

University Senate

Monday, March 21, 2022

The University Senate met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, March 21, 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 attendance would be captured via a Zoom report. The Chair asked senators to mute themselves when not speaking. He suggested that senators turn their cameras on when speaking if possible and noted that if someone was attending via phone, using the speakerphone made it hard for others to hear them. The session was being recorded for notetaking purposes.

The Chair reminded senators that Senate follows Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised and 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 provided guidance on how to participate in the discussion and how to vote using the voting software from Poll Everywhere.

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

1. Minutes from February 14, 2022 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the minutes from February 14, 2022. There being **no objections**, the minutes from February 14, 2022 were **approved as distributed by unanimous consent**.

The Chair offered a series of announcements.

- President Capilouto has initiated dismissal proceedings against tenured faculty member
- Appreciation extended to those participating in the ITS focus groups
- Notice given regarding annual campuswide solicitation for nominees for committees and an email coming this week
- The Chair asked Roger Brown (AG, chair, Elections Subcommittee) to provide an update on the faculty trustee election
 - Brown reported that the Elections Subcommittee certified five nominees in the upcoming election for faculty trustee: Hubie Ballard, Richard Charnigo, Aaron Cramer, Candice Hargons, and Jason Keinsley.
 - Online voting (preliminary round): Monday, April 4 through noon on Monday, April 11

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 one change, to the 2022-23 Law calendar including. The changes created a fall break and made federal Election Day an academic holiday, as well as related date adjustments.

The Chair reported the formation of the SC's ad hoc Committee on Academic Policies for Unscheduled Closings. The committee will be charged with investigating what is reasonable and/or feasible when the campus opens late, closes early, or is closed entirely. It is composed of diverse faculty, including representatives from /Senate committee membership. The SC has requested a preliminary report in early April; the Senate will be kept informed.

SC approved a second one-year term for Ombud Alice Turkington. Senate Rules 6.2.3.3 dictates that a second term without a search process is allowable for an ombud's second term if the provost and Senate Council concur.

b. Vice Chair

Vice Chair DeShana Collett (HS) explained the Outstanding Senator Award and explained that senators would receive an email soliciting nominees in the near future.

c. Parliamentarian

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

d. Trustees

The Chair reported that the trustees had let him know that they did not have a report to give.

3. Committee Reports

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

i. Proposed New USP between BA/BS Political Science and MPA Public Administration

Leslie Vincent (BE), chair of the SAPC, explained the proposal. The Chair called for questions of fact and there were none. The Chair noted that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation to approve the establishment of a new University Scholars Program between BA/BS Political Science in the Department of Political Science in the College of Arts and Sciences and MPA Public Administration in the Martin School of Public Administration within the Graduate School. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required.

The Chair called for debate but there was none. The Chair asked if there were any questions of fact and there were none. The Chair called for a **vote** and the motion **passed** with 64 in favor and two abstaining.

Noting some comments about trouble voting with the voting software, the Chair commented that he would continue moving forward in the meeting but if any senator felt it appropriate, they could motion to hold a vote via a show of hands.

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

i. Proposed Name Change of the Department of Mechanical Engineering to the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

The Chair introduced Gregg Hall (GS), chair of the SAOSC, who described the proposed name change. There were no questions of fact. The Chair explained that the **motion** was a recommendation to endorse the proposed name change of the Department of Mechanical Engineering to the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was necessary. There were no questions of fact and no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with 72 in favor and two abstaining.

iii. Proposed Suspension and Closure of MA Middle School Education

Hall (GS) explained the proposal, noting that the Senate had approved suspension and closure of the MS Middle School Education earlier in the year. There were no questions of fact. The **motion** was a recommendation that, acknowledging a waiver of Senate Rules 3.3.2.2.2 (that requires an open hearing), the Senate approve suspension of admissions and closure of MA Middle School Education, effective immediately. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. After a vote, the motion **passed** with 74 in favor and three abstaining.

iv. Proposed Consolidation of the Department of Epidemiology and Dept of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health into the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health (within the College of Public Health)

Hall (GS) explained the proposal and there were a couple questions of fact. The Chair said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation to endorse the proposed consolidation of the Department of Epidemiology and the Department of Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health into the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health (within the College of Public Health). Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion passed with 74 in favor and three abstaining.

c. Senate's Academic Facilities Committee (SAFC) - Mark O'Bryan, Chair

i. Input on Facilities-Related Survey

The Chair welcomed Mark O'Bryan (DS), chair of the Senate's Academic Facilities Committee (SAFC). O'Bryan spoke with senators about conducting another survey related to the facilities that instructors work and teach in. Senators offered a number of comments, listed below.

