

# Senate Council

Monday, February 19, 2024

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 PM on Monday, February 19, 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. A test vote was held, and 8 votes were recorded. 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 February 5, 2024 and Announcements

The Chair informed SC members that no edits were made to the minutes from February 5, 2024. There being no objections, the minutes from February 5, 2024 were **approved as distributed by unanimous consent**.

The Chair announced there had been some concerns from faculty over the recent Faculty Affairs Committee Report. She stated that the report had, at no point, stated the need to eliminate the Clinical Title Series. The Chair clarified the report had discussed tenure eligible versus non-tenure eligible.

The Chair reminded SC members of the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting on February 23, 2024 and encouraged them and all faculty to attend this open meeting. The Chair provided SC with the times for the various work groups.

## 2. Committee Recommendations

### a. Senate Nominating Committee (SNC)- Joe Sottile, Chair

The Chair introduced Jennifer Bartlett (LI), Senate Nominating Committee member, who would be presenting in place of Joe Sottile (EN), Senate Nominating Committee chair. The Chair informed SC members there would be one vote to approve all of the nominees brought forth from the committee.

#### i. Nominees for Vice Provost Search Committee

Bartlett provided a brief overview of the six individuals the committee had selected to nominate for the Vice Provost Search Committee.

The Chair inquired as to how many of these nominees the Provost would select to serve on the search committee. Provost DiPaola clarified that the committee would contain multiple faculty

members, and at least one faculty member would be selected from the list of nominees provided by the Senate Council.

#### ii. Nominees for Dean of Lewis Honors College Summative Review Committee

Bartlett provided an overview of the five individuals the committee had chosen to nominate for the Dean of Lewis Honors College Summative Review Committee.

#### iii. Nominees for Dean of Libraries Summative Review Committee

Bartlett provided an overview of the six individuals the committee had chosen to nominate for the Dean of Libraries Summative Review Committee.

#### iv. Nominees for Dean of Social Work Summative Review Committee

Bartlett provided an overview of the five individuals the committee had chosen to nominate for the Dean of Social Work Summative Review Committee.

#### v. Nominees for Dean of College of Design Search Committee

Bartlett provided an overview of the six individuals the committee had chosen to nominate for the Dean of College of Design Search Committee.

The Chair stated there was a **motion** on the floor to approve the nominees for Vice Provost and Dean of Design Search Committees, and Dean Summative Review Committees for Lewis Honors College, Libraries, and Social Work. The Chair explained that, because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair opened the floor for questions of fact or debate.

There was little discussion.

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

#### b. Senate Committee on Distance Learning and E-Learning (SCDLeL)- Sara Police, Chair

##### i. Proposed Changes to Graduate Certificate in Accounting Analytics

Sara Police (ME), Senate Distance Learning and E-Learning Committee chair, provided a review of the proposed changes to the Graduate Certificate in Accounting Analytics.

The Chair stated there was a **motion** on the floor to recommend Senate approve the proposed changes to the Graduate Certificate in Accounting Analytics, and because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair opened the floor for questions of fact or debate.

There was little discussion.

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

##### ii. Proposed Changes to BA/BS Information Communication Technology

Police provided a review of the proposed changes to the BA/BS Information Communication Technology.

The Chair stated there was a **motion** on the floor to recommend Senate approve the proposed changes to BA/BS Information Communication Technology, and because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair opened the floor for questions of fact or debate.

There was no discussion.

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

### c. Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC)- Leslie Vincent, Chair

#### i. Proposed Large Ensemble Policy

The Chair stated this item had been pulled from the agenda.

#### ii. Changes to SR 5.1.6 “Changing Grades”

Leslie Vincent (BE), Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee chair, provided an overview of the proposed changes to SR 5.1.6, “Changing Grades.” The proposed changes included a revision of the deadline in which a grade change can occur.

The Chair stated there was a **motion** on the floor to recommend Senate approve the proposed changes to SR 5.1.6 “Changing Grades,” and because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair opened the floor for questions of fact or debate.

