

Senate Council
June 1, 2020

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, June 1, 2020 via video conference. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise. Below is a record of what transpired.

Senate Council Chair Aaron Cramer (EN) called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:00 pm. The Chair welcomed those present. He thanked past chair Bird-Pollan for her leadership and service. He also expressed his appreciation to Bird-Pollan and SC Office staff for helping him make a smooth transition. He informed everyone that the session was being recorded and asked everyone to use the chat box to sign in for attendance. He provided guidance on how to participate in the discussion.

1. Minutes from April 6, 2020, April 14, 2020, and April 20, 2020 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the sets of minutes from April 6, 2020, April 14, 2020, and April 20, 2020. There being **no objections**, the minutes from April 6, 2020, April 14, 2020, and April 20, 2020 were **approved** as distributed by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair reported that a request from Army ROTC regarding excused absences for training during the fall semester was submitted because they were unable to conduct training over the summer when they normally do. After reviewing, it was found that these excused absences are already covered by the existing *Senate Rules (SRs)*.

The Chair shared that a proposal for a one-year pilot of test flexible admissions will be coming to SC from Enrollment Management soon. He explained that due to COVID-19, there have been disruptions to standardized test taking. He asked SC to let him know what information would be helpful for them to see in the proposal.

The Chair described continued discussion about prior learning assessment. He has recommended that the prior learning assessment group carefully review the existing *SRs* and understand existing boundaries before submitting a prior learning assessment proposal to SC.

The Chair reported that Provost Blackwell contacted the past chair Bird-Pollan and himself about the budget email before it went out to everyone.

The Chair reported that past chair Bird-Pollan submitted the names recommended by SC to the subcommittee dealing with dual reporting of advisors. He will share any new information with SC as it becomes available.

The Chair asked SC to consider waiving *SR 1.4.1* Structure of University Senate Committees at the next meeting, which would delegate SC's authority to appoint committee chairs to him. This has been done in the past to better facilitate committee formation.

2. Degree Recipients

a. Late Addition to August 2020 Degree List

i. College of Health Sciences Student FC-20

The Chair reported that student FC-20 was not on the August 2020 degree list due to a clerical error. Bird-Pollan (LA) made a **motion** that the elected faculty members of SC amend the August 2020 degree list by adding the Doctorate of Physical Therapy for student FC-20 and recommend through the President to the Board of Trustees that the degree be awarded effective August 2020. Charnigo (PbH) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

3. Appointment of Senate Parliamentarian for 2020-21

The Chair read the text of *SR 1.2.4.4* Parliamentarian and confirmed that Doug Michael (LA) is willing to continue being the University Senate (Senate) Parliamentarian again this year. Grossman (AS) **moved** to approve Doug Michael as Senate Parliamentarian for 2020-21. Cantrell (ED) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

4. Naming of Reinstatement Committee for 2020-21

The Chair read the text of *SR 1.4.2.10* Senate Reinstatement Committee (SRIC) and explained that the SC has traditionally appointed the SC Chair, SC Vice Chair, and Student Government Association (SGA) President to the Reinstatement Committee. Grossman (AS) **moved** to appoint the SC Chair, SC Vice-Chair, and SGA President to the Reinstatement Committee for 2020-21. 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.

5. COVID 19 Ongoing Policy Discussion

a. Comments from Provost David Blackwell

Provost Blackwell thanked past chair Bird-Pollan for her service and said he very much appreciated working with her. He said he looked forward to having similar interactions with SC Chair Cramer and SC Vice Chair Collett and thanked them for their willingness to serve. He emphasized that he considers the Chair and Vice Chair as members of the University leadership team and intends to consult with them frequently on a variety of matters, not just those related to shared governance. The Provost also thanked SC for their continued work during the summer to address COVID-19 issues.

The Provost gave an update about processes related to COVID-19 scenario planning and how feedback is being solicited and considered. The START [Screening, Testing and Tracing, to Accelerate Restart and Transition] team is working on an exhaustive report including COVID-19 testing strategies, but the daily evolving science makes planning challenging.

