

Senate Council
March 1, 2021

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, March 1, 2021 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.

1. Minutes from February 22, 2021 and Announcements

The Chair reported that an edit was received for the set of minutes from February 22, 2021. There being **no objections**, the minutes from February 22, 2021 stand **approved** as amended by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair reported that the Vice President for Institutional Diversity search is moving forward, and the application window for the position will be open for two more weeks.

The Chair reported that as part of the ten-year Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reaffirmation, a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is in the initial stages of planning. A group will be having conversations about QEP development around campus and will be coming to SC for feedback. There was clarification that SACSCOC has not and will not delay reviews because of COVID.

The Chair reported that Senate's UK Core Education Committee (SUKCEC) requested that CELT's Director of Equity and Inclusion Initiatives Shauna Morgan be added as a temporary ex officio SUKCEC member for the duration of the academic year. The Chair asked if there were any objections to adding Morgan as a temporary ex-officio SUKCEC member for the duration of the school year. There were **no objections**.

2. Degree Recipients

a. Requests to Amend Previously Adopted Degree List (December 2020): Rescind MAC Counselor Education (Specialty in Clinical Mental Health Counseling) and Confer MRC Rehabilitation Counseling (Specialty in Clinical Mental Health Counseling)

i. College of Education Student MA-88

ii. College of Education Student JS-81

The Chair explained the request to change two students' degrees back to Rehabilitation Counseling, from Counselor Education; the change to Counselor Education was due to incorrect advising. Department Chair of Early Childhood, Special Education and Counselor Education Ralph Crystal offered additional information and noted that the College of Education Faculty Council unanimously endorsed the request to amend the students' degrees. Vincent (BE) **moved** that the elected faculty members of SC amend the December 2020 degree list for College of Education Student MA-88 and College of Education Student JS-81 by rescinding the MAC Counselor Education (Specialty in Clinical Mental Health Counseling) and conferring the MRC Rehabilitation Counseling (Specialty in Clinical Mental Health Counseling). Grossman (AS) **seconded**. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

3. Proposed Nonstandard Course Calendars for DPT Courses

The Chair asked if there were objections to holding the agenda item until the proposer arrived. There were **no objections**.

4. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) - Leslie Vincent, Chair

i. Proposed New Graduate Certificate in Advanced Specialty Program in Endodontics

The Chair asked if there were objections to holding the agenda item until Vincent's connection was stabilized. There were **no objections**.

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

i. Proposed Changes to Senate Rules 5.4.1.2 ("Academic Suspension Policies") and Senate Rules 5.4.1.3 ("Reinstatement")

Bird-Pollan (LA) explained the proposed changes to *SR 5.4.1.2* ("Academic Suspension Policies") and *SR 5.4.1.3* ("Reinstatement") came as a request from the Provost's Committee on Advising. She gave background information about the process for reinstatement and noted the need for more uniformity of rules regarding readmission across colleges. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there was clarification that the *SRs* already include reinstatement deadlines and that the proposed changes include adding a summer deadline to the already existing fall and spring deadlines. There was discussion about what the proposed *SR* reinstatement language means by, "Completion of the reinstatement appointment and a decision must be made prior to the stated readmission application deadline." There was also discussion about why both the terms "reinstatement" and "readmission" are used in the proposal.

Grossman (AS) offered an **amendment** to replace the specific dates in the proposal with, "Deadlines for students to schedule appointments for reinstatement in the fall, spring, and summer terms shall be established in the University academic calendar." There was no **second** so the amendment **failed**.

Grossman (AS) offered an **amendment** to replace the sentence in the proposal, "Completion of the reinstatement appointment and a decision must be made prior to the stated readmission application deadline." with "The student needs to complete the reinstatement appointment, and the dean needs to make a decision about reinstatement, prior to the stated readmission application deadline." Charnigo (PbH) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the amendment **passed** with none opposed.

The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from SAASC to approve the proposed changes to *SR 5.4.1.2* ("Academic Suspension Policies") and *SR 5.4.1.3* ("Reinstatement") as amended. 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.

ii. Race and Ethnicity College Requirement

Bird-Pollan (LA) explained the proposal to require every student earning an undergraduate degree in the College of Arts and Sciences to complete a three-credit-hour course addressing issues of race and ethnicity, starting in fall 2021. She also explained that the course is not an additional requirement above 120 credit hours and can be satisfied by "double dipping" with another requirement. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there were none. The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from SAASC to approve the proposed Race and Ethnicity College requirement in the College of Arts and Sciences. 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.

iii. Three-Year Extension of Test-Optional Admissions Pilot

Bird-Pollan (LA) explained the proposal and noted that the three-year extension provides sufficient time for data collection. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there was clarification that the pilot

impacts only undergraduate students. Associate Provost for Enrollment Management Christine Harper clarified that merit aid awards are also test-optional during the pilot and it is too early to analyze student success data. She also commented on how college readiness standards are determined. It was noted that faculty should be voting on the criteria for selective admissions in their colleges. The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from SAASC to approve the proposed three-year extension of test-optional admissions pilot. 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.

