

Senate Council
January 27, 2014

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, January 27, 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 3:04 pm.

1. Minutes and Announcements

The Chair reported that the minutes from January 13 were not ready for approval. For the benefit of invited guests, she SC members and guests introduce themselves.

There were a few announcements. The Chair asked about SC interest in meeting with President Capilouto for another informal chat. SC members responded affirmatively; the Chair said that Ms. Brothers will work on scheduling such a meeting.

Additional nominations are needed for the SC's Ad Hoc Committee on Teacher-Course Evaluations (CTCE). As per the Senate's responsibility to approve the content of course evaluations, the CTCE will look at content of revised forms. Provost Riordan's office is involved with instructor evaluations so an appropriate person from that office will be included. The nominations thus far are primarily from the College of Arts and Sciences. There was general discussion about nominees and which colleges ought to be involved, as well as response rates for (paper versus electronic) evaluation forms. The Chair asked that nominations be sent to her by Friday.

The Chair suggested reordering the agenda to accommodate a guest's schedule, specifically to review agenda item five after agenda item number two, "Committee Reports." There were no objections.

2. Committee Reports

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

i. Conditional Admissions for International Undergraduate Students

Guest Greg Graf, chair of the Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee, outlined the proposed changes, saying that the federal government's Department of Homeland Security required codification of the role of English as a second language (ESL) programs and international students. The proposed changes bring the Bulletin into compliance with Homeland Security recommendations that institutions codify the role of ESL programs in the admission and enrollment status of international students. Associate Provost for Internationalization Susan Carvalho, an invited guest, clarified that the changes only applied to undergraduate students.

The Chair noted that the chair of the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee, Davy Jones, had commented that Bulletin changes must be also reflected in the *Senate Rules (SR)*, so any motion from the SC should also include a reference to proposed changes to the *SR*. Carvalho will work with Jones on the proper wording.

Harling **moved** to send to the Senate with a positive recommendation the proposed changes to conditional admissions for undergraduate international students, with proviso that between now and the Senate meeting Carvalho and Jones work to identify which parts of the policy must be inserted into

which parts of the *Senate Rules*. Pienkowski **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

5. Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Education Funding

The Chair invited Guest David Berry (AS/Psychology) to share the report prepared by the SC's ad hoc Committee on Graduate Education Funding, which Berry chaired. Berry explained that he interviewed Graduate School Dean Jeannine Blackwell twice, as well as interviews with Provost Chris Riordan and Associate Provost Lisa Wilson. He noted that he was unable to interpret the financial spreadsheets, which was described in the report as "careful review of these data raised more questions than answers." His personal opinion was that funding was decreasing. Debski asked for clarification on why he felt that way and Berry responded that in years past his department had had five to eight teaching assistants (TAs), but this year there was only one. Graduate School Dean Jeannine Blackwell (and guest) offered to explain some of the intricacies of budgeting in the Graduate School.

Accounts for the Graduate School: one set of accounts are within the Graduate School (GS) budget and get cut like everyone else's budgets; the other is a large set of accounts outside the Graduate School called "core accounts." The core accounts are used for tuition and scholarships, although some of the internal GS accounts also pay tuition on some fellowships and some LTJs and dean scholarships, but the internal GS accounts have been frozen in time. If there are annual tuition increases that are applied to tuition budgets that are annually either frozen or cut, there are fewer tuition scholarships available. As time has progressed, it has become critically important to limit things to exact dollar amounts, particularly as other funds decrease in the accounts that were used to cover overages in other accounts.

The President's office has increased scholarships for graduates and undergraduates, but the accounts that cover the scholarships under the President's purview have been increased to adjust to tuition increases. The amounts in accounts in the Graduate School that cover tuition, however, were not and are not adjusted up to match tuition increases. Discussion followed. Berry finished his review of the report and there was additional discussion.

Christ **moved** that the SC accept the report of the ad hoc Committee on Graduate Education Funding and send it to the Senate's Research and Graduate Education Committee. Anderson **seconded**. After additional discussion, Christ **changed** the motion so that the report will also be sent to the Ad Hoc Review Committee of Graduate Scholarship Awards and the Strategic Planning Committee on Graduate and Professional Education and Anderson did not object. After additional discussion, a **vote** was taken on the **motion** that the SC accept the report of the ad hoc Committee on Graduate Education Funding and send it to the Senate's Research and Graduate Education Committee, the Ad Hoc Review Committee of Graduate Scholarship Awards, and the Strategic Planning Committee on Graduate and Professional Education. The motion **passed** with none opposed.

McCormick **moved** that the SC endorse the following recommendation from the ad hoc Committee on Graduate Education Funding, with the SC-added clarification that updates are indeed provided annually:

In order to monitor this situation on an ongoing basis, it is recommended that the Senate committee on Research and Graduate Education identify and/or promote a process for ensuring that appropriate tuition dollars are allocated for graduate education at the College level, request from the Provost regular (annual) updates on funding, and advocate for graduate training as needed.

Debski **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

3. Two Honorary Degree Recipients - Jeannine Blackwell, Graduate School Dean

Jeannine Blackwell, chair of the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees, gave SC members a presentation on the two nominees for honorary degrees, to be conferred at the May 2014 Commencement. She added that both nominees were recommended for an Honorary Doctor of Letters. There was discussion about the candidates.

Debski **moved** that the Senate Council's elected faculty senators forward UJCHD's recommendation of the honorary degree candidate (HW) for an Honorary Doctor of Letters, for submission to the University Senate (without a recommendation from the SC) and then through the President to the Board of Trustees, as the recommended honorary degree to be conferred by the Board. Anderson **seconded**. There being no additional discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstaining.

Hippisley **moved** that the Senate Council's elected faculty senators forward UJCHD's recommendation of the honorary degree candidate (PC) for an Honorary Doctor of Letters, for submission to the University Senate (without a recommendation from the SC) and then through the President to the Board of Trustees, as the recommended honorary degree to be conferred by the Board. Debski **seconded**. There being no additional discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

4. Degree Deadline Hardship Petition - Decision by the Chair

The Chair explained that two requests had already been sent in. The appeals both arrived about four days prior to the Board of Trustees meeting in December, so the Chair reviewed them and acted on behalf of the SC and Senate to deny one and approve the other. She asked for clarification for the future – does the SC Chair's authority to grant these petitions amount to something that must be announced to the SC and Senate? After brief discussion, SC members agreed that reporting actions to the SC and Senate was appropriate.

The Chair commented that there was no further business to attend to; as such, there were no objections to further discussion on graduate education funding.

Towards 5 pm Anderson **moved** to adjourn and McCormick **seconded**. The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted by Lee X. Blonder,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Anderson, Blonder, Brown, Christ, Day, Debski, Harling, Hippisley, McCamy, McCormick, Pienkowski, Wilson and Wood.

Invited guests present: David Berry, Jeannine Blackwell, Bill Bridges, Susan Carvalho, Thomas Clayton and Greg Graf.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Thursday, February 13, 2014.