

Senate Council
April 26, 2021

The Senate Council met in special session at 1:00 pm on Monday, April 26, 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 1:00 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 and Announcements

The Chair welcomed the new Student Government Association (SGA) Chair Michael Hawse to the SC.

The Chair reported that the Senate Hearing Panel (Privilege and Tenure) hearing that was scheduled for late April was waived by the faculty member, so it was cancelled.

The Chair reminded SC of the administration's post-pandemic return-to-work committee and reported that Leslie Vincent (BE), Molly Blasing (AS), and he would be meeting with the committee the next day.

He reported that SC met with President Capilouto, in accordance with *Governing Regulations (GR) VIII*, the previous Friday to discuss the selection of an acting provost and the next steps for the provost search.

The Chair asked SC to for their thoughts about an informal gathering to celebrate the end of the year.

2. Degree Recipients

a. May 2021 In Memoriam Degree Recipients

The Chair reminded SC members that per KY law and *Senate Rules (SRs)*, only the elected SC faculty members may vote on degree lists. He explained that there were eleven students across four colleges and that the process for approval of these would be more in line with traditional degree lists. There was discussion about more students being on the list due to colleges becoming more aware of the In Memoriam degree option to recognize students that they have lost. It was noted that some of the parents of the students receiving in memoriam degrees would be walking at commencement in their places. Vincent (BE) **moved** that the elected faculty members of SC approve the May 2021 In Memoriam degree list, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Grossman (AS) **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

b. May 2021 Degree List

The Chair explained that degree lists have sometimes been a challenge, so University Registrar Kim Taylor and he have been working to improve the process. The Registrar instituted an early list that is circulated more broadly, to catch any errors prior to the degree application deadline. Grossman (AS) **moved** that the elected faculty members of SC approve the May 2021 degree list, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Vincent (AS) **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

c. August 2021 Degree List

The Chair explained that student on the list must still successfully finish their degree requirements over the summer in order to earn their degree in August. Grossman (AS) **moved** that the elected faculty members of SC approve the August 2021 degree list, for submission through the President to the Board

of Trustees. Oltmann (CI) **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

3. Committee Reports

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

i. Proposed New USP BS/MS Geological Sciences

SAPC Chair Vincent (BE) described the proposed new USP between BA/BS Geological Sciences and MS Geological Sciences. There were no questions. The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the SAPC that the University Senate approve the establishment of a new University Scholars Program: BA/BS Geological Sciences and MS Geological Sciences, in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences within the College of Arts and Sciences. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed or abstained.

ii. Proposed Significant Change to DSW Social Work

SAPC Chair Vincent (BE) described the proposed significant change to DSW Social Work. There were no questions. The Chair stated that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the SAPC that the University Senate approve the significant change to the DSW: Doctorate of Social Work, within the College of Social Work. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

The Chair again thanked Vincent and the other members of the SAPC for all their hard work this year. He added that he neglected to call for approval of minutes earlier but would do so at the end of the meeting.

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

i. Proposed New Center for the Environment

SAOSC Chair Bray (LA) described the proposed new Center for the Environment. There was clarification from Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health Chair Erin Haynes that the new center would be under the Vice President for Research and that it is intended to be hub for research with limited instructional efforts. She explained that the proposed center would be used an umbrella to connect numerous environmental groups on campus. There was also clarification that there would be no HR prime faculty in the unit. The Chair stated the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the SAOSC to endorse the proposed new Center based on its administrative structure and approve the proposed new Center for the Environment based on its academic merits. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair asked if there was any debate.

Grossman (AS) **moved** to separate the motion into two motions, one to endorse the organizational structure and the other to approve the academic content. Blonder (ME) **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with four in favor, two opposed, and one abstained.

