

Senate Council
November 6, 2017

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, November 6, 2017 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 Katherine M. McCormick called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

1. Minutes from October 23, 2017 and November 1, 2017 and Announcements

The Chair said that no changes were submitted for either the October 23 or the November 1 SC minutes. Therefore, hearing **no objections**, the minutes from October 23 and November 1 were **approved** as distributed by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair recalled the special SC meeting on November 1, when SC members met with Provost Tim Tracy. The Chair summarized the meeting, saying that Provost Tracy shared his interest in and the intent to continue the ongoing joint initiatives with SC. The Chair met with President Eli Capilouto on Friday afternoon and the President offered his support for continuation of those activities. Earlier in the day she met with President Capilouto's Chief of Staff Bill Swinford, who shared thoughts and ideas about moving forward with a search committee for a new provost. The Chair said that there were three general requirements to create a search committee for a new provost, as outlined in *Governing Regulations VII* ("University Appointments"): convening a search committee; identifying faculty members to serve as search committee members; and consulting with the SC on committee membership. She said she had received a few nominations for faculty to serve on the search committee and asked SC members if they had additional suggestions. There were a variety of comments about possible nominees. The Chair opined that it would likely be a relatively small search committee and that it would be convened fairly quickly, with the search concluded before the winter holidays.

Blonder asked if the President would hold a national search. The Chair thought it would be unlikely. Tagavi asked if not having a national search meant that the search process would be an internal search. The Chair said she thought it would be an internal search, but was unable to confirm that. Blonder said that if it was going to be a national search, it would not be completed so quickly. Grossman asked about whether the search committee would be seeking a provost or an interim provost. The Chair responded that it made more sense to have an interim provost if a national search was going to be conducted; an interim provost did not seem likely if UK were to have an internal search process. Blonder asked if there was already a preferred provost candidate and the Chair replied that she had no knowledge of a preferred candidate. There were additional nominations made by SC members. Mazur expressed a desire that the nominees from SC reflect the diversity present on campus.

The Chair reminded SC members that there will be two town hall meetings on title series (November 15, 10:30 – 11:30 am in W. T. Young Library Athletics Association Auditorium and November 16, 3:30 – 4:30 pm in the Lexmark Public Room (209) of the Main Building). She noted that that town hall on November 16 would be live streamed.

The Chair informed SC members that she received a request from the Ombud that might ask for their input into a request for a rule waiver. She added that it might require email deliberation. Blonder and Wood stated that the Chair could not ask for a vote via email. The Chair said that she could ask for consultation and waive the rule herself, but that the situation would hopefully be resolved without the need for a rule waiver.

2. Old Business

a. Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) – Joan Mazur and Davy Jones, Co-Chairs

i. Proposed Changes to *Senate Rules 1.3.1.2.A.3* (“University Senate Council,” “Elected Faculty Membership,” “Election”)

Mazur explained that the proposed language had been reviewed during multiple SREC meetings. Mazur added that the Chair had sent some questions and concerns about the proposed changes. Mazur acknowledged that there were some serious problems with the current language and that it would need to be discussed further by the SREC before the SC could review it.

Given the number of invited guests, the Chair suggested that all those present introduce themselves, which they did.

b. Proposed Changes to *Senate Rules* Regarding Changes in Provost's Area

Mazur described the proposed changes. She said that she and Co-Chair Jones reviewed all the changes and that Associate Provost for Academic Excellence Operations Kirsten Turner had provided a summary of changes. Mazur suggested not reviewing each individual change, but rather that SC focus on the substantive issues.

The first major issue pertained to voting rights for the position of associate provost for student and academic life. She explained that the SC needed to decide if that position would be an ex officio voting member, or an ex officio non-voting member. Blonder asked if there was a job description for that position. Guest Turner noted that the job description included a requirement that the person in the position be a tenured faculty member. Turner left the room to print copies of the job description for the associate provost for student and academic life.

Mazur referred to the handout she distributed to SC members regarding voting rights for the associate provost for student and academic life. She said there were two possible scenarios – one as an ex officio member with voting rights and one as an ex officio without voting rights. Both scenarios included language that would give the dean of the Lewis Honors College voting rights in even numbered years.

The Chair commented that Provost Tim Tracy [in his letter of support posted with the September 18, 2017 SC agenda] purposely did not ask for changes to language pertaining to Honors, to give the faculty of record in the Lewis Honors College the opportunity to make such suggestions. She wondered if it made sense to make one Honors-related change when the rest of the language pertained to the former Undergraduate Education unit. There were no objections from SC members about including the newly established voting rights for the dean of the Lewis Honors College. The Chair asked that Mazur, when presenting the changes to the SRs to the University Senate, also explicitly acknowledge the Honors-related change for clarity's sake.

