

University Senate

Monday, February 14, 2022

The University Senate met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, February 14, 2022, via video conference. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken using electronically using Poll Everywhere unless otherwise specified. 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. The Chair provided guidance for using the new voting software from Poll Everywhere. 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 January 24 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the minutes from January 24, 2022. There being **no objections**, the minutes from January 24, 2022, were **approved as distributed by unanimous consent**.

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 reminded Senate members that the next Senate meeting, which was initially scheduled for March 14, was rescheduled by SC to March 21 due to spring break.

The Chair informed Senate members that the SC sent nominees to serve on the Search Committee for the Chellgren Chair and Director of the Chellgren Center.

The Chair noted that the SC sent a representative for the Strategic Scheduling Committee. The Chair explained the Strategic Scheduling Committee would examine historical course scheduling and make recommendations.

The Chair announced that activities for the faculty trustee election would begin soon and that Senate members should look for an email about nomination in the next week.

The Chair informed Senate members of the University promotion to support vaccine boosters, noting that employees who received their COVID-19 booster were eligible to enter to win \$500 cash and that ten winners would be drawn each Friday between now and April 29.

The Chair informed Senate members that a semi-regular course purge would be initiated as per *Senate Rule 3.2.2.4 "Automatic Deletion of Courses from Bulletin."* The Chair explained an email would be sent to senators and college curricular contacts alerting them to activity. The Chair noted that to remove a course from the purge list, a representative from a unit could email Sheila Brothers to request removal from the purge list. The Chair told Senators to expect an email later this week.

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 informed Senate members that the SC approved two changes to the 2021-22 academic calendar including:

- Shortening the period when students are prohibited from changing majors (changed from nine-week period to about four weeks)
- Correcting an entry where a date within the entry was incorrect

The Chair provided Senate members with results of the one-click attendance survey of faculty. The Chair described the following data from the results:

- Mean attendance was 76% with a standard deviation of 20%
- Results skewed to the right with a low-attendance tail and median attendance of 81%
- There appeared to be an order-of-magnitude of uncertainty between dashboard data and observed classroom impacts (the Chair noted a similar effect was occurring in the local public-school system)
- The number of COVID-19 cases were quickly falling, affecting both dashboard data and observed impacts

The Chair informed Senate members that the SC held a discussion on academic policies related to absences that was brought about by recent campus closures. The Chair explained there was no explicit policy about what closure for weather meant as it related to attendance. The Chair commented the next SC meeting would include establishment of a charge for an ad hoc committee and deliberate on membership, noting that anyone interested in serving should email Sheila Brothers.

The Chair announced that the SC was given a presentation from the Undergraduate Council (UGC) on the Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR). The Chair reminded Senate members that the GCCR was only applicable to undergraduate students and noted that the Senate's GCCR Committee was not currently composed. The Chair explained that the UGC recommendations included simplifying the GCCR requirements and moving GCCR-related approvals to the UGC and disbanding the GCCR Committee.

The Chair informed Senate members that the SC tasked the Senate's Research and Graduation Education Committee (SRGEC) to look at the Wethington Awards. The Chair explained that a faculty member raised concerns about how funds were distributed for the awards and noted that the SRGEC reported that Wethington award parameters and requirements were established by each college, not centrally. The Chair commented that Senate members could access the report by accessing the SC's agenda online for January 31 under item 3.c.i.

The Chair announced that the SC heard a presentation regarding the pilot for "badges," a "mini-credential" comprised of two to three courses documenting a student's skill set prior to completing a degree or certificate program. The Chair noted that badges were proposed by unit faculty after discussion. The Chair commented that the SC was very grateful for the work of the subgroup involved in the piloted program and noted they were particularly pleased with this model of shared governance. The Chair informed Senate members they should expect a formal proposal within a couple months.

b. Vice Chair

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

c. Parliamentarian

The Chair informed Senate members that Parliamentarian Clayton Thyne (AS) was unable to attend today's meeting.

