

# Senate Council

Monday, January 22, 2024

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 PM on Monday, January 22, 2024, 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 an open meeting and would be conducted as such. 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 and if time permits.

## 1. Minutes from December 4, 2023 and Announcements

The Chair informed SC members that no edits were received to the minutes from December 4, 2023. There being no objections, the minutes from December 4, 2023 were **approved as distributed by unanimous consent**.

## 2. Comments from Sheila Brothers

The Chair introduced Sheila Brothers, office manager for the Senate Council Office, and informed SC members Sheila's last day at UK would be Friday, January 26, 2024. The Chair commended Sheila on her 28 years of service to the University, as well as her 18 years of service in the Senate Council office.

Sheila thanked the Chair for her kind words, and informed SC members she had accepted a new position with the Council on Postsecondary Education. In her new position, Sheila will be working on new programs and program assessments statewide. Sheila shared her first day at the Senate Council office was October 25, 2005, and since then she has worked with ten different Senate Council chairs. Sheila expressed gratitude for the wonderful SC Chairs she worked with: Ernie Yanarella (AS/Political Science), Kaveh Tagavi (EN/Mechanical Engineering), David Randall (ME/Physiology), Hollie Swanson (ME/Nutritional Sciences and Pharmacology), Katherine McCormick (ED/Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education), Jennifer Bird-Pollan (LA), Aaron Cramer (EN/Electrical and Computer Engineering), and DeShana Collett (HS/Physician Assistant Studies). She expressed particular appreciation for Chair Collett, who has been consistently supportive. She ended by expressing her appreciation towards the SC for all of their work in bettering the University.

The SC and other meeting attendees showed their appreciation to Sheila with a round of applause.

## 3. Request for Waiver of Two-Year Limit in Senate Rules 5.1.7.5.1 ("Retroactive Withdrawal," "Requirements") for College of Arts and Sciences Student AE-99

The Chair informed SC members there had been a request from Dean Ana Franko-Watkins, College of Arts and Sciences, to waive SR 5.1.7.5.1 for two students to allow submission of retroactive withdrawal appeals past the two-year submission deadline. The Chair informed SC members that guidance was

provided to deans in during the 2021-2022 academic year for requesting such waivers pertaining to the two-year rule. The guidance included the process by which a dean could make such a request on behalf of a student, if the dean felt the circumstances were particularly extraordinary. The Chair informed SC members the first request was for student AE-99 for the Fall 2001 and Spring 2002 semesters. The Chair stated this student was under the impression that they had submitted a request for withdrawal from these semesters in 2002, and was not aware until recently that these withdrawals had not been successful. The Chair continued that, due to the university's reliance on paper records during the semesters in question, it is possible the student's withdrawal request was misplaced.

Sandra Bastin (AG) **moved** to recommend Senate approve to waive SR 5.1.7.5.1 ("Retroactive Withdrawal," "Requirements") for the College of Arts and Sciences student AE-99, to allow submission of an RWA appeal past the 2-year deadline. Leslie Vincent (BE) **seconded**.

The Chair opened the floor to SC members for questions of fact or debate. Several concerns and questions were raised. It was clarified that SC was not voting to approve this withdrawal appeal, but to simply waive the SR for the two-year submission deadline. This would allow the Senate Retroactive Withdrawal Committee to review the appeal and make a final decision.

When there was no further discussion, a **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with one opposed and none abstained.

#### 4. Request for Waiver of Two-Year Limit in Senate Rules 5.1.7.5.1 ("Retroactive Withdrawal," "Requirements") for College of Arts and Sciences Student TJ-06

The Chair explained the second SR 5.1.7.5.1 waiver request from the College of Arts and Sciences was for student TJ-06 for the Summer and Fall 2019 semesters.

Vincent **moved** to recommend Senate approve to waive SR 5.1.7.5.1 ("Retroactive Withdrawal," "Requirements") for the College of Arts and Sciences student TJ-06, to allow submission of an RWA appeal past the 2-year deadline. Cassandra Gipson-Reichardt (ME) **seconded**.

The Chair opened the floor for questions of fact or debate.

Dean Franko-Watkins (AS) explained there were extenuating circumstances that contributed to this request. Franko-Watkins continued that student TJ-06 is in active duty military service and currently deployed in the Middle East. There was little discussion.

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

#### 5. Election of Vice Chair (June 1, 2024- May 30, 2025)

The Chair reminded SC members that Elizabeth Salt (NU) had resigned from the Senate and is therefore no longer the SC Vice-Chair Elect. The Chair introduced Roger Brown (AG), Senate Rules and Elections Committee chair, to run the election for Senate Council Vice Chair.

Brown stated there are five SC members who are eligible to be nominated for SC Vice Chair, and opened the floor for nominations. Vincent nominated Akiko Takenaka (AS) for SC Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. Brown concluded the election with one nomination, and named Takenaka the SC Vice Chair Elect, with a term starting on June 1, 2024. Takenaka was congratulated with a round of applause.