Schroeder asked about the summary of changes and the notation on the chart regarding potential resource issues regarding election processes at the Undergraduate Council and the UK Core Education Committee. Mazur replied that when Turner visited with the SC on October 2, she stated that the Provost's office would ensure that resources were available for election processes. Mazur added that she would need to update the notation on the summary chart to reflect that resolution.

There was extensive discussion regarding the SREC's proposed changes to the language in *SR 1.4.3.1.B.5* and *SR 1.4.3.1.B.6* (“Senate UK Core Education Committee (SUKCEC)”). The Chair asked if it was necessary to add the SREC-recommended language that added reference to the need for approval by

the UC, SC, and Senate. The Chair commented that because the term “propose” was used, it was somewhat obvious that the other bodies would be required to approve what SUKCEC proposed. Mazur asserted that the additional language was necessary to be clear about who was responsible for any final decisions. The bulk of the discussion about the changes to SUKCEC-related responsibilities pertained to questions from SC members about why the SREC inserted language that would newly require the Undergraduate Council (UC) and SC to approve temporary waivers and substitutions. There was some confusion among those present as to whether the language referred to individual student cases for waivers or to individual program requests for waivers. Guest Anna Bosch (AS/Linguistics, associate dean for undergraduate programs), said there was almost always another UK Core course that a student could take if one particular course was not available. The Chair said that Senate had operated for some time under the current arrangement [substitutions and waivers approved by SUKCEC without UC or SC oversight] and asked for a rationale for the change. There was additional discussion. Grossman suggested changing the language so that substitutions and waivers would be reported to the UC. That suggestion was accepted by those participating in that part of the discussion.

Tagavi said that he had sent in some suggested changes and one of them was to add a requirement that the chairs of the UC and SUKCEC be tenured faculty members. Schroeder asked if Tagavi’s comments had been discussed by the SREC and Mazur explained that Tagavi was absent when the SREC discussed the proposed changes to the SRs. Tagavi expressed concern that in the future, the SC could appoint a part-time instructor to the chair position in UC or SUKCEC.

Tagavi **moved** to add “tenured” before the word “faculty member” in SR 1.3.4 (“Undergraduate Council”). Bailey **seconded**. There was some support for Cross’s suggestion that the language be modified to refer to a preference for a tenured faculty member, but not make it an explicit requirement. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with seven in favor and four opposed.

Tagavi **moved** to add “tenured” before the word “faculty member” in SR 1.4.3.1.A (“Senate UK Core Education Committee (SUKCEC),” “Composition”) [first paragraph]. Bailey **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with seven in favor and four opposed.

SC members next discussed the proposed changes to SR 5.2.2.1 (“Accelerated Programs”). Mazur explained that the SREC believed the Senate’s Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) was the appropriate body to receive information from departmental faculties regarding various test score levels. Guest Bosch commented that the important aspect would be to ensure that the SAASC then reported the faculty-approved scores to the Registrar.

Blonder **moved** that the associate provost for student and academic life serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of Senate. Mazur **seconded**. Both individuals accepted Woods’ friendly amendment to also add a voting ex officio role (odd-numbered years) for the dean of the Lewis Honors College. Both Blonder and Mazur also accepted Grossman’s suggestion to further add a recommendation to the Board of Trustees that corresponding changes to *Governing Regulations IV* (“The University Senate”) be made regarding voting rights of ex officio members.

After some discussion about the appropriateness of including so many components in one motion, Blonder **withdrew** her motion (Mazur concurring). Cross **moved** to approve the scenario proposed by the SREC in which the associate provost for student and academic life would an ex officio, non-voting member of Senate. Mazur **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Tagavi said he had a series of editorial changes that he wanted to present to SC. Grossman suggested that editorial changes be done by the SREC after the Senate approved the omnibus changes. Tagavi was not comfortable with that and asked again to have his editorial suggestions incorporated into the omnibus changes to the *SRs* that would be sent to Senate. Mazur said that she was comfortable with all of Tagavi's changes, having reviewed them previously. She said she would incorporate them into the version that the Senate received for its agenda.

