

Senate Council
December 7, 2020

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, December 7, 2020 via video conference. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise.

Senate Council Chair Aaron Cramer (EN) called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:00 pm. The Chair welcomed those present. He informed everyone that the session was being recorded and noted that it was an open meeting. He asked everyone to use the chat box to sign in for attendance and provided guidance on how to participate in the discussion.

The Chair asked SC if there were any objections to adding the proposed modifications to Graduate School policies for international students to the current agenda, as a new item seven. There being **no objections**, agenda item seven was **approved by unanimous consent**.

1. Minutes from November 30, 2020 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the set of minutes from November 30, 2020. There being **no objections**, the minutes for November 30, 2020 were **approved by unanimous consent**.

The Chair reminded SC of their past discussions about the possibility of faculty on phased retirement serving on the Senate. He reported that he discussed the issue with President Capilouto and explained that this would require a change to *Governing Regulations (GR) 4* ("The University Senate"). Since there are also ex officio memberships that need to be changed in *GR 4*, he plans to bring the phased retirement issue to SC and Senate after the new appointments have been approved by the Board of Trustees.

The Chair announced that the first SC meeting date of the year will be on January 25, 2021 and the first Senate meeting will be on February 8, 2021, unless an urgent need arises for earlier meetings. He asked SC to monitor their email over the break in case things came up. In response to his question about when to announce the meeting dates, SC suggested announcing it at the December 14th Senate meeting.

The Chair reminded SC about the exercise with the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and Gray Associates about undergraduate program review at public universities in Kentucky. He noted a recent request from administration to the colleges asking them to evaluate the strategic importance of their undergraduate programs; administration has also asked for input from the Senate by reviewing the evaluations. Colleges will be asked to evaluate their undergraduate degree programs using a "stoplight" color coding system: "highly strategically significant" will be green; "strategically significant" will be yellow; and "not strategically significant" will be red. The Chair noted that he asked members of the Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) and the Undergraduate Council chair to serve as the small group providing input and evaluating the rationales provided by the colleges about the strategic importance of their programs.

2. Officer Election

a. Vice Chair

The Chair welcomed Chair of the Elections Subcommittee of the Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) Roger Brown (AG). Brown shared with SC the list of Vice Chair duties and names of candidates eligible for the position. He explained that he would first be taking nominations and then verifying the nominee's willingness to serve. If there is more than one nominee, then each will have an opportunity to say a few words. Also, since the voting is taking place via Zoom, SC members vote by sending him a

private message in chat in lieu of the usual paper ballots. He asked if there were any questions and there were none, so the floor was opened for nominations.

Brion (EN) nominated DeShana Collett (HS) for Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. Collett (HS) verified her willingness to serve as Vice Chair. Brown (AG) explained that the Senate Rules (SRs) are silent with respect to a SC Vice Chair election with only one candidate, but it would be appropriate to mimic the process laid out for a chair election with only one candidate. Therefore, Brown declared Collett as the winner. Brown (AG) thanked Collett (HS) for her willingness to serve and concluded the election. Collett (HS) thanked everyone and expressed her appreciation for their support. The Chair thanked Brown (AG) for running the election and expressed his appreciation of Collett (HS).

3. Degree Recipients

a. Additions to December 2020 Degree List

i. College of Education Student UH-33

The Chair explained that student UH-33 started at UK in the fall 2015, bringing some academic work from another institution. After leaving UK in fall 2018, needing only one more class to complete a degree, the student completed the course and that work has been received by UK. The student's degree audit is "green." Cantrell (ED) **moved** that the elected faculty members of SC amend the December 2020 degree list by adding the Bachelor of Science in Education for student UH-33 and recommend through the President to the Board of Trustees that the degree be awarded effective December 2020. Soult (AS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

ii. College of Fine Arts Student CK-90

The Chair explained that student CK-90 earned two degrees but was only on the December 2020 degree list for one. The advisor for the second degree failed to tell the student that they had to also apply for the second degree. Brion (ED) **moved** that the elected faculty members of SC amend the December 2020 degree list by adding the Bachelor of Art in Arts Administration for student CK-90 and recommend through the President to the Board of Trustees that the degree be awarded effective December 2020. Collett (HS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

b. Honorary Degree Recipient(s)

The Chair invited Guest Morris Grubbs (Graduate School Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Professional Development) to present the three honorary degree nominees put forward by the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees (UJCHD).

