

# Senate Council

Monday, December 6, 2021

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 PM on Monday, December 6, 2021 in 103 Main Building, although a video conference link was also available. 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 for notetaking purposes and noted that it was an open meeting. He asked that all attendees, online and in person, state their name and affiliation prior to speaking, to ensure everyone knew who was speaking.

## 1. Minutes from November 29 and Announcements

The Chair reported that there were no changes to the minutes from November 29. There being **no objections**, the minutes from November 29 were **approved** as distributed by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair informed SC members that per the President, the Provost search should be starting this semester.

## 2. Honorary Degrees – Acting Associate Provost of Graduate and Professional Education and Dean of the Graduate School

The Chair introduced Martha Peterson (acting associate provost of graduate and professional education and dean of the graduate school). Peterson presented information about honorary degrees and the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees (UJHCD) to SC members. Peterson explained proposed modifications to the UJHCD's current process to include additional effort being utilized to evaluate a nominee. A brief discussion took place. The Chair noted the issue would be presented in the Senate meeting as well.

## 3. Degree Recipients

### a. December 2021 In Memoriam Degree List

Grossman **moved** for elected faculty members of the SC to approve the December 2021 In Memoriam degree list, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Collett **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

### b. December 2021 Degree List

Vincent **moved** for elected faculty members of the SC to approve the University's December 2021 list of candidates for credentials, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Duncan **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

## 4. Liaisons to Councils

### a. Undergraduate Council

The Chair informed SC members that a new liaison to the Undergraduate Council (UC) was needed. The Chair explained that the current liaison was no longer able to serve but would continue his service as a senator and Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) member. SC members provided names for the position to the Chair.

## 5. Officer Elections

### a. Vice Chair

The Chair introduced Chair of the Elections Subcommittee of the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) Roger Brown. Brown shared with SC members that he would ask for nominees for SC Vice Chair and verify nominees' willingness to serve. The Chair noted that Grossman and Vincent had previously expressed a willingness to stand for the position, so he would formally nominate them both. There were no other nominations. Both Grossman and Vincent verified their willingness to serve as Vice Chair. Brown invited Grossman and Vincent to speak briefly to SC members. Grossman and Vincent made brief statements to SC members. Brown asked if there were any questions. Clarification for the Vice Chair term was requested. Brown stated that the Vice Chair term was a one-year term that would begin June 1, 2022. Brown also noted some of the Vice Chair duties. There were no other questions.

Brown requested that SC members voting online transmit their votes by way of their University email address to his University email address and asked SC members voting in-person to vote by way of paper ballot. Because of open meetings law, the vote cannot be secret ballot. He asked in-person voting members to write their name on one side and vote on the other side. Brown collected the votes and tallied the results. The vote was 10-2 in favor of Leslie Vincent. The Chair thanked both nominees.

## 6. Committee Reports

### a. Senate's Distance Learning and eLearning Committee (SCDLeL) – Roger Brown, Chair

#### i. *Regular and Substantive Interactions (RSI)*

The Chair introduced Roger Brown (SCDLeL chair). The Chair explained that a proposal from the committee was received regarding RSI, although a subsequent, alternative proposal was offered by Brown. Brown explained that the issue was an additional policy for RSI to be added to the *Senate Rules* to fulfill federal requirements. The proposal offered by the committee would involve new syllabi requirements for instructors of both distance learning (DL) and non-DL courses. Brown commented that later conversations with the Chair outlined potential alternatives, noting that federal requirements did not require for such specific elaboration in syllabi. Brown explained an alternative to the proposal offered by the committee (that would still fulfill federal requirements for RSI) would be less burdensome for instructors, by instead making changes to the syllabi boilerplate language in Standard Academic Policies.

The Chair explained the motion on the floor from the committee was to approve the committee's original proposal. Grossman **moved** to substitute consideration of the committee's proposal with Brown's proposed alternative, presuming the full committee supported Brown's alternative. Vincent **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

SC members discussed Brown's alternative proposal. Duncan commented in favor of the proposed alternative, noting there was no need for the elaboration in syllabi. Charnigo agreed. Hawse noted the importance of having resources available to students in the syllabus, such as the elaboration of RSI. Cantrell asked if the Department of Education (DOE) required the explanation of RSI in the syllabus; the Chair clarified that this was not required by the DOE and further explained the explanation could be available via linking to the Standard Academic Policies language available on the Senate's website. Grossman **moved** to amend Brown's alternative proposal by including specific language to add the boilerplate language to the Senate website. Charnigo **seconded**. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **failed** with two in favor, five opposed and four abstained.

The Chair asked if there was any further debate on the substituted motion and clarified the motion was to approve Brown's alternative for consideration by the Senate pending SCDLeL's approval. There was no further debate. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

The Chair informed SC members that Michelle Sizemore (SAASC chair) was not yet present due to a scheduling conflict and asked SC members to consider the Tentative Senate Agenda for December 13, 2021, next instead. There were **no objections**.

