

# Senate Council

Monday, November 20, 2023

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 PM on Monday, November 20, 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 3:00pm. 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 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 and if time permits.

## 1. Minutes from November 6, 2023 and Announcements

The Chair informed SC members that no edits were received for the minutes from November 6, 2023. There being no objections, the minutes from November 6, 2023 were **approved as distributed by unanimous consent**.

## 2. Old Business

### a. Campuswide Initiative Updates

The Chair stated that all SC members should have received an email from President Capilouto regarding Campuswide Initiatives. The Chair welcomed the President to the meeting and stated that SC members had raised some concerns regarding the composition of the committee working on UK Core as well as the proposed confidentiality requirements for all committees. The Chair opened the floor to SC members for discussion.

SC members raised a number of questions and concerns, including those listed below:

- Concern over where this initiative comes from, to which the President answered that the strategic plan was endorsed by the Board of Trustees two years ago.
- Concern over the role of any potential outside consultants. The President replied that any outside consultants will be involved to gather information quickly to allow a committee to make informed decisions. The President emphasized that the goal of the committees was not to make cuts of any sort.
- How the Senate would be involved in the process and the justification for invoking confidentiality among members. The President replied that he wanted the University to be engaged with a review, as opposed to being asked to undertake the review. He wants people to be able to speak freely during committee proceedings without the fear of being reported out of context.

- Imbalance between representatives of students, staff, and faculty on the committees and the appointed administrators. The President replied that all information from the committee will be reported and the Senate will have an opportunity to comment on this information. In response to an assertion that the composition was unbalanced, he indicated he would review the composition.
- Concern over whether the administrators on the committee are in a good position to gather the necessary data. The President reassured that they are, in some cases, but not all.
- Concern over predetermined outcomes for the committee. The President replied that this is about understanding what is being taught at the University and how effectively it is being taught. The President reassured SC that there are no predetermined outcomes.
- Concern over transfer students in determining if the student has the necessary core knowledge or equivalency. The President replied that this will be something the committee will have to discuss.

General discussion about UK Core and general education followed. When there were no further questions, the Chair thanked the President and stated the SC will continue to look at these initiatives as they move forward.

### 3. Prerequisite Equivalences

The Chair reminded SC members of the previous discussion regarding the Senate Rules (SR) on prerequisites and stated she would like to have further discussion to decide how to move forward. She clarified that the matter should involve identifying an equivalency for a prerequisite, not actually waiving the prerequisite because a prerequisite describes academic preparedness that may be achieved other than through a specific course. The Chair stated two topics were discussed in the previous meeting; 1) Prerequisite equivalencies and 2) Turning on and off prerequisites. The Chair clarified that turning on and off prerequisites by the Registrar began at least 10 years ago and added that this issue was brought to the Senate by the Registrar. The Chair opened the floor to SC members for discussion.

SC members voiced multiple concerns and opinions, including;

- Concern of the speed of the proposed two-step process
- Concern over making sure the process for determining equivalencies and outcomes are equitable
- A suggestion of leaving this as a one-step process while implementing a record and review process to ensure equity
- Providing language to colleges and departments to use if they wish to delegate further down from the college level
- A suggestion to consider allowing college unit faculty to delegate the final authority, such as to the department faculty bodies or instructor

SC members continued to discuss waiver thresholds and potential required data gathering. SC members discussed what information would be useful to have on requests to modify prerequisites. Support was expressed for a report that included data about every instance when a prerequisite was modified, not any specific threshold. The Chair requested that SC members think about what data may be meaningful and should be gathered.

#### 4. Items from the Floor (Time Permitting)

The Chair opened the floor to SC members. An update was requested on the safety issue that was brought up last spring. The Chair replied that a campus safety workgroup was being formed to address campus wide safety. The President informed SC members that the nominees for the campus safety workgroup were accepted and the work group will move forward.

The Provost stated there was something he wished to have changed in the minutes from October 30, 2023. The Provost reported that section four of the minutes, Campuswide Strategic Plan Initiatives, incorrectly stated that the Provost was prohibiting discussion of the agenda item. The Provost informed SC members that he was prohibiting action, not discussion. The Provost added that he would never hinder discussion of a topic.

The Chair stated that a draft of the SC meeting minutes is sent to SC members for approval prior to them being finalized, and no edits were received to the October 30, 2023 minutes. There was a suggestion that it would be useful to also send a draft of the minutes to any guests that are quoted in the minutes so they may review them. This was not further discussed by the body. The Chair reminded SC that the procedures used for review of the minutes are in the Senate Rules, SC members also stated that during the October 30, 2023 meeting, the Provost had characterized the SC discussion on potential members for the campus-wide committee as being a form of action.

The Chair asked SC members if they would like to entertain a motion to consider reopening the October 30, 2023 minutes for review and edit. Bob Grossman (AS) **moved** to reopen the minutes so that the Provost has the opportunity to review and suggest any corrections, and that the corrections may be considered by SC office staff before being approved again by SC. Doug Michael (LA) **seconded**. Holly Swanson (ME) **moved** to amend the motion to include that the minutes be corrected pending verification by SC office staff. SC members voiced that they believe that portion of the minutes accurately portrayed the tension that was present. The Chair asked for a friendly amendment to make this specific to the October 30, 2023 rules. Grossman **moved** to make this specific to the October 30, 2023 minutes. Michael **seconded**.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm with no objections.

Respectfully Submitted by,

DeShana Collett

Prepared by Dori Grady on November 21, 2023

SC members present: Sandra Bastin, Molly Blasing, Aaron Cramer, Olivia Davis, Bob Grossman, Lizzie Hornung, Doug Michael, Elizabeth Salt, Hollie Swanson, Akiko Takenaka, Kiersten White

Invited guests: Sheila Brothers, Robert DiPaola, Gregg Rentfrow, Eli Capilouto