

University Senate

Monday, September 13, 2021

The University Senate met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, September 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.

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 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.

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.

The Chair welcomed University Senate Chair President Eli Capilouto.

1. President Eli Capilouto, University Senate Chair

President Capilouto expressed his gratitude to the those attending the Senate meeting. He commented on the importance of the participation of faculty, staff, and students in shared governance, emphasizing the responsibility to each other and those we serve. He thanked leaders Cramer (chair, Senate Council), Olivia Ellis (chair, Staff Senate), and Michael Hawse (president, SGA) for honoring the vision of advancing Kentucky. He commented that UK’s approaches responding to the COVID-19 pandemic have been made better by communications.

The President’s address included a variety of topics, including record student enrollment, campus diversity and inclusion, the strategic plan, campus vaccination details, and the University community’s persistence in the COVID-19 pandemic.

The President opened the floor for questions which included:

- Is the data from UK HealthCare’s employee vaccination and testing requirements included in the University dashboard? The President responded yes.
- Clarification on campus employees conducting research at UK HealthCare and adherence to UK HealthCare’s vaccination requirements was requested. The President replied that Vice President for Research Lisa Cassis would follow up to clarify.
- How will potential measures from President Biden, including a possible vaccine mandate for companies with more than 100 personnel, affect the University? The President commented on the University’s strong infrastructure developed to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, noting he was grateful for the University’s efforts to meet whatever standards may be released.
- What are his thoughts on the transparency in healthcare employees knowing their peers are vaccinated, while campus employees and students do not? The President replied that situations involving employee and student relationships are a matter of privacy, requiring caution. He commented that he was encouraged by the information available on the University COVID-19 dashboard and the University’s adherence to CDC guidelines.

- Can the campus COVID-19 dashboard have more detailed case numbers, as well as historical data? The President introduced Acting Provost Robert DiPaola and Senior Assistant Provost and Executive Director of Institutional Research, Analytics and Decision Support Todd Brann, who provided clarification.

2. Minutes from May 3, 2021 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the minutes from May 3, 2021. There being **no objections**, the minutes from May 3, 2021 were **approved by unanimous consent**.

The Chair welcomed new senators, noting his appreciation for their continued interest in shared governance.

The Chair introduced and expressed his appreciation to Vice Chair DeShana Collett (HS).

The Chair introduced Parliamentarian Clayton Thyne.

The Chair expressed his appreciation to the SC Office staff, providing a short summary of their responsibilities.

The Chair introduced the chairs and liaisons for the academic councils: Undergraduate Council (UC) chaired by Corrine Williams (PH) with Alberto Corso (AS) serving as SC liaison; Health Care Colleges Council (HCCC) chaired by Sheila Melander (NU) with Paco Andrade (ME) serving as SC liaison; Graduate Council (GC) chaired by Acting Dean of the Graduate School Martha Peterson with Melinda Wilson (ME) serving as SC liaison.

The Chair mentioned the UK Work-Life survey started today. He commented the survey sought to better understand employee perceptions about working at UK and would be open until Friday, September 24, 2021.

The Chair asked the Senators to respect the curricular proposal deadlines. If seeking a fall 2022 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:

- December 1, 2021 for new degree program proposals
- March 1, 2022 for other proposals requiring committee review
- April 12, 2022 for courses, all other program changes, and minors

3. Officer Reports

a. Chair

The Chair expressed his gratitude for the SC's contributions during the summer.

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 following took place:

- The Chair approved changes to K Week dates.
 - K Week for Fall 2021 was one day shorter, beginning on August 19 instead of August 18
- The Chair expressed the opinion that proposed changes to Administrative Regulations 5:4 ("Appointment and Training of Graduate Medical Education for Residents and Fellows") and 5:5 ("Appeal Procedure for Graduate Medical Education Residents and Fellows") did not need formal SC or Senate input beyond comments from Senate's representatives on the Regulations Review Committee, and noted the changes needed to be updated in May to onboard new residents and fellows.
- The Chair approved nonstandard calendar request (one-time) for NRE 320 over the summer.

