

University Senate
December 14, 2020

The University Senate met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, December 14, 2020 via video conference. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken with the video conference “raise hand” feature. Specific voting information can be requested from the Office of the Senate Council.

Senate Council Chair Aaron Cramer (EN) called the University Senate (Senate) meeting to order at 3:00 pm. He welcomed those present and informed them that the session was being recorded for note-taking purposes. He asked everyone to use the chat box to sign in for attendance but noted that the chat function is generally used for attendance and would not be monitored during the meeting. He asked everyone to mute themselves. He asked Senate members to send an email to Sheila Brothers if they become disconnected and cannot reconnect.

He provided guidance on how to participate in the discussion and how to vote. He welcomed senators and reminded them that Senate follows Robert’s Rules of Order. He asked that senators be civil and good citizens. He also asked everyone to participate in the meetings and share information with colleagues in their home units.

1. Minutes from November 9, 2020 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the minutes from November 9, 2020. There being **no objections**, the minutes from November 9, 2020 were **approved** by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair reported that SC held their last meeting of the fall semester on December 7, 2020 and has opted not to meet again until January 25, 2021 unless necessary. Despite indication on the Senate website that a January Senate meeting could be held, SC supports cancelling the January Senate meeting.

The Chair reported that he participated in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) annual meeting preparation for reaffirmation for the class of 2023.

The Chair reported that at the behest of Provost Blackwell, he led a small group that included Senate’s Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) chair and members, and Undergraduate Council (UC) chair, that evaluated degree programs. He explained that the evaluation was regarding Gray Associates’ contract with Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) to review/evaluate all programs at state universities.

The Chair reported that regarding event planning and course modalities, the Registrar’s office has rolled Fall 2019 over for Fall 2021 and did not use Fall 2020 as a starting point. He explained that this was done to prevent Fall 2021 from being set up with all the pandemic-related changes to course delivery modalities. Also, courses approved for distance learning during that period will be updated to reflect formal approval.

The Chair reminded Senate of questions from previous meetings regarding President Trump’s executive order on training and UK’s response. He reported that interim Vice President for Diversity and Senior Advisor to the President George Wright clarified that Blanton’s comment was not made because of the Executive Order. UK was informed about the Office of Civil Rights looking into the training session incident before the Executive Order and the University was clear that this type of training exercise was inappropriate.

The Chair reported that due to recent changes to the new degree program review processes at CPE, only new degree program proposals that have already been received in the SC Office are likely to be approved by CPE for a Fall 2021 effective date. Deadlines for all other proposals remain the same.

2. Officer and Other Reports

a. Chair

The Chair reminded Senators that the *Senate Rules (SRs)* give SC and the SC Chair authority to take some actions on behalf of the Senate as long as they are reported to the Senate at its next meeting. Actions included:

- On November 30, 2020, SC approved the December 2020 degree list due to commencement happening before the next Board of Trustees (BOT) and Senate meetings. This ensured that some faculty approval was provided. The Chair explained that there were additions on the current Senate agenda to be added to the list.
- On December 7, 2020, SC approved College of Nursing courses in the BSN program to not have to comply with the dates for dead week, reading days, and finals week as they are described in the *SRs*. The Chair explained that Nursing offers undergraduate courses in 8-week blocks.

The Chair reported that SC heard a report from Senate's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion and voted to include their statement on diversity and inclusion into the syllabus template on the Senate website.

The Chair reminded Senate of previous discussions about the possibility of allowing senators who enter phased retirement to continue to serve. He reported that this would require an update to *Governing Regulations (GR) IV* ("The University Senate") about conditions for membership. He explained that since recent administrative reorganization has also created the need to update the list of ex-officios in *GR IV*, that both issues will move forward together for BOT approval.

b. Provost

Provost David Blackwell asked Senators to pause in remembrance of two faculty colleagues that recently passed away, Professor Bruce Holle in the Department of History and Professor Michael Goodin in the Department of Plant Pathology and University Senator for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. There was a brief moment of silence in their honor.

