

University Senate
March 9, 2020

The University Senate met in regular session on Monday, March 9, 2020 in the Athletics Association Auditorium of W. T. Young Library. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via electronic voting devices unless indicated otherwise. Specific voting information can be requested from the Office of the Senate Council.

Senate Council Chair Jennifer Bird-Pollan (LA) called the University Senate (Senate) meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

The Chair welcomed senators and reminded them that Senate follows Robert's Rules of Order. She reminded senators to pick up their voting clickers, make sure the clicker has their name on it, and that proxy voting is not allowed. She explained the importance of signing in for attendance purposes. She also asked everyone to participate in the meetings and share information with colleagues in their home units. She ended with a friendly reminder for senators to return their voting devices to the back of the room prior to departure.

The Chair called for an attendance vote and 63 senators registered their presence.

1. Minutes from February 10, 2020 and Announcements

The Chair reported that only clerical edits to the minutes had been received. There being **no objections**, the minutes from February 10, 2020 were **approved** as amended by **unanimous consent**. The Chair offered a series of announcements to senators.

The Chair reported that the ConnectBlue reception is tentatively scheduled for one hour on May 4, 2020. It will be directly after the Senate meeting and will be held at the Boone Center. The event will give Senators the opportunity to speak with Trustees, members of the Staff Senate, and their colleagues in the University Senate.

The Chair informed the Senate that faculty will soon receive a survey from the Mental Health Taskforce. Leslie Vincent (BE) has been working with the taskforce, specifically about faculty and staff training. The Chair asked Senators to encourage their colleagues to complete the survey.

The Chair reported that Chair-Elect Aaron Cramer (EN) is participating on behalf of SC and Senate in the ad-hoc Prior Learning Workgroup. The Chair encouraged anyone that is interested in joining the group or who has comments to contact Cramer.

The Chair reminded Senators of the curricular deadlines and asked that they share this information with their colleagues.

The Chair updated Senate on the regularly scheduled activity to purge unwanted courses. The activity has been delayed because getting the spreadsheet to include college and department affiliations for courses has been a challenge. Additionally, it was discovered that many of the courses that were supposed to have been purged in 2016 had not been removed. Once the SC Office receives sortable, updated information, the spreadsheet will be sent out to senators, deans, curricular contacts, department chairs, and others as appropriate.

2. Officer and Other Reports

a. Chair

The Chair announced that the SC will meet on Friday, March 13th to discuss academic matters related to COVID-19. The Chair encouraged Senators to share any concerns they have with her or Ms. Brothers before Friday.

The Chair informed Senate about an action taken by SC. The request was brought by Senate's Rules and Elections Committee (SREC) and concerned a rule related to retroactive withdrawals and academic offenses. The SC confirmed the SREC's assertions that withdrawal through Senate's Retroactive Withdrawal Appeals Committee (SRWAC) for grades that were assigned due to an academic offense still have to go through the UAB, and also clarified that any grade received due to an academic offense may be changed to a W through the RWA/UAB process.

The Chair reminded Senators of the conversation during the February Senate meeting about naming departments. During the last SC meeting, SC and Vice Provost Larry Holloway discussed forming a joint Provost-SC committee. The Office of Philanthropy is being invited to speak to the Senate about the Kentucky Can campaign and naming projects in general.

The Chair announced that Vice Chair DeShana Collett (HS) is working on the annual Outstanding Senator Awards and will be sending an email after spring break asking for nominations. The Chair asked Senators to think about whom to nominate.

The Chair announced that Vice Chair DeShana Collett (HS) will be sending out the faculty evaluation of the President in April and it will be open for three weeks. The Chair noted that faculty participation is very important and asked Senators to encourage their colleagues to participate. She noted that the results were presented directly to the Board of Trustees; faculty trustees have said that other trustees are indeed interested in what the faculty have to say.

b. Provost

Provost Blackwell thanked the Chair and Senators for their work in classrooms and labs, research, creative work, and their service on the Senate. He gave an overview of updates, which included technology issues, UK's response to the coronavirus, and the Office of Student and Academic Life (SAL). He hoped that operations will continue as close to normal as possible.

Provost Blackwell welcomed Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Eric Monday to talk about technology issues. Vice President Monday reported about UK's response after some unusual activity in UK's computer systems was noticed in February. They are confident that no patient health or employee information was accessed or removed. Provost Blackwell and Vice President Monday expressed their gratitude for the around-the-clock work done by UK's IT professionals.

The floor was opened for questions which included:

- What steps are being taken to increase security in the future?
Firewalls were added, multifactor authentication will be implemented for the entire campus, and system hardening continues.
- Were Macs and PCs impacted differently?
The attack was on a Microsoft PC-based product.
- Do we know the country of origin?
It was international.
- Do we have insurance for something like this?
Yes, our insurance will pay part of the cost.

- How will security and usability be balanced?
UK was very limited in its ability to communicate during this event, but there are several committees working with ITS for future planning.

Provost Blackwell expressed his gratitude to everyone working in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and for Executive Vice President Monday's strong crisis management planning during this time.

