

Senate Council

Monday, February 26, 2024

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 PM on Monday, February 26, 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 Vice-Chair Sandra Bastin (AG) called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:00pm. The Vice-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 Vice-Chair asked SC members to be ready to vote via Poll Everywhere. A test vote was held, and 10 votes were recorded. The Vice-Chair reminded SC members that regarding the ability to speak, members must raise their hand to be called upon. The Vice-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 19, 2024 and Announcements

The Vice-Chair informed SC members that no edits were made to the minutes from February 19, 2024. There being no objections, the minutes from February 19, 2024 were **approved as distributed by unanimous consent**. There were no announcements.

2. Committee Recommendations

a. Graduate Council- Padraic Kenney, Chair

i. Proposed Changes to SRs 3.2.3.3.6 and 3/2/3/3/7 and GS 757/767

The Vice-Chair reminded SC members this proposal had been reviewed at the January 29, 2024 SC meeting, and SC voted to send it back to the Graduate Council for revisions.

Padraic Kenney, Graduate Council chair, provided an overview of the revisions made to the proposal. The Vice-Chair stated there was a **motion** on the floor to recommend Senate approve the proposed changes to SRs 3.2.3.3.6 and 3.2.3.3.7 and the accompanying changes to GS 757/767, and because the motion came from the Graduate Council, no **second** was required. The Vice-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 Academic Programs Committee (SAPC)- Sandra Bastin, Chair

i. Proposed New BA in Law and Justice

The Vice-Chair yielded the floor to SAPC member, Justin Nichols (ED). Nichols provided an overview of the proposed new degree. The Vice-Chair stated there was a **motion** on the floor to recommend Senate approve the proposed new BA in Law and Justice, and because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Vice-Chair opened the floor for questions of

fact or debate. Few questions were asked. A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with none opposed and one abstained.

ii. Proposed New Graduate Certificate in Public History

Nichols provided a brief review of the proposed new graduate certificate. The Vice-Chair stated there was a **motion** on the floor to recommend Senate approve the proposed new Graduate Certificate in Public History, and because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Vice-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 and one abstained.

iii. Proposed New Undergraduate Certificate in Agricultural Leadership

Nichols provided a review of the proposed new undergraduate certificate. The Vice-Chair stated there was a **motion** on the floor to recommend Senate approve the proposed new undergraduate certificate in Agricultural Leadership, and because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required. The Vice-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.

3. Outstanding Senator and Outstanding Senate Service Award Committee

The Vice-Chair reminded SC members of the addition of the Outstanding Senate Service Award, stating there would be two senators selected for the outstanding Senator Award and one faculty member selected for the Outstanding Senate Service Award. The Vice-Chair stated she needed two to three volunteers from Senate Council to serve on the award committee, and informed SC members they could e-mail her to volunteer.

4. Items from the Floor (Time Permitting)

The Vice-Chair opened the floor for items. Doug Michael (LA) **moved** to approve the resolution expressing profound concerns regarding proposed changes to the University Senate responsibility for educational policy. Akiko Takenaka (AS) **seconded**. The Vice-Chair stated there was a motion on the floor to approve the resolution expressing profound concerns regarding proposed changes to the University Senate responsibility for educational policy, and opened the floor for questions of fact or debate.

SC members engaged in rigorous discussion related to the recent Board of Trustees meeting, specifically CR1, and the resolution on the floor. Topics included:

- Concern about whether Board members received sufficient time to review and consider the Board of Trustees proposal before they were required to vote on it. Several SC members suggested this was a violation of normal procedures.
- Concern over the lack of transparency on the consulting group's research methodology. SC members suggested the research conducted was exploratory in nature, not conclusive, and should not be used to make any significant decisions.
- A desire to ensure negotiation and collaboration moving forward.

Jennifer Cramer (AS) **moved** to call the question. Leslie Vincent (BE) **seconded**. A hand **vote** was taken to end discussion, and the motion **passed** with one opposed and none abstained. A **vote**

was taken on the resolution, and the motion **passed** with ten approved, one opposed, and one abstained.

The Vice-Chair informed SC members that the March 4, 2024 SC meeting would take place in 311 Gatton Business and Economics Building to allow Senators and faculty the opportunity to come and voice their opinions and concerns on CR1.

SC members continued to discuss the recent Board of Trustees meeting and their concerns. Topics included:

- Difficulty knowing the impact of the recent Board of Trustees resolution as it was very general.
- Concern over taking educational policy decisions away from the college/department faculty and Senate. Removing the necessary expertise.
- A suggestion that the recent resolution from the Board of Trustees would set a dangerous precedent moving forward.
- Concern regarding how benchmark institutions were chosen, and a suggestion that additional benchmark institutions be found.
- The necessity of preserving the integrity and quality of academic programs.
- Concern that the Board of Trustees resolution will dissolve the current system of checks and balances at the university, thus eliminating the opportunity for shared governance and dissenting opinions to be heard.
- A reminder that being an inclusive campus includes having inclusive decision-making.
- A statement that the University Senate is essential for ensuring programs and policy remain consistent throughout campus.
- The need for student input and perspective, including how to best educate students on the role of the University Senate.
- Members voiced their dedication to ensuring the success of their students, stating how removing faculty expertise from educational policy decisions could negatively impact students.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37pm with **no objections**.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sandra Bastin

Prepared by Dori Grady on February 28, 2023

SC members present: Hubie Ballard, Sandra Bastin, Molly Blasing, DeShana Collett, Jennifer Cramer, 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: Roger Brown, Martha Grady, Bob Grossman, Christine Harper, Steve Isaacs, Davy Jones, Pdraic Kenney, Katherine McCormick, Keiko Tanaka, Lisa Tannock, Amy Taylor, Mike Zilis