

University Senate
February 8, 2021

The University Senate met in regular session at 3 pm on Monday, February 8, 2021 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 December 14, 2020 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the minutes from December 14, 2020. There being **no objections**, the minutes from December 14, 2020 were **approved** by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair expressed his appreciation to senators for their patience if the meeting went long.

The Chair reported that an email was sent to all faculty on January 28th regarding nominations for University committees. He reminded senators to email nominations to Ms. Brothers and noted that there was a particular need for nominees for Area Committees, which require full tenured professors.

The Chair reminded Senators of curricular proposal deadlines. If seeking a fall 2021 effective date, curricular proposals must first be reviewed by the appropriate academic council(s) (GC, HCCC, UC) and received by the SC office after academic council approval by:

- March 15, 2021 for other proposals requiring committee review (new certificates, transfers of a degree, new department, change to credit hours required for graduation, significant program changes, etc.).
- April 12, 2021 for courses, all other program changes, and minors.

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 January 25, 2021, SC approved a change to the Spring 2021 academic calendar which extends the 100% refund period.
- On January 25, 2021, SC approved changes to the Summer 2021 academic calendar which removed erroneous entries related to Graduate School deadlines.
- On February 1, 2021, SC approved nonstandard course calendars for Oral Facial Pain (OFP) courses.

The Chair reported that SC heard a presentation about changes to Undergraduate Research, which was administratively moved to the Vice President for Research area in September. He shared the URL with more information and noted that an email communication about changes had been sent out.

b. Vice Chair

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

c. Parliamentarian

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

d. Trustee

Trustee Swanson (ME) reported that on January 29, 2021 the Board of Trustees' Executive Committee approved a joint venture between the University and King's Daughters Health System. The purpose of the joint venture is to increase healthcare in Northeast Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia. There will be more details announced in April.

Trustee Blonder (ME) reported that the Board of Trustees will be meeting on February 18th and 19th. The Vice President for Institutional Diversity George Wright will be conducting antiracism training with the Trustees. The Board meeting in the afternoon will be streaming online and the link can be found at the Board's website.

The Trustees were asked if there have been discussions about how to respond to the Council on Postsecondary Education's (CPE) concern about the decreasing number of Kentuckians attending college. It was reported that the Board of Trustees have not discussed the issue but the Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL) is working on some initiatives in response.

3. Update on Budget - Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Eric Monday

Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Eric Monday shared an update on the University's budget, which included the fiscal year (FY) 2021 budget, looking ahead to FY 2022, and restoration of an employee benefit.

Regarding the FY 2021 budget:

- The University received full state appropriations despite concerns about mid-year cuts.
- Reductions in revenue and additional expenses have been driven by COVID and pricing for online courses for non-residents.
- Reduction in the University's retirement contribution and federal support have helped solve tuition-related budget challenges this year.

Regarding the FY 2022 budget:

- The governor-proposed state budget includes a 1% increase in appropriations for higher education and an increase in performance funding.
- Compensation adjustments are being considered and the University will continue to work on raising the hourly rate minimum pay.

Regarding employee benefits:

- The 2:1 retirement contribution from the University will return for all employees on July 1, 2021.
- Extensions to carry forward vacation time are being considered.

- Consideration of increasing healthcare costs when building out future budgets.
- Additional leave for family and eldercare is being considered.

Other considerations he reported on include:

- The University's commitment to net tuition revenue sharing with the colleges.
- Constrained tuition and fees over the past years in relation to affordability.
- Additional investments in diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- The President has been seeking feedback about the next steps in the provost search.
- Planning for possible new regulatory requirements.

The floor was opened for questions. There was clarification that the "rainy day" funds from retirement saving in FY 2021 will be used to help cover the tuition shortfall. Senators expressed their appreciation for restoration of the 2:1 matching retirement benefit. Lastly, there was clarification that the use of retirement funding reduction is not something that administration plans to use again.

4. Old Business

a. Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC): Explanation of Revised *Senate Rules*

SREC Chair Collett thanked SREC for their diligent work and recognized the members. She informed senators that SREC minutes are posted on the SC website. She gave an overview that included recent activities including the reorganization of *Senate Rules (SRs)* and populating the *SRs* with appropriate Graduate Faculty Rules. The Chair expressed his appreciation to SREC.

b. Ad Hoc Committee on Calendars' Proposed Changes to Academic Calendars - Jennifer Osterhage, Chair

Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Calendars Jennifer Osterhage (AS) explained the proposal to make four changes to the academic calendar which included:

- Begin the Spring semester on a Monday.
- Move the Fall Break from Monday and Tuesday of the ninth week to the Monday and Tuesday of the tenth week of the Fall Semester.
- Add two "Reading Days" to both the fall and spring semesters to occur on Thursday and Friday of "Dead Week" (SR 5.2.5.6).
- Adjust the final examination schedule from a 5-day schedule to a "4+1" final exam schedule.

The Chair reminded senators that the proposal was discussed last spring but was delayed because of COVID. He asked if there were any questions and there was clarification that upcoming academic calendars from the Registrar already include the proposed changes. The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the proposal from the Ad Hoc Committee on Calendars, effective Fall 2021. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There Chair asked if there was any debate. Senators voiced their support of the proposal and congratulated the committee for a job well done. A **vote** was taken and the motion passed with none opposed.

c. University Appeals Board (UAB) 2019-20 Annual Report - Joe Fink, Chair

The Chair welcomed Chair of the University Appeals Board Joe Fink (PH). Fink offered a presentation to Senators on activities of the University Appeals Board UAB. He explained the purpose, composition, functions, and processes of the UAB. The floor was opened for questions and there was an explanation

of how mixed jurisdiction cases are handled, what cases are handled by the Academic Ombud, and how members are appointed to the UAB.