Grubbs described the first nominee. There was no discussion by SC. Cantrell (ED) **moved** that the elected faculty members of SC approve JH as the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Collett (HS) **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Grubbs described the second nominee. There was no discussion by SC. Andrade (ME) **moved** that the elected faculty members of SC approve DL as the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Cantrell (ED) **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Grubbs described the third nominee. There was no discussion by SC. Soutl (AS) **moved** that the elected faculty members of SC approve CP as the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Andrade (ME) **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

The Chair reminded those present that results are embargoed and should not be shared.

Grubbs explained that UJCHD has requested a waiver of *Senate Rule (SR) 5.5.2.3 ("Conditions of Circumstance for Honorary Degrees")* which limits the number of honorary degree recipients to four at a single commencement and no more than five recipients during the academic year. The Chair added that this flexibility would allow more than the maximum number of invitations to nominees to be sent, knowing that it is unlikely they could all attend a single commencement.

Brion (EN) **moved** that SC add the waiver request for *SR 5.5.2.3* for the May 2021 commencement to the December Senate agenda for consideration to allow the possibility of six recipients at the May 2021 commencement. Cantrell **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was brief discussion about the possibility of extending the timeframe to Fall 2021,. SC favored proceeding with the motion as is and asking Grubbs to return to SC for extension if needed. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

4. Request from Nursing for Modification to Reading Days, Dead Week, and Finals Week in Undergraduate Courses

Assistant Dean of Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program Studies Darlene Welsh explained the proposal to modify the Reading Days and Dead Week for block two of spring and fall courses. The Chair asked if there were any questions of fact. There was discussion about how the eight-week block class schedules for the BSN are set up and if Nursing students take traditionally scheduled classes during these blocks. There was clarification that any student enrolled in BSN block courses and full-term University courses would follow the standard University Reading Days and Dead Week. The BSN instructors will be responsible for making the appropriate accommodations. There was also clarification that the request is for this change to be permanent.

Vincent (BE) **moved** to approve the request from the College of Nursing to modify Reading Days, Dead Week, and finals for undergraduate courses with an added clarification that Nursing students enrolled in both any traditional courses will be accommodated by Nursing instructors in terms of following the University calendar for Reading Days, Dead Week, and finals. Andrade (ME) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with two opposed and three abstained. The Chair asked Welsh to send an updated request to the SC office with the clarification about how a student in any non-Nursing course will be accommodated.

5. Ad Hoc Committee on Calendars' Proposed Changes to Academic Calendars

The Chair reminded SC of their previous vote in April to approve and add the Ad Hoc Committee's proposed changes to University calendars. Because of the pandemic, administration asked that Senate wait to approve the changes.

The Chair welcomed the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Calendars Jennifer Osterhage (AS).

Osterhage (AS) explained the proposal to make four changes to the academic calendar which included:

- Begin the Spring semester on a Monday.

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- Move the Fall Break from Monday and Tuesday of the ninth week to the Monday and Tuesday of the tenth week of the Fall Semester.
- Add two “Reading Days” to both the fall and spring semesters to occur on Thursday and Friday of “Dead Week” (SR 5.2.5.6).
- Adjust the final examination schedule from a 5-day schedule to a “4+1” final exam schedule.

There was discussion about how Reading Days affect Dead Week and the possible need for instructors to rearrange their teaching schedules to accommodate the changes to days. Osterhage reported that the Student Government Association (SGA) supported the proposal. There was also discussion of what can and cannot be done on Reading Days. Roger Brown (AG), a member of the Ad Hoc Committee, clarified that on Reading Days, there can be no required interactions, even with a course management system. He added that the two newly added days at the beginning of the semester (Monday and Tuesday) make up for the lost of two days now being used as Reading Days.

