

Senate Council
April 7, 2014

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, April 7, 2014 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 Lee X. Blonder called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:06 pm.

1. Minutes from March 24, 2014 and Announcements

The Chair stated that no changes were received for the minutes. There being no corrections, the minutes from March 24, 2014 were **approved** as distributed by **unanimous consent**.

There were a few announcements. The Chair reported that a meeting took place late in the prior week involving representatives from the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (AG) and Derek Lane, the contact person for the proposed new Undergraduate Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurial Studies. All parties worked out an agreement that they will begin continue to work together to incorporate AG courses into the proposed new certificate after approval and that the proposed new certificate, without AG courses, could proceed to the University Senate (Senate) for approval in April.

The Chair suggested rearranging the agenda so that the Old Business item could be discussed when Wood was present. There were no objections.

Those present introduced themselves. Hippisley explained that the suspension rationales for all three certificates were very similar.

3. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) - Andrew Hippisley, Chair

i. Proposed Suspension of Graduate Certificate in Health Administration

Hippisley explained the proposed suspension of the Graduate Certificate in Health Administration. Guest J. S. Butler (GS/Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, Senate parliamentarian) and asked why the certificate was being suspended instead of deleted. Guest Sharon Lock (NU) said that it could be deleted, as there were no plans to offer it in the future.

Anderson asked if deleting the certificate would change any other course or program. Lock replied that it would not.

The Chair stated that the motion was that the SC recommend the Senate approve the suspension of admission into an existing graduate program: Certificate in Health Administration, in the College of Nursing. Anderson **moved** thusly and Christ **seconded**. There being no discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

i. Proposed Suspension of Graduate Certificate Public Health Nursing

Hippisley explained the rationale for the suspension of the Graduate Certificate in Public Health Nursing. In response to Brown, Lock confirmed that the one enrolled student (2006-07) had completed. In response to Debski, Anderson explained that it was created in response to a grant from the state. Once the funding dried up, the Certificate was no longer offered. In addition, the MS in Nursing (MSN) degree was no longer offered and the Certificate had played a role in the MSN curriculum by way of offering an

additional specialty area. Lock added that the courses associated with the Certificate were no longer offered.

Pienkowski **moved** that the SC recommend the Senate approve the suspension of admission into an existing graduate program: Certificate in Public Health Nursing, in the College of Nursing. Debski **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

i. Proposed Suspension of Graduate Certificate in Nursing Studies

Hippisley explained the proposal. There was some confusion about the purpose and enrollment in the Graduate Certificate in Nursing Studies. Lock said that she and Guest Kathy Collins determined that the Certificate was offered primarily for students in the Martin School of Public Policy and Administration. Butler commented that it was probably once connected to the Masters in Health Administration (MHA), which was transferred a couple of years ago to the College of Public Health (PbH). Debski expressed concern that PbH was not consulted in the suspension of the Certificate. Anderson added that the Certificate was designed to help MHA students better understand nursing. There was brief discussion about the appropriate next steps.

Pienkowski moved that the SC recommend the Senate approve the suspension of admission into an existing graduate program: Certificate in Nursing Studies, in the College of Nursing, contingent upon receipt of a letter of support from the College of Public Health dean. Anderson **moved** thusly and Christ **seconded**. There being no further discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Due to the Senate agenda being posted the following day, the Chair asked that an email or letter of support from the Public Health dean, or an associate dean, be sent to herself and to Ms. Brothers by 3 pm on the following day (Tuesday, April 8).

c. Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) - Davy Jones, Chair

i. ~~Proposed Change to Senate Rules 7.2.2 ("Student Relations") Involving Review of Educational Records~~

The Chair asked permission to withdraw the agenda item pertaining to review of educational records, because the language was still being worked on. There were no objections.

The Chair asked permission to add a different item, pertaining to the Senate's Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee and the "two-year window," mentioned in *Senate Rules 5.1.8.5.A.3*. She noted that the SC had previously discussed the issue. There were no objections to the addition.

Proposed Change to *Senate Rules 5.1.8.5.A.3* ("Retroactive Withdrawal," "Requirements")

Guest Davy Jones, chair of the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC), explained the rationale for the proposal. He said that a few years ago, the SC gave to the Senate's Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee (on a provisional basis) the authority to waive the rule language pertaining to retroactive withdrawal appeals (RWAs) that required submission of paperwork within two-years of the last day of the semester from which the student requests to be withdrawn. The SC recently discussed the issue and asked the SREC to prepare language to address the issue. The proposed change would codify the provisional delegation of authority¹:

¹ Strikethrough formatting denotes deleted text and underline formatting denoted added text.

The complete requests shall be made before a student has graduated and not later than two calendar years from the last day of classes for the semester for which the withdrawal is requested, unless the SRWAC votes to waive the two-year time limit.

Jones answered a few questions by Debski. There being no further discussion, Brown **moved** to approve the proposed change to *Senate Rules 5.1.8.5.A.3* and Harling **seconded**. There being no further discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

b. Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) - Greg Graf, Chair

i. Proposed Change to GRE/GMAT Requirements for Admission

Guest Greg Graf, chair of the Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee, explained the proposal from the Graduate School to remove the university-wide requirement of GRE/GMAT scores for admission into the Graduate School. Graf added that approval of the proposal would require a change to the *Senate Rules*; he read the language as it currently is, and as it would be changed. There were a number of questions from SC members, which were answered by Graf and Guest Brian Jackson, Graduate School senior associate dean. (Guest Jeannine Blackwell, Graduate School dean, arrived partway through the discussion.) Jones clarified for the Chair that a Senate vote would include a direction to the SREC to codify the language necessary to implement the change, if approved, so the changed *Senate Rules (SR)* language did not have to be specifically approved by the Senate because the intent was already approved.

