

Senate Council
October 21, 2013

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, October 21, 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 Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

1. Minutes from October 7, 2013 and Announcements

The Chair noted that no changes or edits were received. There being no objection, the minutes from October 7, 2013 were **approved** by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair suggested that the agenda be rearranged to accommodate invited guests. There were no objections.

4. Proposed Calendar Change - Graduate School Application for August Degree Deadline

The Chair invited Graduate School Dean Jeannine Blackwell to explain the proposed change to the Graduate School deadline for application to graduate. Guest Blackwell was accompanied by Cleo Price, assistant dean for academic services. There was extensive discussion among SC members and Blackwell about the changes. Wood commented that the language in the Senate Rules (SR) about the Graduate School deadline for application for graduation was inadvertently removed, so Dean Blackwell would also need to draft some narrative language for insertion into the SR. Brion commented that if the dates were offered in tabular form, it would be easier to understand.

After discussion, Dean Blackwell asked if she should send the narrative language and the tabular format to the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) – the Chair confirmed and said that once the language was received, it could be taken to the University Senate (Senate) in November. The Chair thanked Price and Blackwell and they departed.

The Chair suggested SC members return to the agenda, particularly to Announcements. She asked SC members to offer their thoughts about the recent lunch with deans and Provost Christine Riordan. Below is a representative sample of comments.

- The lunch meeting went very well.
- There was some disappointment that the issue of valuing faculty service on committees did not come up for discussion.
- The review process for some proposals can take a significant amount of time. Although the Senate review adds value to proposals, there are some issues the Senate can do nothing about, such as poorly developed proposals.
- Faculty teaching effort should be valued as much as the ability to get a grant.
- Evaluation criteria for faculty should be developed by faculty, not by the dean's office; in addition, criteria differ from field to field.

- Having an open dialogue is a positive step forward.
- The idea of year-around school, or a trimester system, is intriguing.
- It might be helpful if deans saw the SC and Senate as the mechanism by which quality is ensured at a broad level.

There being no additional comments on the lunch, the Chair suggested SC members comment on the October 14 Senate meeting. Below are comments representative of the discussion.

- Consultation is a two-way street; merely sending something to another entity is neither consultation nor communication.
- The departmental name change discussion was not a good representation of the review process; given the past history, being proactive to ascertain support from both units would have been better.

The Chair then asked SC members if they were interested in discussing Distribution of Effort (DOE) forms – the College of Medicine is drafting standardized DOE guidelines and some of the guidelines involve detailing things such as 0.05% of time spent on X or Y. She wondered if the issue would be pertinent for faculty across campus, if such minute attention to detail begins to spread to other colleges across campus. SC members were amenable to such a discussion. After brief discussion, it was stated that DOEs do fall into the purview of educational policy, which when broadly defined also includes research. The Chair said she would put the issue on a near-future SC agenda.

There was also some support for a discussion on the perception of increasing reliance on lecturers.

2. Old Business

a. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Senate Non-Faculty Membership

The Chair reminded SC members that the SC had approved a motion to bring the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Senate Non-Faculty Membership (SNFM) to the Senate prior to January 2014. She asked SC members if they had any thoughts on when the recommendations should go to the Senate, or if SC members wanted to do something else.

SC members participated in a lengthy discussion about what to do with the recommendations from SNFM. There was brief discussion about an option not mentioned in the recommendations but could be done in conjunction with the recommendations – allowing deans and department chairs to be elected to the University Senate. Discussion ceased when the Provost arrived.

5. Provost Christine Riordan

SC members discussed a wide variety of topics with Provost Riordan. There was brief discussion about Provost Riordan's lunch with deans and the SC. Provost Riordan explained that there was a new, opt-in collaborative program among Kentucky's higher education institutions to better serve Kentucky's adult students, coordinated by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA). Provost Riordan answered questions from SC members, but emphasized that no decision had been made about whether or not UK would participate, let alone to what extent. She suggested SC members or a Senate committee review the KHEAA proposal and offer comments.

There were additional items for discussion, noted below.

- Massive open online courses (MOOCs) and credentialing versus broad-based educational degrees.
- Collaboration between Provost Riordan and the Senate's Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (SAPPC) regarding speakers, etc. as part of the strategic planning process.
- Organization of the Provost's office.
- Use of UK data for UK researchers.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at around 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lee X. Blonder,
Senate Council Chair

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

Invited guests present: Jeannine Blackwell, Cleo Price and Christine Riordan.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Friday, November 1, 2013.