

University Senate

Monday, March 18, 2024

The University Senate (Senate) met in regular session at 3:00 PM on Monday, March 18, 2024, in 311 Gatton College of Business and Economics and via Zoom. 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 meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The Chair asked Senate members attending in-person to sign in using the sign-in sheet in the back of the room. The Chair asked all Senate members to be ready to vote using Poll Everywhere and provided detailed instructions. A test vote was held and 72 votes were cast.

The Chair welcomed Senate members. The Chair reminded Senate members that Senate meetings were subject to KRS 61.826 (“Open Meetings laws”) and informed senators that the session was being recorded for note-taking purposes. The Chair informed Senate members that the Senate follows Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, and asked that Senators be civil and good citizens. The Chair asked Senate members to report back to those who elected them. The Chair noted that voting by proxy was prohibited.

The Chair reminded Senate members that individuals would be called upon at the Chair’s discretion and that Senate members were given first priority for speaking. The Chair reminded Senate members to keep their constituents informed by reporting back to those who elected them, noting the availability of Senate-provided distribution lists for each college that will be available soon.

The Chair asked Senate members to state their name and affiliation prior to speaking and to speak loudly and clearly. The Chair provided technical guidance to Senate members regarding Zoom, noting that the chat was disabled. The Chair asked those participating via Zoom to keep their camera on as much as possible with mics off unless speaking and to use a quality headset with mic button. The Chair provided guidance for using the table microphones for those attending in-person.

The Chair provided guidance to Senate members for participating or “seeking the privilege of the floor.” The Chair noted that Senate members must seek permission from the Chair to speak and described the reasons why a Senator would request to speak: the distinction between point of order, motioning, question of facts and debate, and calling the question.

The Chair welcomed President Eli Capilouto, University Senate Chair.

1. [President Eli Capilouto, University Senate Chair](#)

President Capilouto expressed his gratitude to those attending the Senate meeting. He expressed his appreciation of the unwavering commitment of University of Kentucky employees. The President’s address centered on updating those present on CR1, the recent Board of Trustees resolution. He informed those present of the timeline for the process of responding to the Board of Trustees recommended changes to the University’s Governing Regulations. The President emphasized this topic was not new, but a continuation of a direction that began in 2021 when the Board of Trustees passed UK’s Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan was intended to focus on

advancing Kentucky and providing more workforce-ready graduates. The President continued, stating that the Board of Trustees had directed him to prioritize revising the University's Governing Regulations, emphasizing that the Governing Regulations were essentially UK's constitution. He informed those present of the need to clarify UK's principles and provide a clear direction of how to work together to honor UK's mission. He stated the importance of scrutinizing and revising the Governing Rules to make them more user friendly. The President emphasized these changes were directed by the Board of Trustees and he intended to honor that direction.

The President outlined three main initiatives:

1. Ensuring more understanding and clarity. He emphasized the faculty's primacy in the development and implementation of curriculum and ensured those present that any changes to the Governing Regulations would ensure this remained. He stressed the need for more empowering guidelines and clear directions.
2. The need for more local control. He stated that college and unit faculty and administration should have a stronger, though not the only, voice in curricular decision making.
3. The need for more voices. He stated the University Senate was currently a senate in name, but not in practice, emphasizing that no vote equated to no voice. He stated the need to modify the current structure so that all would play a role in decision making.

The President informed those present of his intention to provide details about possible Governing Rules revisions by the end of the month. He stressed his intention to listen and make changes informed directly by feedback. The President then asked three questions of those present; What is your definition of shared governance? What is your experience? Should all areas have equal weight?

The President thanked those present for their time. The Chair opened the floor to attendees for questions.

- A faculty member expressed concern over the nature of the evidence Deloitte provided, stating the evidence was unprofessional and incorrect. They asked the President to ensure those present that the President would not use Deloitte's report as a starting point for future reforms. The President replied that the current Senate Rules don't make clear that the Board of Trustees has the final authority for policy making, stating this was the context they were focusing on.
- A faculty member inquired as to why Deloitte focused on the Senate. The President replied that there is a lack of clarity in the University's rules when it comes to educational policy. He stated that, based on numerous conversations, there was a reason to consider how UK governs itself.
- A Senate member expressed deep concern over the pace at which the Board of Trustees CR1 resolution was introduced, as well as the scientific validity of the data collected by Deloitte, and the confidential nature of Workgroup 5. They stressed that consulting a subset of faculty was not the same as consulting the faculty at large. They continued, emphasizing the importance of faculty electing their own representatives.
- A faculty member stressed the importance that faculty remain able to speak freely without fear, and stated the current Senate structure remained the best way to do so. The President replied he would work to protect faculty primacy for curricular matters.

