

Senate Council
January 30, 2012

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, January 30, 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 3:07 pm.

1. Minutes from January 23, 2012 and Announcements

The Chair offered a variety of announcements.

- President Capilouto will chat with SC members on Monday, February 27, from 1 – 2 pm. Hence, the SC meeting will begin immediately thereafter, and end earlier than usual.
- The Chair will send to faculty a reminder to vote in the ongoing faculty trustee election.
- There are increasing situations in which members of the Senate's academic councils are returning syllabi from course proposals to contact persons to add additional information, which is not required by the *Senate Rules (SR)*. The email to councils with information about what aspects of syllabi are required by the *SR* will be sent out in the next week or so.
- The Chair reported back on the SC's motion that the pool of winners of the Provost's Great Teaching Award serve as University Marshal. The idea was very well received, but the Chair explained that the appointment of the University Marshal was done for a year at a time. Therefore, the slate for the coming year will be comprised of tenured professors who won the award the previous year, and the President will select one to serve as Marshall.
- The Chair asked for additional input into the charge for the faculty committee that will review post-tenure processes, retention, etc. and SC members offered additional comments. There was additional discussion and Wasilkowski reiterated his request that the SC be informed of the number of faculty who received a score of two or below for two consecutive years. The information can be used to determine if there is a problem with faculty after having received tenure, or if there is a problem in the way faculty are reviewed post-tenure, or if there is a problem in how individual faculty administrators perform post-tenure reviews.

SC members also discussed the matter of University policy regarding evaluation of faculty with respect to grant funding; faculty are to be evaluated based upon continuous attempts to secure funding, not evaluated on the specific amounts awarded or type of grant received.

2. Old Business

a. Action Items

The Chair drew SC members' attention to some items from the Action Item list that have been or soon will be completed.

- Regarding Action Item number 57 ("Look into creating a Senate committee on assessment. (1/31/11)"), the Chair asked if SC members would like the interim Vice President for Institutional

Research, Planning and Effectiveness to share information about the new program assessment committee. SC members indicated that this was acceptable.

- Regarding Action Item number 66 (“Invite Associate Provost for Undergrad Ed to offer “State of Undergraduate Education” address to Senate. (2/21/11)”) the Chair explained that such a presentation, as well as a presentation on undergraduate research, is on a Senate agenda in the spring semester.
- Regarding Action Item number 67 (“Invite Associate Provost for Academic Affairs to share information and talk about distance learning courses. (2/21/2011)”), the Chair said that the SC’s ad hoc Committee on Best Practices for Distance Learning (BPDFL) will undertake this issue.

The Chair reported that the BPDFL met for the first time the previous week and would like to expand their efforts beyond purely policy issues. McCormick shared feedback she received that some of the members were just thrilled with the meeting’s discussion.

4. Excused Illness Absences - Kristen Goble Brown, University Health Service Clinical Administrator

Guest Kristen Goble Brown explained that University Health Service (UHS) was experiencing problems related to *Senate Rules 5.2.4.2* (“Excused Absences”), which gives faculty the right to request appropriate documentation for an absence related to illness. According to Goble, students were tying up appointments needed for sick students just so they can get a “blue slip.” The slip of paper, though, only documents that a student was seen at UHS, not that a student was too ill to attend class. The only circumstance under which medical information is written on the slip is if the student is restricted from certain activities.

SC members had a variety of reactions to the matter, ranging from questions regarding why UHS cannot include a diagnosis on the “blue slip,” to suggesting that faculty need to be better informed about what UHS actually provides and under what circumstances, to opining that the excused absence policy should be removed altogether. It was a lengthy discussion. Goble participated in the discussion with SC members. She explained further that a health care provider is unable to make a judgment call as to whether someone with a cold or pink eye should or should not be in class. In addition, there is a potential HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) violation if a professor requires a student to provide specific personal medical information in order to receive an excused absence. Those present continued the discussion.

In response to other comments, Debski noted that make-up exams for students do not have to be given individually, but rather can be done at one time for all students. There were other comments about better educating faculty as to what can reasonably be requested from a student who claims they were absent, etc. due to illness. Grossman suggested that Legal Counsel be asked if a faculty member was violating a student’s health privacy by requesting a specific diagnosis for an excused absence.

Eventually, the Chair commented that the discussion did not seem to be progressing. She said she would follow up with Legal Counsel, and perhaps the Ombud. She suggested that she and Goble discuss the issue again in the near future.

5. Update on Honors Program - Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education Mike Mullen

The Chair invited Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs and Guest Mike Mullen to give an update on the committee serving as the home academic unit for the honors program, as well as the search for a new director. SC members asked a variety of questions and were satisfied with Mullen's responses.

Mullen added that UK will be hosting the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research in 2014. UK last hosted the event in 2001 when there were about 600-700 participants. Approximately 2,000 students from across the country are expected to participate in 2012, and there could be more than that in 2014. Mullen explained that it was important to hold the event on campus for the most effective campuswide participation. He suggested that host the event on campus, instead of at Rupp Arena at great cost and distance from UK's campus, faculty would need to begin thinking about whether or not class must be held in the same room as always, or if there could be unique ways to incorporate campus learning on those days into the thousands of visiting students.

3. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC)

The Chair asked Blonder to explain the proposal from the SREC, which she did. There was extensive discussion among SC members regarding changes to the language to make it clearer. SC members all agreed that the newly changed language should be presented to the University Senate for approval:

The petitioner must submit to the chair of the SACPT a letter of intent to appeal within 60 days, and the appeal and supporting documentation within 75 days, after written notification by the dean of a final decision of nonrenewal, terminal reappointment or disapproval of promotion and/or tenure.

The SACPT may extend the 75-day deadline by majority vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Hollie I. Swanson,
Senate Council Chair

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

Provost's Liaison present: Greissman.

Invited guests present: Lee Blonder, Kristen Goble Brown and Mike Mullen.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Friday, February 3, 2012.