

University Senate

Monday, January 24, 2022

The University Senate met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, January 24, 2022 via video conference. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken with the video conference “raise hand” feature. Specific voting information can be requested from the Office of the Senate Council (SC).

Senate Council Chair Aaron Cramer (EN) called the University Senate (Senate) meeting to order at 3:00 pm. He welcomed those present and informed them that the session was being recorded for notetaking purposes. He informed Senate members that attendance would be captured via a Zoom report and noted that the chat function would no longer be available. He asked everyone to mute themselves when not speaking.

The Chair provided guidance on how to participate in the discussion and how to vote. He welcomed senators and reminded them that Senate follows Robert’s Rules of Order. He asked that senators be civil and good citizens. He also asked everyone to participate in the meetings and share information with colleagues in their home units.

The Chair reminded senators to state their name and college affiliation before speaking.

1. Minutes from December 13, 2021 and Announcements

The Chair reported that edits were received for the minutes from December 13, 2021. There being **no objections**, the amended minutes from December 13, 2021 were **approved by unanimous consent**.

The Chair informed Senate members that Ann Eads had joined the Senate Council office and would be assuming responsibilities related to the Undergraduate Council, UK Core, and courses, generally.

The Chair reminded Senate members that SC suggested asking senators to turn on cameras if possible, especially while speaking, noting that no explanations were necessary if senators were unable to do so.

The Chair welcome four new SC members: Lauren Cagle (AS), Akiko Takenaka (AS), Kaveh Tagavi (EN), and Zachary Broyles (student members).

The Chair announced that the SC Chair and SC member Susan Cantrell (ED) had been appointed to the provost search committee. The Chair informed Senate members that the first meeting took place earlier today.

The Chair informed Senate members that the SC Chair, Staff Senate Chair Olivia Ellis, and SGA President Michael Hawse were communicating with the President about the legislative session.

The Chair announced that the Coalition for Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL) sponsored an academic-freedom rally regarding two pre-filed anti-critical-race-theory bills in Frankfort.

The Chair reminded Senate members of curricular proposal deadlines for 2021-22 for proposals seeking a Fall 2022 effective date.

2. Officer Reports

a. Chair

The Chair noted that the *Senate Rules (SRs)* give the Chair and SC authority to take some actions on behalf of Senate as long as they are reported to Senate. The Chair approved one-time, non-COVID requests for DL delivery in Spring 2022 for the following courses:

- MUP 101, 201, 301, 401, 501, 601, and 701 and MUS 523 (courses all related to the same instructor who would be out of town caring for a family member)
- PRD 372 (difficulty finding an instructor and located a part-time instructor out of state)

b. Vice Chair

Vice Chair DeShana Collett informed the Senate that she did not have a report today.

c. Parliamentarian

Parliamentarian Clayton Thyne informed the Senate that he did not have a report today.

d. Trustees

Trustee Blonder provided a report to Senate members about the December Board of Trustees meeting and the President's Evaluation. Blonder explained the process by which the evaluation was completed and the outcome of the evaluation. Blonder informed Senate members that the results were reviewed at the Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting, culminating in the executive committee voting to approve ECR I. Trustee Swanson explained they were informed the weekend prior to the meeting that the Board would be considering ECR I. Swanson informed Senate members that she and Blonder stated they would not be in support of approving.

Blonder also informed Senate members that the process to elect a new faculty trustee would begin in February. She stated that her term would be ending on June 30, 2022 and that she would not be running again. Blonder noted that appointed trustees serve six-year terms, and that she felt this was an appropriate time to end her service. Blonder commented that it had been an honor representing University faculty, and that she and Swanson would be happy to talk with anyone interested in running for trustee.

3. Update on COVID – Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Eric Monday

The Chair welcomed and Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Eric Monday and Provost Robert DiPaola to provide a COVID update to Senate members. Monday thanked Senate members for their work and provided an update about the following items:

- University vaccination rates
- Incentive program for vaccine boosters
- Distribution and stock of KN95 masks
- UK Health Corps
- Current positivity rate on campus
- Consequences for failure to comply with University vaccine and testing policies

The Provost provided a detailed report to Senate members, discussing some of the scientific details surrounding COVID. The Provost discussed the University's COVID START (Screening, Testing and Tracing, to Accelerate Restart and Transition) team and guidelines as well as vaccine effectiveness.

A discussion among Senate members, the Provost, and Monday took place afterwards. Senate members asked a variety of questions about mask requirements, compliance consequences, education for KN95 usage, non-compliance from students, and ventilation in buildings. The Chair noted that he was happy to follow up with the Provost and Monday for any further questions or clarification Senate members had about the update.

4. Degree Recipients

The Chair reminded senators that the honorary degree recipient names are embargoed until the University officially announces them. The Chair also reminded senators that per Kentucky law and the *Senate Rules*, only the senators elected by college faculty members may vote on honorary degree recipients.

a. Honorary Degree Recipients

The Chair introduced Acting Associate Provost of Graduate and Professional Education and Acting Dean of The Graduate School Martha Peterson.