d. Trustees

Trustee Hollie Swanson (ME) announced that the next Board of Trustees meeting would take place on February 17th and 18th. Swanson described some of the items that would be discussed at Board of Trustees meeting, including:

- Expansion of student-managed investment programs to promote responsible investing
- Approval for capital projects, including improvements in athletics, construction of the Beam Institute, and continuation of the Smart Campus initiative
- The approval of honorary degree recipients
- Philanthropic gifts to the University that exceed \$20 million
- A report from Vice President for Institutional Diversity Katrice Albert
- A report from Vice President for Student Success Kirsten Turner
- An update from Acting Provost Robert DiPaola on transdisciplinary programs and ongoing administrative searches
- A report from Director Employee Engagement and Work-Life Erik Chambers

The Chair thanked the faculty trustees for their report.

3. Degree Recipients

a. Spring 2022 Social Work Graduates at Ft. Sam Houston

The Chair explained the commencement date for the Social Work program at Fort Sam Houston was sooner and would thus be advantageous for the Senate to approve the Spring 2022 Social Work graduates in order to be considered by the Board of Trustees later this week. The Chair reminded senators that per Kentucky law and Senate Rules, only the senators elected by college faculty members may vote on degree lists. The Chair asked if there were any questions.

Ken Troske (BE) asked about a student in ROTC that had approached him the previous semester about graduation before grades were due. The Chair commented that he would be interested in the details to find out more about the requirement but explained this was a different situation. The Chair explained the presence of names on this list was a necessary condition to graduate but students were still required to pass their courses. Allison Gibson (SW) clarified that Fort Sam Houston was similar to a branch campus for the College of Social Work, noting the program ran their own calendar while working in tandem with the University.

The Chair explained the **motion** on the floor was for elected faculty senators approve UK's Spring 2022 Social Work Graduates at Ft. Sam Houston degree list, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed and three abstained.

4. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) - Leslie Vincent, Chair

i. *Proposed New BS Leadership for Community Education and Human Learning*

The Chair introduced Leslie Vincent (BE), chair of the SAPC, to explain the proposed new BS in Leadership for Community Education and Human Learning. Vincent explained the proposal to Senate members. The Chair asked if there were any question.

Roger Brown (AG) recalled there was some discussion in SC about whether a BA or BS was more appropriate. Vincent noted she had received a message for the rationale, explained that faculty from both the College of Agriculture and the College of Education discussed and felt BS was most appropriate as most major courses were focused in social sciences and would be using research-based practices through applied experiences.

The Chair explained the **motion** from committee was for the Senate to approve the establishment of a new BS Leadership for Community Education and Human Learning, in the Department of Educational Leadership Studies within the College of Education. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed and two abstained.

b. Senate's Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC) – Gregg Hall, Chair

i. *Proposed Suspension of DrPH Public Health*

The Chair introduced Gregg Hall (GS), chair of the SAOSC, to describe the proposed suspension of DrPH Public Health. Hall explained the proposed suspension to Senate members. The Chair asked if there were any questions.

Grossman (AS) asked if there would be a deadline for how long the program would remain open for students currently in the DrPH Public Health program. Tagavi (EN) noted that there were some limitations from the Graduate School regarding how long a student could take to complete a program. Jones (ME, emeritus) noted the importance of the question, but explained the motion was specifically about suspending admissions and not about closure.

The Chair explained the **motion** from committee was for the Senate to acknowledge a waiver of SR 3.3.2.2.2 (that requires an open hearing), and move to suspend the DrPH Public Health, effective immediately. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed and four abstained.

5. Items from the Floor (Time Permitting)

The Chair welcomed items from the floor.

Blalock (ME) commented that as the pandemic prevalence reduces, a point would be reached masks were no longer required. Blalock asked what this meant for faculty and staff who had chosen to test weekly, and whether they would be invited back to campus or if vaccination would still be required. The Chair invited Acting Provost DiPaola to respond. The Provost noted there would be meetings in the future that involved the SC and President Capilouto and that he would be sure to report back. The Provost welcomed input from Senate members about the topic.