Provost Blackwell expressed his gratitude to Senate and faculty for their work to make the fall semester successful. He presented fall 2020 data and noted that the average fall 2020 GPA was up from fall 2019 for undergraduate students overall. However, more students struggled because of opportunity gaps that have been exacerbated by COVID. He requested faculty's help in closing this gap for at-risk students by offering more in-person instruction with focus on UK Core and gateway courses in the spring. He recognized that it is asking a lot of faculty and that not everyone will be able to answer the call.

Provost Blackwell acknowledged that his request for spring semester engagement plans came at a time of much stress and exhaustion and he should have been more mindful of the potential impact on faculty. He thanked faculty for responding to the culture survey and explained that their input would be very helpful in moving forward. He apologized and announced that his requests for engagement plans and survey responses were suspended.

Provost Blackwell reported that listening exercises with faculty members and ongoing research from the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) were helpful in learning how to best

support teaching. He also reported that vaccines were arriving to campus and frontline healthcare workers would be vaccinated soon. He noted the hope the vaccine brings for the days ahead but acknowledged there would still be many challenges.

The floor was opened for questions and the Chair reminded senators to use the raise hand function and not the chat for questions. Questions and comments included:

- Faculty are concerned about being asked to come back to teach face-to-face when the positivity rate is much higher than it was in the fall. Asking students to wait to come back to in-person instruction until the vaccine is distributed would be safer for both students and faculty.
 - Provost Blackwell emphasized that they are not asking anyone to teach in a modality that they are not comfortable with. He explained that resources are available to bring in more instructors to teach in-person if needed. He also explained that the motivation for more face-to-face instruction is related to student success and not financial reasons. Data and student voices have led them to target more in-person instruction for freshman and sophomores currently with fully online schedules. He also highlighted steps taken in the fall to ensure safety.
- Based on data showing that towns with a large percentage of college students have twice the COVID death and infection rates, what is the University's responsibility to the community?
 - Provost Blackwell reported that there was one incident of exposure in a class. Students and community members are responsible for their behavior away from campus.
- From the student perspective, student who were already struggling are struggling more in these times. Students and faculty should be able to choose their preferred modality but if students and faculty are both willing, they should be able to meet in person.
- Changes in modality in some cases were prompted by students who were not comfortable meeting in person. Asking faculty for more in-person instruction is an unreasonable risk in the current environment.
- What measures are administration taking to ensure the wellbeing and work-life balance of faculty?
 - Provost Blackwell reported that department chairs are encouraged to be flexible and faculty can choose their modality based on their situations. Administration is working through an exercise to identify ways to more broadly support faculty and staff.
- From the student perspective, a better way to help students is by expanding the pass/fail option. While there are some benefits to classes being in-person, it will not change the struggles that students face with COVID. Many students believe the primary reason for more in-person learning is financial for the University. Also, COVID testing and screening is inadequate because not all students are following guidelines. Although it is not the University's fault, many students are distrustful of the handling of COVID and feel that they are not able to handle in-person learning during the pandemic.
 - Provost Blackwell said that they will be working to better communicate. He explained that students always have the option to take courses pass/fail but there has not been a blanket allowance made.

Due to time constraints, the Chair asked that other questions be typed in the chat and a list of follow-up items would be put together and shared with the Provost. Provost Blackwell thanked everyone for their time and wished them a safe holiday break.

c. Vice Chair

The Vice Chair DeShana Collett (HS) did not have a report to give.

d. Parliamentarian

Parliamentarian Doug Michael (LA) did not have a report to give.

3. Degree Recipients

a. Additions to December 2020 Degree List

i. College of Education Student UH-33

The Chair reminded senators that per Kentucky law and *Senate Rules*, only the senators elected by college faculty members may vote on degree lists. Grossman (AS) **moved** that elected faculty senators approve the addition of College of Education Student UH-33 to UK's December 2020 list of candidates for credentials, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Brion (EN) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed and one abstained.

ii. College of Fine Arts Student CK-90

Grossman (AS) **moved** that elected faculty senators approve the addition of College of Fine Arts Student CK-90 to UK's December 2020 list of candidates for credentials, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Soult (AS) **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 abstained.

b. Honorary Degree Recipient(s)

The Chair reminded senators that the honorary degree recipient names are embargoed until the University officially announces them.

