

Senate Council Minutes
RETREAT
July 10, 2006

The Senate Council met for its annual retreat on Monday, July 10, 2006 in the Commonwealth House of the Gaines Center for the Humanities. President Todd attended an informal luncheon at noon and Provost Subbaswamy was present for about an hour for informal discussions before business began around 2:30 pm. Below is a record of what transpired.

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 pm. Senate Council members introduced themselves to new Senate Council member Debra Harley (Rehabilitation Counseling, College of Education), who replaced Bob Grossman.

1. Reflections on Conversation

The Chair led Senate Council (SC) members in a discussion pertaining to the lunchtime conversations with President Todd and Provost Subbaswamy. The Chair noted that he would have regular (monthly) meetings with President Todd and in response to Jones, stated he would report on those conversations to the Senate Council.

2. Minutes from June 9

Due to the number of agenda items and a disinclination to spend time discussing minutes, the Chair used suggested to postpone approval of the June 9 minutes until the next Senate Council meeting. There were no objections.

3. Update from Faculty Trustee Dembo

The Chair requested regular updates from Dembo and Yanarella after every Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting, and both agreed. Dembo offered some information regarding recent BoT activity and meetings.

4. Update from Yanarella on Status of GERA

Yanarella offered an update on the recent activities of the General Education Reform and Assessment (GERA) committee and background on the general education reform initiative for Harley's benefit. Yanarella stated that the Process Planning Workshop (PPW) scheduled for July 17 – 21 had been postponed until August 14 – 17; many faculty members who were invited were unable to attend the July workshop so GERA members thought it best to postpone it for a few weeks. In response to the Chair, Yanarella stated that about 25 – 30 participants would be necessary to hold an effective workshop.

5. Announcements – [Motor Vehicle Release Form](#)

The Chair referred SC members to the handout that offered a narrative description of the Motor Vehicle Release (MVR) Form. After brief discussion, Jones suggested that the Joint Senate Council/Staff Senate Committee on

Mutual Concerns review this issue and give a report to both representative bodies.

6. Announcements – [Pre-Employment National Background Check](#)

The Chair referred SC members to the narrative handout on Pre-Employment National Background Checks (PNBC). There was some concern expressed about the potential impact on international teaching assistants who have been offered a position but might not “pass” the PNBC upon their arrival here. The Chair stated he would ask Graduate School Dean Blackwell about her opinion on the issue.

7. Announcements – [Retiree Health Benefits Proposal](#)

In response to a question from the Chair, Dembo replied that the issue of retiree health benefits had not yet been taken to the BoT. The information on the handout was discussed. Information about the [changes to the long-term disability \(LTD\) plan](#) was included because the savings from the changes to LTD would be directed toward retiree health benefits.

As a somewhat related item, the Chair shared that he had been invited to attend an exploratory informational session led by Jay Perman (Dean of the College of Medicine and Vice President for Clinical Affairs) regarding an initiative to bring a day care facility(ies) to UK.

8. Announcements – [Senate Council and GERA Account Summaries](#)

SC members discussed the financial account information made available at the retreat. The Chair noted that he would soon initiate a discussion on the SC listserv regarding the continued costly utilization of transcription services.

Dembo asked if any other SC members were interested in looking into formal method to honor Professor Gifford Blyton, University Senate Parliamentarian. There was brief discussion on the issue, with the suggestion to solicit specific ideas in the very near future.

There was a brief discussion regarding the need to have a special Senate Council meeting to discuss the new Strategic Plan. The SC decided on August 7 for the special SC meeting, with the first regular meeting for the semester on August 28.

The Chair recognized the request from Jones to discuss the nomination documents, which were not originally on the agenda. The Chair then asked for unanimous consent for this change in agenda. There were no objections to reordering the agenda so that the slate of nominees put forth by the Nominating Committee (NC) to fill the vacancies of academic area advisory committees and the Senate’s Advisory Committee on Privilege and Tenure could be discussed.

The Chair asked Nominating Committee chair Jones to explain the nomination list and accompanying final report. Jones stated that nominations for Academic Area Advisory Committees and the Senate Advisory Committee on Privilege and Tenure (SACPT) were finalized except for those of Humanities, which were not yet completed. Jones also noted that seven of the ten members of the Senate Advisory Committee on Privilege and Tenure would be rotating off and spoke to the importance of strong leadership on that extraordinarily important committee. After brief discussion, Jones urged the Chair to ensure that when the Chair orients the SACPT and the Senate Advisory Committee on Appointment, Promotion and Tenure, the Chair thoroughly discusses the specific charges of both committees. The Chair agreed.

A **vote** was taken to approve the slate of nominees put forward by the Nominating Committee. The motion **passed** unanimously in a show of hands.

Thelin **moved** the Senate Council officially receive the report of the Nominating Committee. Jones **seconded**. The motion **passed** unanimously in a show of hands.

Jones, as chair of the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC), then explained that the Colleges of Fine Arts, Business and Economics and Social Work and the Graduate School (affected colleges) had not yet had their elections for University Senators. The *Senate Rules (SR)*, however, specifically stated that elections must be conducted in the spring semester. Unless that rule was to be waived, those affected colleges would be without representation in the Senate until Spring 2007.

Jones **moved** that the SC waive *SR 1.2.2.1.B* to allow a Fall semester election to be conducted in the College of Business and Economics, the College of Fine Arts, the College of Social Work and the Graduate School (affected colleges). Jones also **moved** the SC waive *SR 1.2.2.1.C* to allow the currently seated senators in the affected colleges to remain in their elected positions until their successors are elected, instead of stepping down on August 15. Thelin **seconded**. Thelin offered a **friendly amendment** to state that the election must be completed by October 9, the date of the October Senate meeting. Jones **accepted**, also noting that the *SR* waivers would be reported to the Senate at its next meeting.

In response to Lesnaw, Jones said that his motions were a reaction to the panicked communications from said colleges, but that there had been no specific request by the affected colleges to waive *SR*. There was a consensus by SC members to make no changes to the *SR* regarding the timing of elections.

A **vote** was taken to direct the Senate Council to: waive *SR 1.2.2.1.B* to allow for a Fall semester election to be conducted in the College of Business and Economics, the College of Fine Arts, the College of Social Work and the

Graduate School (affected colleges) and completed by October 9; and waive *SR 1.2.2.1.C* to allow the currently seated senators in the affected colleges to remain in their elected positions until their successors are elected, instead of stepping down on August 15. The motion **passed** unanimously in a show of hands.

There was a brief discussion among SC members regarding the continuing problem of faculty perception that service on area committees and other such committees was not valued by neither individual departments nor the Administration.

The Chair asked if SC members had any major issues that should be addressed in the coming academic year. He said he would continue to push for enhanced input to and transparency of the workings of the Administration. As an example, he referred to proportional representation of committees. Jones replied that that issue would be codified by the *Administrative Regulations Review Committee* when the committee reached that point.

Randall suggested that the University of Kentucky Research Foundation (UKRF) be brought into the SC's scope of influence. The UKRF, being a major recipient of financial expenditures on campus and a major academic area into which there was no SC insight, should offer a report to the SC and include a SC member on its Board of Directors. Dembo suggested a continuing effort to open communications with Provost Subbaswamy regarding faculty salaries and laying the groundwork for discussions on salaries and issues of merit and salary compression/inversion. Yanarella asked that tuition remission for faculty and staff be vigorously pursued.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kaveh Tagavi,
Senate Council Chair

Members present: Baxter, Dembo, Duke, Harley, Jones, Lesnaw, Randall, Thelin, Tagavi, Yanarella

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on July 12, 2006.