

Senate Council
May 14, 2018

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, May 14, 2018 in 103 Main Building. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise.

Senate Council Vice Chair Jennifer Bird-Pollan called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:02 pm. She reminded SC members that the Chair was in currently in South Africa and was doing well, staying in regular contact via email.

1. Minutes from April 30 and May 3, 2018 and Announcements

The Vice Chair said that no corrections were received for the April 30 minutes. There being **no objections**, the minutes from April 30 were **approved** as distributed by **unanimous consent**.

The Vice Chair explained that the agenda for the retreat on Friday would be available within the next day or so. She said the agenda was being developed in consultation with the Chair. One option was to have a half-day retreat on Friday and then have another half-day retreat in August. She said that having another short retreat in August would make sense, given some of the initiatives on campus, including “Our Path Forward” and the University budget. The Vice Chair said that she was leaning towards soliciting input from SC members on Friday, which could be incorporated into proposals for SC to review in August. She asked SC members to be on the lookout for an email from Ms. Brothers about availability in August.

Bird-Pollan turned to Provost’s Liaison Turner, who provided an update on Brion’s concerns from April 30, regarding non-course affiliated individuals to be added to the Canvas gradebook who monitor academic progress for student athletes. Turner explained that the individuals added were part of an initiative for student athlete success in the Athletics Department, which has been going on for many years. The Athletics Department works with a college’s faculty and staff to provide to some professional staff and select graduate assistants the “observer only” status in the Canvas gradebook. After a student athlete signs a FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) waiver, the observer can only see that particular student’s grade information in Canvas. Turner explained that the practice was explained to her as being a “best practice” from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). When UK utilized Blackboard, the observer status was not noticeable to faculty, but that status is now more easily seen in Canvas. Turner explained that it was her understanding that the faculty member should be contacted via email from a graduate assistant in the Athletics Department or from a professional advisor assigned to the student; the Athletics Department tries to use a standard email script for such communications, but is not always as consistent as they would like.

Although the process has gone on for years, Turner went on to say that she suggested that there be a formal policy created to address who gets added as an observer and what the appropriate permissions would be. She indicated that she uncovered tangential issues related to who sees what information. She opined that the folks involved in the process now are hardworking and conscientious individuals and would be great partners in establishing some new, formal protocols. Turner added that she has learned that the current director of academic services in the Athletics Department was retiring at the end of the summer; after the process of evaluating the position and hiring a replacement occurred, Turner said it was very likely there would be another conversation about the system and associated processes. There were a variety of comments from SC members. Schroeder commented that she was a former student athlete and she had had student athletes in her courses; she suggested that it was very difficult to get students to report their grades, so the current process seemed to her to be a happy medium in terms of supporting student athletes. In response to a question from Brion, Turner noted that there were no

campuswide initiatives from central administration to allow professional staff to be added to Canvas Coursebooks, etc. – any such activities would necessarily be college-specific.

Given the number of invited guests, the Vice Chair suggested that those present introduce themselves.

2. Old Business

a. Proposal on Financial Aid and Attendance – Registrar Kim Taylor

The Chair invited Guest Kim Taylor to the table. Taylor explained that the proposal before them was submitted to the Senate Committee on Distance Learning and eLearning (SCDLeL) for review. The proposal's intent is to allow reporting for nonattendance for students so that financial aid can be disbursed, to comply with federal regulatory requirements. Taylor explained that UK attempted to implement a process to facilitate reporting for nonattendance in December 2016; for a variety of reasons, including issues with communicating the process, efforts were pulled back. Taylor explained that UK's director of financial aid believed that UK was risking penalties and fines by not doing more to comply with the federal requirement. Taylor added that she had vetted the proposal with a variety of individuals, including staff in her area, the chair of the SCDLeL, the Chair, and other faculty members. She said it was important to her that there be buy-in from faculty but she acknowledged that it would be an administrative burden for faculty to have to report student nonattendance.

After a short side conversation, the Vice Chair suggested the discussion be postponed until 4 pm, when the Provost was scheduled to arrive. Cross **moved** to postpone discussion until Provost David Blackwell arrived and Brion **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed. The Vice Chair apologized to Taylor, explaining that she had thought the Provost was not able to attend.

There were no objections to the Vice Chair's suggestion that discussion on the proposal from the SCDLeL also wait until after the Provost arrived.

