

Senate Council

Monday, October 4, 2021

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 PM on Monday, October 4, 2021, in 103 Main Building, although a video conference link was also available. 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 for notetaking purposes and noted that it was an open meeting. He asked that the SC members participating via Zoom to type their name and affiliation into the chat box and added that the chat function is generally only used for attendance and not monitored. He asked that all attendees, online and in person, state their name and affiliation prior to speaking, to ensure everyone knew who was speaking.

1. Minutes from September 29 and Announcements

The Chair reported that there were no changes to the minutes from September 29. There being **no objections**, the minutes from September 29 were **approved** as distributed by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair provided SC members with an update on his monthly meetings with the President, noting the importance of the relationship between the Chair and the President.

The Chair informed SC members about regular meetings with Staff Senate Chair Olivia Ellis and SGA President Michael Hawse. The Chair noted the SGA recently passed a resolution on a vaccine requirement.

The Chair informed SC members he met with Associate Provost Katherine McCormick about SACSOC reaffirmation activities.

The Chair explained the response from Legal Counsel regarding Senate voting records. The response explained no requirement was necessary for specific members' voting records. SC members discussed the response. Davy Jones (ME) commented that the response from Legal Counsel differed from previous information from the Attorney General. The Chair indicated there would be no change in voting procedures before the October 11 Senate meeting. The Provost recommended seeking confirmation.

The Chair informed SC members that Joanie Ett-Mims had accepted a new position with the Rosenberg College of Law.

The Chair explained the current uniformed services policies in the *Senate Rules (SR)*, SR 5.1.7.4 ("*Credit for Students Who Withdraw to Enter Military Service*") and SR 5.2.5.2.3.2 ("*Excused Absences for Military Duties*"), excluded non-military uniformed services. The Chair indicated he would send an update to the Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC).

The Chair informed SC members there was a lack of clarity surrounding the related topics: dual degrees, University Scholar Programs (USPs), "plus" programs, double counting credits, and concurrent enrollment in graduate programs. The Chair indicated he would request taxonomy from the Senate Academic Programs Committee (SAPC). SC members agreed there was a need for taxonomy.

The Chair explained concerns about the Wethington Awards pertaining to research funding allocations. The Chair noted he would send these concerns to the Senate Research and Graduate Education Committee (SRGEC).

The Chair informed SC members that the strategic plan draft response was sent to the President and the Provost.

2. Committee Reports

a. Senate's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion – Cindy Jong, Chair

i. 2020-21 Report ([PDF](#))

The Chair introduced Cindy Jong (ED), chair for the Senate's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (SACDI). Jong reported on SACDI items to SC members, including strategies for the diversification of the Senate, decision-making limitations with the committee, and conversing with SC members about strategy. Jong commented on other items including SACDI suggestions for adjusted language in syllabi and accommodations for testing, with a focus on non-native English-speaking students. A discussion between Jong and SC members took place. SC members offered possible solutions and resources to help students. Some of the suggestions offered included ESL courses and other programs available to help students improve their English. SC members noted asking students about what would help them would be beneficial.

Jong also commented on committee discussions about diversity among Senators and diversity as it relates to faculty recruitment and retention. SC members discussed the Senate election processes within colleges, the demographic makeup of the Senate, and some of the challenges associated with potential solutions. The Chair noted the report did not include any specific actions to take but it would be presented to the Senate on Monday, October 11, 2021 during the Senate meeting.

Jong made a request regarding the committee's composition, that the SC approve an additional member from Medicine, who had served on the committee previously. Grossman **moved** to approve the request. Vincent **seconded**. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed**, with none opposed or abstained.

3. Committee Nominees

a. Nominees for Vice President for Philanthropy Search Committee

The Chair reported that Acting Provost Robert DiPaola requested three nominees for the Vice President for Philanthropy Search Committee. SC members settled on four nominees and the Chair said he would transmit the names to the Provost.

b. Nominee for University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees

The Chair reported that a SC nominee had left full time status the University and that the SC needed to provide another nominee. The Chair noted that the term for this nominee would end in September of 2022. SC members discussed possible nominees. When discussion ended, the Chair informed SC members he would contact the potential nominees in the order recommended by the SC.

4. Calendar Changes

a. Proposed Change to University Calendar (May 2022 Commencement Dates) ([PDF](#))

The Chair introduced Ashley Reed (director, University Events) to report on the proposed change to the University calendar. Reed explained the proposal to change the May 2022 commencement from two ceremonies on Friday and two ceremonies on Sunday to three ceremonies on Friday and one ceremony on Saturday. Reed commented the proposed Saturday was the same day as the Kentucky Derby and that it would benefit the University's relationship with Lexington. Reed added that commencement ceremonies would not overlap with Mother's Day by eliminating Sunday commencement ceremonies. Reed mentioned

that the proposed change would be well received by a local church that was concerned about parking issues on Sundays. The Chair asked if there were any questions.

SC members discussed the details of the proposed change, including the time frame for Saturday commencement and the logistics for multiple ceremonies on Friday. Vincent **moved** to approve the proposed change to the University calendar. Vice Chair Collett **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate. Grossman requested clarification about the impact on local churches. Reed commented this would be a positive impact, noting past disputes with the city and the church related to parking during Sunday commencements.

A **vote** was taken by the SC on behalf of the Senate, and the motion **passed**, with none opposed or abstained. The Chair noted this action would be reported to the Senate at the next Senate meeting.

b. [Proposed Change to Fall 2021 Calendar \(Change Grade Submission Deadline from 5 pm to Noon\)](#)

The Chair reported the proposed change to the Fall 2021 calendar from Kim Taylor (registrar) to change the grade submission deadline from 5 pm to noon. The Chair noted there was no change in the date of the deadline but commented that the deadline had changed recently at the request of the Registrar from midnight to 5 pm. The Chair asked Taylor if this was a permanent request or a one-time request for fall 2021. Taylor replied the requested change was for Fall 2021 only but indicated a preference for a permanent change. The Chair asked SC members if there were any questions.

