

Senate Council  
November 25, 2013

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, November 25, 2013 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 Chair Lee X. Blonder called the SC meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

1. Minutes from November 4 and November 18 and Announcements

The Chair said that no changes had been received for the November 4 or November 18 minutes. There being no changes, the minutes from November 4 and November 18 were **approved** as distributed by **unanimous consent**.

3. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) - Davy Jones, Chair

i. Update on SC Officer Elections

Guest Davy Jones, chair of the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC), explained that elected faculty senators from the University Senate (Senate) nominated the following individuals for the position of SC chair: Anderson, Hippisley, Pienkowski, Watt and Wood. Jones said his next responsibility was to see which nominated SC members are willing to serve as chair, if elected. If more than one nominee is willing to stand for election, the SC will hold an election during its December 16 meeting. If there is only one willing candidate, that person will be declared the SC chair-elect by general acclamation. Jones will inform senators of the election progress during the December Senate meeting.

b. Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) – Andrew Hippisley, Chair

i. Proposed New University Scholars Program - BA/BS Mathematics and MA/MS Mathematics

Hippisley explained the proposal. There were a few questions from SC members. Guests Russell Brown (AS/Mathematics) and Peter Perry (AS/Mathematics) agreed to remove the section on the program faculty. Watt **moved** to approve the establishment of a new University Scholar's Program for a Master's of Sciences / Arts in Mathematics, in the Department of Mathematics within the College of Arts and Sciences and send it to the Senate with a positive recommendation. Pienkowski **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

ii. Proposed New Minor in Photography

Hippisley explained the proposed new minor, which was highly recommended by the SAPC. There were a few questions from SC members. Guest Ruth Adams (FA/School of Art and Visual Studies) agreed to the suggestion to remove "minimum" from the reference in Appendix A to the number of required credit hours, as well as removing language at the end of the description of course requirements (could be read to imply that a student was required to take 20+ courses to complete the minor). Adams said she would send in a revised proposal. Brion **moved** to approve the establishment of a new undergraduate Minor in Photography, in the School of Art and Visual Studies, within the College of Fine Arts and send it to the Senate with a positive recommendation. Wasilkowski **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

4. Content of Teacher/Course Evaluations ("TCE")

The Chair welcomed the invited guests in attendance:

- Assistant Provost for Faculty Affairs Richard Greissman;
- Director of Assessment Tara Rose;
- College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean for Faculty Ted Schatzki
- Director of Institutional Research Roger Sugarman; and
- Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education Ben Withers.

The Provost's office was reorganized while under the purview of the interim provost; as part of that, the offices of Institutional Effectiveness (Assessment, Planning, and Research), were moved to being under the auspices of Academic Planning, Analytics, and Technologies. Provost Christine Riordan has since moved two offices of Institutional Effectiveness - Assessment and Planning (units not involved with Analytics) into the Associate Provost for Faculty Advancement office. In addition, the Center for Learning and Teaching again reports to the Associate Provost for Faculty Advancement office. After explanations from Greissman and Rose about eXplorance (new evaluation software purchased by UK), SC members asked a variety of questions.

There are now three types of teacher evaluations available to units; individual units may opt for a paper form, Qualtrics, or eXplorance. While Qualtrics and eXplorance are both used online, Qualtrics is a survey tool, while a teaching evaluation using eXplorance is a feedback tool and can be completed anywhere, anytime, in multiple ways (laptop, tablet, smartphone). The use of eXplorance is still in the trial period, with a handful of colleges having signed up to try the new system. Students sign in using their link blue credentials; eXplorance prevents a student from submitting an evaluation more than once and also ensures anonymity.

Qualtrics is not designed for teacher evaluations, though, and moving to eXplorance will eliminate the need to additionally utilize SAS [analytics software]; not everyone needs every piece of data. eXplorance is a superior program for course evaluations. UK's teacher evaluation response rates are 47% when completed via Qualtrics and 67% when completed via paper forms. The University of Louisville uses eXplorance and has a 60% completion rate. Rose added that units will have the ability to add their open-ended questions, which is currently not an option in the Qualtrics or paper methods, The Colleges of Education, Engineering and Arts and Sciences are among those testing eXplorance and more could be added. There was additional discussion among SC members about a variety of aspects.

Schatzki explained to SC members the report from the College of Arts and Sciences (AS) on teaching evaluations. Among other comments, the report suggested the current teacher/course evaluation (TCE) form was outdated and a new form was in order, to better capture student intent. There was also a presumption that all units use the same forms. Withers added that AS uses a different form than anyone else on campus, illustrating the need for the form to be customizable. Palli expressed appreciation for having a committee to review teaching evaluations and commented that students are also reviewing the matter. Students want to see some questions that are constant across the University. Students are also looking at data from national standards for improving teaching methods. Rose said that about one-third of campus units do not use the standard UK teaching evaluation; multiple types are in use across campus.

SC members turned to discussion of an ad hoc committee to review TCEs. Brion **moved** that the SC create an ad hoc committee to review teaching evaluation forms and that the SC bring it to the Senate at its next meeting. Palli **seconded**. Wood **offered a friendly amendment** (accepted by both Brion and Palli) so that the SC create an ad hoc committee to review teaching evaluation forms, including the question of balance between universal content and content that is college- or unit-specific and that the

SC bring it to the Senate at its next meeting. After additional brief discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Hippisley commented that the description of the Senate's charge (as explained by Jones, SREC chair) was for oversight of course evaluations, not teaching evaluations. He wondered if the SC could be seen as overstepping its bounds. Wood suggested that the ad hoc committee be sufficiently large to be responsive to all colleges, but not so large that the committee's size becomes unwieldy. Withers suggested the ad hoc committee could be consultative to colleges and departments to assist those areas with creating their own instrument that meets their individual needs, not the creation of a campuswide tool.

#### 5. Details of Potential February Webinar on Faculty Governance

SC members discussed the cost of the webinar. Afterwards, it was agreed that the SC would participate. Christ suggested that Senate committee chairs be invited to attend; there were no objections.

#### 6. Other Business

The Chair asked SC members if there was anything else that they wanted to discuss. There was a lengthy conversation about the new budget model and the need for better education on the model. SC members supported the idea of holding educational forums with Provost Riordan for faculty members on the new budget model. Hippisley suggested that subsequent to the SC's forum, the questions and answers be written out to retain a memory of the process.

SC members also discussed the idea of an update from the Provost, but no decision was made.

There being no further business to attend to, Watt **moved** and Pienkowski **seconded** for adjournment. There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lee X. Blonder,  
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Anderson, Blonder, Brion, Christ, Debski, Hippisley, McCamy, Palli, Pienkowski, Wasilkowski, Watt, Wilson and Wood.

Invited guests present: Ruth Adams, Russell Brown, Richard Greissman, Davy Jones, Peter Perry, Tara Rose, Ted Schatzki, Roger Sugarman and Ben Withers.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Thursday, December 12, 2013.