3. Degree Recipient

a. Late Addition to May 2018 Degree List (per *Senate Rules 5.4.1.1.D.1-2*): College of Fine Arts Student HN-63

The Vice Chair welcomed Elizabeth Arnold (FA/Music, assistant dean), who explained the request. There were a few questions from SC members. Schroeder **moved** that the elected faculty members of the SC amend the May 2018 degree list on behalf of the Senate by adding the BA Art Studio for student HN-63 and recommend through the President to the Board of Trustees that the degree be awarded effective May 2018. Grossman **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

4. Request for Feedback from President's Faculty Sustainability Council – Lee Meyer

The Chair welcomed Guests Lee Meyer (AG/Agricultural Economics) and Krista Jacobsen (AG/Horticulture). Meyer, chair of the President's Faculty Sustainability Council, said that his intent was to give SC members an update on the activities of the Faculty Sustainability Council, answer questions, and talk about the Council's draft recommendations. SC members offered the suggestions below.

- "Sustainability" should be better defined so it is obvious that the sustainability work is not focused only on energy.
- It would be helpful to know what sustainability-related activities are going on in other units aside from AG.

- Serious consideration should be given towards development of a sustainability-focused course that can be approved for UK Core.
- Include metrics that will allow initiatives to be evaluated for effectiveness.
- Ensure that controversial topics (such as GMOs) are evaluated from multiple angles and opinions.
- The Institute for Rural Journalism could be a valuable partner; the Council needs to seek out opportunities to foster public discourse.
- Follow through on suggestions for town halls in the fall semester, during which the campus community can provide feedback.
- Identify ways for faculty to receive recognition and credit (via the Distribution of Effort, DOE, or otherwise) for sustainability-related work. This may involve working with units to modify statements of evidence so faculty going up for tenure have confidence that their sustainability work will be appropriately recognized.
- The interdisciplinary work that is needed to support sustainability initiatives and activities requires the Provost to find ways to incentivize such types of work.

At Meyer's request, SC members then deliberated on the question of how the next steps should play out. As discussion wound down, Schroeder suggested that the issue could be taken up by the Senate's Committee on Committees, regarding what body should take over this work when the current Council's charge ends at the end of the month. The Vice Chair acknowledged this suggestion and summarized that it was her understanding that SC members would like to receive a copy of the final report around the time that the Council submits the report to senior leadership. At that time, the SC can determine if the final report should also be shared with the Senate.

Meyer and Jacobsen thanked SC members for their input and the Vice Chair expressed appreciation for them sharing the report with SC.

5. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Admissions Advisory Committee – Kim Woodrum, Chair

i. 2017-18 Annual Report

Guest Kim Woodrum (AS/Chemistry, chair of the Senate's Admissions Advisory Committee) presented the Committee's annual report to SC members and answered questions.

Brion **moved** that the SREC work with Woodrum to resolve inconsistencies in the Senate Rules (SR) that were documented in the Committee's annual report, particularly in *SR 1.4.3.2* ("Senate Admissions Advisory Committee (SAAC)") and *SR 4.2.1.1* ("Basic Lower Division Selective Admissions"). Grossman **seconded**. Grossman noted that the SREC does not make policy, so any of SREC's suggestions should be informed by Woodrum and the Committee's report. He added that it would be most helpful for Woodrum to be able to share with the SREC what language should be changed, what the changes should be, and why the changes were needed. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

b. Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) – Margaret Schroeder, Chair

i. 2017-18 Annual Report

Schroeder, chair of the Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC), presented the SAPC's report. There were a variety of comments and questions from SC members. Schroeder did note that the current size of the SAPC was good and that no additional members were needed to increase the total number of members.

Cross **moved** that the SC accept the SAPC's 2017-18 Annual report and offer special thanks to the committee chair for her hard work. Grossman **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. Senate Meeting Roundtable

The Vice Chair asked SC members to go around the table and comment on the most recent Senate meeting. Below are the comments offered.

- Pleased and surprised that the discussion on *Administrative Regulations 6:2* ("Policy and Procedures for Addressing and Resolving Allegations of Sexual Assault, Stalking, Dating Violence, and Domestic Violence") went so smoothly and that the vote was so strongly in favor of endorsement. Bird-Pollan was a very credible voice that helped senators feel comfortable voting in favor.
- The amended motion on the changes to *AR 6:2* [to endorse and request consideration of certain issues, rather than to endorse only if certain issues were considered] was a good change.
- It was appreciated that the Senate recommended that Blonders' statement, which she had previously read to members of the Board of Trustees, be endorsed by Senate.
- Some of the comments from the Executive Director of the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity and Title IX Coordinator [Martha Alexander] helped senators be more comfortable with the changes.
- Bundling the USPs was a great idea and a real time saver.
- Bird-Pollan and her ad hoc Committee on *AR 6:2* did a great job and their efforts were worthy of applause.