Interim Dean of the Graduate School Brian Jackson described the first nominee. Soult (AS) **moved** that the elected faculty senators approve DL as the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. 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 and one abstained.

Interim Dean Jackson described the second nominee. Rohr (PH) **moved** that the elected faculty senators approve CP as the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Vincent (BE) **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 abstained.

Interim Dean Jackson explained the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees (UJCHD) request that the Senate waive SR 5.5.2.3.3 regarding the circumstance for awarding of honorary degrees to permit more than four at a single commencement during a potential May 2021 commencement. The UJCHD asks for flexibility in the event all five honorees can attend, and the commencement program can accommodate them. Brion (EN) **moved** that the elected faculty senators waive SR 5.5.2.3.3 to allow more than four honorees at a single commencement. Charnigo (PbH) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed.

c. Late Addition to May 2020 Degree List (per *Senate Rules 5.5.1.1* ("Late Addition to Degree List"))

i. College of Arts and Sciences Student DJ-48

The Chair again reminded senators that per Kentucky law and Senate Rules, only the senators elected by college faculty members may vote on degree lists. Grossman (AS) **moved** that the elected faculty

senators approve the addition of College of Arts and Sciences Student DJ-48 to UK's May 2020 list of candidates for credentials, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Vincent **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

d. Late Addition to August 2020 Degree List (per Senate Rules 5.5.1.1 ("Late Addition to Degree List"))

i. Gatton College of Business and Economics Student KF-21

Grossman (AS) **moved** that the elected faculty senators approve the addition of Gatton College of Business and Economics Student KF-21 to UK's August 2020 list of candidates for credentials, for submission through the President to the Board of Trustees. Soult (AS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed.

4. Memorial Resolution for Professor Paul G. Sears, Past Senate Council Chair

Allison Soult (AS) read a memorial resolution for Professor Paul G. Sears, Past Senate Council Chair.

Paul Gregory Sears departed this life on September 12, 2020 following complications from COVID-19. He is survived by his daughter Elizabeth (Scott) Brown; son-in-law William Stagg; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Paul was born on September 5, 1924 in Somerset, Kentucky. He was a WWII veteran, having served honorably in the Army Air Corps (8th Air Force, 100th Bomber Group "The Bloody Hundredth") and was held as a prisoner of war for 19 months, after the B-17 he served on as a tail gunner was shot down by enemy fire in 1943 on his 10th mission. After returning to Kentucky, Paul enrolled as a student at UK and received his B.S. with distinction in Industrial Chemistry in 1950 followed by his Ph.D. in physical chemistry in 1953. Following graduate studies, he continued at UK as an instructor, research associate, and assistant professor until 1957. After a brief period working at Monsanto, Paul returned to UK where he became a full professor in 1962. He served as a Professor of Chemistry for 28 years and influenced the lives of more than 7,000 students at all levels before retiring in 1990.

During his time at UK, Dr. Sears was a recipient of a University of Kentucky Greek Community Outstanding Teacher Award in 1968 and a University of Kentucky Alumni Association Great Teacher Award in 1980. As a faculty leader, Paul served eighteen months as Chair of the University Senate Council, seventeen years as Faculty Assistant to the President of the University, nine years as an elected faculty representative on the Board of Trustees, and twelve years as a faculty member on the Board of Directors of the University of Kentucky Athletics Association. During 1970-1987, he was a member of the President's Cabinet and was well-known for his extensive knowledge of the University's academic policies and Governing and Administrative Regulations. He served as the Special Assistant for Academic Affairs and advisor to UK's Presidents (1980-1990) and retired from the University at the end of 1990. The Dr. Paul G. Sears Chemistry Scholarship Fund, initiated in 2008, was created in his honor to assist undergraduates studying chemistry at the University of Kentucky. When he was inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame in 2013, Paul noted appropriately, "My roots at UK run deep." In 2019, Paul was honored by having his accomplishments recorded in

The Congressional Record, which highlighted his military service, heroism, and his many other contributions.

