

Senate Council  
September 21, 2020

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, September 21, 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.

1. Minutes from August 31, 2020 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the sets of minutes from August 31<sup>st</sup>. There being **no objections**, the minutes from August 31<sup>st</sup> were **approved by unanimous consent**

The Chair reported that he approved the Spring 2021 calendar that was previously vetted with SC members.

The Chair reported that Student Government Association (SGA) President Courtney Wheeler and he participated in an Anti-Racist Workshop that was led by Candice Hargons (ED).

The Chair reminded SC that questions about philanthropy and naming came up in Senate last year and asked if there was interest in following up about the guidelines regarding donors and naming. There was discussion and it was suggested that they could wait to pick the issue back up and schedule a Senate discussion. The Chair asked if there were any objections to this and there were not.

2. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Advisory Committee on Privilege and Tenure - Michael Healy, Chair

i. 2019-20 Report

The Chair of Senate's Advisory Committee on Privilege and Tenure Michael Healy (LA) explained the report. He noted there were two cases involving dismissal that related to research misconduct and a claim of constructive dismissal that was ultimately resolved informally. Also, there was a preliminary discussion regarding tenure and a claim involving violation of privilege as a scholar. The floor was opened for questions and the Chair asked Healy if there was anything Senate should be doing or taking action on per the SACPT's perspective. Swanson (ME) asked about the fairness of policy interpretations. Healy replied that there was no such concern at the moment, in part because the Committee raises such issues as they may arise.

3. Calendar Requests

a. Proposed Change for Rosenberg College of Law Calendar for Spring 2021

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Douglas Michael (LA) explained the proposed calendar change. There was discussion about removal of the commencement date. Brion (EN) **moved** to approve the proposed change for Rosenberg College of Law Calendar for Spring 2021 with the removal of the commencement date. Jennifer Bird-Pollan (LA) **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. Proposed Nonstandard Course Calendars

i. AAD Courses

Department Chair of Arts Administrations (AAD) Rachael Shane (FA) explained the proposed calendar. There was much discussion about the start and end date of the courses as well as the inclusion of spring

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break in the proposal. Charnigo (PbH) **moved** to approve the proposed nonstandard AAD calendar. Blonder (ME) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there were many concerns expressed about the inclusion of a spring break in the AAD nonstandard calendars. SC members were also concerned about graduate and undergraduate students being treated differently in regards to spring break. A **vote** was taken and the motion **failed** with three in favor and seven against. The Chair asked Shane to come back to SC after speaking with program faculty about possibly aligning the calendar more closely with the University's calendar (i.e. not including a spring break) or providing more practical reasons for the inclusion of spring break.

ii. DHN Courses

Coordinated Program Director Liz Combs (AG) explained the proposal. There was discussion about the length of the semester and clarification that there would not be a spring break. Brion (EN) moved to approve the proposed nonstandard calendars for Dietetics and Human Nutrition (DHN) courses. Kuhnlein (SGA) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was clarification about why extra time is needed to complete experiential hours. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed and three abstaining.

c. Proposed Winter Intersession 2020-21 Calendar

The Chair explained that SC was asked to discuss, but not vote on, the Winter Intersession 2020-21 calendar. Vice Provost Larry Holloway explained that the EOC workstreams are still in the process of reviewing the proposed calendar but only modest changes are expected. He asked SC to let him know of constraints they may have and to consider delegating official calendar approval to the Chair. SC expressed their support for the calendar and discussed the possibility of a split semester. There were no objections to the Chair approving the final calendar proposal for Winter Intersession 2020-21.

4. Request to Waive Portion of Senate Rule (SR) 5.2.4.6 ("Dead Week") for PAS 650

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Education Karen Badger explained the request. There was discussion about correcting a day in the proposal from Monday, November 24th to Tuesday, November 24th. Soult (AS) **moved** to approve the request to waive a portion of SR 5.2.4.6 for PAS 650 with the corrected date of Tuesday, November 24th. Brion (EN) **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. Modalities for Winter Intersession

The Chair reminded SC of their previous approval for the use of alternative delivery modes for courses offered in Fall 2020 as needed. He noted that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) had no objections to this. Brion **moved** that SC's previous approval of alternate delivery modes for courses included Winter Intersession 2020-21. Kuhnlein (SGA) **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. Senate Meeting Roundtable

The Chair solicited comments from SC members about the most recent Senate meeting. There was general consensus that the virtual meeting went well. More specific comments included:

- When Senate meetings return to in-person, it might be good to continue having Zoom as an option for those who are unable to attend.
- Splitting voting senators out as panelist may have had a dampening effect on conversation.
- It would be nice to have a live stream.

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- Disappointment that there were not more questions for President Capilouto and Pprovost Blackwell, but it could be a consequence of using Zoom instead of a more anonymous in-person format. Asking for questions to be submitted prior the meeting would help to preserve anonymity.
- There was a crunch for time.

There was clarification that the transcripts of Senate meetings will be made available on the Senate website as they have been in the past. Also, SC and Senate meetings will continue to be held via Zoom for the foreseeable future.

7. Soliciting Opinions from University Community

The Chair reminded SC of their discussion about soliciting information from senators on behalf of their constituents about how the semester is going. A survey draft was sent to SC to review and typos were noted. There was discussion about when to send the survey out and how long to leave it open. The Chair confirmed he would send the survey to senators early that week and leave it open for two weeks.

8. Senate Meeting Materials

The Chair informed SC of requests for the Senate Zoom meeting recording to be made available and explained the recordings were not distributed in the past. He asked SC if there was interest in changing this policy and there was much discussion against making the recordings available. There was not much support for sharing Senate meeting PowerPoint presentations, either.

9. Concerns Related to *Governing Regulations (GR) VIII* (“University Appointments”)

The Chair asked Allison Soult (AS) to share the language drafted by Arts and Sciences faculty in response to the town hall meeting hosted by Provost Blackwell. Soult shared the resolution and there was much discussion about possible interpretations of *GR VIII* and three possible edits to the resolution. There was also discussion about who should be sending the resolution to the Provost, who decides if the response to the resolution is satisfactory, and what the next step would be after that. There were multiple comments expressing hope that the Provost resolved the issue prior to the October Senate meeting. If not, it was likely that senators from Arts and Sciences would push to have the Senate hold a discussion on the matter.

Andrade (ME) **moved** that the Chair send the Arts and Sciences resolution to the Provost after Arts and Sciences faculty approve SC’s revisions, and also invite the Provost to a SC meeting to share his response. 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 and one abstaining.

10. Items from the Floor

Jennifer Bird-Pollan (LA) **moved** to add Jennifer Osterhage (AS) as a member of the Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC). Kuhnlein (SGA) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

Jennifer Bird-Pollan (LA) asked for an update on the search for a Graduate School Dean. The Chair said he would ask for an update and report back.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 pm with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,

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Senate Council Chair

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

Guests present: Karen Badger, Sheila Brothers, Liz Combs, Bob Grossman, Michael Healy, Larry Holloway, Davy Jones, Doug Michael, Rebecca Shane, and Annie David Weber.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on October 14, 2020.