- A faculty member recalled the President emphasizing the importance of putting Kentucky first. They recalled advances in campus infrastructure, including updating campus dorms. They questioned how the price increase associated with this new infrastructure aligned with putting Kentucky first, stating this was a hardship on first generation students originating from lower income areas of Kentucky. The President replied that the average tuition increase had been less than two percent, and the percentage of students originating from low-income families had remained steady.
- A faculty member stressed the concern of faculty over proposed changes. They inquired as to what the President's structure of shared governance would look like. The President replied that he would like to hear that from attendees.
- A senator stated their fondness of the current Senate structure and their support of welcoming additional voices. They continued, requesting that, if the current Senate structure were modified, additional faculty members be added along with staff and students. The President requested the senator's thoughts on the weight of different representations in the Senate. The senator provided a ballpark figure of two-thirds, one-sixth, and one-sixth (faculty, staff, and students, respectively). The senator stressed that different responsibilities and tasks may require different committee compositions.
- A senate member agreed that composition should be proportionate to expertise and types of decisions. They called attention to a recent article referencing best practices in shared governance, stressing the importance of a culture of transparency, shared communication, shared metrics, checks and balances, and joint consideration of difficult issues. They inquired as to whether the President was interested in having the Senate as a true partner. The President replied, ensuring those present he would read the article that senate member referenced carefully. He stressed the importance of bringing together multiple areas of expertise to make decisions appropriately. The senate member informed the President that faculty were open to embracing changes, stating they were prepared to examine current practices and formulate solutions. They emphasized faculty's desire to be included as true partners.
- A senate member recalled the President stating his desire for Senate to respond quickly. They questioned how including more voices would result in greater efficiency. The President responded this would be achieved by delegating more decisions to individual colleges and units.
- A faculty member asked the President to explain the reasoning behind the particular process that was being followed considering the involvement of such a substantive change. The President replied that the Board of Trustees had directed this of him.
- A faculty member expressed concern that the timeline of the proposed changes was not well tailored for something so substantive. The President replied that he was taking the feedback he received seriously, but still found valid reasons to continue. He expressed this was an opportunity to improve.
- A faculty member reminded those present of the connection between the Senate and colleges, stating that the Senate is not far removed from colleges and units. They acknowledged the efficiency of the current Senate structure; however, they stated this structure was revisable. They expressed concern that some college administrators don't engage in collaborative conversation based on fact and reason, and may have interests that

don't align with what is in the best interests of students. They stated that faculty are deeply concerned over the potential loss of their empowerment.

- A faculty member emphasized the Board of Trustees respect for the President and encouraged the President to speak to the Board of Trustees and share the faculty's concerns. The President replied that the Board of Trustees hold faculty in high esteem. He continued, stating that clarity is needed, reminding those present that the Board of Trustees are the final authority on policy making at the University. The Board of Trustees made clear that the current Senate Rules don't recognize their authority.
- A faculty member emphasized a disconnect between the rhetoric that was being used by the President and the actions that were being taken. They recalled that the current process being undertaken was strongly based on data which many faculty had questioned the validity of. The faculty member informed the President that had caused much distrust. They inquired if the President was willing to advise the Board of Trustees to delay the current deadline and engage in collaborative partnership with faculty. The President replied that further information regarding potential changes would be made available later in the week.
- A faculty member questioned whether the President would consider advising the Board of Trustees to allow more time, given that many faculty felt this was necessary. The President replied that he intended to follow the process that had already been outlined.
- A senate member inquired as to the reason the President could not respectfully request additional time from the Board of Trustees and a clear plan forward. They continued, inquiring as to what rules would be in place to ensure faculty maintain control over curriculum. The President responded, stating that, under the current process, all programs require Board of Trustees approval.
- A faculty member inquired as to whether current Kentucky legislative actions regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and tenure would interact with any proposed restructuring. The President replied, recalling the recent bills introduced in Kentucky's Senate and House, and stated the proposed restructuring was not related to these legislative changes. He reiterated the importance of the primacy of faculty in curricular matters. He emphasized the importance of streamlining current processes.

The Chair informed those present they were welcome to email President Capilouto directly with any further questions or send questions to her to pass along.

2. Announcements

The Chair announced the April 1, 2024 proposal deadline for any type of course proposal, minor program changes, program changes, and badges. She informed those present this deadline would allow for a Fall 2024 effective date. She informed those present that an email would be sent later in the week soliciting nominees for President Appointed Committees.

3. Consent Agenda

- a. February 12, 2024, Minutes

- b. Senate Academic Programs Committee (SAPC)- Sandra Bastin, Chair
 - i. Proposed New Graduate Certificate in Public History (Curriculog)
 - ii. Proposed New Undergraduate Certificate in Agricultural Leadership (Curriculog)
 - iii. Proposed New Graduate Certificate in Appalachian Studies (Curriculog)
- c. Senate Committee on Distance Learning and e-Learning (SCDLeL)- Sara Police, Chair
 - i. Proposed Changes to Graduate Certificate in Accounting Analytics (Curriculog)
 - ii. Proposed Changes to BA/BS Information Communication Technology (Curriculog)
 - iii. Proposed Changes to MS in Supply Chain Management (Curriculog)
- d. Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC)- Leslie Vincent, Chair
 - i. Proposed Changes to BSLA Landscape Architecture (Curriculog)
 - ii. Proposed Changes to BS in Career and Technical Education (Curriculog)

The Chair stated that she had not received any requests to remove anything from the Consent Agenda for discussion later. With **no objections**, the Consent Agenda for March 18, 2024, was adopted.

