Senate Council

Monday, August 29, 2022

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 PM on Monday, August 29, 2022, in 103 Main Building, although a video conference link was also available for members. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken electronically unless otherwise specified. Specific voting information can be requested from the Office of the Senate Council (SC).

Senate Council Chair DeShana Collett (HS) called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:00 PM. The Chair welcomed those present. She informed everyone that the session was being recorded for notetaking purposes and noted that it was an open meeting. She asked that all attendees, online and in person, state their name and affiliation prior to speaking, to ensure everyone knew who was speaking. The Chair asked SC members to be ready to vote via Poll Everywhere and noted that the SC office staff recommend voting through Poll Everywhere in a web browser if possible. The Chair reminded SC members that regarding the ability to speak, members must raise their hand to be called upon.

1. Minutes from August 22 and Announcements

The Chair reported that no edits were received for the minutes from the August 22 SC meeting. There being **no objections**, the minutes from August 22 were **approved as distributed by unanimous consent**.

The Chair informed SC members that the University was dedicating the "Dr. Michael M. Goodin Center for Agricultural Fluorescence-Microscopy Experimentation and Biological Imaging." The Chair commented that Goodin passed in 2020, noting his academic work and service to the Undergraduate Council.

The Chair reported that she gave a presentation to the faculty council of the College of Communication and Information at their request, regarding the Senate's approval process.

The Chair informed SC members that Kristine Urschel (AG) had accepted position of Undergraduate Council Chair, noting her appreciation for Urschel's willingness to serve and lead.

2. Old Business

a. Rule Waivers for Academic Holidays

The Chair explained there had been concerns regarding past waivers of academic holidays, noting that proposers often ask for nonstandard course calendars and waivers of, or changes to, academic holidays. The Chair explained that in 2012, the University Senate adopted a general standard of 800 minutes of direct contact per semester for one hour of lecture. The Chair noted that when SC approved waivers of academic holidays without a substitute holiday, students were required to engage in more academic work for the same amount of credit. The Chair requested discussion from SC members to inform the SC office on how to offer guidance to proposers and guide the Calendar Committee.

SC members discussed the following topics related to rule waivers for academic holidays:

- Need to define pedagogical necessity for requests to waive academic holidays
- Courses with nonstandard calendars such as clinical practicums or student teaching and when those students can have an academic holiday that was waived
- The importance of Reading Days
- Need to reinforce Senate standards related to academic holidays
- The current allowance for separate calendars for professional programs
- Possibility of articulating what alternatives are acceptable

- Sending current rule waiver requests for academic holidays to the Calendar Committee

When the discussion wound down, the Chair summarized that requests for waivers of academic holidays would need to include a description of why the request is pedagogically necessary, along with clear evidence about why the request should be approved.

3. Degree List

a. Late Addition to August 2022 Degree List

The Chair explained there was a late addition to the August 2022 degree list due to an administrative error. SC members discussed the administrative error briefly. Richard Charnigo (HP) **moved** for elected faculty members of SC amend the August 2022 degree list by adding the Bachelor of Music in Music Education for the student in question & recommend through the President to the Board of Trustees that the degree be awarded effective August 2022. Marilyn Duncan (ME) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate. Concerns were expressed about the timing of events as described by the college. SC members briefly debated. Faculty Trustee Aaron Cramer (EN) suggested investigating the matter would be appropriate due to the unique nature of the case. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with one opposed and none abstained. The Chair agreed to follow up regarding additional details about the request.

4. Committee Reports

a. Senate Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) – Leslie Vincent, Chair

i. *Proposed New Undergraduate Certificate in Esports Performance and Management*

SAPC Chair Leslie Vincent (BE) described the proposal for a new Undergraduate Certificate in Esport Performance Management to SC members. The Chair asked if there were any questions.

SC members asked a variety of questions, including the following:

- If other units on campus had been solicited regarding the proposal, given the popularity of esports on campus
  - o Proposer Justin Nichols (ED) explained that the College of Communication and Information wanted to collaborate
- What the definition of esports was
  - o Nichols explained that the certificate involved electronic sport and gaming, noting that it was not all classified as sport, and that some was recreational, but habits like staying up late could still negatively impact gaming performance
- Why the "e" was capitalized instead of lower case
  - o Nichols explained this was a branding decision
- If there was partnership with the current esports facility on campus
  - o Nichols noted that there would be for one of the courses in the certificate

The Chair noted that the **motion** on the floor was for SC to recommend the University Senate approve the establishment of a new Undergraduate Certificate in Esport Athlete Performance and Management, in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion within the College of Education. 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 or abstained.

