

Senate Council

Monday, February 6, 2023

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 PM on Monday, February 6, 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 3:00 PM. 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 January 30, 2023 and Announcements

The Chair informed SC members that the minutes from January 30 were not ready, but would be ready for the next SC meeting, along with the minutes from the day's meeting.

2. Old Business

a. Proposed Change to Senate Rules 1.4.2.18.3 ("Senate Academic Advising Committee," "Voting Student Members")

The Chair described the proposed change. Grossman (AS) **moved** to recommend Senate approve the proposed change to SR 1.4.2.18.3 and Duncan **seconded**. The motion **passed** with 10 in favor and none opposed.

b. Senate Meeting Roundtable

The Chair invited SC members to share thoughts about the most recent Senate meeting, although comments about SC meetings were also welcome. Comments included the sentiments below.

- Senate meetings run smoothly, due to great effort on the part of the Chair and SC office staff.
- The discussion on the proposed name change for the College of Education was conducted professionally.
- The proposed changes to Senate Rules IV should be considered carefully by senators, as well as the proposed shift to test-optional admissions. The presentation of data on UK's experience during the test-optional pilot would have benefited from a clear starting hypothesis.
- Many had the ability to speak and did so, expressing a variety of opinions.
- It would be helpful if there was a more deliberate mechanism to evaluate outcomes of projects, to avoid large years-long gaps in action.
- The SGA is working on ways to encourage student senators to be engaged and participate in Senate meetings.
- The number of senators reviewing agenda items prior to the meeting appears to be increasing.
- The Chair does a great job of starting meetings on time and using time wisely, especially during debate.

- Senators who felt that the proposed name change for the College of Education was not done collaboratively were the ones who spoke the most often in the meeting.
- The hybrid meeting model is working, although it appears that those senators present in the room are more engaged than those attending online.
- It would be good for new SC members to have a formal meeting with the Chair, to assist with orientation.
- For SC meetings, the default assumption is attending in person, unless a member needs to attend remotely. Applying the same expectation to senators may encourage more engagement.
- Senators should be reviewing agenda items more diligently prior to meetings.
- It is worrisome that major changes in policy, such as those to SR 4 and to the test-optional pilot, did not generate a lot of comments from SC members.

3. Degree Recipients

a. Spring 2023 Social Work Graduates at Ft. Sam Houston

The Chair described the degree list to SC members. The College of Social Work has a contract with the Army to provide this instruction at their base in Houston TX. Part of the contract includes a requirement for degree conferral at the time of graduation. Therefore, Army MSW students who have successfully completed the program receive their actual diploma as they walk in their ceremony in April. Because UK's Board does not meet in March, it makes the most sense for this degree list to go through the approval process in February.

Leslie Vincent (BE) **moved** that SC elected faculty members recommend Senate approve the Spring 2023 degree list for Social Work Graduates at Ft. Sam Houston, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees and Akiko Takenaka (AS) **seconded**. Past Chair and Faculty Trustee Aaron Cramer (EN) reminded those present that students are not permitted to vote on degree lists. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with nine in favor and none opposed.

b. Late Addition Degree List (per Senate Rules 5.5.1.1.4 ("Late Addition to Degree List"))

i. *Graduate School Student PE-93, for December 2007 Degree List*

The Chair explained the request for a late addition, which involved an error on the part of an employee in the Graduate School, who mistakenly believed an outdated application to file was still valid. Molly Blasing (AS) **moved** that the elected faculty members recommend the Senate amend the December 2007 degree list by adding the MA Classics degree for student PE-93 and recommend through the President to the Board of Trustees that the degree be awarded effective December 2007. Marilyn Duncan (ME) **seconded**.

There were a number of questions about the request, including the lengthy time between when the student was enrolled and the request for a correction. Past Chair and Faculty Trustee Cramer said explained that a lot of work has been done over the past few years to minimize the need to add someone retroactively to a degree list. It does not reflect well on the University when a student who should have graduated does not do so due to an administrative error. Members concurred with Salt's suggestion that an automated system would be preferable to a manual system.

A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with nine in favor and none opposed.

ii. *Graduate School Student FB-99, for December 2022 Degree List*

The Chair explained the request, noting that it was essentially the same issue as the first request – an employee mistook an outdated degree application as being valid, so the student was misadvised

when told they did not need to submit an application to graduate. Bob Grossman (AS) **moved** that the elected faculty members recommend the Senate amend the December 2022 degree list by adding the PhD Hispanic Studies for Graduate School Student FB-99 and recommend through the President to the Board of Trustees that the degree be awarded effective December 2022. Marilyn Duncan (ME) **seconded**. There was no debate.

A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with nine in favor and none opposed.

4. Committee Reports

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

i. *Proposed Change to Senate Rules 4.2.2.1.1 (“Graduate School,” “Admission Requirements”) and Senate Rules 4.2.2.2.1 (“Graduate School,” “International Applicants”)*

Leslie Vincent (BE), chair of the Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC), explained the proposal. The Chair explained that there was a **motion** from the SAASC for the Senate to approve the proposed changes to Senate Rules 4.2.2.1.1 (“Graduate School,” “Admission Requirements”) and Senate Rules 4.2.2.2.1 (“Graduate School,” “International Applicants”). Because the motion comes from committee, no **second** is required.