5. Committee Reports

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

i. Proposed New Graduate Certificate in Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems

Vincent (BE) described the proposed new Graduate Certificate in Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems. There were no questions. 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 Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS), housed in the Department of Biosystems and Agriculture Engineering, 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.

ii. Proposed Significant Change to MSNFS Nutrition and Food Systems

Vincent (BE) described the proposed significant change to MSNFS Nutrition and Food Systems. There were no questions. The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the significant change to the MSNFS: Nutrition and Food Systems, in the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition within 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.

iii. Proposed Significant Change to BS Dietetics and Human Nutrition

Vincent (BE) described the proposed significant change to BS Dietetics and Human Nutrition. There were no questions. The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the significant change to the BS: Dietetics and Human Nutrition, in the Department of Dietetics and Human Nutrition within 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 and one abstained.

iv. Proposed New MS Strategic Human Resource Management and Analytics

Vincent (BE) described the proposed new MS Strategic Human Resource Management and Analytics. There were no questions. 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 establishment of a new MS degree: Strategic Human Resource Management and Analytics, in the Department of Management within the Gatton 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.

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

i. Proposed New Department of Engineering Technology

Bray (LA) described the proposed new Department of Engineering and Technology. There was also clarification that there was not a conflict of interest if the Engineering Dean wished to vote. The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the Senate endorse the proposed new Department of Engineering Technology in the College of Engineering. 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.

6. Syllabus Initiative

Senior Lecturer and Director of General Chemistry Allison Soult (AS) presented the background, recent activity, and next steps of the Syllabus Initiative. She noted the addition of a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) statement. She thanked Ms. Brothers for putting together webpages with boilerplate language and for her support throughout the process.

The floor was opened for questions. There was clarification that the SC Office will update the syllabus webpage as policies change and maintain the URL. There was discussion about replacing the word “may” with “must” in the “Academic Offenses” section. There was also clarification that the Syllabus Initiative applies to every numbered course, all of which are subject to the SRs.

The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the proposed changes to the SRs, with an effective date of fall 2021. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair asked if there was any debate. Farrell (FA) offered an **amendment** to change “may” to “must” in the first paragraph of SR 6.1.1.3 “Academic Offenses”. Collett (HS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there were any objections to the amendment and there was one **objection**. After clarification about the section under discussion, the objection was **withdrawn**. The Chair asked again if there were any objections to the amendment and there was an **objection**, that the term “must” does not preclude faculty from adding additional information to the “Academic Offenses” section. The objection was **withdrawn** when it was clarified that instructors may add additional language. The Chair asked if there were any objections to the amendment and there was another **objection**, related to the inclusion of a URL in the first paragraph. The Chair clarified SC office staff will maintain the URL and the objection was **withdrawn**. The Chair again asked if there were any objections to the amendment and there were none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

7. Proposed Change to Senate Rules 5.2.5.6 (“Dead Week”)

The Chair asked if there were objections to postponing agenda item seven (“Proposed Change to Senate Rules 5.2.5.6 (“Dead Week”)”) because of time constraints. There were no objections.

8. United Campus Workers - Kentucky (per Senate Rules 1.2.3.3 (“Agendas and Action Items”))

Marion Rust (AS) presented an overview about UCW.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 pm with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by, DeShana Collett
University Senate Vice Chair

Absences: Abdel-Latif, Allday, Andrade, Bastin, Birdwhistell, Blackwell, Boyd, Brown (Roger), Cassis, Chait, Charnigo*, Collins, Cox, DeSantis, Fanucchi, Forren, Gent, Guy, Hall (Claire), Harper, Heilig, Horvath, Jackson, Lumppp, Mehra, Miller (Hannah), Miller (Jay), Morgan, Neiheisel, Okeson, Phillips (Jada), Richey, Sands, Sheather, Snyder, Swartz, Tagavi, VanGilder, Vosevich, Wilkinson, and Wright (George).

* Denotes an explained absence.

Guests present: Carmen Agouridis, Nelson Akafuah, Donna Amaral-Phillips, Kimberly Anderson, Laura Anshel, Francis Bailey, Jennifer Bartlett, Terry Birdwhistell, Renee Bonzani, Anna Bosch, Sheila Brothers,

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Heather Borwn, Julia Bursten, Laura Cagle, Rick Childress, Lisa Cliggett, Liz Combs, Marcy Deaton, Elizabeth Debski, Joanie Ett-Mims, David Fardo, Joe Fink, Mills Handy, Larry Holloway, Tracie Hutchison, Michael Johnson, Davy Jones, Nancy Jones, Cindy Jong, Emily Kaufman, Michael Kilgore, Carrie Knott, Katherine McCormick, Julia Miller, Eric Monday, Tina Navis, Zeke Perkins, Michael Renfro, Allan Richards, Sue Roberts, Marion Rust, Eduardo Santillan-Jimenez, Kevin Sarge, Mary Sherman, Jennifer Siebenthaler, David Silverstein, Megan Sizemore, Bret Smith, Scott Soltis, Tammy Stephenson, Julie Toliver, Kirsten Turner, Jaleesa Wells, and Sharon Yam.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on February 12, 2021.