

Senate Council  
April 1, 2019

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, April 1, 2019 in 103 Main Building. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise.

Senate Council Chair Jennifer Bird-Pollan called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

1. Minutes from March 25, 2019 and Announcements

The Chair noted that the faculty trustee election was underway and asked Guest Roger Brown (AG/Agricultural Economics, chair of Elections Subcommittee of the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC)) to provide an update. Brown offered the dates for voting and said that an email would go out to eligible voters prior to those dates. In response to the Chair, he confirmed that he had been in touch with all the candidates.

The Chair reported that there was good news about both students on the SC. Hamilton was reelected as president of the Student Government Association (SGA) and Walker had accepted a position at PriceWaterHouseCooper as a tax attorney for next year.

There were a few curricular related announcements.

- The SC office's deadline for receipt of curricular items requiring committee review had passed and from this point forward it would be nearly impossible to get approval this year for newly received items. The Chair added that those involved in the curricular approval process appreciated the SC's support regarding how many times the campus had been notified of the deadlines.
- There has been a temporary pause regarding integrating program approvals into Curriculog. It turned out to be more complicated than anticipated. Because the Registrar's office might purchase an associated software system that might work better with Curriculog, a decision was made to pause on integration work. Over the summer, however, work will be done to route program proposals through Curriculog, using the Senate's current forms. The Chair added that conversations including the current and past chairs of the Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) and academic council chairs provided a consensus that moving the Senate approval process into Curriculog would be helpful during the pause on full integration.
- The Chair reported that she had led another mediation meeting between college representatives from two colleges, regarding two proposals and associated concerns of each area. She described the meeting as productive and that the concerns were all ultimately resolved. She added that she attended a meeting the prior week with Cramer and other members of the Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC), to discuss programs coming through the approval process that are overly broad and cross into other disciplinary areas. The Chair said she intended to put this issue on the agenda for the retreat, to help guide academic council and SAPC members if they think there is duplication, overlap, mission creep, etc. The Chair said she asked for assistance in accessing a report that would evaluate the programs approved over the past five to seven years as to whether or not they appeared to duplicate then-existing programs, if there were any enrollment issues, etc.
- After the curricular approval season ends, the SAPC plans to review the Senate's program forms and provide Ms. Brothers with suggestions on edits to make to the forms over the summer.

The Chair said that while there was not time to solicit feedback at the present time, she asked SC members to provide feedback on SC and Senate meeting durations. She said she was concerned that meetings would need to be an hour longer in order to review all the pending curricular proposals that still needed Senate review. She said she preferred starting an hour earlier at 2 pm than going an hour longer until 6 pm. The Chair said she welcomed thoughts and ideas from SC members about this issue and said she would let SC members know if it looked like SC meetings also would need to be extended by an hour.

The Chair said that no comments had been received for the minutes from March 25. There being **no objections**, the minutes from March 25, 2019 were **approved** as distributed by **unanimous consent**.

## 2. Old Business

### a. Nominees for Area and Advisory Committees

The Chair explained that some of the nominees from the prior week's deliberations skewed to a certain college or gender; she asked that SC members deliberate on additional nominees for a handful of the committee nominees that were suggested the prior week. SC members discussed nominees for those academic area advisory committees and other committees. Regarding the nominees for the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees (UJCHD), Grossman **moved** that the SC send forward the four nominees in ranked order and Cross **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

### b. Retreat Planning

The Chair solicited input from SC members on agenda items and invited guests for the SC's retreat on May 8.

