

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee
University of Kentucky
Thursday, September 9, 2021

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky (UK) Board of Trustees met on Thursday, September 9, 2021, in the Harris Ballroom of the Gatton Student Center.

A. Meeting Opened

Chair Rachel Webb called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the ASAC answered the call of the roll: Cathy A. Black, Lee X. Blonder, Ron Geoghegan, Michael Hawse, Paula Leach Pope, Derrick K. Ramsey, Bryan Sunderland, Hollie Swanson and Rachel Watts Webb. Carol Martin "Bill" Gatton and C. Frank Shoop were not in attendance.

C. Approval of Minutes

Chair Webb reported that the minutes of the June 16, 2021, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Ramsey moved approval of the minutes and Trustee Pope 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 2021

The recommendation is that the president be authorized to confer upon the individual whose name appears on the degree candidates 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 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 degree candidates list completed the work leading toward the degree for which application was made at the close of the 2021 Spring Semester. Due to administrative error, the name was not previously submitted.

Trustee Sunderland moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Geoghegan. Hearing no discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

E. ASACR 2: Candidate for Degree: August 2021

The recommendation is that the president be authorized to confer upon the individual whose name appears on the degree candidates 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 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 degree candidates list completed the work leading toward the degree for which application was made at the close of the 2021 Summer Session. Due to administrative error, the name was not previously submitted.

Trustee Swanson moved approval, which was seconded by Trustee Pope. Hearing no discussion, Chair Webb called for a vote and the motion passed without dissent.

F. Provost Report

Acting Provost Robert DiPaola provided an overview of his time in the role thus far and goals for the upcoming year. During this year, one of his highest priorities is to ensure Provost area colleges and units continue to innovate and further the institution's mission through a transdisciplinary approach, or collaboration early in any process by bringing together experience, experts and evidence, each of which are readily available on UK's comprehensive campus.

Acting Provost DiPaola indicated that in order to contribute to this and other priorities, the Office of the Provost structure has been revised for a service orientation, enhancement of sustainability and innovation, synergy, and collaboration with other campus units and more effective communication. Operations will be guided by academic strength and administrative and financial support. To support these focused operations, two new roles were created: senior associate provost for finance and administration and acting associate provost for planning and assessment.

Acting Provost DiPaola returned to the concept of a mission-specific transdisciplinary approach, which creates strong, diverse teams and is the best approach to problem-solving and embracing unique opportunities. Examples of this approach in both research and education were provided, all of which are made possible by UK's talented faculty and staff.

Acting Provost DiPaola highlighted current strategies for more effective communication. Specifically, two-way communication is prioritized. Examples include increased engagement with Senate Council, engagement with campus-wide teams focused on university priorities such as the strategic plan, more frequent one-on-one meetings with deans, and Partnership with the Provost, which is a new forum intended to serve as a dialogue between the acting provost and faculty across all units on campus. These efforts contribute to shared governance, a foundational value for the institution.

Acting Provost DiPaola provided an overview of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmation process. Reaffirmation efforts are led by the acting associate provost for planning and assessment under the direction of the acting provost along with vital participation from executive leadership, a reaffirmation-specific workgroup, a compliance certification team and college liaisons. UK's submission for this rigorous process must address 14 Principles of Accreditation and 73 overall standards. The process timeline concludes with an on-site review in March 2023 and announcement of the final outcome in December 2023.

Trustee Bowen inquired about broader communication with students and student organizations outside of the Student Government Association (SGA). Acting Provost DiPaola indicated there are a number of approaches to such communication, many of which are coordinated by Student Success. As one example, Vice President for Student Success Kirsten Turner described future collaboration with SGA to provide more regular opportunities for students to engage directly with campus administrators. Acting Provost DiPaola indicated that interactions with individual students through advising and counseling services also occur. Vice President Turner described the Involvement Advisors program which can familiarize students with campus involvement opportunities that may be of interest to them.

Trustee Swanson inquired about the status of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) focus for SACSCOC reaffirmation. Acting Provost DiPaola indicated that the QEP must arise from the strategic plan. Once the strategic plan is finalized, the QEP will be developed.

