

Senate Council
January 9, 2012

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, January 9, 2012 in 103 Main Building. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise.

Chair Hollie I. Swanson called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

1. Minutes from December 19, 2011 and Announcements

Due to the presence of new SC members, those present introduced themselves.

The Chair asked SC members to be sure to speak up if the Office of the Senate Council could do anything to assist with the review of meeting materials. There was no dissent when it was suggested that reading the materials in advance of the meeting was the best option.

The Chair offered a variety of announcements.

- The SC will have a chance to talk with Board of Trustees Chair Britt Brockman on Tuesday, January 31. There will not be an agenda or minutes. She asked SC members to send questions to the listserv. The Chair will take the suggested issues, combine and refine them, and share them with Brockman in advance.
- President Eli and Dr. Mary Lynne Capilouto's "University Senate Welcome Back" reception will occur on Thursday, January 19, from 3 – 5 pm in the Hilary J. Boone Center.
- Meetings for the SC's committees on calendars and best practices for distance learning will begin in January.

The Chair discussed with President Capilouto the composition and charge of the post-tenure review committee. The Chair said that the President wanted to ensure that there are opportunities for big ideas to be expressed on how to improve the post-tenure review process. Wasilkowski asked for information regarding the numbers of faculty members who received the second lowest score for two consecutive years. An additional issue is that faculty across campus should be able to receive fair reviews under the existing regulations, so perhaps some problems lie in how the reviews are executed by faculty administrators. The Chair mentioned that she had mentioned the "people problem vs. management problem" with the President. SC members also expressed concern that the reviews be conducted fairly across campus, particularly with respect to the way research funding is computed.

- There is a campuswide committee meeting under the leadership of College of Pharmacy Dean Tim Tracy to look at UK's current budgeting system and propose alternatives to make budgeting more transparent. The joint faculty and staff Institutional Finance and Resource Allocation Committee will likely be asked to serve as a source of campus information and input and work alongside Tracy's committee. Discussions regarding logistics are ongoing.
- Due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on Monday, January 16, the next SC meeting will be on Monday, January 23.

Wasilkowski **moved** to approve the SC minutes from December 19, 2011 and Wood **seconded**. There being no discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

2. Equipment and Repair Alert System - J. S. Butler

Guests J. S. Butler (GS/Martin School of Public Policy and Administration) and David Wildasin (GS/ Martin School of Public Policy and Administration) explained their concerns to SC members, which were twofold: there is insufficient information shared with employees, at least in the Patterson Office Tower, about reactions to disasters (floods, etc.) or planned maintenance (power outages, etc.) ; and there is no mechanism to ensure that secured rooms with confidential or dangerous materials will remain secure when room keys are given to various UK employees and external individuals performing work in the area.

SC members and Butler and Wildasin discussed the matter. SC members were generally of the expressed opinion that such problems occurred also elsewhere (some first-hand anecdotal evidence was offered). There is no uniform method of distributing such information or securing rooms as needed, although there should be a relatively simple way to both ensure employees are informed about maintenance and emergencies, and that secure areas remain that way.

After additional discussion, the Chair said that she would contact someone in UKHealthcare for information on how that area communicates about repairs and secures certain areas. Then, she will talk with Vice President for Research Jim Tracy to see what types of disaster response actions are in place for areas with confidential documents or hazardous materials. With that information, she will draft an email for the appropriate campus administrator, but first send it to SC members for their input.

The Chair thanked Butler and Wildasin for attending and they departed.

3. Syllabi Issues (from Senate's Rules and Elections Committee)

At the Chair's request, Grossman briefly skimmed the issue as framed by the chair of the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC), Davy Jones. Essentially, the SREC needs to know if there is additional information that should be required information on the syllabus, or if the specific items illustrated from the *Senate Rules* are sufficient.

Guest Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education Mike Mullen explained that there were some faculty members who believed there were only a few items that were required on the syllabus, and there were other faculty members who believed that the Senate's Syllabi Guidelines needed to be adhered to strictly. He said the same difference of opinion is found in the Undergraduate Council membership.

SC members discussed the issue for some time. Those SC members who expressed opinions said that the Senate Syllabi Guidelines are strictly guidelines; there are only a handful of items that the *Senate Rules* state must be included on a syllabus. Wood specifically recalled the discussion in the University Senate about the Syllabi Guidelines and noted that senators were clearly only passing guidelines, not specific rules on requirements for every syllabus on campus.

Grossman **moved** that the Chair communicate to the three academic councils (Health Care Colleges Council, Graduate Council and Undergraduate Council) and the Interim General Education Oversight Committee that the syllabi guidelines and templates are guidelines and templates, and proposals should not be rejected because they fail to narrowly conform to the

guidelines and templates. Wood **seconded**. After brief discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Wasilkowski **moved** that the Chair send that information to all such bodies at the beginning of every academic year. Wood **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed. Mullen said that once he received the memo, he would be happy to share the memo with college associate deans.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Hollie I. Swanson,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Anderson, Brion, Coyne, Davis, Grossman, Swanson, Wasilkowski, Wimberly and Wood.

Invited guests present: Lee Blonder¹, J. S. Butler, Mike Mullen and David Wildasin.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Thursday, January 18, 2012.

¹ Although Blonder's SC term ended December 2011, Blonder attended due to her position as Senate Council Chair-Elect.