## 3. Proposed Change to Undergraduate Certificate in Musical Theatre for Theatre Majors

The Chair explained that the proposal under review had first been reviewed and approved by SC and Senate as a new program a few years ago; the current change form was to add a newly approved course, TA 001, as a zero-credit P/F class requirement. During Ms. Brothers' review of the certificate, she noticed that the requirement of a Pass/Fail (P/F) class was not contemplated in *[new numbering] SR 5.1.4*, which states that P/F courses cannot be required for programs. Within the rule, however, there is a caveat that P/F courses can be permitted as required courses if the SC explicitly approve them. The Chair said that if the issue had not been noted, the proposal would have simply been placed on a web transmittal for approval. Because the P/F issue was noted, however, the Chair was bringing the proposal to the SC with the proposer's request that the SC consider approving the requirement of a P/F course for the Undergraduate Certificate in Musical Theatre for Theatre Majors. If the SC approved that, the proposal could then go on a web transmittal for 10-day review by senators. She added that the other certificate on the agenda had the exact same issue, as did a proposal for an additional new undergraduate certificate from the same unit. The Chair added that Guest Nancy Jones (FA/Theatre and Dance, department chair) was present to answer questions about her request.

SC members asked a number of questions and there was a lengthy discussion about the request, as well as possible alternate solutions. Cross **moved** that the SC approve the addition of TA 001 as a required, zero-credit, P/F course for the Undergraduate Certificate in Musical Theatre for Theatre Majors. Spear **seconded**. Grossman said he was philosophically opposed to requiring students to participate in an activity that would not provide academic credit but was also required for the degree. He said that he was not opposed to the P/F grading system, but he did object to it carrying zero credits. Discussion continued. Brion also agreed that an S/UN-graded course would be more appropriate. There was a brief

exchange among a few that clarified that a related issue was the description of “undergraduate certificates” [in *[new numbering] SR 4.2.8*], which included the caveat that “A student must earn a C or better in each required certificate course to receive the certificate.” The Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) had previously but recently interpreted that if a course used a P/F grading system, the course could not be required for an undergraduate certificate because the P/F course cannot satisfy the certificate requirement about attaining at least a grade of “C.” The Chair commented during discussion that the use of an S/UN grading system had already been posed as an option, but the SREC determined that an S/UN-graded course could not be required for a program for the same reason that a P/F course could not be required. The reason for the day’s agenda item is the exception in *SR 5.1.4*, which provides for the SC to specifically approve the requirement of a P/F course. During discussion, the Chair clarified that the course in question, TA 001, had already been approved by the Senate via a 10-day web transmittal and no objections to the course had been raised. There was additional discussion.

Cross and Spear **withdrew** their motion and second. Grossman **moved** to approve the request on the condition that the proposed P/F course be changed to an S/UN course. Cross **seconded**. There was additional discussion. When a question arose about what a section of the *SRs* was intended to imply, Guest Davy Jones (ME/Toxicology and Cancer Biology, chair of Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC)) said that the SC could interpret a specific clause to mean something explicitly. Grossman said the SC could interpret the clause requiring a student to earn a C or better in each required certificate course [4.2.8] to not prohibit the inclusion of P/F or S/UN courses as required courses for a program. Those present discussed the motion, as well as the process Jones, N. would need to go through again if she were asked by SC to resubmit the course proposal for TA 001 with an S/UN grading system instead of the already approved P/F grading system. Tagavi and Blonder spoke against the motion, suggesting that it might be unfair to ask Jones, N. to resubmit the course proposal for TA 001 even though the Senate just approved it.

Grossman and Cross **withdrew** their motion and second. Discussion continued. Grossman then **moved** that the SC interpret the clause requiring a student to earn a C or better in each required certificate course [4.2.8] to not prohibit the inclusion of P/F or S/UN courses as required courses for an undergraduate certificate. Cross **seconded**. After additional debate, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed.

Discussion continued, regarding Grossman’s desire that the grading scale be changed from P/F to S/UN. There was additional discussion. Brion **moved** to approve the requirement of a P/F course (TA 001) for the Undergraduate Certificate in Musical Theatre for Theatre Majors. Cross **seconded**. After a couple of comments, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

#### 4. Proposed Change to Undergraduate Certificate in Musical Theatre for Voice Majors

Brion **moved** to approve the requirement of a P/F course (TA 001) for the Undergraduate Certificate in Musical Theatre for Voice Majors. Cross **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