The Provost reported that the startup plan for research was recently released by Vice President of Research Lisa Cassis. They are planning to use the experience of reintroducing students, faculty, and staff back into labs to inform how the restart process will work for UK. UK Healthcare and Athletics are also implementing and planning independently their restart plans, which UK can learn from.

The Provost explained that it will be essential that Senate and SC address the academic calendar. The Course Delivery Workstream has been working on possible options for academic calendars and said that it would be helpful if SC could generate ideas about the academic calendar, as well as provide input on existing options. The Provost was particularly interested in the pros and cons of specific structures. He said that he would like to be able to announce the first day of classes by the middle of the coming week, even if all the specifics are not yet known.

The Provost reported that over 5,000 first-time freshmen have been confirmed for the fall semester. He recognized the work of Enrollment Management to help make this happen.

The Chair asked for SC members to reply to him with their pros and cons for the calendar options that were sent to them. He then opened the floor for questions to the Provost including:

- Is the administration taking into consideration the possible surge of viral cases and if so, is it shifting the University's plans? The Provost responded that they would continue monitoring the

data daily and react accordingly. Also, this is the reason why it is important to have a range of calendar options.

- How would the possibility of an early start date affect faculty contracts that do not begin until August 15? The Provost explained that once a start date is known, they will start having conversations related to faculty contracts.

The Chair thanked Provost Blackwell.

b. Emergency Operations Center: Conversation with SC Workstream Nominees

The Chair thanked the workstream representatives for their diligent work and detailed summaries of workstream activities that were distributed to SC. He recommended that the structure for the discussion with the workstream representatives allow SC members time for asking workstream members about their experiences or asking for clarification of their summaries, and specific perspectives that SC members would like to share moving forward when workstreams are reactivated.

Questions included:

- Has the Academic Course Delivery Workstream discussed experiential needs of learners on the healthcare side? Information about this was collected and shared with the Course Delivery Workstream and was mentioned at a high level in their report. The Community Workstream also had discussions centered on what University policy should be and how to provide flexibility with business and clinical partners who provide internships and clinical rotations for students.
- Has the Legal Workstream discussed the lack of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protection for faculty and staff over the age of 60? There has not been discussion about this, but they have discussed the possibility that the ADA is not directly applicable or adequate to deal with the kinds of concerns that the virus raises. There was broad consensus among the workstream members that the University should be generous in assuring faculty who have concerns, even if they might not fall strictly within the confines of the ADA or other applicable regulations.
- If a faculty member gets COVID-10 from teaching face-to-face, will it be covered by workers compensation? The Legal Workstream has not discussed this but will need to take a look at it. The University is protected by sovereign immunity so long as their actions are considered “reasonable,” but that does not necessarily mean that workers compensation would not cover it. The Business Process Workstream has not discussed this issue either.
- Who will be responsible for providing personal protective equipment (PPE) to students doing research if there is no grant money to supply it, and who will provide PPE to faculty who are teaching in-person? PPE will be provided to both students and faculty by the University, but the question of replenishment in labs is being actively looked at. The Supplies and Storage Workstream discussed the possibility of purchasing PPE with grant funds and found that it was not appropriate to purchase PPE with grant funds. There is also an ongoing discussion of replenishing PPE supplies that were rounded up from labs early in the pandemic when there was a shortage. It was pointed out that anyone needing a higher level of PPE may have to purchase it themselves. The Human Resources Workstream has been encouraged to assume there is enough PPE for everyone when building out their action plan.

The floor was opened more broadly for workstream representatives to comment on faculty-related issues. Comments included:

- Provost Blackwell suggested inviting Vice President for Research Lisa Cassis to a SC meeting to answer questions.