- Course for Natural Resources and Environmental Science students were studying away
- Due to COVID-19, scheduling conflicts prevented some students from participating in the regular courses for Robinson Forest or Costa Rica
- The Chair approved waiver of language in SR 5.5.2.2 about GPA calculation for degree honors for PharmD 2021 cohort.
 - 2015 curriculum redesign contained several courses designated Pass/Fail, reducing minimum number of quality hours used in Latin Honors calculation
 - Waiver allowed the standard historical calculation method involving earned hours vs quality hours be permitted for the purposes of determining honors status for 2021 cohort
 - Chair asked the PharmD faculty to develop a proposal to the Senate to resolve this issue
- For Fall 2021 semester only and only for reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chair delegated authority for temporary DL curricular approvals to the local educational unit administrator on behalf of the unit faculty.
- The Chair waived SRs related to the calculation of GPA for degree honors for the JD 2021 cohort.
 - Rosenberg College of Law requested 3 students in dual degree programs be evaluated with respect to earned hours required for their particular JD, rather than the traditional 90 hours JD requirement
 - When COVID-19 resulted in all Spring 2020 Law courses being graded on a pass/fail basis, three dual degree students had slightly fewer graded hours than they would need to qualify for Latin Honors on the traditional metric, despite GPAs qualifying them for recognition
- The Chair approved clerical changes to Law's 2021-22 calendar.
- The Chair approved clerical change to 2021 Summer Session for Graduate School.
- The Chair approved clerical change to Fall 2021 calendar.
- The SC approved proposed changes to 2021-22 PharmD calendar.
- The SC approved two late additions to degree lists on August 30.
 - May 2021 degree list, Gatton College of Business and Economics Student BG-72
 - Completed requirements for second degree prior to Spring 2021 graduation date, degree application not entered due to an administrative error
 - August 2021 degree, College of Education Student CB-60
 - Student misadvised to take two classes in Fall 2021 but was eligible to graduate in May 2021
- SC sent a formal response to the strategic plan draft to the President and Provost and met with the Provost on Wednesday, September 8, 2021.
 - In-depth discussion occurred among SC members and the Provost
 - Another such meeting is anticipated after the next strategic plan iteration

b. Vice Chair

i. *Outstanding Senator Award*

The Chair welcomed Vice Chair DeShana Collett (HS). Vice Chair Collett explained that the Outstanding Senator Award was created in 2011 to recognize outstanding contributions by

senators. The criteria for the award was changed in 2017 to allow former senators, as well as current senators, to be nominated. However, it does not allow current SC members to be nominated. She informed senators of the criteria for selection of Outstanding Senator. These include:

- Showing active and exemplary service on one or more Senate committees during their tenure.
- Substantively communicating with the Senate and while working with the faculty at large on important issues that impact the faculty as a whole.
- Giving a strong voice to faculty issues in meetings, public events, and/or local/regional news media and actively defended the principle of shared governance in University forums and debates.
- Generating and effecting the Senate's larger agenda and goals

The Vice Chair then announced the 2021 Outstanding Senator Award was Gail Brion, in the College of Engineering, in the Department of Civil Engineering. The Vice Chair and Chair congratulated Brion.

c. Parliamentarian

The Chair introduced Parliamentarian Clayton Thyne (AS). Parliamentarian Thyne commented he would do his best to help the Chair run Senate meetings effectively. He asked senators to speak up if they needed more information or clarification about what was occurring. He explained how senators can utilize "point of information," noting it was a very important tool.

d. Trustees

Trustee Blonder (ME) noted that Trustee Swanson would not be able to attend this portion of the meeting.

Blonder reported highlights from the most recent Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting including:

- The Executive Committee discussed the Presidential evaluation process and the BOT self-evaluation process. Both processes would be further discussed during the mid-October retreat.
- Additions and revisions to the degree list mentioned earlier by the Chair were approved.
- The appointment of Vice President for Institutional Diversity Katrice Albert, effective September 27, 2021.
- Information about current UK HealthCare hospitalizations due to COVID-19.
- Investment Committee and University Health Care Committee both had retreats.
- The current endowment exceeding \$2 billion after a 27% gain this year.
- President Capilouto's address to the BOT.

4. Memorial Resolution for Professor David C. Randall, Past Senate Council Chair

The Chair welcomed David Pienkowski (EN) to present the Memorial Resolution for Professor David C. Randall, Past Senate Council Chair.

