

Senate Council
February 6, 2017

The Senate Council met in regular session at 2 pm on Monday, February 6, 2017 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 Katherine M. McCormick called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

The Chair welcomed Guest Cheryl Torsney, a candidate for the position of associate provost for student and academic life. Torsney and SC members engaged in a discussion on a variety of topics. Torsney left at approximately 2:50 pm and SC members adjourned for a short break.

The Chair called the meeting back into session at 3:01 pm.

1. Minutes from January 23 and January 30 and Announcements

The Chair reported that there were additional changes requested to the minutes from January 23. There were no edits suggested for the January 30 minutes. There being **no objections**, the minutes from January 30 were **approved** as distributed by unanimous consent.

The Chair had a few announcements.

- A faculty member whose office is in the Patterson Office Tower, and who regularly watches the progress on construction at the new Student Center building site, contacted the Chair about somehow acknowledging the construction worker who fell to his death on February 13. The Chair spoke with John Herbst, director of the Student Center, who let her know that there will be a time capsule buried as part of the new construction and the capsule will include the name of the worker. The Chair said that she will send a letter of condolence to the family.
- Based on Cross' comment the prior week, the Chair will alert faculty councils to the work of the ad hoc Committee on Administrative Regulations 6:2 when the Committee is closer to offering draft recommendations.
- Dave Watt (ME/Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry) will be joining the ad hoc Committee on Title Series as an ex officio member. Work is ongoing to find a time when all Committee members can meet for an inaugural meeting with the Chair and Provost Tracy.
- The timeline for Honors is moving along. One issue that will require Senate review is the issue of lecturers having a primary appointment in the Lewis Honors College. The Chair said that if the proposal is ready for SC to review by April 17, there will be one additional, subsequent SC meeting (April 24) when the proposal can be vetted again, if changes were requested during the April 17 SC meeting. University Senate (Senate) can review on May 1 and it can go to the Board of Trustees for a first reading in May and a second reading in June.
- The Chair acknowledged the note sent by faculty trustees regarding the United States President's recent executive order on refugees and thanked the trustees. The Chair shared that a senator had contacted her about the Senate taking a similar action. Partially in response to the senator's query, the Chair reported that she asked Bill Swinford, President Capilouto's chief of staff, to give a report to senators at the February 13 Senate meeting.

- Also during the February Senate meeting, senators will hear from Executive Vice President Eric Monday about the redevelopment plans for south campus, which was a presentation he previously gave to the Board at its December meeting.

2. Degree Recipients

a. Late Addition to the Degree List (per Senate Rules 5.4.1.1.D.1-2)

i. Motion to Amend Something Previously Adopted (December 2014 Degree List and Second August 2016 Degree List) for Graduate School Student SM-60: Bestow MA Anthropology (December 2014 Degree List) and Rescind MA Anthropology (Second August 2016 Degree List)

SC members discussed the administrative error. Wood asserted that because no harm had been done, there was no need for the degree to be rescinded and conferred on an earlier date. Other SC members disagreed, saying that there was insufficient information available to determine if the wrong degree date harmed the student. Ms. Brothers commented that the standard for approving a late addition to a degree list was based upon an error made by University employees; there was no requirement in the *Senate Rules* that a student must prove that they were harmed by the error. There was additional discussion.

Grossman **moved** that the SC recommend that the elected faculty senators amend the December 2014 Degree List by recommending through the President to the Board of Trustees that Graduate School Student SM-60 be conferred the MA Anthropology and also recommend that the Second August 2016 Degree List be amended to rescind the MA Anthropology for Student SM-60. Cross **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed.

3. Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) – Margaret Schroeder, Chair

a. Proposed New Graduate Certificate in Manufacturing Systems

Schroeder explained the proposal. Guest Fazleena Badurdeen (EN/Mechanical Engineering) was present to answer questions. SC did not have any comments or questions. The **motion** from the SAPC was a recommendation that the that the Senate approve the establishment of a new Graduate Certificate in Manufacturing Systems, in the Department of Mechanical Engineering within the College of Engineering. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

4. Tentative Senate Agenda for February 12, 2017

SC members discussed the tentative agenda for February 13. Members suggested a change to the first agenda item so that it also include an update on state legislative activity. Blonder suggested that President Eli Capilouto be offered the role of updating the Senate on federal and state activity, but that his chief of staff, Bill Swinford, could give the report if the President was unable to attend. Lauersdorf asked about the possibility of having an update on the Blue-Ribbon Committee on Graduate Education. The Chair was amenable to using part of the “Chair’s Report” for an update on the Committee’s activities, if the co-chairs were available.

Wood **moved** to approve the tentative Senate agenda for February 13, 2017 as an ordered list, with the understanding that items may be rearranged to accommodate guests’ schedules. Schroeder **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

5. Items from the Floor (Time Permitting)

Given that there was plenty of time remaining prior to 5 pm, the Chair solicited comments from SC members. Mazur expressed concern that monies from the Graduate School were being distributed to

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colleges (and departments) without any of the structure and guidelines that were present when monies were distributed in the past. It was not clear why any particular unit received the monies it received and there was a great deal of angst among graduate faculty about how to fund graduate student stipends and assistantships. Other SC members expressed concern about this issue, as well, noting that some colleges had received far less information from their college leadership than did faculty in other colleges. After discussion, the Chair said she was willing to invite Provost Tim Tracy to attend a near-future SC meeting to help SC members understand the process by which Graduate School monies were disbursed.

Lauersdorf raised a concern brought to him by a member of his department – if students from the seven countries affected by the recent [national] executive order on refugees were discouraged from returning home over the summer due to fears they might not be able to return to the United States, what plans does UK have to help those students retain affordable housing over the summer? Cross suggested that the issue be raised during the Senate meeting, when an update on the executive order was already planned to occur.

Blonder **moved** to adjourn and Mazur **seconded**. Cross noted that he had one item to raise, which the Chair allowed. Cross said that a recent faculty meeting in his department included discussion on reported new enrollment strategies at UK. The Chair said she would find out more about the issue and report back to SC members.

There was no further discussion on any matter. SC members indicated their willingness to adjourn by departing en masse. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Katherine M. McCormick,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Bird-Pollan, Blonder, Botts, Cross, Grossman, Lauersdorf, McCormick, McGillis, Mazur, Mills, Reid, Schroeder, and Wood.

Invited guests present: Fazleena Badurdeen and Cheryl Torsney.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Wednesday, February 8, 2017.