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- Enforcement mechanisms should be considered for faculty, staff, and students who do not follow the START guidelines.
- There is a general consensus in the Legal Workgroup that faculty should retain intellectual property rights for all materials developed for courses.
- The importance of sharing information among the faculty representatives of the workgroups.
- Concern that dining and classroom facilities have extensive plans for changes due to COVID-19 but housing is not planning on many, if any, changes.
- Praise for the detailed restart plans put together by the workstreams. The workgroup representatives were asked if they felt the fall plans are realistic for the coming semester.
Answers included:
 - Yes, if we emphasize that anyone working from home should remain working from home if possible, and if public health standards are met, like the use of PPE.
 - Yes, as long as all of the underlying assumptions of compliance hold up.
 - It is feasible, but there will need to be much preparation.
- Discussion of the importance of getting our students in the classroom for not only experiential learning, but for student retention and teaching them in the way faculty think is best.
- Consideration of faculty workload if they must teach face-to-face and online.
- Students have expressed a desire for the residential experience if safety standards are met.
- Student concern about fees if the University goes online again.
- Basic assumptions are not yet available, which would allow for detailed planning of how best to hold large events.
- Faculty should be surveyed to get a sense of how many want to teach remotely and how many want to teach in person.
- Rooms will be limited to 30% capacity and there are not many rooms that will hold larger classes; multi-modal teaching and hybridization will be important to consider. Alternative classrooms, such as ballrooms in the Gatton Student Center or large spaces in the Singletary Center are also being discussed.
- Recording devices are being installed in instructional spaces.
- Business process workstream discussions have focused on how to ensure a safe environment when we come back. They have also discussed what was learned from the remote experience during the spring semester and how that can be used to make the fall semester safer and more efficient.

The Chair thanked all the faculty representatives on the workstreams for the work they are doing on the faculty's behalf. He emphasized their importance as not only the faculty's eyes and ears, but also their voice in these conversations. He invited them to send him any information that they would like to share with SC.

c. Proactive Discussion on Alternative Course Delivery Methods

The Chair explained that he was not looking for any motions from SC, but he was requesting SC's input and guidance of where they stand on these issues, in case he was required to act on behalf of the SC/Senate. Comments included:

- Administration should be as flexible as possible with faculty about work arrangements.
- They are comfortable with the Chair acting in a broad sense.
- They are comfortable with approving a waiver of the standard process for approving courses for distance learning delivery, for fall 2020.
- Faculty should not be expected to teach in dual modalities.

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Furloughed staff should be brought back if the fall semester starts early.

d. Proactive Discussion on Academic Calendar Changes and Course Credit Hours

Comments included:

- Faculty on nine-month contracts should not have to work pro bono if the semester starts early, before August 15
- Faculty teaching during the summer session will be under huge strain if the fall semester starts early.
- If a faculty member is working on research grants during the summer, how does it affect the grant agreement if they have to start teaching earlier than anticipated?

The Chair requested that the conversation of pros and cons about different start dates for the fall semester that was requested by Provost Blackwell be continued through email, due to time constraints.

6. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Academic Facilities Committee – Chris Pool, Chair

i. Results of 2019-20 Facilities Survey

Pool (AS) described the process of creating and sending out the facilities survey to senators. He noted that the response rate was about 45%. He proceeded to go over the survey questions and results, including highlights about several buildings that were identified as having various significant issues that negatively affect office work and classrooms.

Vincent **moved** to accept and endorse the 2019-2020 Facilities Survey Report, request the Chair to forward it to Executive Vice President for Financial Affairs Monday, Provost Blackwell, President Capilouto, with a carbon copy to the chair of the Facilities Workstream Mary Vosevitch, and invite Pool to present it at the next Senate meeting. Grossman **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

7. Items from the Floor (Time Permitting)

Grossman (AS) suggested the nomination process for Faculty Trustee should be reviewed the due to the low barrier of requiring only 10 signatures to be able to run for the position. He added that the petition surveys should be required to come from both inside and outside the faculty member's college. The Chair agreed to add this issue to the next SC agenda to discuss which committee should review this.

Grossman (AS) **moved** to adjourn. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Andrade, Bird-Pollan, Blonder, Brion, Cantrell, Charnigo, Collett, Cramer, Grossman, Shaikh, Sout, Vincent, and Wheeler.

Guests present: David Blackwell, Haley Bergstrom Sheila Brothers, Roger Brown, Janet Carver, Misook Chung, Herman Farrell, Chris Frost, Kathi Kern, Margaret Mohr-Schroeder, Melissa Morgan, John Nardolillo, Shannon Oltman, Chris Pool, Margaret Rintamaa, Kim Taylor, Tim Taylor, and Ellen Usher.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on August 25, 2020.