A robust discussion took place. SC members requested clarification from Taylor about the need for the change, what processes the change affected, and how the current deadline impacted the Registrar's procedures for grade submissions. Taylor explained the current challenges associated with faculty not submitting grades on time. SC members expressed concerns about the proposed change. DeCorte **moved** to approve the proposed change. Duncan **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate.

A debate took place. Grossman commented that faculty relied on the time currently assigned for grade submissions. Charnigo **moved** to amend the proposed change, changing the noon deadline to 3 pm. Blonder **seconded**. The Chair asked if there any debate to the amended motion.

Further debate took place. Collett explained the proposed change would negatively impact the process by burdening faculty. She also commented on the administrative responsibility of deans and chairs ensuring that grades were submitted on time. Hawse noted the negative impact the proposed change could have on students. Hall remarked that making this change after the semester was already underway would be problematic. The Chair asked if there was any further debate, and there was none.

A **vote** to approve the amended change for the deadline to be 3 pm was taken, and the motion **failed** with two in favor, six opposed, and one abstained.

The Chair asked if there was any further debate, and there was none. A **vote** to approve the original proposed change in grade submission deadline from 5 pm to noon was taken, and the motion **failed** with none in favor, nine opposed, and one abstained.

The Chair noted he would make an announcement to the Senate about the 5 pm deadline to assist the Registrar's office in ensuring grade submission deadlines were being met.

5. University Calendars

- a. 2022-23 Calendar ([PDF](#))
- b. 2024-25 Calendar, Tentative ([PDF](#))

The Chair commented to Taylor that the professional program calendars would be considered at the next SC meeting. The Chair asked if there were any questions about the calendars for the Registrar and there were none. Hawse **moved** to approve the University calendar for 2022-23 and the tentative University calendar for 2024-25. DeCorte **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate.

SC members discussed the details of both calendars. Charnigo commented that the grade submission deadline for the Fall 2022 calendar was listed as noon on Monday, not 5 pm. The Chair noted that the 2024-25 calendar reflected the same information. Collett **motioned** to amend both calendars to change all grade submission deadlines back to 5 pm. Hall **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate on the motion to amend the calendars.

A **vote** was taken, and the motion to amend the calendars **passed**, with eight in favor, none opposed, and one abstained.

After additional discussion on the motion to approve the amended calendars and a **vote** was taken. The motion **passed** with nine in favor, none opposed, and none abstained.

The Chair commented that the revised calendars would be put on a web transmittal for the Senate's final approval.

6. Discussion on Temporary Distance Learning Approvals for Winter 2021 and Spring 2022

The Chair reminded SC members about the temporary delegation of DL approvals to the local educational unit administrator on behalf of the unit faculty, for Fall 2021. The Chair described the process that must be followed for a local unit administrator to declare temporary approval for a non-DL course to be offered via DL for Fall 2021.

The Chair commented that the prescribed process and procedure was part of the framework transmitted to the Provost before July 1, 2021. The Chair noted that after July 1, the Provost's COVID advisory group became responsible for administrative approval of the temporarily delegated (to local unit administrators) academic approval. The Chair mentioned faculty who did not receive communication regarding process. The Chair asked SC members for suggestions on how to proceed.

The Provost commented that he would look into a solution to ensure all faculty received the appropriate communication about the process. A robust discussion took place. Topics discussed by SC members included priority registration, the impact on students, importance of the time frame, and the extension of approval for the current process. Vincent **motioned** to extend the existing temporary delegation of academic approval process for DL through Winter 2021-22 and Spring 2022, on behalf of the Senate. Collett **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate. Collett commented that not all units perceived a proposed change in modality as something that warranted review by the Provost's office and were making such a decision locally.

Further debate took place. SC members and the Provost noted that the prior process was developed due to students already having signed up for courses and there was a concern about switching modalities after a student chose a class. With the current situation, no students have already signed up for a class. There were a few questions from SC members who did not understand why the Provost's office intended to use (for Winter 2021-22 and Spring 2022) the process developed due to students already having been enrolled in courses, even though the situation now is different because students have not already enrolled in courses. The Provost

indicated that the same process would be used. SC members discussed details about the COVID advisory process with the Provost. The Chair asked if there was any further debate, and there was none. The Chair commented that further conversations were needed.

A **vote** was taken for SC members to approve the extension of the current process on behalf of the Senate, and the motion **passed** by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair noted the decision would be reported to the Senate at the next Senate meeting.

7. [Tentative Senate Agenda for October 11, 2021 \(PDF\)](#)

The Chair informed SC members of the tentative Senate agenda for October 11, 2021. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there were none. Hawse moved to approve the agenda. Hall seconded.

A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** by **unanimous consent**.

8. [Items from the Floor \(Time Permitting\)](#)

The Chair asked SC members if there were any items from the floor. Vincent asked about the modality for future Senate meetings. The Chair stated Senate meetings would take place via Zoom unless there were any objections. There were no objections. Grossman suggested a discussion at the next Senate meeting. The Chair asked if there were any objections to amending the agenda to add the discussion. There were no objections. Charnigo noted a clerical error in the 2023-24 calendar that was previously discussed. The Chair commented he would communicate this to the Registrar.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Blonder, Charnigo, Collett, Cramer, DeCorte, Duncan, Grossman, Hall, Hawse, Swanson, VanGilder, Vincent

Invited guests present: Sheila Brothers, Bob DiPaola, Cindy Jong, Ashley Reed, Kim Taylor

Prepared by Katie Silver on Thursday, October 7, 2021