There was some confusion about the proposal's details. SC members offered a variety of opinions about the proposal, as well as raised some concerns; below are representative comments.

- A director of graduate studies (DGS) could selectively waive the requirement for students from a certain high school, even though the intent is for the cohort language to apply to an entire program's discipline or sub-discipline, not individual students. [Provision for a waiver still applies, but is written elsewhere.]
- Waiving the GRE/GMAT requirement should be done on a degree program-by-degree program basis, not based on an individual student, a degree program concentration, specialization, etc.
- Graduate program faculty and the DGS must be regularly reminded by the Graduate School that the lack of a GRE/GMAT requirement, more specifically the lack of a GRE/GMAT score, will render their students ineligible for graduate fellowships. The person holding the title of DGS can change every couple of years so it would be important to make sure everyone is aware of what the lack of a GRE/GMAT requirement means in terms of fellowship eligibility.
- A program will have to be careful about when the change to its admission requirement takes place, so that it does not impact students currently in the process of submitting their credentials under current requirements.
- The proposal does not explain how removal of the GRE/GMAT requirement is achieved. For example, it is not clear who must approve the requirement's removal – the program faculty only, both the program faculty and the dean of the graduate school, etc.

- The proposal does not address which individual cohorts may be affected by removal of the GRE/GMAT requirement. Can a program faculty remove the requirement for students from one particular country? For students in one particular degree program track? For students in a particular degree program specialization? For students from one particular high school?

Wood **moved** that the proposal be returned to the Graduate School for clarification. Pienkowski **seconded**. There were additional comments.

- It is not clear what role, if any, a college dean plays in the process of removing the GRE/GMAT requirement.
- Removing the requirement for students in one concentration of a degree program, but not another concentration in the same degree program, will result in a system whereby students in one concentration are far more likely to receive fellowships. This may potentially develop into a perception of being second-class citizens.
- There needs to be more information about how and why and which other programs have removed the GRE/GMAT requirement for admission, beyond anecdotal descriptions of pros and cons to its removal on a program-by-program basis.

When there was no further discussion, the Chair called for a **vote** and the motion to return the proposal to the Graduate School for clarification **passed** with one opposed. The Chair said that the proposal would return to the Graduate School for clarification and welcomed additional communication with individual SC members. She thanked Graf and Jones for their assistance.

The Chair directed SC members back to the temporarily skipped agenda item.

2. Old Business

a. Faculty Evaluation of President Capilouto

The Chair reminded SC members of what had been done thus far. The SC decided to survey faculty campuswide to evaluate President Eli Capilouto. The SC intended to use the same survey questions as the previous year, but offered the President an opportunity to add a handful of questions, but he declined. The Chair said that the survey should be sent out in the next week or so and suggested Wood talk about the survey itself.

Wood said that she updated the survey only to change the year to the current year. She said Jones sent her the list of email addresses of everyone who should receive the survey, which includes deans and lecturers. If SC does not object, Wood said she planned to start work at 9 am on sending out the survey. She had two questions: when should the survey be sent out, and when should be the deadline? The Chair suggested that recipients have three weeks to respond, particularly because the survey process was started sooner this time. The Chair agreed with Wood's suggestion to send out a reminder every week for three weeks, in addition to the initial email. There were no objections.

There was a brief discussion regarding fewer places for narrative responses. The survey will be sent out almost immediately and will be sent from the Senate Council email account. SC members are welcome to work to improve participation in the survey after the initial announcement goes out. SC members recognized that an ad hoc committee will need to be created to review the narrative responses.

5. Tentative Senate Agenda

SC members discussed the tentative Senate agenda for April 17. SC members agreed to remove the vice chair report, remove the proposed agenda items regarding educational records and GRE/GMAT requirements, and add proposed changes to the *Senate Rules* regarding excused absences.

Pienkowski **moved** to approve the tentative Senate agenda for April 17 as an ordered list, with the understanding that items may be rearranged to accommodate guests' schedules. Watt **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. Other Business

SC members discussed the topics listed below.

- Recognition plaque to be presented at May Senate meeting.
- Challenges presented by a unit's or discipline's determination that they "own" a word that could be reasonably used to describe another discipline's degrees. The Senate is the only entity that oversees equity in program names and unit name.
- There should be some oversight to ensure an instructor has the appropriate, required training to teach courses beyond those covered by the faculty member's CIP code. The Senate, however, may not be in a position to vet credentials, but can challenge course proposals if they are not sufficiently rigorous.

Believing there was no further business, the SC meeting was adjourned at 4:46 pm via a **motion** for adjournment by Watt, **seconded** by Harling, which **passed**.

Respectfully submitted by Lee X. Blonder,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Anderson, Blonder, Brown, Christ, Debski, Harling, Hippiisley, Pienkowski, Watt and Wood.

Invited guests present: Jeannine Blackwell, J. S. Butler, Kathy Collins, Brian Jackson, Davy Jones and Sharon Lock.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Tuesday, April 8, 2014.