The Chair directed SC members to return to the **motion** on the floor from the SREC, to approve the proposed changes to the *SRs*. On behalf of the SREC, Joan accepted Grossman's suggestion (to further add a recommendation to the Board of Trustees that corresponding changes to *Governing Regulations IV* ("The University Senate") be made regarding voting rights of ex officio members) as a friendly amendment. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

4. Degree Recipients

a. Honorary Degree(s)

Guest Morris Grubbs, assistant dean for graduate student professional development, presented the three nominees for honorary degrees, to be awarded at May 2018 Commencement ceremonies. The Chair explained that the **motion** from the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees (UJCHD) was that the elected faculty senators approve DAH as the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

The next **motion** from the UJCHD was that the elected faculty senators approve SLH as the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Arts, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

The third motion from the UJCHD was that the elected faculty senators approve GTM as the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Science, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

The Chair reminded those present to not share the names of the honorary degree candidates, which were to be kept confidential.

b. Request for Waiver of Senate Rules 5.4.2.3.C.1 ("Circumstances for Award of Honorary Degrees")

Tagavi suggested that the name of the possible additional nominee not be named, so as to avoid any possibility of embarrassment if the SC opted not to waive the *SR* that limits the number of honorary degree recipients in any one academic year to five. There were no objections. Grubbs presented information about the possible, additional nominee.

Tagavi opined that he had yet to hear a rationale for the rule waiver, although the information shared was sufficient for awarding an honorary degree. He was not in favor of waiving *SR 5.4.2.3.C.1*. Those SC members expressing an opinion were in agreement with Tagavi. Wood, Blonder, and Grossman indicated they would be more likely to waive the pertinent *SR* if there was a reason why the honorary degree could not be awarded in December 2018, such as a life-threatening illness.

Bailey **moved** to waive *SR 5.4.2.3.C.1* ("Circumstances for Award of Honorary Degrees") and Bird-Pollan **seconded**. Cross and Childress spoke in favor of the waiver. Wood again spoke against the waiver, expressing concern that increasing the number of honorary degrees awarded might lessen their impact and appear to decrease selectivity. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with six in favor and four opposed.

c. Honorary Degree [Pending Approval of SR Waiver]

Grubbs presented the fourth nominee for an honorary degree, also to be awarded at a May 2018 Commencement ceremony. There were no objections to the recipient, but there was brief discussion about the UJCHD's intention to award an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Cross suggested that an Honorary Doctor of Arts would be a better fit with the nominee's past activities. There were no objections to that suggestion.

Cross **moved** that the elected faculty senators approve TTH as the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Arts, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Mazur **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

d. Late Additions to December 2015 Degree List (per Senate Rules 5.4.1.1.D.1-2)

i. Graduate School Student HR-21

The Chair noted that the representative from the Graduate School was unexpectedly unable to attend. Blonder **moved** that the elected faculty senators amend the December 2015 degree list adopted at the December 14, 2015 Senate meeting by adding the MA in Anthropology for student HR-21 and recommend through the President to the Board of Trustees that the degree be awarded effective December 2015. Wood **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

5. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) – Herman Farrell, Chair

i. Proposed Changes to BS in Kinesiology (non-teacher certification in Exercise Science)

Guest Herman Farrell, chair of the Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC), explained the proposal. The **motion** from the SAASC was that the SC approve the proposed changes to the BS in Kinesiology (non-teacher certification in Exercise Science). Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no discussion. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

ii. Proposed Change to MA in Sociology

iii. Proposed Changes to PhD in Sociology

Farrell explained both proposals. Guest Ana Liberato (AS/Sociology) participated in the SC's discussion of the two proposals. There was some concern about wording in the proposal that was unclear. After discussion, Liberato said she would revise the PhD Sociology proposal for clarity. The motion from the SAASC was that the SC approve the proposed changes to the MA in Sociology and to the (revised) PhD in Sociology. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

b. Senate's Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC) – Ernie Bailey, Chair

i. Proposed Transfer of Undergraduate Certificate in Global Studies from Undergraduate Education to the College of Arts and Sciences

Bailey, chair of the Senate's Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC), explained the proposal. The **motion** from the SAOSC was that the SC approve the proposed transfer of the

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Undergraduate Certificate in Global Studies from Undergraduate Education to the College of Arts and Sciences. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was limited discussion. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. Tentative Senate Agenda for November 13, 2017

SC members thought the tentative agenda was acceptable, although the item on SR changes as a result of the Undergraduate Education reorganization needed to be added.

By general consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Katherine M. McCormick,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Bailey, Bird-Pollan, Blonder, Childress, Cross, Grossman, Lauersdorf, McCormick, Marr, Mazur, Schroeder, Tagavi, and Wood.

Invited guests present: Mark Abel, Anna Bosch, Roger Brown, Herman Farrell, Morris Grubbs, Ana Liberato, and Kirsten Turner.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Thursday, November 9, 2017.