

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee  
University of Kentucky  
Friday, September 11, 2020

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees met on Friday, September 11, 2020, via Zoom Webinar.

A. Meeting Opened

Chair Rachel Webb called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the ASAC answered the call of the roll: Cathy A. Black, Lee X. Blonder, Joe R. Bowen, Derrick K. Ramsey, Sandra R. Shuffett, Bryan Sunderland and Rachel Watts Webb. Carol Martin "Bill" Gatton was not in attendance.

C. Approval of Minutes

Chair Webb reported that the minutes of the June 19, 2020, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Sunderland moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Bowen seconded the motion. Hearing no discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

D. ASACR 1: Candidate for Degree: May 2019

The recommendation is that the president be authorized to rescind a May 2019 degree and confer upon the individual whose name appears upon the attached list the degree to which the individual is 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 Senate Council (on behalf of the University Senate) and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. By way of background, the individual whose name appears on the attached list completed the work leading toward the degree shown on the attached list. Due to error, a Master of Education degree was conferred rather than a Specialist in Education degree. The College of Education supports rescinding of the Master of Education degree and conferral of the Specialist in Education degree. Trustee Black moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Blonder. Finding no further discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

E. ASACR 2: Candidate for Degree: August 2020

The recommendation is that the president be authorized to confer upon the individuals whose names appear on the attached list the degree to which they are entitled, upon certification by the University Registrar that the individuals have satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degree for which applications have been made and as

approved by the elected faculty of the Senate Council (on behalf of the University Senate) and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. By way of background, the individuals whose names appear on the attached list are scheduled to complete the work toward the degree for which application is being made at the close of the 2020 Summer Session. Due to error, the names were not previously submitted. Trustee Sunderland moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Ramsey. Finding no further discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

F. Provost and Vice President for Student Success Report: Academics and Student Life under the Pandemic

Student Government Association (SGA) President and Trustee Courtney Wheeler provided an update regarding student life during the Fall 2020 semester, including:

- Instructional space adjustments to allow physical distancing.
- Increased use of technology for remote delivery of courses.
- Intentional opportunities for safe student engagement and interaction, including outdoor events and virtual events.
- Wellness kits provided to students in isolation and quarantine.

Provost David Blackwell thanked SGA President Wheeler for her leadership, including her leadership of SGA as well as assistance to individual students who reach out with questions or concerns.

Provost Blackwell provided an update regarding academics and instruction during the Fall 2020 semester. Course modalities are defined based on Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education credit hour reporting requirements. This semester, determinations of course modalities were made by faculty members and their academic unit based on prioritization of health and safety, promotion of course learning objectives and classroom capacity. Based on these factors, the percentage of courses offered in each modality have shifted from the Fall 2019 semester to the Fall 2020 semester.

Associate Provost for Teaching, Learning and Academic Innovation (TLAI) Kathi Kern provided an overview of innovation in course delivery occurring during the Fall 2020 semester. TLAI has provided expert guidance and resources to help faculty adapt their instruction to the current environment, including creation of a TeachAnywhere website, individual consultations and a Week of Teaching virtual symposium. Information Technology Services (ITS) worked diligently during the summer to equip 95 percent of all classrooms with remote broadcasting technology. With this support, faculty members are highly engaged in their teaching, using best practices to maximize student engagement in a safe environment. Various attendance models were described, including strategies for adapting instruction for students who are not able to be physically present in the classroom for health and safety reasons. Such students can request help from Health Corp's Academic Coordinator as needed.

Associate Provost Kern described a recently launched Institutional Review Board (IRB)-approved study, developed in collaboration between the College of Education and the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (CELT). This study will thoroughly examine teaching and learning during the Fall 2020 semester, from the perspectives of both faculty and students. The results of this study will help inform preparations for the Spring 2021 semester.

Provost Blackwell provided an overview of the UK International Center (UKIC) Global Wildcats program. Many units collaborated to create this program when it became apparent that some international students would not be able to physically come to campus due to the pandemic and related travel restrictions. The program allows students to take courses and participate in programming from abroad. The intent is for these students to physically come to campus once they are able to do so. 20 students are enrolled in the Global Wildcats program, representing 14 countries.

Trustee Bowen inquired about the undergraduate online learning rate. Provost Blackwell indicated that for the Fall 2020 semester, tuition and mandatory fees were capped so students would not be disadvantaged by the undergraduate online learning rate. Trustee Blonder inquired if the cost of a fully online course is the same as the cost of a traditional course during the Fall 2020 semester. Provost Blackwell indicated that the online learning rate structure remains in place, but tuition and mandatory fees were capped. This will be revisited as the Spring 2021 semester approaches.