His hobbies included handicapping thoroughbred racing, poker (“statistics and economics meetings”), and playing pool with his UK friends. He enjoyed researching and delivering his WWII experiences in a slide show to groups of all ages. He enthusiastically supported the UK sports teams, including football, men’s basketball, and women’s basketball. Paul was a gentle man, loving husband, caring father, church Elder, patient teacher, wonderful neighbor, dedicated friend, and a role model to all. He always remembered names and connections with people.

Soult (AS) **moved** that this resolution be made a part of the minutes of the University Senate and that a copy be sent to Professor Sears’ family. Kuhnlein (SGA) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed.

The Senate observed a moment of silence in honor of Professor Sears.

5. Committee Reports

a. Senate’s Academic Programs Committee - Leslie Vincent, Chair

i. Proposed New MS Marketing

Charnigo (PbH) explained that he would present the proposal because the proposer was SAPC Chair Leslie Vincent (BE). He described the proposed new MS in Marketing. There were no questions of fact. The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve, for submission to the Board of Trustees, the proposed new MS in Marketing from the Department of Marketing and Supply Chain in the College of Business and Economics. 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 two abstained.

ii. Proposed New Graduate Certificate in Orofacial Pain

Vincent (BE) described the proposed new Graduate Certificate in Orofacial Pain. The Chair asked if there were any questions of fact and there was clarification that courses already exist for the certificate and that participants in the certificate program will not undergo the research components that are involved with the master’s degree. The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the establishment of a new Graduate Certificate in Orofacial Pain, in the College of Dentistry. 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 three abstained.

iii. Proposed New Undergraduate Certificate in Pre-Medicine

Vincent (BE) described the proposed new Undergraduate Certificate in Pre-Medicine. The Chair asked if there were any questions of fact and there was clarification about the certificate title. After discussion, the Chair noted that while Arts and Sciences was welcome to advertise the certificate as being for post-baccalaureate students, but Senate should not approve a new type of credential called a “post-baccalaureate certificate.” The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve a new Undergraduate Certificate in Pre-Medicine in 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 two opposed and five abstained.

iv. Proposed Significant Change to Graduate Certificate in Public Health Management

Vincent (BE) described the proposed significant change to Graduate Certificate in Public Health Management. There were no questions of fact. The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve a change to the Graduate Certificate in Public Health Management in the Department of Health Management and Policy in the College of Public Health. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with two opposed and two abstained.

v. Proposed Significant Change to MS Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences

Vincent (BE) described the proposed significant change to MS Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences. There were no questions of fact. The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve a change to the MS in Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed and two abstained.

vi. Proposed Significant Change to PhD Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences

Vincent (BE) described the proposed significant change to PhD Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences. There were no questions of fact. The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve a change to the PhD in Integrated Plant and Soil Sciences in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences in the College of Agriculture, Food and 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.

vii. Proposed Significant Change to BSEDU Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education

Vincent (BE) described the proposed significant change to BSEDU Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education. There were no questions of fact. The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the Senate approve a change to the BSEDU in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education, in the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education, and Counselor Education in the College of Education. 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.

b. Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) - Jennifer Bird-Pollan, Chair

i. Proposed Change to College of Health Sciences Behavioral and Technical Standards

Bird-Pollan (LA) described the proposed change to College of Health Sciences Behavioral and Technical Standards. There were no questions of fact. The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the Senate approve the proposed changes to the Behavioral and Technical Standards from the College of Health Sciences. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed and two abstained.

ii. Proposed Changes to Senate Rules Pertaining to Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals

Bird-Pollan (LA) described the proposed changes to SRs Pertaining to Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals. She explained that the changes were to be effective immediately but after reflection, they recommend the proposed changes be effective Fall 2021.

Soult (AS) **moved** to amend the proposal to be effective Fall 2021. Kirn (BE) **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with two opposed and one abstained.