Peterson described the first honorary degree recipient nominee. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there were none. The **motion** from committee was that the elected faculty senators approve KK as the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with one opposed two abstained.

Peterson described the second honorary degree recipient nominee. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there were none. The **motion** from committee was that the elected faculty senators approve WT as the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with one opposed and two abstained.

b. Notice for Call for Nominations

The Chair noted it was important to have a strong pool of honorary degree nominations. Peterson explained the next cycle for honorary degree nominations had begun and offered information to Senate members. Peterson noted that the only people who were not eligible to nominate candidates were members of the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees (UJCHD). Peterson clarified that members of the public were eligible to nominate as well.

5. Committee Reports

a. Senate's UK Core Education Committee (SUKCEC) – Keiko Tanaka, Chair

The Chair invited the SUKCEC Chair Keiko Tanaka to provide a report.

i. Update on Assessment Activities

Tanaka described the results of the 2020-21 UK Core Assessment and explained the assessment plan from 2020-2025. Tanaka noted four areas of concern, including: low participation rates, high rates of unusable artifacts, wide variability across courses, and effective rubrics/processes. Tanaka explained details surrounding each of the committee's concerns.

ii. Detailed Assessment Presentation

Tanaka referred senators to the detailed assessment presentation about the 2020-21 UK Core Assessment results. The presentation included the four areas of UK Core that were assessed in this time, artifacts collected and scored, a piloted new approach to sampling, and revised rubrics for both areas that were piloted.

Tanaka asked Senate members for any questions.

There were a number of comments from senators. Senate members discussed the types of artifacts used to assess UK Core, how those artifacts may vary among different classes, variation in participation rates, and the technology used as part of the assessment process.

The Chair thanked Tanaka for the report.

6. Items from the Floor (Time Permitting)

The Chair welcomed items from the floor.

Oltmann (CI) discussed the Provost's call for a Director of Online Education. Oltmann explained that the scope of this was unclear and caused confusion among faculty and noted the importance of Senate awareness of changes in administrative responsibilities. The Provost clarified that this was a call for an acting director position, noting they had yet to formulate the scope for a full-time permanent position. The Provost noted he looked forward to thoughts and comments.

Goodwin (FA) brought a question to the floor regarding staffing and labor shortages, and whether there was an impact on staffing in the Physical Plant Division (PPD), noting the previous discussion about HVAC systems on campus. The Chair noted he would pass along the question to EVPFA Eric Monday.

Takenaka (AS) asked if there were plans to provide further guidance and education of the distribution and use of KN95 masks on campus. The Provost noted that further vigilance was necessary in terms of communication and education about KN95 masks on campus.

Cagle (AS) inquired about time frames for students waiting on COVID-19 test results and the associated disruption to the learning environment. Cagle expressed concerns for stress levels that students were experiencing while waiting for test results. Vincent (BE) also noted concerns with time frames for receiving COVID-19 test results and commented that expediting results may help minimize disruptions.

Jones (emeritus, ME) asked if any faculty were currently on a condition of suspension due to non-compliance with the University's vaccination and testing policy. The Chair clarified that no faculty were terminated due to non-compliance, but that some resigned. The Provost noted there were a small number of faculty who were non-compliant that Deans were working with currently to resolve.

McPherson (LA) offered a student perspective regarding COVID-19 disruptions, noting that testing requirements were unclear to many students, particularly for false negative or false positive test results. McPherson commented that some vaccinated students did not believe they needed to be tested after an exposure.

Soult (AS) noted that similar to McPherson's concerns, many graduate TAs were confused about isolation guidelines. Soult commented that some TAs may feel like they have less authority for making decisions about isolation.

The Chair asked if there were any other items from the floor and there were none. The Provost expressed his thanks for many of the comments from Senate members and noted he would follow up with the Chair.

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

Respectfully submitted by
Aaron Cramer, Senate Council Chair

Absences: Ajay Mehra, Alice Turkington, Allen Allday, Allie Pazdzior, Allison Wright, Angie Martin, Caleb Frush, Caroline Slicer, Chipper Griffith, Chris Delcher, Christine Harper, Claire-Marie Hall, Colleen Swartz, Craig Collins, Eli Capilouto, Eric Blalock, Fan Gao, George Wright, Jay Miller, Jeff Okeson, Jennifer Greer, Julia Stevens, Julian Heilig, Justin Lane, Ken Troske, Kirsten Turner, Laura Fanucchi, Lisa Cassis, Logan Bechanan, Mark Birdwhistell, Mary Davis, Mary Vosevich, Michael Kennedy, Michelle Sizemore, Mike Richey, Mitzi Vernon, Morgan Wilson, Nancy Cox, Olivia Ellis, Patrick Haycraft, R. Kiplan (Kip) Guy, Richard Charnigo, Rudolph Bucheit, Scott Lephart, Tad Mutersbaugh

Invited Guests Present: Sheila Brothers, Eric Monday, Keiko Tanaka

Prepared by Katie Silver on Monday, February 7, 2022