Executive Vice President Monday gave an overview of the University's response to COVID-19. He informed Senators about the 15 workstreams and committees that have been set up to work through the response. He also gave some examples of concerns that the committees are working through.

Provost Blackwell explained UK's stance on travel to restrict going to level 3 countries but allowing domestic trips. He commented that anyone coming back from a level 3 country will need to self-isolate for 14 days and coordinate with UK Healthcare.

Provost Blackwell emphasized the importance of coordinating with the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) for anything related to academic course delivery. He also asked that anything related to international academic opportunities be discussed with the University of Kentucky International Center (UKIC).

The floor was opened for questions which included:

- What are the University's plans to address the recommendation by the CDC for people over 60 and with underlying health conditions to stay home?
The Human Resources Workstream is currently evaluating this situation. Faculty and staff are encouraged to work with their colleges to make accommodations if needed.
- Since we are encouraging students to stay home if they have symptoms, will all student absences be excused?
The *Senate Rules* state the current rules regarding excused absences, but SC will discuss this issue in their specially called meeting on March 13.
- Should groups with large events planned consider postponing or cancelling events?
There is a Workstream Committee exploring this issue.
- Are distance learning plans being considered?
Yes, inventory of resources are being taken and planning has started.
- Have more people been hired for cleaning and services?
We are focusing all of our current employees' efforts on additional cleaning.
- Was the most current case of COVID-19 in Fayette County a member of the UK community?
Unable to comment at this time.

Because of time constraints, the Chair asked that anyone with additional questions send them to the appropriate workstream. The Chair concurred with Provost Blackwell's suggestion that in lieu of a presentation, his slides regarding strategic planning be posted online and senators can email him with questions and comments.

5. Associate Provost for Academic and Student Affairs Kirsten Turner – Update on Activities in Student and Academic Life

The Chair welcomed Associate Provost for Academic and Student Affairs Kirsten Turner to talk about Student and Academic Life (SAL).

Associate Provost Turner gave an overview of who works in SAL and how they serve students. Their mission is to prepare students to lead lives of meaning and purpose. Their values include: (1) Equity; (2) Well-being; (3) Integrity; (4) Collaboration; and (5) Innovation. Their guiding principle is that staff, faculty and student workers are their most important resource. She also gave a summary of their strategic directions and an integrated medicine pilot program that SAL is participating in. Anyone with questions or ideas was encouraged to email Associate Provost Turner.

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.

e. Trustee

Trustees Bob Grossman (AS) and Lee Blonder (ME) did not give a report; Grossman stated that in the interest of time their report could be deferred until April.

3. Committee Reports

a. Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Institute for the Study of Free Enterprise (ISFE) – Ernie Bailey (AG), Chair

i. Final Report

Bailey shared the final report from the ad hoc committee on the Institute for the Study of Free Enterprise (ISFE). He explained that the committee was formed by the Senate in spring of 2019 to conduct a mid-term review of ISFE based on the motion passed at the time the ISFE was formed. The ad hoc committee began its review in Spring 2019 and did not complete its work before the summer. The committee renewed its review process during the fall of 2019 in order to include significant and recent changes in funding and leadership. Their report included four conclusions and three recommendations. Bailey also introduced the current ISFE Director Charles Courtemanche.

The Chair stated that the **motion** from SC is a recommendation that the Senate accept the ad hoc committee report for ISFE. Because the motion came from SC, no **second** was needed. The floor was opened for questions.

There were some questions about ISFE having informal meetings and the lack of meeting minutes. It was explained that there is documentation for grant-related activities and most undocumented conversations were discussions about potential guest speakers. There was also discussion about what the donated money is being used for such as, faculty hiring, yearly events, summer grants for faculty, and student support.

The Chair turned the floor over to those who wished to speak. Previous SC chair Ernie Yanarella (AS) commented on concerns he had about ISFE. Because of time constraints, he requested that his written concerns be circulated to SC members and the Chair agreed.

The Chair asked if there was debate on the proposal. Adib Bagh (BE) commented that although he had initially been skeptical of ISFE, that he agrees with the ad hoc committee report for ISFE.

A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with 54 in favor, four opposed, and 12 abstaining.

b. Senate's UK Core Education Committee (UKCEC)– Patrick Lucas (DE), Chair

i. Proposed Change to Senate Rules 1.4.3.2.1 (“Senate UK Core Education Committee (SUKCEC),”
“Composition”)

Because Lucas was unavailable to present, the Chair explained the proposal to allow members to serve a second term on SUKCEC to provide more continuity. The floor was opened for questions and it was clarified that the change would take place immediately if approved.

The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the proposed changes to *Senate Rules 1.4.3.2.1*, effective immediately. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with 74 in favor, none opposed, and none abstaining.

c. Senate's Academic Facilities Committee (SAFC) – Chris Pool (AS), Chair

i. Draft Survey for Senators

The Chair described the survey that Senators will be receiving. The Chair encouraged Senators to speak with their constituents about the survey before filling it out.

d. Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) – Bill Smith (EN), Chair

i. Proposed Suspension of Admissions and Closure of Graduate Certificate in Reproductive Biology, MS Reproductive Biology, and PhD Reproductive Biology

Smith (EN) explained the recommendation that the University Senate approve the College of Health Sciences request to suspend and close the MS, PhD, and Graduate Certificate programs in Reproductive Biology. There were no questions of fact.

