

Minutes of the Meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee
University of Kentucky
Thursday, April 25, 2024

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee (ASAC) of the University of Kentucky (UK) Board of Trustees met on Thursday, April 25, 2024, in the Harris Ballroom of the Gatton Student Center.

A. Meeting Opened

Chair Rachel Webb called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

B. Roll Call

The following members of the ASAC answered the call of the roll: Hubie Ballard, Cathy Black, Alex Boone, Ron Geoghegan, Brenda Gosney, Lizzy Hornung, Paula Leach Pope, Hollie Swanson and Rachel Watts Webb.

C. Approval of Minutes

Chair Webb reported that the minutes of the February 23, 2024, ASAC meeting had been distributed. Trustee Ballard 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: Candidates for Degrees: May 2024

The recommendation was that the President be authorized to confer upon each of the individuals whose names appeared on an attached list the degree to which they were entitled, upon certification by the University Registrar that the individuals had satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degree for which application had 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, since final grades were not due until the Monday following the last day of final examinations, it was not possible for the University Registrar to certify satisfactory completion of requirements prior to the degree conferral date for those candidates who completed their requirements in May.

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

E. ASACR 2: Candidates for In Memoriam Degrees: May 2024

The recommendation was that the President be authorized to confer upon each of

the individuals whose names appeared on an attached list an *In Memoriam* Posthumous Degree. The degree for which application had 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, an *In Memoriam* Posthumous Degree allows for the recognition of a connection to the University of Kentucky for undergraduate, graduate and professional students registered in a degree program and in good academic standing at the time of their death but did not complete degree requirements. The Board of Trustees may approve the conferral of this degree upon a student who is a qualified candidate and meets all criteria, with exception permitted only for the timing of the student's death.

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

F. ASACR 3: Candidates for Degrees: August 2024

The recommendation was that the President be authorized to confer upon each of the individuals whose names appeared on an attached list the degree to which they were entitled, upon certification by the University Registrar that the individuals had satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degree for which application had 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 appeared on the attached list was scheduled to complete the work toward the degree for which application is being made at the close of the 2024 Summer Session. Due to licensure or certification requirements for students pursuing job placement or additional education, degrees must be verified as soon as possible.

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

G. ASACR 4: Candidates for Degrees: May 2024 (Ft. Sam Houston)

The recommendation was that the President be authorized to confer upon each of the individuals whose names appeared on an attached list the degree to which they were entitled, upon certification by the University Registrar that the individuals had satisfactorily completed all requirements for the degree for which application had 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, in 2016, the University of Kentucky established a partnership with the Department of Defense (DOD) to develop well-qualified clinical social

workers to fill positions across the military service branches. A satellite site was established within the Army Medical Department Center and School at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, and implements the College of Social Work's full-time, 60-hour Master of Social Work (MSW) program. The curriculum is delivered in a condensed format over 14 continuous months of study.

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

H. ASACR 5: Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Arts and Sciences

The recommendation was that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Law and Justice, in the Department of Political Science, within the College of Arts and Sciences.

By way of background, the proposed degree in Law and Justice provides students a grounding in the study of law, politics and society in the U.S. and abroad. Law and Justice is explicitly interdisciplinary in character, distinguishing it from other programs that students with an interest in legal studies typically follow. The program requirements develop strengths in data analytics, writing and composition, and conducting original research. The degree prepares students in court administration, mediation, law enforcement, public interest fields, legislatures, and government, as well as advanced study in law school or graduate school.

The degree will offer a tailored program to meet the educational needs of a large contingent of Arts and Sciences undergraduates who are pre-law or interested in legal studies and will feature a curriculum that is directly tailored to students with an interest in law, justice, and the courts, which the Political Science major alone does not accomplish.

The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation. Pending approval by the Board of Trustees, the program will begin the review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

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

H. ASACR 6: Academic Degree Recommendation: College of Education

The recommendation was that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Special Education Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree, in the Department of Early Childhood, Special Education and Counselor Education, within the College of Education.

By way of background, the proposed degree in Arts and Teaching provides special education teachers who are hired by the state of Kentucky on a temporary professional certificate, an opportunity to obtain their MAT while simultaneously teaching during the day since classes will be offered in the evenings. At the end of their program, they will be eligible to take the Praxis II to become certified to teach students with moderate/severe disabilities or learning and behavior disorders.

