

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee
University of Kentucky
Friday, September 13, 2019

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky (UK) met on Friday, September 13, 2019, in Ballroom A of the Gatton Student Center.

A. Meeting Opened

Acting Chair Cammie Grant called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the ASAC answered the call of the roll: Lee Blonder, Cammie Grant, Robert Grossman, Michael Hamilton, Kim McCann, Derrick Ramsey, Sandy Shuffett, and Rachel Webb. Carol Martin "Bill" Gatton was not in attendance.

C. Approval of Minutes

Acting Chair Grant reported that the minutes of the June 21, 2019, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Ramsey moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Grossman seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Acting Chair Grant called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

D. ASACR 1: Candidates for Degrees: August 2019

The recommendation is that the President be authorized to confer upon each individual whose name appears on the attached list the degree to which they are entitled, upon certification by the University Registrar that the individual has satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degree for which application has been made and as approved by the elected faculty of the University Senate and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. By way of background, each individual whose name appears on the attached list completed the work leading toward the degree for which application was made at the close of the 2019 Summer Session. Trustee Hamilton moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Shuffett. Finding no further discussion, Acting Chair Grant called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

E. Student Government Association (SGA) Update

SGA President and Trustee, Michael Hamilton, provided an update regarding recent SGA activity including:

- Representatives of UK SGA traveled to the Southeastern Conference (SEC)

Exchange Conference in July 2019.

- Students were involved in discussions regarding the on-campus housing shortage.
- SGA participated in K Week events, including recitation of the UK Creed at the New Student Induction Ceremony.
- SGA participated in Labor Stay, a series of events during the Labor Day holiday weekend to encourage students to stay on campus.
- A gubernatorial debate will be held on October 15, 2019. A lieutenant governor debate is tentatively scheduled for October 1, 2019. SGA has engaged with student government groups across the state to generate student-centered debate questions.
- DanceBlue's Annual Silent Auction will be held on October 26, 2019.

Trustee Grossman inquired about student perspectives concerning the fall semester beginning on a Monday rather than a Wednesday. SGA President Hamilton indicated students appeared to adjust well to the change and are looking forward to the resulting Fall Break (October 21-22, 2019).

F. Provost Report

Provost David Blackwell indicated that he would like to highlight college accomplishments more frequently during ASAC meetings and will do so as time permits. The Provost introduced representatives from the College of Arts and Sciences to discuss innovative cluster hires.

Dean Mark Kornbluh indicated the College's cluster hire efforts are faculty-led, help create a more inclusive curriculum, and diversify the faculty. In 2018, ASAC approved the African American and Africana Studies (AAAS) Program. This major consists of AAAS courses as well as electives from various other colleges. After the Program was approved, an AAAS cluster hire was advertised to recruit faculty from a variety of disciplines. Over 200 applications were received, and the recruitment occurred in collaboration among four departments. Six faculty members were hired. Among other responsibilities, the hired faculty members will provide 20 new courses. Support for this initiative was received from President Capilouto, Provost Blackwell, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Monday, and Vice President for Research Cassis. Director of AAAS Anastasia Curwood introduced the newly hired faculty members:

- Nikki Brown – Associate Professor of History and AAAS
- Kamahra Ewing – Assistant Professor of English and AAAS
- Regina Hamilton – Assistant Professor of English and AAAS
- Frances Henderson – Associate Professor of Gender and Women's Studies and AAAS
- Bertin Louis – Associate Professor of Anthropology and AAAS
- Derrick White – Associate Professor of History and AAAS

Associate Dean for Inclusion and Internationalization Cristina Alcalde provided information regarding a cluster hire in LatinX Studies and introduced two newly hired faculty members:

- Eladio Bobadilla – Assistant Professor of History
- Arcelia Gutierrez – Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies

Dean Kornbluh indicated these cluster hires are part of a broader initiative supported by University leadership. They are multi-year recruitment efforts that will continue in collaboration with other colleges. In addition to these cluster hires, the College of Arts and Sciences has developed additional practices to contribute to expanded curriculum and diversity among faculty. All faculty search committee members are required to undergo unconscious bias training. All applicants for faculty positions in the College of Arts and Sciences, regardless of discipline, are required to include an inclusivity statement in their application materials. Departments can receive funding from the Dean’s Office to bring in diverse guest speakers.

Provost Blackwell thanked the College of Arts and Sciences for their efforts and welcomed the new faculty members. Trustee Blonder indicated this is an impressive and exciting initiative. She inquired if there would be a pipeline approach in the future. Dean Kornbluh indicated there is a history of pipeline programs within the College and additional efforts are underway for such programs, specifically at the faculty level. Trustee Ramsey thanked Provost Blackwell and Dean Kornbluh for their efforts that allow diverse students to envision themselves in academia.

G. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Acting Chair Grant adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cammie Grant
Academic and Student Affairs
Committee

(ASACR 1 is an official part of the Minutes of the meeting)

CG/afc