The Chair explained that a waiver is required for this proposal and that the **motion** on the floor was to waive for the three Reproductive Biology proposals the open hearings and disclosure requirements that are set forth in *SR 3.4.2.2.2*. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with 63 in favor, two opposed, and one abstained.

The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was that the University Senate approve the College of Health Sciences request to suspend and close the MS, PhD, and Graduate Certificate programs in Reproductive Biology. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with 63 in favor, one opposed, and two abstained.

ii. Proposed Suspension of Doctor of Public Health (DrPH)

Smith (EN) explained the recommendation that the University Senate approve the College of Public Health request to suspend the Doctor of Public Health program. There were no questions of fact.

The Chair explained that a waiver is required for this proposal and that the **motion** on the floor was to waive for the DrPH the open hearings and disclosure requirements that are set forth in *SR 3.4.2.2.2*. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with 63 in favor, four opposed, and one abstained.

The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was that the University Senate approve the College of Public Health request to suspend the Doctor of Public Health program. Because the motion came from

committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with 64 in favor, one opposed, and four abstained.

iii. Proposed Suspension of Admissions and Closure of Pre-Physician Assistant Studies (Major Code: PPAS-BHS; Degree Code: BHS-AH)

Smith explained the recommendation that the University Senate approve the College of Health Sciences request to suspend and close the Pre-Physician Assistant Studies program (Major Code: PPAS-BHS; Degree Code: BHS-AH). There was a question of fact asking if suspension of admissions was the same thing as suspending and the answer was yes, it is the same thing.

The Chair explained that a waiver is required for this proposal and that the **motion** on the floor was to waive for the Pre-Physician Assistant Studies program (Major Code: PPAS-BHS; Degree Code: BHS-AH) the open hearings and disclosure requirements that are set forth in SR 3.4.2.2.2. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with 64 in favor, two opposed, and one abstained.

The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was that the University Senate approve the College of Health Sciences request to suspend and close the Pre-Physician Assistant Studies program (Major Code: PPAS-BHS; Degree Code: BHS-AH). Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with 65 in favor, one opposed, and one abstained.

iv. Proposed New Admissions Path into Lewis Honors Program for Sophomores

Smith explained the proposed new admissions path into Lewis Honors Program for Sophomores. There were no questions of fact.

The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was that the University Senate approve the Lewis Honors College proposal for sophomore admission. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with 64 in favor, one opposed, and two abstained.

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

i. Proposed Move of BA and Minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies from College to Department of Geography

Bray explained the proposal for Senate to endorse the proposed move of the BA and Minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies from the College of Arts and Sciences to the Department of Geography. There were no questions of fact.

The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was that the University Senate endorse the proposed move of the BA and Minor in Environmental and Sustainability Studies from the College of Arts and Sciences to the Department of Geography. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. There was no debate. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with 63 in favor, one opposed, and one abstained.

4. Faculty on Phased Retirement and University Senate Membership

a. Proposed Changes to Governing Regulations IV (“The University Senate”) and Senate Rules 1.2.2 (“Functions and Composition of the University Senate,” “Composition”) and Senate Rules 1.2.2.1.2 (“Elected Faculty Membership,” “Election”)

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b. Discussion Only - Possibility of Senators on Phased Retirement Serving on SC and as SC Chair

i. Senate Rules 1.3.1.2.1.1 (“University Senate Council,” “Eligibility for Membership”)

ii. Senate Rules 1.3.1.3.1 (“Officers of the Senate Council,” “Senate Council Chair”)

Because of time constraints, the Chair asked Senators to review the materials related to faculty on phased retirement serving on the Senate and SC and share any views they have with herself or Bob Grossman (AS).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by DeShana Collett
University Senate Council Vice Chair

Absences: Abdel-Latif, Arnett, Bailey, Bieber, Birdwhistell, Boyle, Brady, Bucheit, Capilouto, Cassis, Chishti, Chung*, Collins, Corso*, Cox, DeSantis, DiPaola, Fancher, Fanucchi, Farrell, Feist-Price, Ferrier, Flaherty, Fragneto*, Frese, Gent, Goble, Griggs, Gustafson, Guy, Hamilton, Harper, Harris, Heilig, Hicks, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Kelly, Kirn, Lee-Post*, Lephart, Loftin*, Mardini, Martin, Mehra*, Michael, Miller, Morgan, Mudd-Martin, Okeson, Osterhage*, Phillips, Richey, Rogers, Rotkis, Saffari, Shaikh, Sheather, Stemple, Swartz, Tagavi, B. Taylor, K. Taylor, Troland, Turner, Vernon, Vosevich, Way, Weber, White, K. Wilson, and Wright*.

*Denotes an explained absence.

Invited guests present: Sheila Brothers, Charles Courtemanche, Eric Monday, Kirsten Turner, and Ernie Yanarella

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on Wednesday, March 25, 2020.