The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, April 19, 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 April 5 and April 13, 2021 and Announcements
The Chair reported that no edits were received for the set of minutes from April 5, 2021 and that an edit was received for the set of minutes from April 13, 2021. The edit described the manner in which SC made the decision to contact the finalist for the Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education and Graduate School Dean and also included those present during the meeting. There being no objections, the sets of minutes from April 5, 2021 and April 13, 2021 were **approved** as amended by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair announced that a new Student Government Association (SGA) Chair will be sworn in on April 21, 2021. He thanked the current SGA Chair Courtney Wheeler on behalf of SC for her service and wished her well in all her future endeavors. He noted that the other student senators will remain on SC through June 30, 2021. He thanked them for their exceptional work in these times.

The Chair reported that he expressed to the President, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, and Provost the symbolic importance of the SC Chair's participation in commencement as a representative of the faculty. He was recently invited by the Commencement Committee Chair to participate in commencement.

The Chair reported that the Undergraduate Council (UC) has approved current and past courses and partner sites for dual credit. A more robust proposal is expected in the near future, with anticipation of discussion and approval moving forward, but the current action remedied the immediate harm of operating outside the Senate process.

The Chair reported that the Senate Hearing Panel (Privilege and Tenure) meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2021 and the link is available on the Senate website to observe the meeting. He noted there was a previous announcement about the meeting with an incorrect date given.

2. Committee Reports
a. Senate's Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) - Leslie Vincent, Chair
i. Proposed New BS Aerospace Engineering
Vincent (BE) explained the proposed new BS Aerospace Engineering. 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 the SAPC that the University Senate approve a recommendation that the University Senate approve, for submission to the Board of Trustees, the establishment of a new BS degree: Aerospace Engineering, in Department of Mechanical Engineering within the College of Engineering. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was any debate on the proposal and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

ii. <u>Proposed New Undergraduate Certificate in Urban and Community Forestry</u>
Vincent (BE) explained the proposed new Undergraduate Certificate in Urban and Community Forestry. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there was clarification that the certificate is a multi-department effort. The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the establishment of a new Undergraduate Certificate: Urban and Community Forestry, in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources in the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was any debate on the proposal and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

iii. <u>Proposed New USP between BSCOE and MS/PhD Computer Engineering</u>
Vincent (BE) explained the proposed new University Scholars Program (USP) between BSCOE and MS/PhD Computer Engineering. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there were none. The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the establishment of a new University Scholars Program: BS Computer Engineering in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and MS and PhD Computer Engineering in the Department of Computer Science within the College of Engineering. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was any debate on the proposal and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

iv. <u>Proposed New USP between BSCS Computer Science and MS/PhD Computer Engineering</u>
Vincent (BE) explained the proposed new University Scholars Program (USP) between BSCS Computer Science and MS/PhD Computer Engineering. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there were none. The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the establishment of a new University Scholars Program: BS Computer Science and MS and PhD Computer Engineering in the Department of Computer Science within the College of Engineering. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was any debate on the proposal and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

b. <u>Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) - Jennifer Bird-Pollan, Chair</u>
i. <u>Proposed Change to BSN Nursing</u>
Bird-Pollan (LA) explained the proposed changes to BSN Nursing. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there was clarification about who in the College of Nursing was in support of the proposed change. The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the proposed change to BSN Nursing be approved. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was needed. The Chair asked if there was any debate on the proposal and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed and two abstained.

c. <u>Senate's Distance and e-Learning Committee (SCDLeL) - Roger Brown, Chair</u>
i. <u>Review of New Distance Learning Regulations from the Department of Education</u>
Brown (AG) explained SCDLeL's recommendations for compliance with the new distance learning regulations from the Department of Education. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there was clarification that SCDLeL is proposing this framework to SC before moving forward with form revisions and *Senate Rules* changes, and new courses that do not yet exist would continue using the new course proposal process as it is now. There was also clarification of the project timeline including that form work is expected to happen over the summer and SCDLeL will return to SC in the fall with updated documents. Once approved, it would be considered a permanent change, but would be reviewed after

three years. Grossman (AS) **moved** that SC endorse the proposed changes in oversight of distance learning and authorize the SC Office to make appropriate changes to the forms and bring back any recommended *Senate Rules* (*SR)* changes in the fall. Vincent (BE) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate on the proposal and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

3. Nominees for Provost-Level Performance Review Appeals Committee
SC members discussed and agreed upon nominees for the Provost-Level Performance Review Appeals Committee.

4. Senate Meeting Roundtable
There were no strong feelings about the previous Senate meeting.

5. Items from the Floor
The Chair reported that Interim Vice President for Institutional Diversity George Wright requested a faculty member to serve on an implementation committee for responsible speech. Oltmann (CI) volunteered. The Chair asked if there were any objections to Oltmann serving and there were none.

The Chair asked SC to think of two senator nominations for a post-pandemic return-to-work meeting and to send him their suggestions after the meeting.

The Chair reported that he met with Legal Counsel staff Cliff Iler and Bill Thro to discuss the section of the *Senate Rules* pertaining to the Faculty Code (*Section 7*). Their opinion was that this section of the *SR*s does not meaningfully affect how they would pursue anything but the section addressing expectations of faculty could possibly be useful. He reminded SC of their decision to take the issue to Senate in May to discuss how they would like to move forward.

Vice Chair Collett (HS) reported that she received a letter signed by several senators calling for a special Senate meeting regarding *Governing Regulation (GR) IV*. Specifically, the request described examples of areas where shared governance has not been enacted in a balanced way over the past year. Herman Farrell (FA) presented an overview of the letter. There was discussion of possible dates/times to hold the special meeting and what it will entail. Duncan (ME) **moved** to call a special meeting of the Senate on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 3:00 pm. Collett (HS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate on the proposal and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed.

The Chair asked SC to consider what information should be provided to senators for the special meeting. The was discussion of the agenda and who would be presenting. Grossman (AS) **moved** that the communication from SC and responses from the President and Provost be posted with the agenda of the upcoming special Senate meeting, but not be distributed by email. Oltmann (CI) asked if the motion included posting the letter from the Chair as well and Grossman agreed. Oltmann **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate on the motion and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed and one abstained.

SC continued to discuss an agenda for the special Senate meeting. Grossman (AS) **moved** to approve the agenda as discussed (Review of SC's Actions, Shared Governance/Current Situation, Resolution on Shared Governance, and Open Discussion/Next Steps). Trustee Blonder (ME) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate on the proposal and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

There was continued discussion about who would be drafting the resolution and if a newsletter should be sent. There being **no objections**, Bird-Pollan (LA) and Farrell (FA) drafting the resolution was **approved** by **unanimous consent**. There was general agreement that a newsletter should be sent because traditionally it was sent the week prior to a Senate meeting. The Chair asked the student representatives if they felt that there would be value in soliciting student signatures and they suggested it was good to make the students aware of what is happening.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 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, and Williams.

Guests present: Karen Badger, David Blackwell, Sheila Brothers, Roger Brown, Ellen Crocker, Joanie Ett-Mims, Herman Farrell, Miranda Hines, Larry Holloway, Davy Jones, Michael Renfro, and Connie Wood.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on April 22, 2021.