Memorial Resolution for Professor David C. Randall

David Clark Randall departed this life on the 11th of April this year from metastatic colon cancer. Born in 1945 in St. Louis, Missouri, where his father was a physiologist at St. Louis University. Nine years later his family moved to Chicago so his father could assume the Chair of Physiology

at Loyola University College of Medicine. An Eagle Scout, Dave graduated from Maine East High School in 1963, Taylor University (Indiana) in 1967, and the University of Washington (Seattle) in 1972. Following in his father's footsteps, he accepted a faculty position at Johns Hopkins University after graduate school. Three years later, in 1975, he accepted a faculty position at UK in the Department of Physiology. He held two primary faculty appointments: one in Physiology the other in the Center for Biomedical Engineering (now the F. Joseph Halcomb III, M.D. Department of Biomedical Engineering).

Dr. Randall had an active Physiology research program studying cardiovascular function, operant conditioning, and behavioral aspects of autonomic regulation with healthcare applications in Biomedical Engineering particularly those applied to various gravitational environments. He was active until his illness and wrote or co-authored several textbooks, more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and tenaciously secured extramural funding. His myriad multidisciplinary and multi-institutional collaborations with students, staff, and faculty were his major source of delight - they brought joy to his research and to his collaborators.

David loved teaching and his students. He put as much into his exams as he did his lectures. He often said it took him 45 minutes to write each exam question so that he had the correct discriminators to produce a grade distribution mimicking a normal curve. He was a member of countless masters or doctoral committees and would read every draft of a dissertation in its entirety. This he considered one of his most important and enjoyable responsibilities. For 35 years, he also taught a night class in Physiology at Asbury University. His passion for students extended beyond the classroom as he frequently invited his students to his home.

Dr. Randall also enjoyed mentoring and helping junior faculty. He would respond at a moment's notice to fill vacancies in the lecture schedule for unforeseen absences of his colleagues.

During his more than 43 years at UK, Dr. Randall served on countless committees in the College of Medicine as well as the Faculty Senate (which he chaired for two years), the Library, and the Institutional Animal Care and Utilization Committee. He joked that his middle initial "C" stood for committee after he received notice to attend a meeting of a committee he didn't know he was a member. He was a past president of the International Pavlovian Society.

Dr. Randall clearly demonstrated he was a man of strong faith. He was the faculty advisor to the student chapter of the Christian Medical and Dental Association during his entire stay at UK. He also loved teaching Sunday school at his church where he served as an elder.

David was a voracious reader, mostly non-fiction American, European and Ancient History. His research extended beyond physiology to include his family tree, tracing it back to 16th century England. He loved farming, horses, photography, ham radio (K9ARK), flying (he was a licensed pilot), traveling, hiking, dogs, his pet snapping turtles, and getting to know people of all walks of life. He also loved that his career at UK allowed time for his family. Surviving him are his wife, three sons, four grandchildren, and a sister.

Kaveh Tagavi (EN) **moved** that the resolution be made a part of the minutes. Vice Chair Collett **seconded**. A **vote** was taken, the resolution **passed** with one opposed and two abstained.

A moment of silence of was taken after the vote for Professor David C. Randall.

5. Proposed Change to *Senate Rules 2.1.3* (“Academic Holidays”)

The Chair explained the proposed change to *Senate Rules 2.1.3*. There were no questions about the proposed change. The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the requested change to *Senate Rules 2.1.3*. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required.

The Chair asked if there was any debate on the proposal and there was none. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

6. Proposed Change to *Senate Rules 3.2.2* (“Course Numbering System”)

The Chair explained the proposed change to *Senate Rules 3.2.2*. There was clarification that the change would not affect other course numbers with other prefixes. The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the requested change to *Senate Rules 3.2.2*. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required.

The Chair asked if there was any debate on the proposal and there was none. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

7. Proposed Change to *Senate Rules 5.2.5.2.1* (“Excused Absences,” “Acceptable Excuses”)

The Chair explained the proposed change to *Senate Rules 5.2.5.2.1*. Discussion regarding to remote student activity during a period of quarantine was discussed. Senate members discussed ramifications of quarantine (such as loss of wireless internet connection due to relocation) that may disrupt the student’s ability to complete academic work even if not ill. The Chair then said that the **motion** on the floor was a recommendation that the University Senate approve the requested change to *Senate Rules 5.2.5.2.1*. Because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair asked if there was any debate.

Roger Brown (AG) **moved to amend** the motion by removing the words “in-person” from the proposed change. Tagavi (EN) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate.

Further debate took place. Kenneth Calvert (EN) **moved** to call the question on the amendment. Brion (EN) **seconded**. A **vote** was taken, and the motion to cease debate **passed**, with thirteen opposed and eight abstained.