- The Disability Resource Center should be more centrally located; the office near the hospital is too far away for students on the north end of campus.
- Clocks not keeping the correct time can also be an issue.
- As written, the survey will not capture things tangential to a question. For example, a whiteboard may be in good condition, but without markers or an eraser.
- It would be good to be able to report if hand sanitizer dispensers are not kept filled.
- Accessibility is terrible in many of UK's buildings.
- Many classrooms do not have a phone number near the podium to use to call tech support, although that was common prior to the pandemic.
- It is not clear if the reference to campus grounds and sidewalks pertains to those areas in general, or just the areas near a specific building.

- Questions pertaining to issues like HVAC or classroom spaces do not lend themselves easily to a Likert scale.
- Some open-ended options would allow respondents to mention things not explicitly referred to in the survey.
- Some buildings have different sorts of issues, like a thermostat that cannot be controlled by those in the space. There should be a way to report those types of items.
- UK could stand to take a systematic look at how to make buildings and wayfinding more accessible.
- If the survey is sent only to senators, there could be an open-ended question at the end.
- There should be a place to note where lighting is insufficient (or too bright).
- The survey should go to more recipients than just senators. Many colleges have faculty in multiple departments and buildings, so it would be difficult to have senators speak with constituents and then provide generalized answers for the survey.
- It may not be feasible to include open-ended response questions in a survey that will have far more recipients than just senators.
- Buildings often come with electronics that may not work properly, like doors that automatically open or are part of security systems.
- The survey should include a point about flooring.
- Facilities Management employees generally do not do a good job of communicating about the work they are doing with the individuals working in those spaces.

The Chair and O'Bryan thanked senators for their comments. O'Bryan noted that he would be seeking the input of the Senate Council, too, including whether the survey should be distributed to senators or all faculty.

4. Scholars@UK Research Information Management System - Vice President for Research Lisa Cassis

The Chair welcomed Vice President for Research Lisa Cassis and Baron Wolf (assistant vice president for research), who shared information about the new research information management system. Cassis and Wolf responded to a number of questions from senators.

5. Items from the Floor (Time Permitting)

The Chair welcomed items from the floor.

Grossman (AS) suggested that the Senate establish a standard for how many faculty employees are required for a properly functioning academic department. There should be a minimum number, to ensure that tenure processes, etc. have enough participants to be meaningful.

Goodwin (FA) commented on travel expenditures for research activities being rejected by Accounts Payable as not being valid. There seems to be some disconnect in that area as it relates to appropriate arts- and humanities-related research.

Blalock (ME) asked what UK was doing to assist Ukrainian scientists and academics. The Chair called on Associate Provost for Internationalization Sue Roberts, who offered comments about the subject.

Seeing no additional hands raised, the Chair commented that it appeared to be time to adjourn, although he said he would remain on the Zoom webinar after the meeting was adjourned, to help anyone experiencing trouble voting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM with **no objections**.

Respectfully submitted by
Aaron Cramer, Senate Council Chair

Absences: Absent: Ajay Mehra, Alison Gustafson, Allie Pazdzior, Allison Gibson, Allison Wright, Alyssa Eckman, Angie Martin, Antonio Garcia, Ashley McPherson, Caleb Frush, Caroline Slicer, Chae Lea, Chipper Griffith, Christine Harper, Claire Fraser, Claire-Marie Hall, Colleen Swartz, Craig Collins, Donna Arnett, Doug Michael, Doug Way, Eli Capilouto, George Wright, Jan Forren, Jay Miller, Jeff Okeson, Jennifer Greer, Jennifer Wilhelm, Jin-ming Yang, Julian Heilig, Kaveh Tagavi, Kim Wilson, Kirsten Turner, Laura Fanucchi, Mark Birdwhistell, Mark Shanda, Mary Davis, Mary Vosevich, Melissa Morgan, Michael Hawse, Mike Richey, Ming-Yuan Chih, Mitzi Vernon, Morgan Wilson, Nancy Cox, Olivia Ellis, Patrick Haycraft, R. Kiplan (Kip) Guy, Rudolph Bucheit, Sam Wyse, Scott Lephart, Susan Cantrell, Tom Harris

Invited Guests Present: Sheila Brothers

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Tuesday, March 22, 2022