3. Proposed Nonstandard Course Calendars for DPT Courses

Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs Karen Badger (HS) explained the proposal. The Chair asked if there were any questions. Department Chair of Physical Therapy Tony English confirmed the days that students have off. Charnigo (PbH) **moved** to approve the proposed nonstandard course calendars for DPT courses. 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.

4. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) - Leslie Vincent, Chair

i. Proposed New Graduate Certificate in Advanced Specialty Program in Endodontics

Vincent (BE) explained the proposal. The Chair asked if there were any questions and while there were no questions about the proposal itself, there was lengthy discussion about distinctions between professional programs and graduate certificates and whether those distinctions were meaningful or helpful. The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from SAPC that the University Senate approve the establishment of a new Graduate Certificate: Advanced Specialty Program in Endodontics, in Department of Endodontics within the College of Dentistry. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was more discussion about if the proposed certificate should be categorized as something other than a graduate certificate.

Grossman (AS) offered an **amendment** to change the proposed certificate from a graduate certificate to a professional certificate. Charnigo (PbH) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and no support was expressed for the motion. It was noted that the SAPC reviewed the item as a graduate certificate and if there is no official criteria for a professional certificate, it should not be reviewed as one. A **vote** was taken and the amendment **failed** with two in favor and six opposed.

A **vote** was taken on the original motion and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

5. Tentative Senate Agenda for March 8, 2021

Corrections and additions were noted. Grossman (AS) **moved** to approve the proposed tentative Senate agenda with the noted corrections and additions for March 8, 2021. 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

6. Upcoming Retirement Changes and Role of the Retirement Committee – Chief Benefits Officer Richard Amos

Chief Benefits Officer Richard Amos presented information about the upcoming retirement changes and the role of the Retirement Committee. The presentation included an overview of UK's retirement plan

history, Retirement Committee composition, summary of plan changes, and responses to questions that were sent to him before the SC meeting. The floor was opened for questions and there was lengthy discussion about the new fee structure. SC requested that clearer communication be provided to faculty about the changes.

7. Request for Input on Badge Initiative

Vincent (BE) explained she is a member of the digital badge committee that is led by Associate Provost of Teaching, Learning, and Academic Innovation Kathi Kern. She reported that SACS recognizes digital badges as programs that require approval. The committee has been discussing what the digital badge approval process might look like and has requested input from SC as they move forward.

She explained that one option is for the Senate to approve a process for badges that allows colleges and curriculum committees to be responsible for the approval of specific badges. Although the individual badges may not need to go through a formal review by SAPC, the Office of Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness (OSPIE) would need to be involved in the development and approval process, given the SACS assessment requirements programs. There was discussion about badges being approved through Senate web transmittals.

Kern expressed her appreciation for Vincent's work and noted that flexibility is important to the colleges regarding badges. She explained that the committee wanted to bring options before SC to make sure they are going in the right direction.

The floor was opened for questions and there was clarification about what digital badges are and why they are important. Comment included:

- SAPC should not have to review proposals for new badges, but web transmittals may help a wide review of proposed badges.
- Loose oversight could lead to duplicate badges or badges that overlap each other, hence the need for review by academic councils.
- Development of a "badge" definition is needed.
- Because SACS recognizes badges as programs that require assessment, there needs to be more than just college oversight or no academic council review.

Vincent noted that the committee would like the approval process to be standardized for all badges whether they are tied to courses or not. She asked that anyone with feedback to contact her. She expressed her appreciation for the feedback.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 pm with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Bird-Pollan, Blonder, Cantrell, Charnigo, Collett, Cramer, Duncan, Grossman, Hall, Kuhnlein, Oltmann, Swanson, Vincent, Wheeler, and Williams.

Guests present: Richard Amos, Karen Badger, Anna Bosch, Douglas Boyd, Sheila Brothers, Roger Brown, Ralph Crystal, Annie Davis Weber, Tony English, Joanie Ett-Mims, Sue Fosson, Will Gerken, Kristine Hankins, Christine Harper, Larry Holloway, Davy Jones, Michael Kennedy, Kathi Kern, Janice Kuperstein,

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Katherine McCormick, Howard Roberts, Kevin Sarge, Kim Taylor, Richard Underwood, and Ramsi Woodcock.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on March 9, 2021.