There were a variety of questions and comments from SC members. It was confirmed during the meeting that programs wishing to change their GRE/GMAT requirement would need to use the Senate’s process for a program change to make such changes; the proposal cannot stop at the Graduate Council. When discussion wound down, the Chair called for a **vote** and the motion **passed** with ten in favor and none opposed.

b. Senate Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC)

i. *Proposed Name Change from College of Education to College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences*

The Chair stated that the proposal itself has not changed since it was last seen. However, the College of Social Work dean contacted the Chair to indicate that they held a faculty vote in late November and the results of the vote was 95% of the voting faculty were opposed to the proposed name change. The Chair reminded SC members that they would be obligated to provide Senate with a recommended action (to endorse or not endorse), as well as consider how to communicate the outcome of the Senate’s vote to senior administrators.

Gregg Rentfrow (AG), chair of the Senate Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC), provided information to SC members about the proposal. The Chair then provided an opportunity for College of Education Acting Dean Danelle Stevens-Watkins to say a few words.

After brief discussion about the appropriate motion, the Chair noted that the recommendation from the SAOSC was that the Senate endorse the proposed name change. Because the motion comes from committee, no **second** is required. SC members discussed the proposed change, expressing opinions in favor of and opposed to the proposal. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with six in favor, four opposed, and one abstained.

The Chair asked SC members to consider how the result of the Senate’s vote would be reported to Provost DiPaola and President Capilouto and they did so. Doug Michael (LA) **moved** that the results of the Senate’s vote be transmitted to the President and Provost in the typical way. Leslie Vincent (BE) **seconded**. Discussion continued briefly. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with eleven in favor and none opposed.

5. Tentative Senate Agenda for February 13, 2023

The Chair reminded SC members that the proposed changes to undergraduate admissions policies in SR 4 had been recalled by the proposer. She commented that some of the proposed changes should continue to be vetted because they were woefully out of date. She suggested asking the SAASC to re-review the proposal and send forward some changes, which can go forward to the SC and Senate. In response to a question from Associate Vice President for Student Excellence and Engagement and Acting Associate Provost for Planning and Assessment Katherine McCormick, the Chair indicated that the proposed changes might be presented to Senate at its March meeting, although she was not sure how much work would need to be done.

The Chair noted that the Ft. Sam Houston Spring 2023 degree list needed to be added to the Senate's agenda. Leslie Vincent (BE) **moved** to approve the agenda as an ordered list, unless it needs to be rearranged to accommodate a guest's schedule and Bob Grossman (AS) **seconded**. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with 11 in favor and none opposed.

6. Items from the Floor

The Chair opened up the floor to SC members.

Bob Grossman (AS) noted a concern he had brought up at the most recent Senate meeting, regarding the singing of "My Old Kentucky Home, Good-Night!" at all UK sporting events, expressing concern about the racism it embodies due to the time period in which it was written. He asked if any action had been taken on the issue since he last raised his concern. He added that not all activities related to diversity, equity, and inclusion were comfortable and removing "My Old Kentucky Home, Good-Night!" from athletic events would be uncomfortable but also the right thing to do. Provost DiPaola said he would look into it. Other SC members expressed support for Grossman's comments. Akiko Takenaka (AS) said that a colleague in her department was researching the history of the song, so there could be an educational opportunity. The Chair said that she had planned to ask President Capilouto for updates on a variety of diversity-related topics and would include this in her conversation with him.

Past SC Chair and Faculty Trustee Aaron Cramer said he had received some odd questions about a new sabbatical policy, with the Provost's office newly providing a standard where units only allow 11% of their faculty to be on sabbatical at any one time. He referred to Governing Regulations X, which has a different standard and noted that any change to that Governing Regulation would had to have been done after or with consultation with the Senate. Molly Blasing (AS) described her work with the College of Arts and Sciences dean's office, to find ways to mitigate the new 11% threshold promulgated by the Provost's office. Provost DiPaola explained that the new limit was a result of the audit report on the College of Arts and Sciences. Senior Associate Provost for Administration and Academic Affairs explained the there was no policy in place, although there have been some conversations among a few deans and the Office of Faculty Advancement about what a reasonable threshold might be. In response the Provost's comments, past SC Chair and Faculty Trustee Aaron Cramer suggested it was implausible that UK's Internal Audit department would recommend violating a Governing Regulation. There were additional comments from SC members, expressing concern about the new threshold.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm with **no objections**.

Respectfully submitted by DeShana Collett,

Senate Council Chair

SC Members Present: Bastin, Blasing, Collett, Cramer, Davis, Duncan, Grossman, Laws, Michael, Raglin, Salt, Swanson, Tagavi, Takenaka, Vincent

Invited Guests Present: Sheila Brothers, Molly Fisher, Robert DiPaola, and Gregg Rentfrow

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Tuesday, February 7, 2023