

Senate Council
May 10, 2010

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm in 103 Main Building on Monday, May 10, 2010. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise.

Chair Dave Randall called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:22 pm.

1. Minutes and Announcements

The Chair offered a variety of announcements. He said that input was needed from three specific SC members about their availability for the May retreat. The Chair then mentioned governance over the summer, saying there had been requests for ways to keep the academic business ball rolling during the summer, when the University Senate (Senate) did not meet. He opined that the SC would need to meet several times during the summer to act on behalf of the Senate, saying it could become routine for SC meetings over the summer. Steiner asked about using email for such business and the Chair responded that he tried that last year, but responses from SC members were minimal.

Swanson commented that she had asked Mrs. Brothers to send information to SC members on the AAUP conference in late fall. She thought it could be a reference point for improving the Senate.

SC members then spent a considerable amount of time identifying a variety of faculty member nominees for academic area advisory committee vacancies.

The Chair then stated he had received an email asking for investigation into a rumor that all deans and associate deans were receiving a raise as of July 1. Provost's Liaison Greissman stated unequivocally that the rumor was not true.

2. Online Teacher Course Evaluations - Issues (Ruth Beattie)

The Chair introduced Ruth Beattie (AS/Biology) to share information about a committee of which she is a member.

Guest Beattie explained that the charge was to look at the validity of online teacher/course evaluations (TCE) compared to paper evaluations. Beattie noted that the committee contains only two faculty members and the rest are administrators. She said that when the group began to look into online TCE, it became clear that there were a couple of issues that needed to be studied and discussed but were not part of the committee's charge. It was determined that the issues should be passed to the SC because they deal with faculty issues.

1. Validity of Assessment Instrument Being Used: most colleges/departments use the standard 21 questions in the standardized TCE. Are the questions that are asked valid, and is UK asking students to go beyond their competence level in evaluating faculty in some areas?
2. Scale: perhaps a five- or seven-point scale could be more appropriate. The committee learned that in the College of Arts and Sciences, the scores for question numbers 20 and 21 are what are used to evaluate teaching, and little else is reviewed, not even teaching portfolios.

Beattie added that the committee was looking at alternative evaluation forms, particularly those from the professional colleges, which use different instruments to survey students. Based on the committee's

demo, it is a very labor intensive process, but can be done with the assistance of support staff. If the evaluation could be done online, it might be flexible enough for departments to add their own particular questions.

SC members engaged in lengthy discussion about a variety of matters relating to TCE, both on paper and online. Beattie noted that one of the biggest issues was the lack of responses to online course evaluations – some colleges are looking at increasing response rates by doing as the College of Pharmacy does – if a student does not fill out the evaluation, a grade is not given.

After additional discussion, it was understood that colleges had quite a bit of leeway in deciding how to use paper or online TCE. There was some initial support for requiring some core questions, and then allowing colleges to pick and choose among other questions as appropriate.

3. TurnItIn Report - Ruth Beattie

Beattie went on to offer a report to SC members regarding the TurnItIn pilot that started about three years ago.

Steiner **moved** that the SC recommend to the Provost that the TurnItIn pilot be terminated and that a site license for all three modules (anti-plagiarism, peer review and paperless grading) be purchased. Swanson **seconded**. After very brief discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed. The chair was instructed to pass this recommendation to the Provost.

There was a brief discussion regarding language in syllabi about use of TurnItIn. It was decided that some sample language could be added to the Senate's Syllabi Guidelines for faculty to use if so desired.

4. Discussion on Curricular Approval Process

SC members engaged in a discussion about the SharePoint site, and noted that the functioning of the site was not user friendly and required an inordinate amount of time to do anything. As a result, much of the time and attention spent by council coordinators no longer focused on the details of specific curricular proposals, but rather were focused on the many steps required to manipulate documents in and out of SharePoint. While the intent was admirable and the efforts of TASC greatly appreciated, the SharePoint site was not fulfilling its original intent to be a shared database between all the councils to help contact persons and others track proposals. Because the data were often incorrect due to the intricacies of moving around within the site, coordinators were obligated to spend more time dealing with SharePoint than with paying attention to details of the proposals themselves.

Grossman **moved** that the SC not renew the use of SharePoint for the fall semester, and that the SC empower the Chair to be the contact person with Information Technology to identify an alternate document handling system to accomplish similar goals. Anderson **seconded**.

There was brief discussion, including the possibility that an alternative might not found prior to the fall semester. Grossman stated that if that occurred, the councils would revert to their previous method of transmitting curricular approvals via email attachment.

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

5. Potential Nominees for Interim General Education Oversight Committee

SC members and Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education Mike Mullen discussed the proposed names for the Interim General Education Oversight Committee.

Grossman **moved** that the SC appoint the individuals presented by Guest Mullen to the Interim General Education Oversight Committee, and Nokes **seconded**. There being no discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. Motion on Distance Learning Delivery Approvals

The Chair explained the issue. Grossman **moved** that approval of a course proposal via a web transmittal also constitutes approval of any associated request for DL delivery for said course and Anderson **seconded**. There being no discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

7. September 2009 KCTCS Candidates for Credentials

Grossman **moved** to approve the September 2009 KCTCS list of Candidates for Credentials for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees, as the recommended degrees to be conferred by the Board. Anderson **seconded**. There being no discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

8. Anderson/Jensen Report on Issue of Submitting Grades in a Timely Manner

The Chair asked about the report, and Anderson said that it would be given at a future date.

9. Honorary Degree Issues

Greissman explained the matter at hand, including that of a Winter Commencement and Off-Cycle Conferral of honorary degrees. SC members asked Greissman a few questions, which he answered.

10. Discussion on May "Improve the Senate" Retreat

The Chair led SC members in a discussion about possible topics for the SC's May retreat on improving the Senate. There was general discussion for a short period of time.

The meeting was adjourned around 5 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Randall,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Anderson, Grossman, Kelly, Nokes, Randall, Steiner, and Swanson.

Provost's Liaison present: Greissman.

Invited guests present: Ruth Beattie, Randolph Hollingsworth, and Mike Mullen.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on July 13, 2010.