A **vote** was taken on the amendment, and the motion **passed**, with fourteen opposed and nine abstained.

A **vote** to approve the amended proposed change was taken, and the motion **passed**, with two opposed and eight abstained.

8. Committee Reports

a. Senate’s Academic Facilities Committee

i. *2020-21 Annual Report – Past Chair, Kevin Donahue*

Due to a time constraint, the Chair recommended Agenda Item 8 (Committee Reports) be revisited in a future session. There were **no objections**.

9. Ombud's Report – Past Ombud Kaveh Tagavi

- a. Report for 2019-20
- b. Report for 2020-21

Due to a time constraint, the Chair recommended Agenda Item 9 (Ombud's Report) be revisited in a future session. There were **no objections**.

10. Resolution on Vaccine Mandate for UK (per *Senate Rules 1.2.3.3* (“Agendas and Action Items”))

The Chair introduced Molly Blasing (AS) to introduce the Resolution on the Vaccine Mandate for UK. Blasing **moved** that the Senate adopt the Resolution on the Vaccine Mandate for UK:

Whereas, on August 23, 2021, the F.D.A. granted full approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine;

Whereas, the F.D.A. approval has led to new vaccination requirements at hospitals, colleges, universities, the federal government, and private companies across the United States;

Whereas, on September 8, 2021, the Commonwealth of Kentucky reached its highest COVID-19 positivity rate (14.17%) since the start of the pandemic;

Whereas, the delta variant of the COVID-19 virus is much more contagious and is affecting more young people in our communities than the original strain;

Whereas, hospital intensive care units across the Commonwealth are at or near capacity;

Whereas, as of September 13, 2021, 1,023 [other colleges and universities in the United States](#) already require vaccinations, including other flagship state universities, such as the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Ohio State University, and Indiana University; and four institutions in Kentucky, Transylvania University, Bellarmine University, Berea College, and Centre College;

Whereas, public health and immunology experts at UK believe that population immunity against the delta variant can only be achieved when we reach 90-95% vaccinated, meaning that our current 81.5% vaccination rate (as of 9/10/21) still presents conditions that jeopardize the health, welfare, and lives of people on campus and in our local community, particularly children under 12 and others at increased risk;

Whereas, some students, faculty, and staff on our campus are already subject to a vaccine mandate;

Whereas, as of September 13, 2021, over 2300 members of the UK community have signed an [open letter](#) in support of a vaccine mandate;

And whereas, the University of Kentucky, the flagship university of the Commonwealth, has a long-standing legacy of playing a leadership role in Kentucky on issues of health, education, agriculture, law and many other fields that impact the citizens of the commonwealth, on this particular issue of health policy, the University of Kentucky has a responsibility to lead.;

Be it resolved, that, the University Senate:

Calls on President Capilouto to issue an immediate vaccination mandate for eligible University of Kentucky students, faculty, and staff;

And that such a mandate be implemented in a fair and equitable manner with input from the University Senate, Staff Senate, and other impacted stakeholders.

Akiko Takenaka (FA) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was debate.

A lengthy debate took place. Senate members discussed a number of items, including:

- Campus and community safety
- Effective ways of encouraging vaccination
- Effective implementation and enforcement of a vaccine mandate
- Comparisons to other universities with and without vaccine mandates
- Impact of a vaccine mandate on faculty

After substantial debate took place, the Chair asked Senate members if they were ready for the question and Senate members agreed. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with sixteen opposed and seven abstained. The Chair noted he would communicate the Senate's adoption of the resolution to the President.

11. Items from the Floor (Time Permitting)

Time did not permit for items from the floor.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 PM with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
Senate Council Chair

Absences: Allison Gibson, Allison Wright, Angie Martin, Caleb Frush, Chipper Griffith, Christine Harper, Colleen Swartz, Craig Collins, Debra Harley, George Wright, Howard Roberts, Jay Miller, Jeff Okeson, Julian Heilig, Jurgen Rohr, Justin Lane, Kirsten Turner, Lauren Cagle, Mark Birdwhistell, Mary Vosevich, Melissa Morgan, Michael Kennedy, Mike Richey, Patrick Haycraft, Robert Coleman, Scott Yost, Sean Peffer, Stefan Bird-Pollan

Invited guests present: Bob DiPaola, David Pienkowski, Kevin Donohue, Kim Taylor, Todd Brann

Prepared by Katie Silver on Monday, October 4, 2021