5. Senate Committee Compositions

The Chair explained that, per the *Senate Rules,* the SC was responsible for composing all Senate Committees. The Chair noted that this was an annual activity typically performed in late spring or early fall. The Chair asked SC members to review the proposed committee compositions and discuss any concerns if necessary.

SC members discussed the proposed Senate committee compositions at length and made changes to the proposed Senate Committee compositions. SC members considered a variety of factors including the following:

- Balanced representation from colleges across committees
- Specifying whether ex officio members were voting or nonvoting
- Activity level for each committee
- The addition of non-Senate University faculty to committees that needed more representation
- The addition of a faculty administrator to the Senate Distance Learning and eLearning committee, as an ex officio nonvoting member

The Chair explained that a proposal would be presented to SC members in September regarding the Provost Committee on Advising.

Bob Grossman (AS) **moved** to approve the committee compositions as modified during the discussion. Vincent **seconded.** The Chair asked if there were any objections and there were none. There being **no objections**, the committee compositions were **approved as modified by unanimous consent**.

Vincent **moved** to delegate the responsibility for identifying committee chairs that have not yet been confirmed, as well as address any final edits to compositions to the SC Chair. Duncan **seconded.** The Chair asked if there were any objections and there were none. There being **no objections,** the responsibility for identifying committee chairs that have not yet been confirmed, as well as address any final edits to compositions was delegated to the Chair by **unanimous consent.**

7. Tentative Senate Agenda for September 12, 2022

In the interest of time, the Chair asked SC members to consider agenda item 7 first before item 6. The were **no objections.**

The Chair informed SC members of the following items pertaining to the September 12, 2022, Senate meeting:

- The Senate needed a new parliamentarian, and she was actively seeking someone to fill that position
- The feedback from Senate members regarding preferred modality for a hybrid meeting was about evenly split between attending online or in-person
- The meeting would be held on the third floor in the Gatton College of Business and Economics
- The meeting location was selected carefully to ensure best audio-visual capability to successfully hold a large format hybrid meeting with increased engagement

Grossman **moved** to approve the September 12, 2022, Senate agenda, with the understanding that items may be reordered to accommodate presenters. Vincent **seconded**. There being **no objections,** the September 12, 2022, Senate agenda was **approved by unanimous consent.**

6. Proposed Changes to *Senate Rules 1.4.2 ("Structure of University Senate Committees," "Standing Committees")*

The Chair noted that per discussions at the SC retreat, the proposed changes to the S*enate Rules 1.4.2 ("Structure of University Senate Committees," "Standing Committees")* were nearing completion. The Chair explained the proposed changes would be presented to the Senate at the September 12 meeting, after which the SREC would ensure the three new committees fit properly into the omnibus text. The Chair asked for SC members to discuss the proposed changes.

SC members discussed the following:

- A clerical edit to correct the abbreviation for the Senate Nominating Committee

- The language regarding the appointment of ex officio members by the President or the Provost to the Senate Calendar Committee and the Senate Nominating Committee
  - Cramer noted that he did not believe the language "if that person so desires" was necessary at the end of this proposed language, noting that the SC had the authority to appoint committee members specifically each year

Grossman **moved** that the proposed language "if that person so desires" be added to the Senate Calendar Committee and Senate Nominating Committee composition descriptions. Tagavi **seconded.** SC members briefly debated whether the language was necessary. Grossman withdrew his motion, with Tagavi concurring.

Vincent **moved** to approve the proposed changes with the corrected abbreviation for the Senate Nominating Committee to "SNC" instead of "SCC." Davis **seconded.** The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken by show of hands, and the motion **passed** with none opposed or abstained.

8. Items from the Floor
Time did not permit for items from the floor.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM with **no objections.**

Respectfully submitted by,
DeShana Collett

Prepared by Katie Silver on Friday, September 9, 2022

SC Members Present: Cantrell, Collett, Charnigo, Cramer, Davis, Duncan, Grossman, Laws, Raglin, Swanson, Takenaka, Tagavi, Vincent

Invited Guests Present: Sheila Brothers, Robert DiPaola