This program will address a shortage of teachers in Kentucky by filling vacant positions. Special Education is one area with a critical shortage since 1990. This degree is the only program to prepare special education teachers to get their initial teaching certificate while they are teaching. The University currently offers this as a certificate-only program; changing this to a MAT will increase enrollment.

The program has the approval of the appropriate councils and the University Senate. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation. Pending approval by the Board of Trustees, the program will begin the review process of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

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

E. Provost Report

Provost DiPaola provided updates on UK Advancing Data utilization for Value in Academics for National and Campus-wide Excellence (ADVANCE), the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and Transdisciplinary Educational Approaches to Advance Kentucky (TEK).

UK ADVANCE's charge was to adopt generative AI to do better things in education and research. Goals included, but were not limited to, reviewing emerging data and experiences, providing guidance and recommendations to the campus community, and identifying and developing a training toolkit and communication strategy to enable faculty to become familiar with artificial intelligence (AI).

Guidelines and recommendations were developed for the use of generative AI in instructional contexts. The purpose of these was for faculty and instructors to develop course policies on generative AI, raise awareness around critical issues like data privacy and misinformation, identify problems with determining misuse, consider the range of uses from academic dishonesty to augmenting teaching, learning and research, and discuss effective assignment design to avoid misuse of generative AI.

Research guidelines were issued to include the following: use for and in research, privacy concerns, patent and copyright, grant proposals and peer review, graduate research, authorship and responsibility, and detection. Clinical care guidelines were created for relevance to UK HealthCare policies. Areas of caution were as follows: privacy

and security, human agency and accountability, black-box technology, accuracy and falsification, and bias and equity. These are to be used within and outside UK HealthCare systems.

As a way of socializing the ADVANCE guidelines and providing ongoing updates about the developments in generative AI, CELT has worked with faculty, instructors and staff across the University to offer support and training on generative AI in educational contexts. More than 60 trainings by CELT have occurred on generative AI in teaching and learning since January 2023. The CELT Teaching Innovation Institute, a year-long program for faculty, will focus on generative AI for the 2024-2025 cohort. CELT has released web-based resources supporting instructors on generative AI policies, pedagogy and assessment. CELT continues to consult individually with faculty and staff on all aspects of generative AI. CELT leadership coordinated the “AI in Education” session of the 2023 Commonwealth Computational Summit, which brought faculty presenters from institutions across the state, and will coordinate the session again for the 2024 Summit. CELT recently launched a digital badging program and plans to develop a proposal for a badge in teaching and learning with generative AI.

Several public relations and communication efforts were launched around UK ADVANCE, including stories in UKNow and other media outlets. Members of the university community were communicated with directly. A new website with many resources was launched.

The QEP is a component of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Reaffirmation of Accreditation process. A QEP reflects and affirms that learning is at the core of the institution’s mission and the framework is designed around a topic, broad-based support, focus, resources and assessment.

Data on soft skills that employers look for included critical thinking, communication, listening, and interpersonal skills since people are encouraged to interact in teams, and all basic skills for interactions with multiple disciplines. TEK will address the problem where employers have difficulty finding candidates with those specific soft skills.

TEK was organized by the themes of learn, leverage and link. TEK will provide opportunities for students to learn essential employability skills in newly created and redesigned courses. TEK will leverage faculty expertise to expand the use of transdisciplinary approaches in undergraduate classes across the University. TEK will link the transdisciplinary skills students are learning to Kentucky workforce needs.

To further develop TEK, the current student population was sought for feedback. More than 600 students responded, of which approximately 72 percent were interested in participating in TEK, 97 percent perceived employability skills as important to their future and 86 percent were interested in taking the new courses created because of the QEP. Some area’s students were interested in are education and accessibility, food insecurity, health disparities, social justice and racial inequality, and environment and

sustainability.

Provost DiPaola reviewed the implementation timeline. The implementation has been led by Dr. Susan Cantrell. Various components of implementation since Spring 2023 included, but are not limited to, the development of content for UK 101 and first-year experience courses, continued development of a digital badge program, collected data from students, infused employability skills into existing courses, and professional development for TEK Faculty Fellows.

TEK Faculty Fellows created new courses focused on Kentucky problems that satisfy UK Core areas. Spring 2024 courses targeted identifying and addressing misinformation, climate change impacts, community development in cultural spaces and access to well-being services. The inaugural cohort of TEK Faculty Fellows had 26 participants and represented the following areas: Information Science, Health and Clinical Sciences, Interior and Architectural Design, Sociology, Retailing and Tourism Management, Arts Administration, Geography and Philosophy.