Trustee Swanson inquired if the Global Wildcats program would be expanded in the future, to function similarly to an Education Abroad program. Provost Blackwell indicated UKIC is contemplating how Education Abroad might evolve considering the pandemic. Options include online engagement with students in other countries. For Summer 2021, 50 faculty members have already volunteered to lead traditional Education Abroad experiences. Therefore, there will likely be a variety of options for students to choose from.

#### G. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Update

Interim Vice President for Institutional Diversity George Wright provided an overview of current Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) activities. In addition to UK's response to the pandemic, the DEI implementation plan is a major institutional commitment. Interim Vice President Wright has recently met with various individuals and groups on campus and in the community to increase communication regarding UK's DEI plans and to learn more about ongoing work in this area, which UK can contribute to and build upon. This ongoing work includes:

- Progress in hiring diverse faculty.
- Establishment of a new Research Priority Area called UNited in Trace racial Equity (UNITE).
- Establishment of the Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies.
- Establishment of a partnership with the National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

- Formation of DEI workstreams, including the Culture, Policies and Programming workstream that will focus on responsible speech.
- Anti-racism training for university leadership.

Interim Vice President Wright indicated that the DEI implementation plan represents the institution's reaffirmation of continuing progress in the area of race and service to students, faculty, staff and the community. He is grateful for the opportunity to be involved in this work and to give back to UK.

Trustee Black inquired about efforts to diversify the faculty and current demographic composition of the faculty. Interim Vice President Wright indicated the institution dedicates over two million dollars each year to the hiring of diverse faculty. These funds are administered via collaboration between the Office of Institutional Diversity, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the Vice President for Research. Provost Blackwell indicated 8.3 percent of current faculty members are under-represented minorities (URM), which includes faculty members who declare one or more races. Representation of URM and women among academic leadership is an area of concern. This, and other areas of concern such as retention of diverse faculty members, will receive intentional focus going forward. President Capilouto indicated that the gap between recruitment and retention of diverse faculty was discussed during recent UNITE town hall meetings. Recruitment and retention of diverse employees is an area of opportunity for all employment sectors in Kentucky.

Trustee Ramsey welcomed Interim Vice President Wright back to Kentucky and emphasized the importance of recruiting diverse faculty members and administrators to help diverse students envision themselves in such roles in the future. Interim Vice President Wright emphasized his responsibility to meet with and provide encouragement to diverse students.

#### H. Enrollment and Retention Update

Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Christine Harper indicated the forthcoming information is the result of collaboration across campus. Freshman enrollment decreased from the Fall 2019 semester to the Fall 2020 semester, but not as much as was initially anticipated at the start of the pandemic. The overall proportion of Black or African American and Hispanic or Latinx students in the freshman class increased from the previous year. Overall enrollment is at an all-time high.

Vice President for Student Success Kirsten Turner indicated that based on the Board of Trustees' leadership in challenging the institution to raise retention rates, those rates have continued to increase across cohorts over the last several years. For the Fall 2019 cohort, the preliminary second fall retention rate is 86.4 percent, which would be an all-time high. When this rate is analyzed by ethnicity, there are increases in nearly every category. Typically, first generation students have lower persistence rates than any other

demographic category. However, during the past year, new interventions were enacted, and the population saw a four percent increase in second fall retention.

Trustee Blonder inquired if the UK LEADS program (Leveraging Economic Affordability for Developing Success) has contributed to the increased second fall retention rate. Vice President Turner indicated this intervention, along with others, has helped students with unmet financial need to persist and graduate.

Trustee Bowen inquired how UK's retention rates compare to other Kentucky state-supported institutions. Vice President Turner indicated UK's retention rates are the highest among all Kentucky state-supported peer institutions. Among Southeastern Conference (SEC) institutions, admissions policies vary, so direct comparisons can be difficult. However, UK has achieved record retention rates without changing the way the institution serves Kentucky.

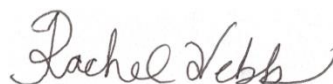
Trustee Ramsey inquired about retention rates for African American male students, which is a national issue. Vice President Turner indicated that retention rates for Black women are higher than retention rates for Black men, and that planning is ongoing for programmatic efforts to improve in this area. Trustee Ramsey inquired about career services for all students during and after the pandemic. Vice President Turner indicated there are several strategies for helping students in this area, including creation of new credential opportunities and additional career counselors for graduate students. Trustee Ramsey indicated there should be an increased focus on apprenticeship, internship and other experiential educational opportunities.

Trustee Swanson emphasized the achievement gap for African American male students has acute consequences for the physician and scientific career fields.

I. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rachel Watts Webb  
Academic and Student Affairs  
Committee

(ASACR 1 and ASACR 2 are official parts of the Minutes of the meeting)

RW/afc