

University Senate

Monday, December 13, 2021

The University Senate met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, December 13, 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 (SC).

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 notetaking purposes. He informed Senate members that attendance would be captured via a Zoom report and noted that the chat function would no longer be available. He asked everyone to mute themselves when not speaking.

The Chair 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.

The Chair reminded senators to state their name and college affiliation before speaking.

1. Minutes from November 8 and Announcements

The Chair reported that edits were received for the minutes from November 8, 2021. There being **no objections**, the amended minutes from November 8, 2021 were **approved by unanimous consent**.

The Chair announced that an offer was made to a candidate last week for the vacant position in the SC office. The Chair noted that the candidate would start in early January and expressed his appreciation for the robust pool of candidates.

The Chair informed Senate members that in order to improve interactivity in Senate meeting, the SC suggested senators turn on their cameras during the meeting, especially when speaking. The Chair noted that no explanations were needed if a senator was unable to do so.

The Chair announced that the first Senate meeting of the new year would be held on January 24, 2022.

The Chair informed Senate members that the deadline for submission of grades in the online grading portal is 5:00 pm Monday, December 20, 2021.

The Chair announced that officer elections for the SC recently took place, noting that DeShana Collett (HS) had been elected to serve as Chair for the term June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023 and Leslie Vincent (BE) had been elected to serve as Vice Chair for the term June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023.

The Chair commented that the March 2022 Senate meeting was originally scheduled for spring break. The Chair noted that the SC moved the March Senate meeting date to March 21, 2022.

The Chair reminded Senate members of curricular proposal deadlines for 2021-22 for proposals seeking a Fall 2022 effective date.

2. Consent Agenda

The Chair commented that the proposals on the Consent Agenda were ones for which the SC did not anticipate discussion. The Chair explained that the proposals on the Consent Agenda all sought to suspend and close a particular program, all of which had been dormant for years with no current student enrollment. The Chair informed Senate members that the SC recommended waiving *Senate Rules (SR) 3.3.2.2.2*, which requires an

open hearing for significant reductions. The Chair explained that the SC recommended this waiver due to the nature of the proposals and noted that SC asked the Senate Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC) to recommend changes to *SR 3.3.2.2.2* as it was generally difficult to put into practice.

The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

- For the certificate programs listed below, approve the suspension of admissions and closure
 - Graduate Certificate in Middle and Secondary School Reading
 - Graduate Certificate in Next Generation Teaching and Learning
 - Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Science
- For the degree programs listed below, approve the suspension of admissions and also approve, for submission to the Board of Trustees, the closure of the degrees
 - MA Elementary Education
 - MAEDU School Psychometrist and School Psychologist
 - MAEDU Education - Guidance and Counseling
 - MS Middle School Education
 - EdD Education and Counseling Psychology - Educational Psychology
 - EdS Education – Counseling Psychology

The Chair informed Senate members that they could remove an item from the Consent Agenda by objecting; this action would move the item off the Consent Agenda and would be discussed at a time during the meeting set by the Chair. The Chair explained that approval of the Consent Agenda would result in a waiver of *SR 3.3.2.2.2* for the programs listed and approval of suspension and closure for the programs listed. The Chair listed the programs on the Consent Agenda. There being **no objections**, the Consent Agenda was **approved by unanimous consent**.

3. Officer and Other Reports

a. Chair

The Chair noted that the *Senate Rules (SRs)* give the Chair and SC authority to take some actions on behalf of Senate as long as they are reported to Senate. The Chair approved three one-time, non-COVID request for DL delivery in Spring 2022 for ICT 695, ICT 410, and MSE 402G. The Chair commented that ICT 695 was part of an online program, but the unit inadvertently neglected to have the course approve for DL. ICT 410 was a course generally taught in person, but a part-time instructor was needed as the usual faculty member was on sabbatical. MSE 402G did not have a regular instructor available for the course.