Provost DiPaola stated UKC 100 ran as a pilot and TEK 204 and 209 have not yet been approved through the senate process. It will count as a Discover course in future badges, etc. This section of a piloted Discover: Arts and Creativity course was led by faculty from different disciplines and partners from The Nest of Lexington, a non-profit dedicated to supporting families in crisis. The course was focused on the problem of access and opportunity, specifically access to family well-being services.

Students from many different disciplines worked in teams to understand barriers to access and opportunity, from multiple perspectives and to generate solutions. During the class session teams presented their ideas to faculty, Nest leaders, and their classmates. The teams received feedback and input on their ideas and communication. They will use that feedback to refine their ideas and their presentations.

This course will be offered as TEK 204 in future semesters. It fulfills a general studies requirement in the area of Arts and Creativity. TEK 209 was also piloted under the UKC prefix this semester. It fulfills the UK Core requirement in Community, Culture, and Citizenship. These courses are focused on multiple viewpoints/critical thinking; communication, and teamwork through transdisciplinary problem solving. Next academic year, more of these courses will be developed at the TEK 200-level and TEK 300 courses will be developed and offered.

Chair Webb called for questions. Trustee Swanson asked if any faculty member could submit an idea for a new/existing TEK. Provost DiPaola confirmed that a process exists for any faculty member to participate in TEK by submitting a proposal for consideration.

F. Vice President for Student Success Report

Vice President for Student Success Kirsten Turner provided an update on current

campus activities and an update on Project Accelerate: Work Group 1. Campus updates included the following: DanceBlue, First Generation pinning ceremony for more than 100 students, LeadBlue Awards where more than 600 student organizations were recognized for individual and group excellence, Breakfast (formerly Crunch Brunch), student leadership awards, Getting Classy for more than 3,000 students, MoneyCats' Financial Wellness dinner and Student Government Association awards. A record class size will be graduating in May, which surpassed a 70 percent, six-year graduation rate. Bluegrass Day will host 450 prospective students, and the recruiting class is on pace.

Vice President for Student Success Turner reminded the Board that the work group focused on the knowledge areas where the Commonwealth would see the most growth. Six areas represented 80 percent of the growth and three areas reflected 60 percent growth. The group then mapped more than 160 programs across 14 of the 16 degree-granting colleges to the six knowledge areas and is meeting with each college to review.

The group has conducted audits of existing talent pipelines in place and how to maximize them to help Kentucky-based employers, e.g., Stuckert Career Center and the Graham Center. The four general categories of the audit are as follows: general career prep, UK program-specific prep, high school or non-degree pathway opportunities and external efforts akin to Chamber or community-type partners. These were also mapped to UK majors and programs to identify opportunities and gaps.

The group finished a draft vision on integrating and creating a holistic support system for the start of the student's academic journey pertaining to academic pursuits, finances, and forecasted workforce needs. The group's next step is to work with college leadership in the areas of career and academic advising and financial aid for input and ideas. The implementation plan is on track for presentation at the next Board meeting.

Chair Webb called for questions. There were none.

G. SGA President Report

Student Government Association (SGA) President Lizzy Hornung highlighted activities in which the SGA participated. A successful election occurred and Maddie Duff was elected president and Dalton Bertram was elected the new vice president. A record-breaking \$2.1 million was raised by DanceBlue for DanceBlue Clinic, where more than 1,000 students participated. SGA collaborated with Student Success for treadmill desks in the library. SGA leadership had a great trip to Washington, D.C., and discussed mental health, financial well-being and affordability, and food insecurity. SGA worked with the Alumni Association to host the first annual Wildcat Wrap-up Graduation event in Alumni Commons where more than 400 students attended.

Chair Webb called for questions. Trustee Swanson asked if the group met any state legislators while in Washington, D.C. Trustee Hornung said the group met with all but one of the state legislators' offices. Trustee Gosney requested details about the Wildcat Wrap-up Graduation event. Trustee Hornung stated incoming freshmen walked

through the gates at Alumni Commons and outgoing seniors walked out of the gates, which are only opened for this event, to create a new and very symbolic tradition.

H. Meeting Adjourned

Hearing no further business, Chair Webb adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rachel Watts Webb
Academic and Student Affairs
Committee

RW/sjr