

Senate Council

Monday, September 20, 2021

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, September 20, 2021 in 103 Main Building, although a video conference link was also available. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise.

Senate Council Chair Aaron Cramer (EN) called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:00 pm. The Chair welcomed those present. He informed everyone that the session was being recorded for notetaking purposes and noted that it was an open meeting. He asked that the SC members participating via Zoom to type their name and affiliation into the chat box and added that the chat function is generally only used for attendance and not monitored. He asked that all attendees, online and in person, state their name and affiliation prior to speaking, to ensure everyone knew who was speaking.

The agenda was amended to add the appointment of senate parliamentarian with **no objections**.

1. Minutes from September 8, 2021 and Announcements

The Chair reported that there were no changes to the minutes from September 8. There being **no objections**, the minutes from September 8 were **approved** as distributed by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair addressed previous SC questions posed to the prior chair of the Senate Academic Facilities Committee report regarding air quality. The Chair noted that these questions were passed along and that the Physical Plant Division (PPD) continues to monitor air quality as they did last year.

The Chair announced a potential for an honorary degree candidate to be taken to the University Senate (Senate) in October. The Chair explained the SC previously considered the honorary degree candidate during the prior academic year and that nomination would be forwarded to the Senate for approval in October.

The Chair reported that senators were reporting having issues being allowed to use college listservs to communicate with college faculty. He and Acting Provost Robert DiPaola discussed the issue and planned to discuss this and other governance topics with deans soon. The Chair said he would follow up and keep senators up to date.

The Chair reported that he spoke with the Graduate Council (GC) regarding GRE waivers at the program level and the clause in the *Senate Rules* that indicates the GC can consider and approve a waiver of the GRE requirement at the program level, but approval steps after that point are not clearly defined. The Chair commented that the smoothest resolution was for the GC to forward the change to the Senate Council office to put on a web transmittal to ensure there is a formal record of approval. The Chair clarified that he did not intend for this process to be retroactive in nature.

2. Old Business

a. Appointment of Senate Parliamentarian

The Chair read the text of *SR 1.2.4.4* ("Parliamentarian") and confirmed that Clayton Thyne (AS) is willing to be the Senate Parliamentarian this year. Grossman (AS) **moved** to approve Clayton Thyne as Senate Parliamentarian for 2021-22. Hawse (SGA) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed or abstained.

3. Proposed Changes to *Administrative Regulations 1:5* (“Policy on Reporting Substantive Change to the Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)”)

The Chair introduced the proposed changes to *Administrative Regulations 1:5* (“Policy on Reporting Substantive Change to the Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)”) to SC members. The Chair explained the process by which regulations change, including feedback from affected stakeholders, and commented on the opportunity for SC members to provide feedback with the Senate as an affected stakeholder.

The Chair invited Katherine McCormick (associate vice president for student excellence and engagement and acting associate provost for planning and assessment), Marcy Deaton (senior associate general counsel), and RaeAnne Pearson (planning and accreditation coordinator) to discuss the proposed changes.

McCormick explained the requirement for writing standards in order to demonstrate compliance with the SACSCOC for continued reaccreditation. She expressed the importance of ensuring that regulations were compliant with the SACSCOC. McCormick commented on the scope of activity required UK to demonstrate compliance in many areas and invited assistance from those willing to help.

The Chair asked if there were any questions. SC members discussed specifics like a teach-out plan, definitions, and other SACSOC policies with McCormick, Deaton, and Pearson. Deaton echoed McCormick’s comment about the amount of work required for the reaccreditation. With Deaton’s concurrence, the Chair said he would communicate the proposed changes to Senate members, ask them to provide comments, and respond to Deaton with any collected feedback.

4. Fully Online Delivery Form

The Chair described the relationship between the Fully Online Delivery Form and the Senate’s involvement in the approval process for University programs. The Chair asked if there were any questions. SC members focused on the lack of a formal definition for a “fully online academic program,” details about the workflow, and when the form should go into effect. It was noted that a newly proposed program to be fully online would be submitted to the Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC); an existing program adding a fully online modality will be considered a “significant change.” Collet (HS) **moved** to approve the use of the Fully Online Delivery Form. Hawse (SGA) **seconded**.

SC members agreed to an effective date of October 1 for requiring proposers to use the form, meaning any proposal leaving the college after October 1 will be obligated to use the new process. Existing programs already listed as fully online in SAP will not need to comply with the new requirements, although those programs should be able to confirm that they are complying with the new requirements.

When there was no further debate, a **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed or abstained.

The Chair suggested asking the Senate Committee on Distance Learning and eLearning (SCDLLeL) make a recommendation for formal definition to be used in the *Senate Rules*. SC members agreed, noting that the existing definition from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) may not fully encompass a definition that would be functional for the Senate. McCormick suggested it would be ideal to align UK’s definition with that of IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System), which would also simplify reporting to SACSCOC. Brown (AG) agreed to take the item to the SCDLeL, as well as work with McCormick before bringing a final recommendation to the SC.

