

Senate Council
October 19, 2020

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, October 19, 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 noted that there were possible internet outages and asked SC members to text him if they have trouble staying connected during the meeting.

The Chair shared a request from the Registrar's Office to add an agenda item, "Recommended Policy for Student Load in 2020-21 Winter Intersession." He asked if there were any objections to adding this as the third agenda item and there were none.

1. Minutes and Announcements

The Chair reported that no minutes were ready for approval, but two sets were pending review.

The Chair reported that he approved a change to the last day to drop for Spring 2021 to allow students to drop up until midnight, January 29th without financial penalty.

The Chair reported that he has been appointed by President Capilouto to the Executive Leadership Committee for the UK Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaccreditation site visit. He shared the committee roster and that the committee will meet quarterly.

2. Nonstandard Course Calendars for DPT Courses for Spring 2021

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Education Karen Badger (HS) explained the proposal. There was clarification that Martin Luther King Day will be observed and courses will begin on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Also, students may do clinicals during other spring holidays, such as Memorial Day, if the clinical instructor is working during the holiday. Brion (EN) **moved** to approve the request for nonstandard course calendars for the Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) for the Spring 2021 Academic Calendar. 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 and one abstaining.

3. Recommended Policy for Student Load in 2020-21 Winter Intersession

UK Registrar Kim Taylor explained the proposed policy for Winter Intersession 2020-2021 in which students may be enrolled in a maximum of three credit hours of classes meeting in a three-week session or six hours of classes meeting in a four-, five-, or six-week session. There was clarification about the number of weeks between the Fall 2020 semester and the Spring 2021 semester and about the three academic holidays during this time. It was also clarified that students taking more than three hours will require approval of their college's associate dean. SC members discussed the request. Brion **moved** to approve on behalf of the University Senate, the proposed policy for Winter Intersession 2020-2021 in which students may be enrolled in a maximum of three credit hours, but allow up to six credit hours with the approval through the dean on a case-by-case basis. Kuhnlein **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. Background on Proposed New "Fully Online Approval Form"

The Chair gave background information about the proposal. He explained that UK Online and the Office of Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness (OSPIE) approached the Senate Council Office about the creation of a new form for proposers of fully online programs. Representatives from these three offices and the chair of Senate's Committee on Distance Learning and e-Learning (SCDLeL) Roger Brown (AG) have been working on a fully online form draft. He noted that it would be helpful for SC to accept the recommendation to allow the SC Office to move forward with associated support pieces, although the form is not ready for their approval yet. There was clarification that the form was not intended to be used retroactively for programs that are already fully online, but Senate's Distance and eLearning Committee (SCDLeL) may want to discuss this further. Assistant Provost for Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Annie Davis Weber commented that her area has done a lot of work over the past couple years to define online options.

5. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Distance and eLearning Committee (SCDLeL) - Roger Brown, Chair

i. Proposed New "Fully Online Approval Form"

Brown recognized Sheila Brothers of the SC Office for her excellent preparation of an overview which included the rationale for a fully online program form. He also recognized RaeAnne Pearson of OSPIE and Miranda Hines of Distance Learning Administration for their help in developing the form. He reported that SCDLeL reviewed the form and supports its use. Once it is implemented, he expects that proposals using these forms will come to SCDLeL for it to review and then the committee will report back to SC and Senate.

There was discussion about administrative policies listed at the top of the form and it was suggested to add a URL to the form that directs proposers to the policies online instead of putting the information on the form, which will ensure the information stays up to date. Bird-Pollan (LA) **moved** to approve the SC Office project moving forward with associated fully online approval form support pieces. 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 and one abstaining.

There was clarification that the fully online approval form is still being worked on and will come to SC for final approval at a later time.

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

i. Proposed Transfer of the Center for Muscle Biology from the College of Medicine to the College of Health Sciences

SAOSC Chair Bray (LA) explained the proposal and noted that the committee supports it. The Chair asked if there were any questions of fact, but there were none. The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the SAOSC to endorse the transfer of the educational unit "Center for Muscle Biology" from the College of Medicine to the College of Health Sciences. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was debate on the proposal and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. COVID Ongoing Discussion

a. Soliciting Opinions from University Community

The Chair reported the results were in from the recent survey sent to senators and that Charnigo (PbH) has analyzed the numerical responses from faculty and students. Charnigo went over the results of his

analysis with SC and noted that the assessment of numerical scores were done without regard to the written assessment.

The Chair reminded SC that the written assessments were shared with them asked them to discuss common themes and possible responses. Comments included:

- Identification of common themes:
 1. Compliance
 2. Reporting
 3. Performance evaluations
 4. Faculty work-life balance
- It is difficult to fairly evaluate faculty who have more family responsibilities during COVID. This could affect faculty diversity in the future.
- Although monetary recognition is not currently feasible, the University should find ways to recognize faculty for overcoming COVID obstacles.
- Faculty feel pressured about online versus in-person instruction and having to provide multiple modes of instruction for each course.
- The University should reconsider if/how evaluations are done this year.
- From the student perspective, they are under a lot of pressure. UK is doing a lot of things right like testing. Only two Southeastern Conference (SEC) are mandating flu shots and most have more relaxed social policies.
- Faculty would like more clarity about modality changes during the Spring semester.
- Students need clarity about attendance policies.
- Faculty should be able to opt in or out of evaluations this year.

The Chair asked Leslie Vincent (BE) to summarize survey comments into the main themes she had identified earlier: Compliance, reporting, performance evaluations, and work-life balance. SC members then discussed the results at length. Towards the end of the discussion, Vincent agreed to produce a summary to share with the Senate in their December meeting and work with Charnigo on it. The Chair asked SC if there were any objections to him sharing the summary with Provost Blackwell and there were none.

7. Senate Oversight of General Education

The Chair reminded SC of the report given by chair of the UK Core Education Committee (SUKCEC) Patrick Lee Lucas (DS) during the summer that identified specific items for SC's consideration. Ms. Bothers prepared a document describing the background and function of SUKCEC that was shared with SC. He explained that SUKCEC's charge is very broad and two of their functions carry an especially heavy priority. Assistant Provost for Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Annie Davis Weber explained how UK Core's assessment activities are carried out by her office, noting that prior to 2016-17, it was assessed out of Undergraduate Education. He asked SC to discuss the functions of assessment process as it relates to the upcoming SACSCOC reaffirmation and SC's role in shaping SUKCEC's responsibilities.

There was discussion about SUKCEC's administrative home and the importance of adequately supporting them. The SC Office's and OSPIE's roles in supporting SUKCEC was explained. Also, background of how SUKCEC came to become a Senate committee was explained. The importance of faculty and Senate involvement with and oversight of UK Core was emphasized.

Senate Council
October 19, 2020

The Chair reported that Provost Blackwell asked to have a conversation with faculty representatives about UK Core. He asked SC for their thoughts about this and if they have any suggestions of people to participate in the discussion. SC suggested possible participants for this conversation. There was also discussion about previous champions of UK Core.

The Chair asked if there were any objections to the proposed participants and there were none. He asked SC to contact him if they have any other thoughts.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 pm with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
Senate Council Chair

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

Guests present: Karen Badger, Anna Bosch, Zack Bray, Sheila Brothers, Roger Brown, Robert English, Bob Grossman, Miranda Hines, Larry Holloway, Davy Jones, Janice Kuperstein, Patrick Lee Lucas, Kim Taylor, and Annie Davis Weber.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on October 23, 2020.