On behalf of the SC and Senate, the Chair approved a clerical change to the *SRs* related to the probation and suspension in the Rosenberg College of Law, to add “fall or spring” to modify “semester,” which previously had no modifier. The Chair submitted their request to the Senate Rules and Election Committee (SREC) and Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) to confirm the clerical nature of the nature and noted the change would be codified in the next *SRs* update.

The Chair informed Senate members that the SC office would be purchasing a one-month trial subscription for new polling and voting software in early January. The Chair noted that the software would be tested at SC meetings and ideally one Senate meeting before deciding whether to purchase a year subscription.

b. Vice Chair

Vice Chair DeShana Collett reported she did not have any items to report.

c. Parliamentary

Parliamentarian Clayton Thyne reported he did not have any items to report.

The Chair informed Senate members that Trustees Lee Blonder and Holly Swanson were not in attendance today due to the Board of Trustees meeting.

4. Degree Recipients

a. December 2021 In Memoriam Degree List

The Chair reminded senators that per Kentucky law and Senate Rules, only the senators elected by college faculty members may vote on degree lists. The **motion** from committee was elected faculty senators approve the December 2021 In Memoriam Degree List, for submission through the President, to the Board of Trustees, thus no **second** was required. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

b. December 2021 Degree List

The Chair reminded senators that per Kentucky law and Senate Rules, only the senators elected by college faculty members may vote on degree lists. The Chair informed Senate members of two additions to the degree list since the time it was originally distributed to Senate members. The **motion** from committee was elected faculty senators approve the revised December 2021 Degree List, for submission through the President, to the Board of Trustees, thus no **second** was required. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

5. Vice President for Research Lisa Cassis – Update on Activities

The Chair introduced Vice President for Research Lisa Cassis to provide an update on research activities. Cassis commented that she would be discussing two topics with Senate members today: Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training and the development of a Research Leadership Academy. Cassis noted she was joined by Senior Associate Vice President for Research (Special Projects) Linda Dwoskin and Proposal Development Office Executive Director Kathy Grzech. Cassis presented information to Senate members about RCR and the development of a Research Leadership Academy. The Chair thanked Cassis for her presentation and invited Senate members to ask questions, as well as share thoughts on how to increase engagement between the Office of Research and the Senate. Senate members asked a variety of questions, including the following:

- How to access to access training status
 - Cassis clarified the associate dean for research in each college should have this information
- What the mechanism was for administrative accountability to continue supporting research initiatives after initial seed money runs out
 - Cassis noted she would appreciate more detail about the question and further discussion
- How the Leadership Academy would support different cohorts and serve the needs of different disciplinary areas, like humanities
 - Cassis welcomed feedback from Senate members, noting the office had no preconceived notions about the themes the academy would support; she is soliciting input to be sure it supported all types of creative work and research
- If the development of the Leadership Academy was related to a previous communication about funds available for research in cross-disciplinary areas on broad themes
 - Cassis noted she was unsure if the communication was related to her office and requested a copy of the communication
- How the tracks outlined in the Leadership Academy would be relevant to humanities researchers

- Cassis commented that these would be largely college-based and tailored to the area, noting the intention of the academy was not to drive the conversation, but rather to place faculty in situations to learn about research leadership
- If Cassis would be willing to present more information about the initiative to colleges individually
 - Cassis noted that she or a member of her team would certainly try to do so and noted Dwoskin's leadership of the initiative

The Provost offered his support of the Research Leadership Academy, noting the importance of the initiative as it applied to the humanities and the role it played in thinking creatively as part of a team. Cassis added that the initiative was responsive to faculty feedback and hoped the first track offered in the academy would help to retain and recruit good researchers. The Chair expressed his support for the initiative, noting the valuable opportunity for faculty.