5. Courses without Faculty Oversight

The Chair presented course prefixes not housed in an academic unit to SC members, noting there may be other prefixes not included in the list. The Chair explained *Governing Regulation VII* requires that educational units deliver instruction, research, and service, noting that faculty of said educational units have primary responsibility for the development of policies on such matters like academic requirements, curricula, and course offerings. The Chair also noted that this responsibility is a requirement of SACSCOC Standard 10.4 (Academic Governance):

The institution (a) publishes and implements policies on the authority of faculty in academic and governance matters, (b) demonstrates that educational programs for which academic credit is awarded are approved consistent with institutional policy, and (c) places primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum with its faculty. (Academic governance)

The Chair remarked that, with upcoming reaffirmations, the timing was appropriate for the Senate to determine how they would approach the issue. The Chair explained that he had raised the issue with various senior administrators throughout the last academic year, including a substantial conversation between the former Provost, the Chair, and the Senate Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) last spring.

SC members and guests engaged in an extensive discussion about courses without faculty oversight. SC members did not express concern regarding the current content or delivery of the courses, but rather focused on mechanisms to ensure appropriate oversight. The following are some of the specific topics discussed as they pertained to faculty oversight:

- Non-credit bearing courses used for bookkeeping purposes
- All courses requiring Senate oversight, although Senate has delegated oversight for non-credit bearing coursework to the college faculty
- Senate has oversight of all courses listed on a transcript
- Ensuring UK's existing rules are followed for accreditation
- The formation of an ad hoc committee to suggest solutions for these courses

During discussion, Blonder (ME, trustee) **moved** to create an ad hoc committee to review the issue and offer recommendations to SC for further action. Collett (HS) **seconded**. Members Collett (HS), Oltmann (CI), Vincent (BE), Hawse (SGA) and Jones (emeritus faculty) agreed to serve on the committee. Collett agreed to serve as committee chair and said she would present recommendations from the committee by the end of October. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed or abstained.

6. Senate Meeting Considerations

The Chair led SC members in a discussion of requests from senators to distribute the Senate meeting PowerPoint presentations and recordings. The Chair clarified that Senate meeting minutes would still be publicly distributed; because SC members had previously agreed not to offer these files publicly, the Chair asked for SC members to confirm that sentiment. It was clarified that these materials would always be made available in the event of an open records request. Some SC members noted that having access to Senate meeting PowerPoint presentations would be beneficial when disseminating reports to their respective colleges, while others noted concerns for material being taken out of context. Vincent (BE) noted that some topics included in Senate meeting presentations, such as honorary degrees, were not intended to be publicly shared. SC members agreed it was best to not distribute presentations for this reason. Vincent (BE) commented on the potential risk of

distributing a recording. Hawse (SGA) responded there was already a transcript of the Senate meetings available, negating the need for a recording.

The Chair then asked SC members to discuss voting in Senate meetings. The public nature of voting in Senate meetings with Zoom via the “raise hand” feature was discussed. In previous Senate meetings that were held in-person, the use of Turning Point ResponseCard technology (“clickers”) allowed for some privacy for Senate members during votes. It was clarified that specific votes made by individual Senate members using clickers were available in the event of an open records request. Jones (ME) remarked that prior to using clickers, Senate members visibly raised hands in Senate meetings.

Jones also requested that the Chair announce the total vote numbers after a vote in Zoom, as attendees were unable to see the results via the “raise hand” feature in the way that panelists (voting members) can. The Chair remarked that the SC office had been searching for a better voting function to use when voting, for both in-person and Zoom meetings. There was a general sentiment that SC members needed more information about open meetings laws and voting before making any formal recommendation.

7. Senate Meeting Roundtable (Time Permitting)

The Chair opened the floor for a Senate meeting roundtable for SC members to discuss the most recent Senate meeting. Multiple SC members commented that the Chair ran the meeting well; discussions during the Senate meeting were insightful and respectful and included many voices. The following topics were also discussed:

- The possibility for text being voted on to be displayed within the Senate meeting PowerPoint presentation
- The use of the chat function can be helpful when sharing a URL or wordsmithing a motion, but there were also concerns expressed that attendees may not realize that chats are viewable by all attendees, including media outlet representatives
- It was helpful for the Chair to emphasize that if someone had already spoken, the Chair would wait to call on them until others had the opportunity to speak.
- The order of agenda items, particularly items of interest that media outlet representatives would be interested in reporting on prior to a 5 pm deadline
- The possibility of someone monitoring the chat function, to allow for more engagement if someone is more comfortable writing than speaking
- Favorable comments about Senate meetings occurring via Zoom that allow for increased attendance

8. Items from the Floor (Time Permitting)

The Chair invited items from the floor. Vincent (BE) commented on the change that University Health Services (UHS) made to their documentation process regarding student excused absences. She remarked that UHS used to send an email to instructors, but the implementation of a new medical record system no longer generated this communication. Kirsten Turner (vice president of student success) commented some students were having issues scheduling appointments through the new system. Turner noted Corrinne Williams (acting associate vice president of student wellbeing) was working with students and UHS on the issue. The Chair suggested having a representative of UHS present to SC the issue of documentation processes for instructors.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 PM with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Blonder, Cantrell, Collett, Cramer, DeCorte, Duncan, Grossman, Hawse, Oltmann, Swanson, Vincent, and VanGilder

Invited guests present: Roger Brown, Marcy Deaton, Bob DiPaola, Miranda Hines, Katherine McCormick, and RaeAnne Pearson

Prepared by Katie Silver on Wednesday, September 22, 2021