The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the Senate approve the proposed changes to *Senate Rules* pertaining to RWAs, effective Fall 2021. 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 two abstained.

iii. Proposed Changes to *Senate Rules 4.2.8* from Engineering

Bird-Pollan (LA) described the proposed changes to *SR 4.2.8* from Engineering. The Chair asked if there were any questions of fact and Brion (EN) spoke against the proposal.

The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the Senate approve the proposed change to *SR* language on undergraduate certificates. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with 12 opposed.

c. Senate's Academic Organization and Structure Committee - Zack Bray, Chair

i. Proposed Closure of Seven Multidisciplinary Research Centers

- Center for Developmental Change
- Center for Learning Resources
- Center for Research on Environmental Disease
- Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery
- Center for Advancement of Women's Health
- Center for Microelectrode Technology
- Center for Manufacturing

Bray (LA) described the proposal. The Chair asked if there were any questions of fact and there was clarification that no jobs are at stake with the closures.

The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the Senate approve the proposed closure of the seven multidisciplinary research centers in the proposal, based on their academic merits (e.g. programmatic), and also endorse the proposed closure of the same seven centers, based on their non-academic merits (e.g. infrastructure, resources, and personnel). 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 asked if there were objections to postponing agenda items 5.d.i. "Explanation of Revised Senate Rules" and 6 "Ad Hoc Committee on Calendars' Proposed Changes to Academic Calendars" because of time constraints. There were no objections.

7. Proposed Modifications to Graduate School Policies for International Students

Interim Dean of the Graduate School Brian Jackson described the proposed modifications to Graduate School Policies to expand an exception to accept Duolingo for all international applicants for the 2021-2022 academic year. Brion (EN) **moved** that the University Senate approve the Graduate School's request. Forren (NU) **seconded**. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with one opposed and one abstained.

The Chair asked if there were objections to postponing item 8 "University Appeals Board 2019-20 Annual Report" because of time constraints. There were no objections.

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The Chair explained that there was not time for items from the floor. He asked senators to email SC members with any items related to discussions during the meeting. Also, SC will keep senators aware of any actions taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by, DeShana Collett
University Senate Vice Chair

Absences: Abdel-Latif, Andrade, Birdwhistell, Blonder*, Boyd, Cassis, Coleman*, Collins, Cox, Davis, DiPaola, Elder, Fanucchi, Gent, Guy, Heath, Heilig, Horvath, Lane, Martin*, Miller (Hannah), Miller (Jay), Neiheisel, Okeson, Pace, Phillips, Richey, Sands, Stevens*, Swanson*, Swartz, Tagavi, Vosevich, Warren*, Weber, Wilkinson, Wilson, Wright (Allison), and Wright (George).

* Denotes an explained absence.

Guests present: Debra Aaron, Carmen Agouridis, Kimberly Anderson, Laura Anschel, Karen Badger, Julie Balog, Jennifer Bartlett, Aja Bettencourt-McCarthy, Jay Blanton, Anna Bosch, Barbara Brandenburg, Sheila Brothers, Katie Cardarelli, Wayne Centers, Christy Chapman, Richard Coffee, Trey Conaster, Jennifer Cramer, James Donovan, Julian Dupuis, Patricia Ehrkamp, Joanie Ett-Mims, Joseph Fink, Beth Fucks, Brian Gardner, Amber Gray, Phillip Gribble, Jason Hans, Faith Harders, David Hardesty, Miranda Hines, Larry Holloway, James Holsinger, David Horohov, Aaron Hynds, Davy Jones, Sarah Kerksmar, Kathi Kern, John Kirn, Mark Kornbluh, Janice Kuperstein, Laurie Lawrence, Brian Lee, G.T. Lineberry, Priscilla McCutcheon, Juliana McDonald, Pamela McFarland, Joe McGillis, Janet Mullins, Jennifer Osterhage, Victoria Pook, Daniel Porter, Lalana Powell, Jennifer Richmond, Margaret Rintamaa, Marion Rust, Brent Seals, Sue Sheather, Jennifer Siebenthaler, Greg Smith, Taylor Stephenson, Jason Unrine, Eric Vanzant, Sarah Wackerbarth, Lisa Wilson, and Youling Xiong.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on January 21, 2021.