Although the Chair explained that SC had already voted to add the proposed changes to academic calendars to a Senate agenda, there was interest in SC voting again. The Chair said that the motion from the committee was a recommendation to approve the changes as described in the proposal from the Ad Hoc Committee. Because the **motion** came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. Committee Reports

a. Senate’s Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) - Jennifer Bird-Pollan, Chair

i. Proposed Changes to Senate Rules Pertaining to Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals

SAASC Chair Bird-Pollan (LA) explained the proposal. She noted that SC discussed the proposed changes on March 2nd but asked for SAASC to reconsider some items and come back to SC again. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there was clarification about the proposed wording and “I” grades.

The Chair said the motion from the committee was a recommendation to approve the proposed changes to SR 5.1.8.5 and the Retroactive Withdrawal Application, effective Fall 2021. Because the **motion** came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

ii. Proposed Change to Senate Rules Regarding Undergraduate Certificates

SAASC Chair Bird-Pollan (LA) explained the proposal. She noted that the current rule, among other things, limits students in the College of Engineering from participating in certificate programs. She added that the SAASC was unable to articulate a rationale for keeping that language. There was discussion about the potential for students to “certificate” their way to a degree.

The Chair said the motion from the committee was a recommendation to approve the proposed changes to SR 3.1.1.2 to be effective immediately. Because the **motion** came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed.

b. Senate’s Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC) - Zack Bray, Chair

i. Proposed Closure of Seven Multidisciplinary Research Centers (and Open Forums, per SR 3.3.2.2)

- Center for Developmental Change
- Center for Learning Resources

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- Center for Research on Environmental Disease
- Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery
- Center for Advancement of Women's Health
- Center for Microelectrode Technology
- Center for Manufacturing

SAOSC Chair Zack Bray (LA) explained the proposal and expressed his gratitude to Davy Jones (ME) for his work putting the proposal together. The Chair noted that this is an open forum in accordance with SR 3.3.2.2.

The Chair said the **motion** from the committee was a recommendation to approve the proposed closure of the seven multidisciplinary research centers in the proposal, based on their academic merits, and also endorse the proposed closure of the same seven centers based on their non-academic merits. Because the **motion** came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

7. Proposed Modifications to Graduate School Policies for International Students

The Chair explained the request from Graduate School Dean Brian Jackson. SC previously approved use of Duolingo for language competency for China and Iran, due to the pandemic and general unavailability of TOEFL and IELTS tests in those countries. The current request from the Graduate School is to allow them to accept Duolingo scores to meet the English language requirement for admission to Graduate School to all international applicants for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Kuhnlein (SGA) **moved** to approve the proposed modifications to Graduate School admissions language competency policies for international students for the 2021-2022 academic year. Andrade (ME) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

8. Tentative Agenda for December 14, 2020 Senate Meeting

Faculty Trustee Blonder (ME) noted that she and Faculty Trustee Swanson have a Board of Trustees meeting during the same time as the December 14th Senate meeting and are not available to report at the Senate meeting. The Chair asked if there were objections to removing the Trustee Report from the Senate agenda for December 14th. There being **no objections**, the removal of the Trustee Report from the Senate agenda for December 14th was **approved by unanimous consent**.

Soult (AS) **moved** to add the item "Proposed Modifications to Graduate School Policies for International Students" to the Senate agenda for December 14th. Andrade (ME) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Soult (AS) moved to approve the proposed tentative Senate agenda as amended for December 14, 2020. Andrade (ME) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

9. Items from the Floor

The Chair thanked SC members for serving and wished everyone a wonderful new year. He extended a special thanks to departing SC members Andrade, Brion, and Soult.

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There was a brief discussion about the proposal from Nursing and how it was resolved, but no SC members suggested that it should have been addressed differently.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Andrade, Bird-Pollan, Blonder, Brion, Cantrell, Collett, Cramer, Hall, Kuhnlein, Solt, Swanson, Vincent, Wheeler, and Williams.

Guests present: Kim Anderson, BJ Brandenburg, Sheila Brothers, Roger Brown, Bob Grossman, Davy Jones, Kim Taylor, and Darlene Welch.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on December 16, 2020.