

Senate Council  
August 30, 2021

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, August 30, 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 attendees online and in the room state their name and affiliation prior to speaking, to ensure everyone knew who was speaking.

1. Minutes from August 23, 2021 and Announcements

The Chair reported that there were no changes to the minutes from August 23. There being **no objections**, the minutes from August 23 were **approved** as distributed by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair reported that he sent to President Capilouto and Provost DiPaola the SC's response to the draft strategic plan. He noted that the Provost was interested in additional feedback from SC members and invited the Provost to say a few words. The Provost expressed a desire to meet individually with SC members to discuss both the draft strategic plan and the organization and functions of the Provost's office. When his remarks had concluded, the Chair suggested that a special SC meeting held the following week, to discuss feedback on the draft strategic plan, could be effective. He noted that the SC has a positive dynamic that even the Provost has commented on, which bodes well for having a discussion as a group. Also, if individual meetings are held, there won't be any minutes or other documentation of the thoughts and concerns of SC members.

The last announcement was a report of continued interest expressed by members of Kentucky's Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL) about all the universities passing a joint resolution in support of a vaccine mandate. The Chair noted that he was watching the interest, but had not yet participated in the conversation; if SC members were interested in participating in a joint resolution, they should let him know.

2. Old Business

a. Appointment of University Senate Parliamentarian

The Chair reported difficulties in finding a parliamentarian for University Senate (Senate) meetings in 2021-22. He asked if SC members had any strong opinions and it was made clear that SC members could appoint any individual that the Chair determined was willing and appropriate to serve.

3. Appointment of Sergeants-at-Arms

The Chair noted that *Governing Regulations IV* ("The University Senate") dictates that Senate have two sergeants-at-arms, who are appointed by the Senate Council; the text about sergeants-at-arms in the *Senate Rules* calls for one, who is appointed by the SC chair. The Chair explained that the current sergeant-at-arms will attend remotely but it would be helpful to have a second person to help meetings in-person. The role helps facilitate meeting proceedings, such as helping senators to sign in, etc. He noted that he did not have any names to suggest; SC members were willing to appointing individuals identified by the Chair who were willing to serve.

4. Degree Recipients

The Chair noted that approval of degree lists are statutorily restricted to elected faculty members of the SC and Senate. He added that because the Board of Trustees is meeting September 10 and the Senate meets a few days later, it would be necessary for the SC to approve the degree recipients on behalf of the Senate.

a. Late Addition to May 2021 Degree List (per Senate Rules 5.5.1.1.4 ("Late Addition to Degree List"))

i. Gatton College of Business and Economics Student BG-72

The Chair explained the request. Vincent (BE) **moved** that the elected faculty members of SC, on behalf of the elected faculty members of the Senate, amend the May 2021 degree list by adding the BBA Finance for student BG-72 and recommend through the President to the Board of Trustees that the degree be awarded effective May 2021. Collett (HE) **seconded**. After a comment from Grossman (AS), it was clarified that the student's second degree will be added. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

b. Late Addition to August 2021 Degree List (per Senate Rules 5.5.1.1.4 ("Late Addition to Degree List'))

i. College of Education Student CB-60

The Chair explained the request. Grossman (AS) **moved** that the elected faculty members of SC, on behalf of the elected faculty members of the Senate, amend the August 2021 degree list by adding the Master of Rehabilitation Counseling in Rehabilitation Counseling for student CB-60 and recommend through the President to the Board of Trustees that the degree be awarded effective August 2021. Collett (HS) **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

5. Proposed Changes to 2021-2022 Graduate School Calendar

The Chair explained that the Graduate School again receiving requests for international student applications past the August 15 deadline (for Spring 2022 admission). The request involves a calendar change to extend each of these deadlines by a month: April 15 for fall admissions and September 15 for spring admissions.

After a question from DeCorte (SGA) about the nature of the change, Vincent (BE) **moved** to approve the change and Hawse (SGA) **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. Proposed Change to Senate Rules 3.2.2 ("Course Numbering System")

The Chair explained the request and said that Registrar Kim Taylor was present to answer questions. There were a few questions of fact. After comments from Collett (HS), the Chair commented that it may be that other consortia courses could benefit from a standardized number. Taylor said she would do some research into how frequently such courses are used before any changes were proposed and that was amenable to those present. Hawse **moved** to approve the proposed changes to *Senate Rules 3.2.2* ("Course Numbering System") and DeCorte **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

7. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Academic Facilities Committee - Kevin Donohue, Former Chair

i. 2020-21 Annual Report

The Chair welcomed the past chair of the Senate's Academic Facilities Committee (SAFC), Kevin Donohue (EN). Donohue presented the SAFC's annual report from 2020-21 and provided information about how the committee functioned. He noted that Vice President for Facilities Mary Vosevich was supportive of regular meetings with the SAFC, in part to help ensure direct faculty feedback relate dot facilities. There were a variety of questions from those present. Duncan (ME) asked if the SAFC had

information on what has been done curing COVID-19 to evaluate ventilation and air quality, to improve the safety of instructional facilities. Donohue noted that the SAFC had not asked that question, but indicated he would email Vosevich and expect information on what UK did to evaluate and address air quality concerns.

