disagreement but would instead determine the role of the Senate Council.

Tagavi asked if LCC has stated that this issue is an issue of autonomy for them. Saunier replied that the only change to the course is in the way the course is being delivered. Tagavi asked that the Chair contact LCC to ascertain, in writing, whether or not this is an issue of autonomy. The Chair agreed to do so. Jones inquired as to the root of the issue, whether it related to the ability of professors to teach outside of their area, and whether or not there was a senate rule pertaining to the issue. Tagavi asked which Council of the Senate is the appropriate Council in this case. The Chair responded that this question was one of the questions at the root of the problem and asked the Senate Council to determine how the matter should be settled.

The Council heard some comments from Saunier and Connie Wood and additional comments from the Senate Council members. Saunier departed for another engagement. As there was continued discussion regarding the details of the issue, Watts reminded the Council that the purpose of the discussion was to determine the role of the Senate Council, not to continue discussing the details of the disagreement. Tagavi moved that the question of which council, according to the existing rules, has the jurisdiction over approval of distance learning be sent to the rules committee. Jones seconded the motion. Edgerton pointed out that the department with whom the course originated should still have the right to ensure that the course being taught is the same as the course designed by the department. The Chair noted that this course is LCC's course as well. Edgerton expressed his desire to have this issue examined by the rules committee as well. Wood inquired as to when the next meeting of

the Rules Committee would be held since this matter requires some speed. Tagavi said that if the matter was urgent he would amend his motion to ask the Senate Council to act on behalf of the Rules Committee on this one particular case until the Rules Committee can rule on the more general issue. The Chair noted that he would find out how soon the next Senate Council meeting can be held. Debski offered a friendly amendment that the Senate Council also determine the legitimacy of offering this course for the fall semester. Tagavi accepted the amendment, but on second thought objected to the wording. Jones offered the added wording of “under existing rules”. Tagavi accepted the friendly amendment with Jones’ additional wording.

The motion read: “the question of which council, according to the existing rules, has the jurisdiction over approval of distance learning courses be sent to the Rules Committee, but since the matter is urgent the Senate Council will act on behalf of the Rules Committee on this one particular case, until the Rules Committee can rule on the more general issue. The Senate Council will also determine the legitimacy of offering this course for the Fall semester, under existing rules”.

The Chair called for a vote. Four voted in favor of the motion. None were opposed. The motion carried.

Tagavi noted that during the subsequent Senate Council meeting he would prefer not to spend time arguing whether the Distance Learning course is equivalent to the original course since the charge of the Senate Council is to determine which Council is the appropriate Council, according to the rules. Watts responded that she would like to hear more from the representatives of LCC in the interest of fairness, and Tagavi agreed. Woods asked if the academic concerns of the department were relevant or not, since the Senate Council was looking to the rules to determine the issue. The Chair and Tagavi responded that the issue would become an academic one once the issue of which was the appropriate Council of the Senate, the LCC Council or Undergraduate Council, has been decided. Tagavi added that if this ends up being a substantive change issue, then the Senate Council could address that issue as well. The guests from Statistics departed. The Chair thanked Watts for being fair-minded.

2. The Chair called the Council’s attention to Agenda Item 4, the proposed reorganization of the Center for Health Services Management and Department of Health Services Management into the school of Public Health. The Chair quoted the end of the letter received from Provost Nietzel in which the Provost inquired as to the Senate Council’s willingness to “endorse this provisional assignment of responsibility for CHSM and DHSM” to Public Health with the understanding that the two

units in question would undertake the formal procedures for such a transfer as soon as possible. Jones inquired as to whether or not these units are educational units. Tagavi responded that the Center was not an educational unit but that the Department is. Tagavi asked that the routing sheet be obtained before the Senate Council grant an endorsement. Debski concurred and added that to grant such an endorsement without additional documentation would be a break from the normal procedures. Jones added that this sort of reorganization would normally go through the Senate's Academic Structures and Organization Committee. Tagavi suggested that the Senate Council go ahead and endorse the reorganization of the Center but not the Department, but Debski pointed out that the reorganization of a non-academic unit is not the charge of the Senate Council. Tagavi agreed, and added that there is no such thing as an interim department or educational unit. After further discussion a motion was made to send a letter to the Provost telling him that the Senate Council can not approve an academic reorganization without the proposal going through the normal and established Senate procedures. Tagavi seconded the motion. Four voted in favor of the motion. Edgerton abstained. The motion carried.