The Chair stated the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the SAOSC to endorse the administrative structure of the proposed new Center for the Environment. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

The Chair stated the next **motion** on the floor was a recommendation from the SAOSC to approve the proposed new Center for the Environment based on its academic merits. Because the motion came from

committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

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

i. Update on Activities

SAASC Chair Bird-Pollan (LA) explained that SAASC completed all program requests and asked for input on remaining questions on their to-do list which included:

1. Student credit-hour load during summer semester.
SAASC will continue working on the issue.
2. Granting credit for prior learning.
SAASC will not consider this issue until hearing from the ad-hoc committee that is looking at prior learning.
3. Better defining credit hours according to meeting times.
SAASC needs more input from a larger group before considering the issue.
4. Absences for student organization trips.
SAASC intends to leave the language as it is and not consider the issue further.

SC shared their input and Bird-Pollan said that she would be sharing it with SAASC.

4. Request for Input on Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Interstate Passport Program - Associate Vice President for Student Success and Chief Enrollment Officer Christine Harper

Associate Vice President for Student Success and Chief Enrollment Officer Christine Harper described the WICHE Interstate Passport program. She explained that the program would allow students who are transferring with this credential to another member institution would be recognized as having completed all lower-division general education requirements prior to transfer, regardless of course titles and credits. Both UK Core and Undergraduate Council (UC) expressed support for the program and suggested that SC provide feedback. She noted benefits of the program for students and University.

The Chair asked SC to provide their feedback. There was discussion about the struggle to balance accessibility and transferability with the importance of courses that make an education at UK distinctive. There was clarification that WICHE will not interfere with online degree completion programs at UK. It was noted that although the program does not currently include many research universities, many are in talks about joining WICHE. Harper reported that she will be working on a formal WICHE proposal over the summer and thanked everyone for their feedback.

5. Proposed Change to *Senate Rules (SR) 4.1.1* ("Application for Admission and Readmission") – Associate Vice President for Student Success and Chief Enrollment Officer Christine Harper

Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Scott McDonald described the proposed change to *Senate Rules (SR) 4.1.1* ("Application for Admission and Readmission"). He explained that the use of a condensed form for students who had not been enrolled for up to two semesters and had not earned credit at another institution was approved on a temporary basis for Spring 2021 and Fall 2021. Because the change was found to be beneficial, Undergraduate Admissions requested that the change be made permanent. There was clarification about the language being added. Bird-Pollan (LA) **moved** to recommend that the University Senate approve the requested change to *Senate Rules 4.1.1*. Grossman (AS) **seconded**. There was debate about clarifying the language.

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Bird-Pollan (LA) **moved to amend** the motion by adding under SR 4.1.1 *Application for Admission and Readmission*, "Except in the situation contemplated in the subsequent paragraph, all applicants...". Grossman (AS) **seconded**. There were no objections to the amendment.

The Chair asked if there was any debate on the **amended motion** and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. Tentative Senate Agenda for May 3, 2021

There was clarification of agenda items and changes were noted. Collett (HS) **moved** to approve the proposed tentative Senate agenda with the noted changes for May 3, 2021. 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

7. Items from the Floor

The Chair noted that the minutes for April 19, 2021 were skipped earlier in the agenda. He reported that no edits were received for the set of minutes from April 19, 2021. There being **no objections**, the set of minutes from April 19, 2021 were **approved by unanimous consent**.

There was discussion about development of an approval process for faculty wishing to teach via distance learning instead of in-person, in the fall. It was noted that the first step for faculty wishing to teach in an alternative mode is to speak with their department chair. It was also noted that Senate might need to take action in order to allow department chairs to have more discretion than normal for such questions. Support and concerns were expressed about the process. The Chair suggested further conversation about the subject at the Senate Council Retreat.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 pm with **no objections**.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
Senate Council Chair

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

Guests present: Zachary Bray, Sheila Brothers, Laura Escobar-Ratliff, Joanie Ett-Mims, Erin Haynes, Larry Holloway, Davy Jones, Michael McGlue, Doug Michael, Natalie Pope, and Jennifer Siebenthaler.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on May 17, 2021.