#### 8. Nominees for College of Arts and Sciences Dean Search Committee

The Chair explained that he is hearing concerns from senators in the College of Arts and Sciences and others about moving away from the dean search composition that was established last year. Without objection, SC members were amenable to sending forward the nominee that the SC sent forward last year.

The Provost shared with SC members his planned strategies to ensure that Arts and Sciences faculty would be kept updated throughout the process. The Provost suggested bringing the SC's representative to that committee back to the SC periodically for updates and SC members accepted that possibility, although the Chair noted that the SC typically did not ask search committee nominees for updates during the process, to protect the integrity of the search. The Provost thought it was feasible if information shared with SC was not specific.

Grossman (AS) asked that the Provost ensure that any finalist for the position of Arts and Sciences dean be required to visit campus and participate in interviews before any decision is made regarding a formal offer. The Provost said he agreed it was important for finalists for dean-type positions to visit campus. Grossman added that some search candidates do not want their name made public unless the individual is the sole finalist but it will be important for the campus to interact with more than one finalist. The Provost supported the idea of more than one candidate, as well as making the finalists' names public for their visits to campus.

#### 9. Tentative Senate Agenda for September 13, 2021

The Chair went over the tentative Senate agenda and also asked that SC members discuss the modality of the meeting. Charnigo (PbH) suggested slightly revising the list of officer reports to differentiate between the Senate chair and Senate Council chair. There were many comments from SC members supporting the idea of holding the meeting digitally (via Zoom). The Chair then noted that hearing no comments in support of an in-person meeting, it seemed that the Senate meeting would be held via Zoom. He added that the SC could address the modality of the October Senate meeting closer to that date.

Collett **moved** to approve the tentative agenda for the University Senate meeting on September 13, 2021 as an ordered list, with the understanding that items may be rearranged to accommodate guests' schedules and Vincent **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

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

SC members held a lengthy discussion regarding the draft Strategic Plan. SC members were supportive of a special meeting with the Provost about the strategic plan (as opposed to individual meetings with the Provost). SC members offered the suggestions and comments below.

- It would be helpful to see how drafts of the strategic plan change after SC's input is received.

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- SC members comments on topics related broadly to accountability, transparency, and shared governance must be viewed in the broader context of the past several years' worth of Senate and faculty interactions with the President and Provost. There is a sense that the Senate has felt that characteristics like accountability and transparency have been battered and the Senate has felt challenged when bringing up those concerns.
- It is difficult to imagine metrics that align with broadly stated objectives. For example, it is not clear why the metric for interdisciplinary programs is retention rates.
- The language describing UK Core is the only place where a single program is called out by name in the draft plan. The language used implies that UK Core is irrevocably broken and needs to be fixed, which is not true. The text also implies that some faculty will be removed from teaching UK Core courses. UK Core is relatively new and the wording could be improved to better reflect the current state of the program.
- Throughout the draft plan, there is text implying that entities/individuals involved in a particular topic are not doing any good work currently.

The Chair said he would provide SC members with a shared online file in which they can begin compiling thoughts and ideas in a shared document online. Throughout the discussion, the Provost shared his appreciation for the SC's specific input.

At the Provost's request, the Chair called on Chief Communications Officer Jay Blanton so that Blanton could offer an update on evolving campus plans for mandatory COVID testing. There were a number of questions from SC members. Blanton explained that the penalties for someone who refuses to comply with mandatory COVID testing were designed in an attempted to be fair and consistent yet still hold people accountable. For students who fail to be tested, they will have a hold placed on their student account that will prevent them from registering for classes, etc. Once they submit to a test however, the hold will be lifted. For staff and faculty employees, after one week of noncompliance, the employee will receive a written notice to be placed in their personnel file. During successive weeks, employees who fail to test will incur permanent percentage-based reductions of the upcoming merit raise, in 0.5% increments. There is currently no mechanism built in for an employee to have their anticipated merit raise percentages restored. Concern was expressed that while students will not have any long-lasting penalties, University employees, particularly younger staff and faculty, could lose a significant portion of their income over the course of a career.

Multiple SC members reported challenges in getting their vaccination status correctly listed in UK's system, resulting in multiple prodding emails that were not relevant to someone who has been vaccinated. Both Blanton and the Provost said they would look into those issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron M. Cramer,  
Senate Council Chair

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

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Invited guests present: Jay Blanton, Ralph Crystal, Bob DiPaola, Kevin Donohue, Mark O'Bryan, and Kim Taylor.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Tuesday, August 31, 2021.