The Chair reported that there were no edits received to the February 12, 2024, minutes. There being no objections, the minutes from February 12, 2024, were **approved by unanimous consent**.

4. Officer Reports

a. Chair – DeShana Collett

The Chair advised Senators that a “Listening and Learning” session was held earlier that day with interested Faculty and informed those present that more Learning sessions would take place.

b. Vice Chair – Sandra Bastin

Vice-Chair Sandra Bastin (AG) informed those present of the upcoming Outstanding Senator and Outstanding Senate Service Awards.

c. Parliamentarian – Gregg Rentfrow

Parliamentarian Gregg Rentfrow (AG) had no report.

d. Trustees – Hollie Swanson and Hubie Ballard

Faculty Trustee, Hollie Swanson (ME), provided a brief report to Senate members. Swanson described some of the items discussed in the most recent Board of Trustees meetings.

5. Committee Recommendations

a. Graduate Council – Padraic Kenney, Chair

- i. Proposed Changes to SRs 3.2.3.3.6 (“767 Dissertation Residency Credit”) and 3.2.3.3.7 (“768 Residence Credit for Master’s Degree”) and GS 757/767 ([PDF](#))

The Chair introduced Padraic Kenney, Graduate Council Chair. Kenney provided a brief overview of the proposed changes. Kenney informed the Chair of an error in the meeting agenda, stating the proposal did not include a proposed change to SR 3.2.3.3.7.

The Chair stated there was a **motion** on the floor to approve the proposed changes to the SR 3.2.3.3.6 (“767 Dissertation Residency Credit”) and the accompanying GS 757/767, and because the motion came from committee, no **second** was required.

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

A **vote** was taken, and the motion **passed** with two opposed, and two abstained.

- b. Senate Academic Programs Committee (SAPC) – Sandra Bastin, Chair

- i. Proposed New BA in Law and Justice ([Curriculog](#))

Sandra Bastin (AG), Senate Academic Programs Committee chair, provided a brief review of the proposed new BA in Law and Justice.

The Chair stated there was a **motion** on the floor to approve the proposed new BA in Law and Justice and because the motion came from committee, no second was required.

The Chair opened the floor for questions of fact or debate. There were no questions.

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

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

- i. Proposed Changes to SR 6.1.2.1 (“Required Syllabi Components”) ([PDF](#))

Leslie Vincent (BE), Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee chair, provided a brief review of the proposed changes to SR 6.1.2.1 (“Required Syllabi Components”).

The Chair stated there was a **motion** on the floor to approve the proposed changes to SR 6.1.2.1 (“Required Syllabi Components”) and because the motion came from committee, no second was required.

The Chair opened the floor for questions of fact or debate. There were no questions.

A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with two opposed, and three abstained.

- 6. Proposed Changes to SR 6.2.1.4 (“Statute of Limitations”) ([PDF](#))

The Chair introduced Associate Academic Ombud Laura Anschel. Anschel provided a brief review of the proposed changes to SR 6.2.1.4 (“Statute of Limitations”).

Molly Blasing (AS) moved to approve the proposed changes to SR 6.2.1.4 (“Statute of Limitations”). Roger Brown (AG) seconded.

The Chair opened the floor for questions of fact or debate. Several questions were asked. Anschel clarified the proposed change would simply allow the Academic Ombud to view cases past the current deadline.

A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with two opposed and two abstained.

7. Items from the Floor (Time Permitting)

Time did not allow for items.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m. with **no objections**.

Respectfully submitted by,

DeShana Collett

Prepared by Dory Grady on Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Absences: Omer Arain, Rudolph Buchheit, Yelyzaveta Burlutska, Heather Bush, Lisa Cassis, Ned Crankshaw, Mary Davis, Henry Dietz, Robert DiPaola, Olivia Ellis, Brandi Frisby, Aaron Garvey, Sam Gerdemann, Josh Gilbert, Charles Griffith, Alison Gustafson, Christine Harper, Warren Harris, Jane Jensen, Hyun Ju Jeong, Yung Soo Kim, Jake Lemon, Karla Lightfield, TK Logan, Justin Miller, Shannon Nguyen, Lee Owen, Sean Pepper, Nolan Polston, Kiarah Raglin, Akiko Takenaka, Lisa Tannock, Kirsten Turner, Valerio Caldesi Valeri, Daniel Vivian, Ethan Wells, Kiersten White