6. Graduate School Dean Martha Peterson – Honorary Degrees

The Chair introduced Acting Dean of the Graduate School and Acting Associate Provost of Graduate and Professional Education Martha Peterson. Peterson thanked the Chair and presented information about the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees (UJCHD) to Senate members. Peterson explained the committee's charge and membership outlined by *Academic Regulation (AR) 11:4*. She also explained the process that the UJCHD used for honorary degrees and explained a proposal for additional vetting of information submitted by a nominator in response to previous discussions regarding due diligence in vetting nominees. The Chair noted the process that was built on trust was good, but that this proposed addition to the process was a good step. The Chair asked Senate members for feedback. Senate members asked a variety of questions and offered feedback including the following:

- Was there anything on the committee's current rubric for reviewing nominees to identify if the nominee was aligned with the University's mission and values
 - Peterson explained the rubric currently used was aligned with the *SRs 5.5.2.4 ("Conditions of Merit for Honorary Degrees")* and noted that she was proposing to add something similar (related to alignment with University mission and values) to the rubric to that would identify such issues by due diligence and reviews of publicly available sources
- How would the confidential nature of nominees intersect with the proposed change to the rubric
 - Peterson noted the point was well taken and that confidentiality would be considered in asking committee members to conduct due diligence searches in publicly available sources
- If the committee would consider, when proposing a waiver to include more than the five allotted nominees per year, to wait until after the waiver was voted on to reveal the names of nominees
 - Peterson noted her appreciation for the additional point of privacy
- If there were options for criteria to be included in the rubric to ensure diversity concerns were of directly addressed
 - Peterson commented that the nomination packet that is submitted would be a good place to include that information

The Chair thanked Peterson for presenting the Senate and commented that he looked forward to the committee's future work. Peterson thanked the Chair and expressed her appreciation for feedback from Senate members.

7. Committee Reports

- a. Senate's Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC) – Gregg Hall, Chair
The Chair introduced SAOSC Chair Gregg Hall.

i. Proposed Change to Center for Interprofessional Health Education (CIHE) from a Multidisciplinary Research Center to an Administrative Center

Hall explained the proposed change to CIHE from a multidisciplinary research center to an administrative center. The Chair asked if there were any questions. Police (ME) thanked the proposers for details provided and asked if this change impacted students in any way. Janie Heath (dean of nursing and the chair of board of directors for CIHE) offered to answer her question. Heath clarified that the change would only benefit students and enhance the center for students. The Chair noted that the **motion** from committee was to approve the closure of the Center for Interprofessional Health Education as an educational unit on its academic program merits and endorse its closure on its organizational structure merits. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed and six abstained.

b. Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) – Michelle Sizemore, Chair
The Chair introduced SAASC Chair Michelle Sizemore.

i. Proposed Change to DNP Nursing

Sizemore described the proposed change to DNP Nursing. The Chair asked if there were any questions and there were none. The Chair explained the **motion** from committee was to approve the proposed change to the DNP Nursing. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed and three abstained.

ii. Proposed Change to SR 5.5.2.2 for University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law ("Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors")

The Chair provided background information on SR 5.5.2.2 and ("Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors") for Law (JD) and Pharmacy (PharmD), noting he gave a one-time approval on behalf of the Senate for application of the standards within the proposals for Spring 2021 graduates of each program. The Chair explained that presuming Senate approval, the SC had asked the SREC to codify the changes in a new section of the SRs that was not a subset of language on undergraduate programs, rather than codify the changes for the JD and PharmD as described in the proposal. The Chair noted that in the new section, the SREC would also specify that the honors were applicable to the specific program and not the entire college. The Chair commented that each program was requesting the change become effective for the PharmD and JD cohorts graduating in Spring 2022.

Sizemore thanked the Chair for providing additional background and described the proposed change to SR 5.5.2.2 for University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law ("Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors"). Sizemore explained the SAASC voted to approve the changes in a 7-2 vote. The Chair asked if there were any questions. Grossman (AS) asked what the reasoning was for committee members who were opposed. Sizemore explained that while the committee was amenable to more flexibility in Latin honors, the committee was less comfortable in dropping the minimum hour requirement for the University. She noted that Rosenberg College of Law Dean Jennifer Bird-Pollan attended the committee meeting to address committee concerns and that the majority of the committee was comfortable with her responses. The Chair explained the **motion** from committee was for the Senate to approve the

proposed changes to SR 5.5.2.2 for University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law (JD), effective Spring 2022. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair asked if there was any debate.