## 6. Proposed changes to SR 3

The Chair informed SC members that SR 3 needed to be updated to establish new policies for suspension of admissions and closure, as well as to reflect current practices related to processing program proposals. The Chair turned the floor over to the proposer, Sheila Brothers. Brothers explained the rationale behind the proposal, and summarized the proposal for SC members. Brothers emphasized this SR change would still allow for the suspension of admissions to programs for up to one year without Senate approval, but would implement a tracking system for these suspensions. The Chair stated this would provide the SC office with early alerts for program suspension and closures.

Vincent **moved** to recommend Senate approve the proposed changes to SR 3 as revised and direct the Senate Rules and Elections Committee to make revisions as needed if other areas of the Senate Rules need to be updated to reflect the SR 3 changes. Bastin **seconded**.

The Chair opened the floor to SC members for questions of fact or debate. Several concerns were voiced, including concern over the wording of several lines in the proposed language, as well as questions over who can initiate an admissions suspension. Brothers clarified that anyone can initiate the admissions suspension process, however it will be left up to the program faculty to decide whether to approve the suspension. Discussion continued, with SC members voicing many concerns.

Bastin **moved** to call the question. Doug Michael (LA) **seconded**. Gregg Rentfrow, Parliamentarian, confirmed a two-thirds vote was needed. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed or abstained.

A vote on the proposed changes to SR 3 was taken, and the motion passed with none opposed and one abstained.

## 7. Committee Reports

### a. Senate Faculty Affairs Committee- Jennifer Cramer and Karen Skaff, Co-Chairs

#### i. Report on Title Series

The Chair introduced Jennifer Cramer (AS), co-chair of the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee, and reminded SC members the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee was a new committee that was created a couple years ago. Cramer provided SC members with a thorough review of the committee's report, ending with a recommendation that SC create an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate further.

The Chair stated there was a motion on the floor to recommend Senate receive the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee report on Title Series and adopt the bulleted recommendations. The Chair explained that, because this **motion** came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair opened the floor for questions of fact or debate.

SC members voiced many concerns over the findings of the committee's review, particularly over the committee's finding that the number of tenure-eligible faculty is decreasing over the same period that tenure-ineligible faculty is increasing. SC members expressed concern over the impact a loss of tenure-eligible faculty could have on the academic freedom of the university. There was some discussion about the considerable increase of Clinical Title Series faculty, which are tenure-ineligible faculty.

Bastin **moved** to call the question. Molly Blasing (AS) **seconded**. Rentfrow reminded the Chair a two-thirds vote was required. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed and two abstained.

A **vote** was taken to recommend Senate receive the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee report on Title Series and adopt the bulleted recommendations. The motion **passed** with one opposed and one abstained.

#### 8. Senate Meeting Roundtable

SC members shared their thoughts on the December 11, 2023 Senate meeting. Many members stated the Senate meeting went very well, and expressed their gratitude for President Capilouto attending and remaining for the duration of the meeting. Members pointed out President Capilouto had attended three Senate meetings so far this year, and expressed their appreciation.

#### 9. Faculty 2022-23 Evaluation of the President

The Chair informed members she had presented the 2022-23 Faculty Evaluation of the President to the Board of Trustees at the October 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting. The Chair provided a brief review of the evaluation, noting areas the survey indicated were strengths for the President and areas the survey indicated needed improvement. SC members discussed the response rate of the faculty survey, noting the College of Medicine showed the lowest response rate. Members referred to the Senate Faculty Affairs Committee report on Title Series given earlier in the meeting, stating the College of Medicine has the largest increase in tenure-ineligible faculty. Members suggested the low response rate in the College of Medicine may be due to this.

#### 10. Items from the Floor

The Chair opened the floor to attendees for items. The Chair introduced an item to affirm the SC office practice of allowing students to be added to a degree list while the list is under SC and Senate review. Brothers briefly described this practice. The Chair clarified the SC already has this authority, this vote is just reaffirming.

Jennifer Cramer (AS) **moved** to affirm the SC office practice of allowing students to be added to a degree list while the list is under SC and Senate review. Sami Jones **seconded**. There was no discussion.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08pm with no objections.

Respectfully submitted by,

DeShana Collett

Prepared by Dori Grady on January 23, 2024

SC members present: Sandra Bastin, Molly Blasing, Olivia Davis, Cassandra Gipson-Reichardt, Lizzy Hornung, Sami Jones, Doug Michael, Justin Nichols, Hollie Swanson, Kaveh Tagavi, Akiko Takenaka, Leslie Vincent, Kiersten White

Invited guests present: Sheila Brothers, Bob DiPaola, Gregg Rentfrow, Ana Franko-Watkins