

Senate Council

Monday, September 25, 2023

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 PM on Monday, September 25, 2023, 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 3:02 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. The Chair reminded SC members that regarding the ability to speak, members must raise their hand to be called upon. The Chair also reminded everyone that SC members would have priority speaking, noting that others may be called upon as needed and given a chance to speak only if there were no additional comments from SC members.

1. Minutes from August 28, 2023 and Announcements

The Chair informed SC members that no edits were received to the August 28, 2023 minutes. There being **no objections**, the minutes from August 28, 2023 were **approved as distributed by unanimous consent**.

The Chair mentioned the Senate Council is asking colleges to complete their elections for senators by early February this year.

2. Nominees

a. Senate Council Liaison to Graduate Council

The Chair named the individual who had served in that role in the past. The Chair opened the floor for discussion. There was some discussion. Members named an individual to serve in this role and the chair agreed to contact them.

b. Senate Council Liaison to Health Care Colleges Council

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. There were a number of suggestions for liaison. The Chair named two individuals who the Senate Council will nominate to be liaison to the Health Care Colleges Council.

c. Senate Council Liaison to Undergraduate Council

Bob Grossman (AS) volunteered to be liaison to the Undergraduate Council.

Doug Michael (LA) **moved to** approve the nominees for liaisons to the Graduate Council, Undergraduate Council, and the Health Care Colleges Council. Sandra Bastin (AG) **seconded**. The Chair opened the floor to members for questions of fact and debate.

A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed or abstained.

d. UK Core Committee Membership

The Chair stated there are vacancies in the UK Core Committee this year, and stated there are three nominees to fill these roles. The Chair asked for a motion to approve these nominees.

Sandra Bastin (AG) **moved to** approve the nominees for the UK Core Committee. Elizabeth Salt (NU) **seconded**. The Chair opened the floor to members for questions of fact and debate. There were no questions or debate.

A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed or abstained.

3. Committee Reports

a. Senate Faculty Affairs Committee

i. Update on activities

Jennifer Cramer (AS), co-chair of the Senate Academic Facilities Committee (SAFC), gave an update on the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee, including notes from the Committee's first meeting. The Committee is currently working on issues related to title series, distributions of effort, and sabbaticals. The Chair thanked Cramer for her report and opened the floor for questions. There were no questions.

b. Senate Rules and Elections Committee

i. Recommendation for Ad Hoc Committee to review policies on excused and unexcused absences.

Roger Brown (AG), chair of the Senate Rules and Elections Committee (SREC), recommended the formation of an Ad Hoc committee to review University rules on excused and unexcused absences and the 20% rule on absences. The Chair opened the floor for discussion. There were many questions and concerns voiced, including the need to include representatives from Athletics, Reserve Officer Training Corps, and the Disability Resource Center in this new committee.

Elizabeth Salt (NU) **moved to** approve the formation of an Ad Hoc committee. Sandra Bastin (AG) **seconded**. The Chair opened the floor to members for questions of fact and debate.

SC members discussed the formation of the charge for this Ad Hoc committee. There were a number of comments, suggestions, and concerns. The Chair concluded the formation of the charge should be brought to the full Senate at future Senate meetings.

A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with one opposed and none abstained.

c. Senate Academic Facilities Committee

i. Update on Activities

Akiko Takenaka (AS), chair of the Senate Academic Facilities Committee (SAFC) provided an update on the activities of the Senate Academic Facilities Committee. Takenaka voiced frustration that the committee is not being kept up to date on plans for the renovation of the Whitehall Classroom Building. There were a number of comments and suggestions from SC members. The Chair thanked Takenaka for her update and advised the Council will continue to make sure there is transparency to allow the Senate to advise on the renovation.

d. Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Teacher-Course Evaluations

i. Update on Activities

Elizabeth Salt (NU), chair of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Teacher-Course Evaluations provided an update on committee activities. There were no questions.

4. Items from the Floor (Time Permitting)

Molly Blasing (AS) mentioned at the last Senate meeting, there was a lot of discussion and multiple amendments, which resulted in Senators being confused about what they were voting on. Blasing asked that in the future, if amendments are on the floor, that there be more detail available on screen regarding what

amendments are under discussion. The Chair stated the Senate Council Office has been discussing how to address this.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 pm with **no objections**.

Respectfully submitted by,
DeShana Collett

Prepared by Dori Grady on Tuesday, September 26, 2023

SC members present: Blasing, Collett, Cramer, Duncan, Grossman, Michael, Reynolds, Salt, Swanson, Takenaka, White

Invited guests present: Sheila Brothers, Robert DiPaola, Gregg Rentfrow