

Senate Council
May 11, 2009

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, May 11, 2009 in 103 Main Building. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a voice vote unless indicated otherwise.

Chair David Randall called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:11 pm. He noted that Jensen, Piascik and Tagavi would not be in attendance.

1. Announcements

Moving to announcements, SC members decided that although Tagavi's term of service on the Employee Benefits Committee would end as of May 31, they wholeheartedly approve him staying on if he was willing to do so.

The Chair explained that students who attempt to withdraw from all courses online previously received a rather vague message, which did not effectively communicate the need to consult with an advisor before dropping the student's last class. After a query by the Senate's Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee, which had seen an increase in the number of "SAP didn't withdraw me from my last class so I need a retroactive withdrawal for this last class" appeals, the message has been changed to clarify the process.

The evaluation of UK's President will be conducted in the early fall, instead of late spring.

2. [Proposed New Course A-E 680](#)

After brief discussion, Swanson **moved** to approve A-E 680 as a new course on behalf of the Senate Council and University Senate. Anderson **seconded**. There being no discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

3. Proposed New BS Degree in Gender and Women's Studies

The Chair explained that it was customary for all undergraduate programs in the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S) to be offered as both a BS and BA degree. When the proposal for a new BA in Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) was proposed, A&S inadvertently left out the BS information. The Chair explained that he was uncomfortable with creating a new degree by his signature alone, and asked for comments.

Anderson **moved** to approve a new BS degree in Gender and Women's Studies. Yanarella **seconded**. SC members were in favor of an expedited approval process, but concurred with Wood's concern that there was no communication from the dean, the executive committee or the faculty in A&S. SC members did not think there was a need to rush through the approval process, since it was extremely unlikely that there were any students who would benefit from immediate approval in order to graduate with a BS in GWS.

Wood **offered a friendly amendment** that approval of the new BS in Gender and Women's Studies be conditional upon receipt of approval from the faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences. Both Anderson and Yanarella **accepted**. After additional brief discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed. Wood commented that it would also be a good idea to get approval by the chair of the Undergraduate Council, as well.

4. [Request for Waiver of Senate Rules 5.1.8.5.A.2 \(RWA & "Two-Year Window"\) – Students SH-42, BB-32 and NT-24](#)

SC members engaged in a discussion regarding the requests. The general consensus was that the SC was uncomfortable approving such waivers, because there are no criteria to follow. Mrs. Brothers offered a few comments.

Ultimately, Swanson **moved** to give the Senate's Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee the authority to waive *SR 5.1.8.5.A.2* for the three cases presented to the Senate Council (students SH-42, BB-32 and NT-24). Yanarella **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Anderson **moved** to request the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee look into revising language pertaining to the "two-year window" to lessen the need for the SC to approve rule waivers. Swanson **seconded**. After additional discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

5. [Receipt of Report on Possible Senate IT Committee](#)

SC members discussed Kelly's report and the idea of an advisory committee to advise Vince Kellen, the vice president for information technology. Kelly reported that Kellen seemed enthusiastic about such a committee.

Wood opined that it would be most effective for the Chair to work with Provost Subbaswamy and Kellen regarding the structure of an advisory committee made up predominantly of faculty. She suggested that the Chair return to the SC with some possibilities that the SC could discuss at a future date. Those present agreed it was a logical next step.

6. [Planning for SC Retreat](#)

SC members discussed a variety of topics pertaining to the SC's summer retreat, including possible agenda items and the date. It was determined that Mrs. Brothers would send out a poll to determine the best date for SC members.

The issue of next steps for Gen Ed, particularly the vetting committees and assessment, will likely be the primary topics of discussion for the retreat, along with a few other matters, including a couple of financial matters. SC members discussed possible guests to invite for breakfast and lunch.

Wood **moved** that the chair request an extension of the Turnitin pilot to allow a further pilot period. Yanarella **seconded**. The Chair noted that he would request a Turnitin update at a SC meeting in the early fall. There being no further discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** unanimously.

It was agreed that the discussion on vetting committees should not be a de novo conversation during the retreat, but rather a significant part of an ongoing, summer conversation about how to proceed. Provost's Liaison Greissman hoped that the process of vetting committee formation could be presented to the Senate at the September meeting. Yanarella opined that the retreat discussion would be most effective if the SC were presented with options or alternatives to discuss, as opposed to an open discussion.

7. [Proposed Changes to Senate Rules 2.1.2 \("Academic Calendar"\)](#)

Due, in part, to the time, Wood **moved** to table discussion on the proposal until the fall. Yanarella **seconded**. There being no discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

The Chair thanked SC members for a great year and the meeting was adjourned about 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by David Randall,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Anderson, Kelly, Randall, Steiner, Swanson, Wood and Yanarella.

Provost's Liaison present: Greissman.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Friday, May 15, 2009.