

# Senate Council

Monday, October 30, 2023

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 PM on Monday, October 30, 2023, in 103 Main Building, although a video conference link was also available for members. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken electronically unless otherwise specified. Specific voting information can be requested from the Office of the Senate Council (SC).

Senate Council Chair DeShana Collett (HS) called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:02pm. The Chair welcomed those present. She informed everyone that the session was being recorded for notetaking purposes and noted that it was an open meeting. She asked that all attendees, online and in person, state their name and affiliation prior to speaking, to ensure everyone knew who was speaking. The Chair asked SC members to be ready to vote via Poll Everywhere. The Chair reminded SC members that regarding the ability to speak, members must raise their hand to be called upon. The Chair also reminded everyone that SC members would have priority speaking, noting that others may be called upon as needed and given a chance to speak only if there were no additional comments from SC members

## 1. Minutes from October 16, 2023 and Announcements

The Chair informed SC members that no edits were received to the October 16, 2023 minutes. There being **no objections**, the minutes from October 16, 2023 were **approved as distributed by unanimous consent**.

The Chair announced there were two vacancies on the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees (UJCHD). The Chair mentioned two people she had invited to serve on this committee. The Chair stated these people had accepted and were in the process of being formally added to the committee's roster.

## 2. Committee Reports

### a. Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Generative AI

#### i. Interim Report

Molly Blasing (AS) and Leslie Vincent (BE), co-chairs of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Generative AI, provided an update on the committee's activities. Senate Council members discussed a number of concerns surrounding generative AI's role in education, including lack of a reliable AI detector and issues of fairness in utilizing AI.

### b. Senate Nominating Committee

#### i. Nominees for College of Law Dean Search Committee

Joseph Sottile (EN), chair of the Senate Nominating Committee, presented five nominees for the College of Law Dean Search Committee and discussed the rationale for determining these nominees. The Chair opened the floor for discussion. SC members asked for clarification on several minor details of the nominee list. Hollie Swanson (ME) put forth an additional name to add to the nominee list. Marilyn

Duncan (ME) **moved** to accept the amended nominee list and send the list to the Provost's office. Elizabeth Salt (NU) **seconded**.

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

#### c. Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC)- Leslie Vincent, Chair

##### i. Proposed Change to Graduate Certificate in College Teaching and Learning

Leslie Vincent (BE), chair of the SAASC, provided a brief description of the proposed change to the Graduate Certificate in College Teaching and Learning. Vincent stated there was a recommendation from the SAASC to approve the proposed changes. The Chair stated that because the recommendation comes from committee, no second is required. The Chair opened the floor to SC members for questions of fact or debate. There was concern voiced over the necessity of this change.

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

#### d. Senate Academic Programs Committee (SAPC)- Sandra Bastin, Chair

##### i. Proposed New Undergraduate Certificate in Sport Communication, Media, and Promotion

Sandra Bastin (AG), chair of the SAPC, provided a brief description of the proposed new Undergraduate Certificate in Sport Communication, Media, and Promotion. Bastin stated there was a recommendation from the SAPC to approve the new certificate. The Chair stated that because the recommendation comes from committee, no second is required. The Chair opened the floor for questions of fact or debate. There were no questions or debate.

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

### 3. Proposed Ad Hoc Committee on Attendance Policies

A draft charge for the proposed ad hoc committee was handed out to SC members. The Chair opened the floor for discussion. SC members engaged in considerable discussion. Among the issues raised were:

- The difference between "attendance" and "engagement" and the possibility of clarifying this in the charge
- The need to clarify "excused" vs. "unexcused" absences
- Concern over making the committee charge too specific
- The need to include the 20% rule in the committee charge
- Differences in attendance policies for asynchronous versus synchronous courses

The Chair directed SC members to discuss composition for the ad hoc committee. There were several suggestions from SC members regarding committee composition, including, a representative from Student Success, a representative from the Disability Resource Center, and a representative from University Health Services. It was suggested that some of these representatives could act as liaisons as opposed to members. SC members put forth several suggestions for ad hoc committee members. The Chair stated she would continue to work on the committee charge and composition and SC members would discuss further in the next SC meeting.

### 4. Campuswide Strategic Plan Initiatives

The Chair announced that during a recent Board of Trustees meeting, a resolution was passed with the aim of expediting progress towards fulfilling UK's Strategic Plan. A copy of the resolution and associated Strategic Plan passage were handed out to SC members. The Chair also provided hard copies of potential individuals who could be part of the initiative. The Chair informed SC members that the wording of the Board of Trustees' resolution directs the President to utilize existing shared governance structures.

The Chair stated she would like SC members to discuss individuals who would have the necessary knowledge and expertise to work on the initiative to reimagine Core and the general education curriculum. Provost Bob DiPaola stated SC members should wait on the President before discussing any aspect of the activity because President Capilouto was specifically directed by the Board of Trustees to implement this plan; the Provost assured SC members that, as the President's liaison, he promised the President would be in contact soon. There was extensive discussion about the Provost's suggestion to not discuss the matter, with the Provost repeating his request that no discussion be had until the President initiated it. Concerns were raised about the President and Provost suggesting it was inappropriate for the Senate Council to discuss the issue, particularly given Senate's clear purview over academic policies and the curriculum, as well as the June 2024 deadline for significant progress.

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

The Chair noted the time , saying there was no time for Items from the Floor.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by,

DeShana Collett

Prepared by Dori Grady on October 31, 2023

SC members present: Sandra Bastin, Molly Blasing, Aaron Cramer, Olivia Davis, Marilyn Duncan, Doug Michael, Jack Reynolds, Elizabeth Salt, Hollie Swanson, Kaveh Tagavi, Akiko Takenaka, Kiersten White

Invited guests present: Sheila Brothers, Robert DiPaola, Gregg Rentfrow