Jones (ME, emeritus) recalled there had been prior discussion involving donor names and education units and asked if there was any further update on such discussion. The Chair responded that he had raised the matter

repeatedly with the President about inviting the Vice President of Philanthropy to attend a Senate meeting and discuss the matter with the Senate. The Chair noted that this had not yet moved forward.

Duncan (ME) informed Senate members that the Kentucky General Assembly (KGA) currently had a bill on the floor (HB 51) that would prohibit requirements for school and colleges and would be voted upon tomorrow. Duncan noted that the prohibition of a mask mandate seemed premature and asked the Provost if he had any thoughts. The Provost commented that Bart Hardin (director of government relations) was aware and dealing with the matter as appropriate. The Provost noted he agreed with Duncan's comments and encouraged any specific questions to be directed to the University's Office of Government Relations.

Yost (EN) asked about natural immunity to COVID-19 as it related to statistics about COVID-19 boosters. The Provost responded that he was aware of a peer reviewed paper related to Yost's question. The Provost noted it was difficult to operationalize verification of natural immunity and that there was much variability in antibody testing. The Provost commented that while natural immunity may be helpful, vaccination was better and supported by CDC documentation. Yost followed up with an additional question about why weekly mandated testing was only required for individuals who were not vaccinated. The Provost noted the viral load among vaccinated individuals who contracted COVID-19 decreased dramatically and explained the decision-making was based on evidence and what was possible operationally.

The Chair asked a question on behalf of Ferrell (FA) about the anti-CRT (critical race theory) legislation that was currently moving through the state legislature. The Chair explained Ferrell's question was about the status of the bills, what the University was doing in response to the legislation, and if it was possible for educational leaders of the University to testify or issue statements in opposition to the potential threat to academic freedom and first amendment rights that the anti-CRT legislation posed. The Provost suggested any specific questions be directed to the University's Office of Government Relations. The Chair noted that he trusted administration on this matter to be good advocates for the University's ability to continue to operate freely. Hall (GS) noted as a point of fact that a sponsor of the state legislation was teaching in the Patterson School of Diplomacy and asked whether there were possible conflicts of interest. Hall suggested the matter be considered by the Office of Provost.

Yost (EN) provided a brief statement to Senate members, commending faculty Trustees Blonder and Swanson for providing an update to Senate members at the January 24, 2022 Senate member about the President's compensation package that was approved by the Board of Trustees. Yost commented that the optics of the Board of Trustees and administrative decision about the compensation package, given the financial difficulties the University had faced recently, made him question the ability for University administration to be aligned with the campus. Yost questioned the judgement of the decision from an optics standpoint. The Provost agreed to communicate Yost's concerns to the President at the Chair's recommendation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM with **no objections**.

Respectfully submitted by
Aaron Cramer, Senate Council Chair

Absences: Ajay Mehra, Alice Turkington*, Alison Gustafson, Allie Pazdzior, Allison Wright, Alyssa Eckman, Angie Martin, Caleb Frush, Caroline Slicer, Chae Lea, Chipper Griffith, Christine Harper, Claire-Marie Hall*, Clayton Thyne*, Colleen Swartz, Craig Collins, Donna Arnett, Eli Capilouto, Elizabeth Tovar, Gail Brion*, George Wright, Jack Kirn, John Bauer, Julian Heilig, Julianne Ossege*, Justin Lane, Kenneth Calvert*, Kim Wilson, Kirsten Turner, Laura Fanucchi, Lauren Cagle, Lisa Cassis, Mark Birdwhistell, Mary Vosevich, Melissa Morgan, Mike Richey, Mitzi Vernon, Morgan Wilson, Nancy Cox, Olivia Ellis, Patrick Haycraft, R. Kiplan (Kip) Guy, Rudolph Bucheit, Sam Wyse, Scott Lephart, Tom Harris, Yanira Paz*, Zachary Broyles

**denotes explained absence*

Invited Guests Present: Sheila Brothers

Prepared by Katie Silver on Tuesday, February 15, 2022