3. The Chair called the Council's attention to Agenda Items 5 and 6; the proposed Spanish courses 313 and 413. The Chair noted that the items were coming before the Senate Council at the request of Tagavi and added that a representative from the Department of Hispanic Studies indicated that the two course proposals had been sent through to adjust numbering that was previously inappropriate since the class that previously had a 300-level classification was more advanced and the previously-numbered 400-level class offered more of the necessary basic materials. The Chair added that the proposed numbering change was believed to be in the best interest of the students since they would then be better prepared for upper-level classes. The Chair asked Tagavi to outline his concerns about the course proposal. Tagavi indicated that the justification given in the proposals for the change in numbering seemed illogical. He added that the Chair's explanation was not reflected in the proposals themselves. Edgerton said that he had contacted Retha Higgs to make sure he remembered correctly that the intent of the proposals was to correct an error in the way the courses were previously numbered. Tagavi indicated that this explanation was understandable and withdrew his request. The items in question will be transmitted to the University community for the usual ten-day review process.
4. The Chair called the Council's attention to Agenda Item 3, the approval of Senate Council minutes from April 28, May 19 and the retreat on July 2, 2003. Debski noted that her request from the retreat that no proposal should be altered in any way from the time it leaves the Senate Council to the time it is heard on the Senate floor was missing from the retreat

summary. The Administrative Coordinator acknowledged the omission and will correct the retreat summary to reflect the above request. Debski's second concern was that she had requested information about how the Business and Economics suspension policy reached the Senate Council without first having been approved by Undergraduate Council. Debski asked if the matter had been investigated and Ms. Scott replied that she had contacted Retha Higgs who confirmed that the policy had not been approved by the Undergraduate Council. The Chair indicated that the matter would receive further attention and asked the Administrative Coordinator to compile the necessary documents. The three sets of minutes were approved, with Debski's addition.

5. The Chair called the Council's attention to a new issue that is not listed on the Agenda. The Chair received a letter from Provost Nietzel in which the Provost requested the submission of names from the Senate Council to hear an appeal regarding faculty performance review. Edgerton suggested that the Senate Council utilize the listserv to request names so that the Council members who were not present at the meeting could participate. Tagavi suggested that the college committees that hear tenure cases can be contacted. For example Hans Gesund could be contacted. Tagavi indicated that in the College of Engineering the faculty who hear these cases at the college level are elected. Tagavi further suggested that one or two members from each college committee be recommended. Debski noted that in her college the committee in question is assembled by the Dean, not elected from the faculty. The Chair suggested that he and the Administrative Coordinator discern the names of the people who sit on such committees around campus and put forth a subset of those names for recommendation. The Council agreed.
6. The Chair called the Council's attention to Agenda Item 2 regarding faculty representation on search committees. The Chair provided some background on the item. Edgerton expressed concern that section two of the policy was ambiguous in that it did not address specific numbers. Tagavi noted that it was difficult to be specific since there are such a wide variety of positions for which searches are conducted. Debski noted that some good faith was necessary when presenting this sort of policy. The Chair noted that there were three Deans on the committee from which this proposed policy originated. Yanarella indicated that the word "proportionate" was problematic to him. Tagavi asked for any editorial suggestions. Yanarella suggested some additional wording. The Chair noted that the additional wording didn't address some of the original meaning. Tagavi noted that any change in the wording at this point would send the document back to the committee where it may die or may continue to evolve. Bailey was concerned about the ambiguity involved in determining how much a given position impacts the faculty of the University (for example, V.P. of Finance vs. Provost). The Chair noted

that even if this policy is put into place the administration still assembles the search committees, which is why this can only become an Administrative Regulation and not a Senate rule. Tagavi moved to send the proposal to the Senate with a positive recommendation. Edgerton seconded the motion. The Chair called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

7. The Chair called the Council's attention to Agenda Item 7, which is a list of the different types of items that are processed by the Senate Council Office. The Senate Council requested that such a list be created so that they could identify which items can consistently be circulated for approval on the web site versus which items should be discussed during meetings. The Administrative Coordinator and the Recording Secretary produced the list under the direction of the Chair. The Administrative Coordinator indicated that she would circulate the list to the full Senate Council via e-mail so that the Council could indicate which items should fall into which category. Tagavi suggested placing a "M" by the items that should be heard in meetings and a "W" by the items that can be reviewed on the web. Edgerton accepted the idea of a straw vote for now but suggested that a ranking system be used later for items over which there may be disagreement.
8. The Chair asked Student Government Association President Watts to give a brief overview of this coming year's plans and activities. Watts indicated that the Honor Code will be an item of much interest. She noted that gubernatorial candidate Chandler has already agreed to participate in a debate at UK this fall, and that Fletcher will probably agree as well. Watts said that both the Democrat and Republican student organizations on campus will be involved in the debate. She said that one of the goals she hopes to accomplish is to get the administration to re-open the library for 24-hours a day, believing that the funds saved did not justify the inconvenience to students. Watts will meet with Lexington's mayor about the smoking ban, the keg ordinance, and bar hours. Watts said that SGA will work more closely with SAB this year to save funds and streamline resources. More SGA money will go to club sport grants, community service, and the student neighborhood association. Watts noted that Gator Roast II will be held this year. Watts closed by saying that the SGA office was trying to get the office ready for the return of the students this fall and was hoping to have the web site running before their return.

The Chair thanked the members for attending and noted that the next meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible so that the Distance Learning issue can be decided. The meeting adjourned at 3:25.

Respectfully submitted by Jeffrey Dembo
Chair, Senate Council

Members present: Ernie Bailey (arrived 3:05), Liz Debski, Jeffrey Dembo, Lee Edgerton, Davy Jones (departed 2:20), Peggy Saunier (departed 1:30), Kaveh Tagavi, Ernie Yanarella (arrived 2:25). Guests present: William Rayens, Kert Viele and Connie Wood.