#### 5. Committee Reports

##### a. Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) – Davy Jones, Chair

##### i. Policy Discussion on Professional Master’s Degrees

Guest Davy Jones (ME/Toxicology and Cancer Biology, chair of Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC)) explained the SREC’s request to SC. SC members discussed some aspects of professional master’s degrees that were contradictory or confusing. The Chair suggested that the issue be placed on

the SC's agenda for the May 8 retreat. Cross said he supported the formation of an ad hoc committee to review the issue.

b. Senate's Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee (SRWAC) – Jim Donovan, Chair

i. Proposed Changes to *Senate Rules* and Form for SRWAC

Guest Jim Donovan (LI), chair of the Senate's Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee (SRWAC), explained the proposed changes to SC members and the issues that the changes are intended to resolve. The Chair added that SRWAC had proposed changes to the SREC's interpretations, but if the SRWAC felt the language was helpful, it could recommend the language be converted to new rule language, instead of remain as an interpretation. The Chair commented on the suggested change to not allow students to appear if their appeals were preliminarily approved by the SRWAC and suggested that the language be rearranged somewhat so that students would not show up the day of the meeting, only to be told that they did not need to appear. Donovan responded that he would happily accept friendly amendments to help SRWAC reach its goal of not spending valuable time hearing comments on cases that they had already approved. Brion suggested that the language referring to advisors be more inclusive; Guest Ruth Beattie (AS/Biology, associate dean for advising) suggested using the term "college representative."

Tagavi and Cramer spoke in favor of allowing a student with an I grade withdraw from an entire semester; Donovan said he thought SRWAC would agree to that as a compromise to not allowing any appeals involving an "I" grade. The Chair asked SC members about next steps, commenting that there might be an argument for sending this proposal to the SAASC for review. She noted that including the SAASC in the review process might mean that the proposal's review would be finished in the fall. If timing was important to SC members, the SC could edit the proposal and send it directly to the Senate.

Cross **moved** to refer the proposal to the SAASC. Brion **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed. In response to a question from the Chair, Walker said that the proposal had not yet been presented to the SGA, but there would be a senate meeting in two weeks. Blonder suggested that the phrase "medical background" be replaced with "clinical background." It was clarified that suggestions from the day's discussion would be passed along to the SAASC.

6. En Passant Masters and Plan A Masters

The Chair welcomed Guests Brian Jackson (ME/Physiology, dean of the graduate school) and Cleo Price (assistant dean for graduate academic services). Jackson explained the Graduate Council's desire to standardize and codify a recommended structure for en passant master's programs. There were a few comments from SC members. The consensus among those offering opinions was that the Graduate Council could create an ad hoc committee to develop a policy on the structure for en passant master's degrees. The recommendations from that committee would necessarily come to SC and Senate for review and approval, so the SC and Senate could provide feedback at that time.

Jackson then described the need to assist some master's degree programs with revising their program curricula to clarify that all Plan A master's degree programs needed to require six hours of the appropriately prefixed 768 course, in order to ensure that no master's degrees were awarded to a student who had completed less than 30 credit hours. There were a handful of comments from SC members. In response to a question from Jackson, Grossman indicated that SC could develop a simpler approval process for the affected programs, when more specifics could be brought to SC.

7. Discussion on Two Possible New Credentials (Post-Baccalaureate Undergraduate Certificate and Post-Master's Graduate Certificate)

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The Chair invited Ruth Beattie (AS/Biology, associate dean for advising) to describe the proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences. Guest Beattie explained the proposal to change the names of the existing certificates, as well as add two additional types of certificates. There were a number of questions from SC members. Guest Annie Davis Weber (assistant provost for strategic planning and institutional effectiveness) also participated in the discussion.

After discussion wound down, SC members were inclined to send the proposal first to the Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) and then to the Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) for their input.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Bird-Pollan,  
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Bird-Pollan, Blonder, Brion, Cramer, Cross, Grossman, Hall, Hamilton, Osterhage, Spear, Tagavi, and Walker.

Invited guests present: Ruth Beattie, Roger Brown, Jim Donovan, Brian Jackson, Davy Jones, Nancy Jones, Cleo Price, and Annie Davis Weber.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Wednesday, April 3, 2019.