SC members voiced many concerns and questions, including:

- Concern over the new proposed deadline of four years from graduation
- Clarification on how it is known that a student has “left” the university
- A statement that a student’s undergraduate record is closed once they graduate, with concern voiced over changing grades after the record is closed

Associate Academic Ombud, Laura Ansel, clarified the proposal was intended to indicate the new deadline for changing grades would be four years from when the grade was entered.

Doug Michael (LA) **moved** to return the proposal to the committee for them to clarify and revise the language. Jennifer Cramer (AS) **seconded**.

The Chair stated there was a **motion** on the floor to return the proposed changes to SR 5.1.6 “Changing Grades” to the Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee for them to clarify and revise, and opened the floor for questions of fact or debate. There was no further discussion.

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

#### iii. Proposed Changes to BSLA Landscape Architecture

Vincent provided a review of the proposed changes to BSLA Landscape Architecture, which included a change in the required credits. This would allow students to complete the program in four years as opposed to five.

The Chair stated there was a **motion** on the floor to recommend Senate approve the proposed changes to BSLA Landscape Architecture, and because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Chair opened the floor for questions of fact or debate.

There was no discussion.

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

### 3. Committee Reports

#### a. Senate Academic Facilities Committee (SAFC)- Akiko Takenaka, Chair

Akiko Takenaka (AS), Senate Academic Facilities Committee chair, reminded those present that the Senate Academic Facilities Committee had been charged with making sure the upcoming renovation of Whitehall Classroom Building went smoothly. Takenaka informed SC the committee had sent a survey to department chairs of the three colleges that use the Classroom Building most often. Concerns raised from these surveys included:

- Equity among faculty regarding classroom scheduling
- Some departments that offer a large number of courses will be disproportionately affected by the renovation
- A need for guidance for department chairs and classroom schedulers
- A suggestion that faculty visit their planned classrooms for next semester to ensure they can accommodate their class size

The Chair opened the floor for questions and discussion. SC members engaged in rigorous discussion. Topics included:

- Concern that class enrollment will drop due to the necessary scheduling of classes outside of desired times, and a desire that instructors be protected from future scrutiny due to this expected drop in enrollment
- A concern of the total number of classrooms on campus that can accommodate a 250 student classroom size. The closure of Whitehall Classroom Building during the renovation will be removing several of these classrooms.
- A suggestion that additional administration attend future Senate Academic Facilities Committee meetings to gain their input on the matter

### 4. Legislative Proposal Discussion

The Chair reminded SC members they had received an invitation from President Capilouto for another legislative briefing, and stated she would like to have a discussion about any concerns SC members were hearing from their constituents. The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion included:

- Concerns being raised from student organizations regarding current legislative proposals
- Gratefulness for President Capilouto taking a strong stance against HB 228
- A statement regarding the importance of hearing from students on how the current legislative proposals will affect them

- Concern from students regarding potential loss of their diversity scholarships if current legislative proposals are passed

#### 5. Senate Meeting Roundtable

The Chair opened the floor to SC members to share their thoughts on the February 12, 2024 Senate meeting. Members stated the Senate meeting went well. Concerns were brought up regarding Senate members attending via Zoom not paying attention to the meeting.

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

The Chair opened the floor for items. SC members discussed the recent Faculty Trustee election, voicing concern over Lecturer Title Series faculty being ineligible to vote in the election. The Chair stated this would require a change in how the university defines a lecturer in its regulations.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52pm with **no objections**.

Respectfully submitted by,

DeShana Collett

Prepared by Dori Grady on February 20, 2024

SC members present: Hubie Ballard, Sandra Bastin, Molly Blasing, Jennifer Cramer, Oliva Davis, Cassandra Gipson-Reichardt, Lizzy Hornung, Sami Jones, Doug Michael, Justin Nichols, Hollie Swanson, Akiko Takenaka, Leslie Vincent, Kiersten White

Invited guests present: Laura Anshel, Jen Bartlett, Will Buntin, Bob DiPaola, Bob Grossman, Davy Jones, Jeff Payne, Sara Police