

Senate Council
September 21, 2015

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, September 21, 2015 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 Andrew Hippisley called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:01.

1. President Eli Capilouto

The Chair welcomed President Eli Capilouto, chair of the University Senate. President Capilouto spoke to SC members for about an hour. He first talked about trends in higher education which mimic changes in the recent past regarding healthcare reform. In the same way that consumers can visit a government website and see statistics on patient access to care, readmissions, and mortality for a hospital, President of the United States Barack Obama introduced a new scorecard for every university. This scorecard will track a number of college-related measures, including average annual cost of attendance, retention and graduation rates, and salary after graduation, among others. In a related effort, and mirroring the actions of more than 30 other states, the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), in consultation with Kentucky's four-year institutions and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, is proposing in their 2016-18 biennial budget request to restore to KY's colleges their base allocation from the state as of 2008. There are additional components to this proposal and it also requires that universities perform at certain levels to keep that allocation. President Capilouto explained the details of the draft agreement with SC members, including the University's ability to gather data on a number of issues that were heretofore difficult to find or report.

President Capilouto, Provost Tim Tracy, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education Ben Withers, and Interim Director of the Honors Program Diane Snow also discussed the possibility of an honors college, sketching programming and faculty involvement. Responses were invited from members of SC. A number of issues were raised including questions about conflicts with existing programs in the colleges, the idea of grouping all honor students together in a segregated manner, details of how faculty are hired into such a college, the rank/title series of faculty teaching in the program, and details about the honors faculty council.

2. Minutes from August 31, 2015 and Announcements

The Chair reported that he had not received any corrections to the minutes from August 31, 2015.

Therefore, the minutes were **approved** as distributed by **unanimous consent**.

There were a few announcements.

- After the August 31 SC meeting, SC agreed via email that the SC vote to approve the August 2015 Degree List (second of two) and the late addition to the degree list (as per *Senate Rules 5.4.1.1.D.1-2*) (Student AC-41) were done on behalf of the University Senate (Senate) because of the Board of Trustees meeting was scheduled to take place before the Senate meeting.
- The Chair approved a change to the University calendar for 2015-16 on behalf of SC [change last day to withdraw from classes for fall 2015 semester].

3. Old Business

a. Proposed Ad Hoc Committee on Nominations

The Chair said that the agenda item was sparked by an off-the-cuff comment by Watt about the amount of time SC spends on identifying nominees for various Senate and University committees. After very brief discussion, it appeared that there was support for a discussion on this issue during a future meeting when more time could be dedicated to it. The Chair said he would place the item on an agenda in the near future.

4. Thursday Football Game

Due to the number of guests, the Chair suggested they introduce themselves and give their role in the planning for the Thursday football game. Guest Lance Broeking, director of Parking and Transportation, and Guest Jay Blanton, explained the timelines for communicating with campus about changes in parking and bus routes. Both Broeking and Blanton reiterated that while special plans are in place to ensure smooth and continued University operations, classes are to go on as scheduled. There were comments and questions from SC members, particularly about the cancellation of classes and/or midterm exams. Broeking reassured SC that there was no intent to allow the game to be a conflict with academics. Porter worried that students and faculty alike would decide to cut their losses and skip Thursday classes. Student representative Biery concurred with Porter. Broeking outlined the communication plan.

5. Committee Reports

a. Senate Advisory Committee on Privilege and Tenure - Mary Kay Rayens, Chair

i. 2014-15 Final Report

Guest Mary Kay Rayens, chair of the Senate's Advisory Committee on Privilege and Tenure for the 2014-15 year, reported on the SACPT's activities during that year which comprised a single case.

b. Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Confucius Institute - Wally Ferrier, Chair

i. Final Report

Guest Wally Ferrier, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Confucius Institute, presented that committee's final report. Ferrier said that the review overall was positive and there was no evidence of external influence in the hiring, teaching, budgeting, etc. that is undertaken by UK's Confucius Institute (UKCI). Ferrier drew SC members' attention to the recommendations in the report that were intended to strengthen faculty oversight and ensure transparency of UKCI.

Grossman **moved** to accept the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Confucius Institute and Mazur **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

c. Senate's Academic Planning and Priorities Committee (SAPPC) – Wally Ferrier, Chair

i. Final Report on Standardized Meeting Patterns

Ferrier, chair of the SAPPC, shared the SAPPC's report on standardized meeting times. SC members discussed whether or not department-controlled classroom space should also comply with the proposed standardized times for classroom space controlled by the Registrar. Many SC members who expressed an opinion said that all space should be required to comply with the standardized meeting time, in part because if the many "department-controlled" classroom spaces do not have to comply, it defeats the purpose of having standardized meeting times. Ferrier noted that some SAPPC members were under the impression that meeting times were already standardized. He added that when speaking with faculty about the issue, faculty members who taught at odd times thought such courses were few and far between, even though nonstandard times comprise almost 30% of all meeting schedules.

McCormick thought that the best way to frame the issue was to explain that the odd times cause problems for students trying to schedule classes. Brown spoke in favor of codifying exceptions for classes that meet once a week and start at or after 3 pm, as opposed to subjecting those types of courses to an exemptions process.

SC members discussed whether the proposed policy on standardized meeting times should be codified in the *Senate Rules* or if the standardized meeting patterns should be a policy endorsed by the Senate but is not codified in the *Senate Rules*.

Grossman **moved** that the SC recommend the Senate endorse the standardized meeting patterns, with the addition of a specific exemption for classes that begin on or after 3 pm that meet once weekly, and that the Senate state that all faculty must abide by the policy. Porter **seconded**. There being no further discussion, a **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Porter **moved** to adjourn and Brown **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion passed with none opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Andrew Hill,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Brown, Bailey, Biery, Bowers, Grossman, Hippisley, Kraemer, Mazur, McCormick Mullen, Porter, Watt, and Webb.

Invited guests present: Anthony Beatty, Jay Blanton, Lance Broeking, Eli Capilouto, Chris Crumrine, Walter Ferrier, James Frazier, Mark Hill, Joe Monroe, Bruce O'Hara, Ken Saul, Diane Snow, Tim Tracy, and Ben Withers.

Prepared by Sheila Brothers on Tuesday, September 22, 2015.