## 7. Tentative Senate Agenda for December 13, 2021

Blonder commented that she and Swanson would both be absent due to the Board of Trustees meeting and thus unable to provide a report to the Senate. The Chair suggested prioritizing the center-related agenda item from the SAOSC, due to the proposal requiring review and approval by the Board of Trustees the following day. There was brief discussion about considering the suspension and closure items as a single motion, based on the SAOSC Chair's suggestion. Grossman recommend placing the items in question on a consent agenda. Hall **moved** to amend the agenda to move the proposals to suspend and close to a consent agenda. Hawse **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate. Grossman suggested informing the Senate that accepting the consent agenda would indicate Senate agreement to waive the *Senate Rules 3.3.2.2.2 ("Academic Program or Educational Unit Review")* requiring an open hearing. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

The Chair noted that the tentative Senate agenda was now being considered as amended. Hawse **moved** to approve the tentative Senate agenda for December 13, 2021, as amended. Grossman **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

## 6. Committee Reports (cont.)

### b. Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) – Michelle Sizemore

The Chair introduced Sizemore to provide a committee report for the SAASC and noted that Jennifer Bird-Pollan (associate dean of academic affairs) and Frank Romanelli (associate dean) were present to represent the J. David Rosenberg College of Law and PharmD respectively. Sizemore explained the proposed changes to *SR 5.5.2.2 ("Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors")* for the J. David Rosenberg College of Law and PharmD, noting the committee approved the proposed changes in a 7-2 vote.

#### i. *Proposed Change to SR 5.5.2.2 for University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law ("Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors")*

The Chair asked if there were any questions for Sizemore or Bird-Pollan and there were none. Because the **motion** to approve the proposed change to *SR 5.5.2.2 for University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law ("Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors")* came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair asked if there was any debate. There was a brief discussion that included the following considerations and clarification:

- Whether the separation of the proposed new language from the existing rule language was necessary (Bird-Pollan clarified the separation proposed was favorable)
- Was the intention for the honors to be separate from the undergraduate honors, rather than a subset of the undergraduate honors (Bird-Pollan and Romanelli clarified this was the intention)
- If approved by the SC, when codified by the Senate Rules and Elections Committee (SREC), numbering would be used to indicate the lateral relationship with undergraduate honors, rather than a subset relationship
- The number of graded hours and pass/fail courses for students in the Rosenberg College of Law
- How college-specific honors appear on the transcript

- What peer institutions were doing (Bird-Pollan explained much of the experiential learning in law programs were pass/fail courses)
- If GPA was calculated based on coursework in the program (Bird-Pollan clarified that it was)

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

ii. *Proposed Change to SR 5.5.2.2 for PharmD (“Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors”)*

Sizemore explained the proposed change to SR 5.5.2.2 for PharmD (“Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors”) was similar in nature to SR 5.5.2.2 for University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law (“Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors”). The Chair asked if there were any questions and there were none. Because the **motion** to approve the proposed change to SR 5.5.2.2 for PharmD (“Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors”) came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair asked if there was any debate. Davy Jones recommended taking the same course of action as suggested in the prior discussion for the Rosenberg College of Law. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

## 8. Items from the Floor (Time Permitting)

The Chair welcome items from the floor.

Hawse announced that DanceBlue would take place March 5-6, 2022.

Hawse also reported that the Student Government Association (SGA) was currently reaching out to colleges to help fund the University subscription to the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times*, both of which were due for renewal. Hawse noted that the SGA had paid for the *Wall Street Journal* subscription in the past. Vincent commented that access to both publications was absolutely valuable for students. Oltmann asked if Hawse had communicated with the University Libraries. Hawse noted that while the long-term goal was to house the University subscription with Libraries, funding from the Libraries was currently dedicated for academic journals. Duncan commented that she was a member of the Senate’s Library Committee and offered to inform the committee. Vincent asked about the utilization of such subscriptions. Hawse commented that the *Wall Street Journal* subscription was most widely utilized.

Duncan asked about the modality for DanceBlue. Hawse responded that in-person was currently planned with no movement towards a relaxation of the mask requirement. SC members expressed concerns about the 24-hour event and the negative impact of sleep deprivation on students, especially with COVID-19 still present. Hawse agreed to convey the SC’s concerns for student health.

SC members discussed the current University mask requirement and the broad concerns about students not wearing masks, or not wearing them properly, in a variety of campus buildings. Cantrell suggested a need for new communication to remind people of the mask requirement, noting that the William T. Young Library was a location of particular concern. The Chair agreed a proactive approach was needed. Hawse commented that the SGA was planning promotional activity to encourage compliance with the mask requirement.

Oltmann commented on reports of delays at the Undergraduate Council. The Chair noted that the previous coordinator for the Undergraduate Council had accepted another position elsewhere and that there were normal delays. He also noted Corso’s resignation as the Senate Council’s liaison to the Undergraduate Council but said Corso had not reported any particular inefficiency. Oltmann thanked the Chair.

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 PM with **no objections**.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,  
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Blonder, Cantrell, Charnigo, Collett, Cramer, DeCorte, Duncan, Grossman, Hall, Hawse, Oltmann, Swanson, VanGilder, Vincent

Invited guests present: Jennifer Bird-Pollan, Sheila Brothers, Roger Brown, Martha Peterson, Frank Romanelli, Michelle Sizemore

Prepared by Katie Silver on Tuesday, December 7, 2021