G. Vice President for Student Success Report

Vice President for Student Success Kirsten Turner introduced Corrine Williams, acting associate vice president for student well-being and a faculty member in the College of Public Health.

Acting Associate Vice President Williams provided an overview of the Student Well-Being organization, which includes the Counseling Center, the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center, the Disability Resource Center, Campus Recreation and Wellness and Financial Wellness.

Acting Associate Vice President Williams indicated that holistic student mental health is a key area of focus for the organization. Work in this area has been guided by key campus groups, including the Mental Health Task Force. Work in this area has also been guided by the conceptual frameworks of a stepped care model and a prevention framework. A stepped care model emphasizes the provision of a holistic menu of services that aims to connect students to the most effective and yet least resource intensive service to meet their needs. A prevention framework, which includes primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, emphasizes focusing resources at lower levels that will impact the greatest number of students in a timely way.

Acting Associate Vice President Williams discussed barriers to mental health services, including student willingness and ability to access services, ability to identify students who are struggling and lack of a streamlined referral process. Organization of services by focusing on the student experience will help services be as accessible as possible. To continue to provide and enhance a variety of mental health service offerings at a variety of stepped care levels, partnerships will be established with Kognito, Headspace, Togetherall and WellTrack.

Trustee Swanson inquired if there are any distinctive issues that first-year students are facing. Acting Associate Vice President Williams indicated that common themes among this group are homesickness and processing their first-year experience, which is unique due to the pandemic.

H. Student Government Association Update

SGA President and Trustee Michael Hawse provided a general student body update. He welcomed the class of 2025, new transfer students and new graduate and professional students. Even given the unique pandemic circumstances, students are happy to be on campus again and are engaging in behaviors, such as adherence to the mask requirement and participating in the Cats Get Vaxed program, that helps keep the campus healthy and safe. Several individual students and groups were successful in national and international competitions over the summer, including medalists at the Tokyo Olympics.

SGA President Hawse provided an update regarding SGA. Graduate students are well represented among SGA leadership this year, including Michaela Taylor who was recently announced as vice president. Other recent areas of focus and activities include:

- Improving parking affordability and accessibility for students.
- Expanding the Coats for Cats program.
- Expanding access to student mental health resources, in collaboration with Student Success.
- Increasing inclusion of graduate and professional students in SGA efforts, including the creation of a new mentorship program.

I. Vice President for Institutional Diversity Report

Interim Vice President for Institutional Diversity George Wright provided an update regarding the institution's diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) activities. He highlighted projects which are focused on students. Project 6, Redesign UK101 Module, has focused on the alignment of UK101 diversity and inclusivity modules with the UK Creed. Project 7, Implement a Student Experience Module, has focused on what a DEI student educational experience will look like. Project 10, Create a Student Gathering Space, and Project 12, Create a DEI Campus Plan, are collaborating regarding a new multicultural center. Overall, the 17 DEI projects have seen great progress since their establishment in 2020 and it will be important to continue this momentum.

Interim Vice President George Wright provided an overview of two new research centers. The Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies brings together and empowers faculty across the university, including through working groups investigating various topics such as the role of African Americans in the bourbon industry. The Central Kentucky Slavery Initiative seeks to promote a broader and deeper understanding of the history of slavery and enslaved people in Central Kentucky, which varies from that of other geographic areas. These initiatives will make UK one of the best universities in the country for studying African American history

Interim Vice President Wright announced that Katrice Albert, the new vice president for institutional diversity, will arrive to UK later this month. Interim Vice President Wright expressed thanks to President Capilouto and the Board of Trustees for their support during his time in the role. Chair Webb thanked Interim Vice President Wright for his service to UK.

Trustee Shuffett inquired why there are misconceptions about slavery in Central Kentucky versus in other geographic areas. Interim Vice President Wright indicated that some historians portrayed slavery through a moral lens and did not always acknowledge the economic and other realities of slavery.

J. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Watts Webb', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Rachel Watts Webb
Academic and Student Affairs
Committee

RW/afc