Scott Yost (member of the SAASC) explained that he was one of the committee members who voted in opposition to the proposed change. Yost expressed concerns to Senate members that by not requiring the minimum number of hours in the proposed changes, there was a potential for other programs to request similar changes, potentially resulting in honors to be awarded to transfer students after completing minimal course work at the University. Yost explained that it was important to note that the accrediting agency for the Rosenberg College of Law did not allow for transfers of more than one year, thus providing an external force that required a minimum number of hours to be completed at the University by default. He noted that other programs may not have external forces providing similar checks and balances.

The Chair asked if there was any further debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with three opposed and seven abstained.

iii. Proposed Change to SR 5.5.2.2 for PharmD ("Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors")

Sizemore explained the proposed change to SR 5.5.2.2 for PharmD ("Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors") was similar in nature to the proposed change to SR 5.2.2.2 for the JD ("Conditions of Merit and Circumstance for Degree Honors"). The Chair asked if there were any questions and there were none. The Chair explained the **motion** from committee was for the Senate to approve the proposed changes to SR 5.5.2.2 for College of Pharmacy (PharmD), effective Spring 2022. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with three opposed and six abstained.

c. Senate's Distance Learning and eLearning Committee (SCDLeL) – Roger Brown, Chair

The Chair introduced SCDLeL Chair Roger Brown. The Chair explained the proposal was modified by the SC and that the SCDLeL committee was amenable to the modified proposal. The Chair invited Brown to explain the proposal.

i. Regular and Substantive Interactions (RSI)

Brown explained the original proposal was submitted to the SC by the committee but was modified due to discussions before and during the SC meeting. Brown commented that new language surrounding RSI would need to be codified in the SRs. The Chair asked if there were any questions. Ken Calvert (EN) requested clarification for what types of activities fulfilled RSI requirements. Brown explained that taking attendance in a regularly scheduled course meeting times would fulfill regular interaction and in-class activity such as discussions would fulfill substantive interaction. The Chair explained the **motion** from the committee was for the Senate to approve the four recommendations as presented by the SCDLeL. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with one opposed and two abstained.

8. Items from the Floor (Time Permitting)

The Chair welcomed items from the floor, noting the opportunity for senators to raise issues not on the agenda. The Chair informed Senate members of the message he and the Provost sent over the weekend to help faculty accommodate students impacted by the recent weather events in Western Kentucky.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 pm with **no objections**.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
Senate Council Chair

Absences: Ajay Mehra, Alison Gustafson, Allen Allday, Allie Pazdzior, Allison Gibson, Allison Wright, Amina Anwar, Angie Martin, Antonio Garcia, Ashley McPherson, Caleb Frush, Caroline Slicer, Chae Lea, Chipper Griffith, Christine Harper, Colleen Swartz, Craig Collins, Doug Way, Eli Capilouto, Elizabeth Tovar, George Wright, Herman Farrell, Hollie Swanson, Howard Roberts, Jason Unrine, Jay Miller, Jeff Okeson, John Bauer, Jon Chait, Julian Heilig, Justin Lane, Kim Wilson, Kirsten Turner, Laura Fanucchi, Lee Blonder, Logan Bechanan, Mark Birdwhistell, Mary Vosevich, Melissa Morgan, Michael Hawse, Mike Richey, Morgan Wilson, Olivia Ellis, Patrick Haycraft, R. Kiplan (Kip) Guy, Rudolph Bucheit, Sam Wyse, Scott Lephart, Tom Harris, Yuha Jung

Invited Guests Present: Lisa Cassis, Linda Dwoskin, Kathleen Grzech

Prepared by Katie Silver on Tuesday, December 14, 2021