Cross **moved** that the SC set aside the motion to postpone discussion until Provost David Blackwell arrived and Schroeder **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Old Business

Proposal on Financial Aid and Attendance – Registrar Kim Taylor

The Vice Chair reminded SC members that they heard from Guest Kim Taylor earlier in the meeting, who shared information about requirements imposed by the federal government.

Turning to the next agenda item, the Vice Chair reminded SC members that the SC already voted to move the proposal from the Senate Committee on Distance Learning and eLearning (SCDLeL) regarding proposed changes to *SR 5.1.8.1* in the fall, but the proposal had not gone on to Senate due to some

procedural errors. She noted that it was on the agenda for discussion, but because SC approved the language in November it might make sense to give SC members a reminder about why the SCDLeL proposed the changes.

b. Senate Committee on Distance Learning and eLearning (SCDLeL) – Roger Brown, Chair

i. Comments on "Proposal on Financial Aid and Attendance" from University Registrar Kim Taylor

Prior to reviewing the proposed changes to the SRs, Guest Roger Brown (AG/Agricultural Economics), chair of the Senate Committee on Distance Learning and eLearning (SCDLeL), reviewed the proposal from Taylor and shared the comments and concerns from the SCDLeL. As he finished, he noted that the SCDLeL could support encouraging the SC and Senate to endorse having the first implementation period in the spring 2019 semester, noting that it would be difficult for teaching faculty to accommodate the requirements in the fall. There were a variety of comments and questions from SC members.

When Provost David Blackwell arrived, the Vice Chair gave him a summary of the discussion thus far and asked if he wanted to share his thoughts about the Taylor's proposal and possible aspects surrounding implementation. Provost Blackwell thanked the Vice Chair and SC members for the opportunity to discuss the matter. He emphasized that if UK were audited and discovered to not be completely in compliance with the federal requirements, it could cost the University millions of dollars in fines, which he wanted to avoid if at all possible. The Provost complimented Taylor's proposal and he said he was in need of SC help to develop a way to comply with the federal requirements that would fit with individual college's and faculty's needs. He suggested that he ask deans to develop a plan for their respective colleges by July 1; he and others would review the plans and work on possible implementation plans so faculty can adjust in August. Provost Blackwell opined that such a plan would demonstrate UK's request for compliance with the new approach, as well as provide 16 ideas about how colleges and faculty could accommodate the need to report attendance.

The Vice Chair commented that as she saw the situation, no changes to *Senate Rule* would be needed and Taylor had already indicated that there was no need to change the Senate-approved academic calendar. The Vice Chair acknowledged Brown's suggestion that the dates be added to the University calendar.

There was lively discussion among SC members and guests. During discussion, it was confirmed that all students would need to verify their attendance, not only students who were already receiving financial aid; a self-pay student could apply for financial aid after the semester began. Discussion focused primarily on how to alert faculty to the new requirement and how to describe what would constitute an "educational activity," per the federal guidelines. SC members suggested that the Provost send an all-faculty email to let faculty know about the new requirement; some SC members were adamant that the email be sent the following day because May 15 was the date that nine-month faculty went off-contract. Some SC members were concerned about the possibility of students being inadvertently or mistakenly disenrolled. Provost's Liaison Turner commented that the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching is poised and ready to offer assistance to faculty in developing assignments that can be considered "academically related." She added that deans have been aware since December of the need to comply with the federal requirement.

The Vice Chair noted that it was after 5 pm. There were a few final comments from SC members. The Vice Chair stated that SC strongly suggested an email be sent about the matter to all faculty and Grossman added that it should be sent no later than the afternoon of the following day. Schroeder noted that communication will be key and noted that not all deans communicate well with their faculty.

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The meeting was adjourned by general consensus at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Bird-Pollan,
Senate Council Vice Chair

SC members present: Bird-Pollan, Blonder, Brion, Cross, Grossman, Osterhage, Schroeder, Spear, and Tagavi.

Provost's Liaison present: Kirsten Turner.

Invited guests present: Elizabeth Arnold, David Blackwell, Roger Brown, Krista Jacobsen, Lee Meyer, Kim Taylor, and Kim Woodrum.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Tuesday, June 5, 2018.