

UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES
October 7, 2021 4:00-6:00 P.M.
AF 103 & ZOOM

Present: M. Anderson, A. Back, C. Bolger, R. Bowers, M. Cardozo, J. Careli, J. Chernekoff, J. Conahan, F. Cortez-Funk, C. Cotellese, R. Courtney, A. DeLong, M. Fares, M. Gabriel, A. Garcia, J. Gehringer, M. Gooding, K. Hawkinson, D. Immel, M. John, D. Johnson, E. Kraal, P. Kulpa, A. Mashintonio, P. McLoughlin, A. Pfeiler-Wunder, R. Portada, T. Robinson, A. Rodriguez, W. Rogers, J. Schlegel, K. Sherry, G. Sirrakos, J. Sober-White, D. Stafford, M. Vaughn, V. Vlaun, T. Wong, S. Lem, L. Basden Arnold.

Guests: M. Delaney, J. Downing, L. Kowalski, W. Lenzinski, K. Rauch, T. Vingom, A. Volkert.

I. Call to order at 4:00 P.M.

II. Announcements

1. Budget Presentation Follow-Up Questions

S. Lem: Any questions about Matt Delaney’s presentation at our September’s meeting, be sure to follow up.

III. Guest Speakers

1. J. Dillon – Public Safety

- Public Safety was here for the entire pandemic
- Great learning experience working with EMT,
- Three officers down, pool of applicants very low,
- Should be able to hire one new officer by the end of the next pay period,
- Security contract company has been bought over, no major changes in personnel; difficulty filling positions,
- EMT meeting: If a student makes a request that is not granted by faculty member, and reiterates demand, faculty should document any contentious situations with students as a safety measure in case the situation resurfaces,
- Both faculty and staff have the authority to request a student’s ID (for reporting purposes) if the student is not complying with masking policies or any other policy.

T. Wong: What should faculty do if students are not obeying the masking policy?

J. Dillion: All staff/faculty members have the right to ask students for identification, if students refuse, public safety can be called, and they will enforce this. Faculty and staff should call Public Safety if the situation escalates.

2. A. Volkert – Health & Wellness Center

- Cases are starting to even out, Flu season is coming up, hoping to have vaccines administered for Flu and Covid.
- If someone is exposed, students must contact the Health Center.

A. Gabriel: Is it possible for a student to be given negative Covid paperwork?

A. Volkert: Students do not require negative tests to be in class. If students need PCR test, they are not expected to return to class until results are back. The results come from external provider.

E. Kraal: Many students are attending field trips and band practice; these students go to personal healthcare providers. There was a student who tested positive in a lab, another student who was in contact with the positive student, and was told they could not be tested, and should return to class. There is varying information, what is the systematic way for checking?

A. Volkert: If vaccinated and exposed, no reason to isolate or quarantine, once exposed and vaccinated, test on days 2-5, testing is being done as close to day five without going over, if someone is exposed, students must contact the Health Center. Not every situation is the same.

R. Courtney: Student showed screen capture of quick test device, what is the format of our testing, is it a rapid test?

A. Volkert: At one time students were taking a photo on the machine because of technical difficulty, students are now receiving the results, via email, voluntary testing is being done every Wednesday.

3. T. Vingom – Information Technology

- We are moving forward with faculty and staff computer replenishment; computers are currently six years old,
- Windows is moving from Lenovo to Dell, Apple computers will still be available,
- Currently working with Dell and Apple for demo computers,
- Recommendation is for faculty and staff to choose laptops; laptops will come with docking stations,
- Demos should be available last week in October, faculty and staff will be contacted,
- You will be directed to login to select your configuration for your computer; data will be collected on the various software used on computers,
- All faculty and staff are encouraged to migrate to one drive, training materials will be provided,
- Once computers arrive, you will be contacted for installation,
- Old computers will be recycled, data will be wiped,
- If computers were purchased by department, they will be evaluated, and a plan will be developed to refresh computers,
- New computers will be rolled out in January.

G. Sirrakos: Will there be opportunities to purchase old computers at a reduced cost?

T. Vingom Typically old computers are sold to recyclers, KU will generate revenue from this

J. Carelli: What is KU doing to ensure adequate security and enough flexibility?

T. Vingom: We need to find a balance between security and convenience, if you have items that you no longer need, speak with IT, we need to protect the university,

T. Vingom: We will evaluate granting increased privileges, however, increased privileges are a risk

T. Vingom: Classrooms and labs will be done in next year's replenishment, post Covid data will be analyzed to see how students are using the computers.

T. Robinson: Congrats to the IT for great service

T. Vingom: Respondus lockdown contract expired, due to pricing, it is no longer used, value of lockdown browser is limited, we are hoping to reinstitute respondus lockdown browser with respondus monitor.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from September 2, 2021

E. Kraal moves to approve, T. Robinson seconds; all in favor. September's minutes approved.

V. Reports

1. Senate President – S. Lem

1. COVID-19 – Pandemic response remains a high-priority topic with Senate Exec., and we continue to work with the EMT on adjustments. As you likely have seen, KU is now offering COVID-19 testing every Wednesday for staff and students. The FAQ was updated with Contact Tracing information. New indoor signage about mask wearing is also being printed and distributed to departments.

2. Facilities Plant Tour – Campus leaders were invited to tour the campus HVAC facilities last month, where we were shown how indoor air quality (IAQ) is monitored and managed. KU is following COVID-19 mitigation strategies identified by a consultant, which includes purging building air for two hours before and after occupancy, increasing outside air exchanges, and increasing filtration to MERV-13 where possible. We were also shown the boiler system and how water quality is monitored and maintained.

3. Enrollment Management – I attended two meetings with KU's enrollment management consultant, RNL. RNL discussed KU growth trends, as well as upcoming challenges. RNL worked with KU administration on strategies for recruitment and retention, such as continuing test optional admission practices, financial aid packages, and the importance of campus visitations.

4. Strategic Planning & Resource Committee – SPRC elected a new chair and vice chair, Catherine McGeehan and Deryl Johnson, respectively. The subcommittees, Strategic Initiatives, Program Review, and Budget, were also populated. Senate Exec. met with Dr. McGeehan to discuss new directions for the committee, and there is a renewed level of energy on the committee for its work.

E. Kraal: Can the pass/no credit options be communicated to students?

C. Bolger: What message is being communicated to students so they know it is not a faculty-by-faculty decision, and an administrative decision.

S. Lem: Policy has been a one-off policy, conversations are continuing.

2. Senate Vice President – T. Wong

1. The Committee on Committees met on September 16 to discuss filling the vacancies on *Senate committees due to retirement, leave of absence, or resignation.*

- Academic Standards and Policies Committee
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Representative – Fall 2021
- Padraig McLoughlin (Mathematics)
- Commission on Human Diversity
At-Large Professional Staff – 2 years
- Tyler Schwab (Information Technology)
- Commission on the Status of Women
Female Rep from Professional Staff-Management – replacement for the rest of the term
till Aug 2022
- Anne Imschweiler (Provost's Office)
- Events Advisory Council
Faculty Representative from Sport Management – 2 years
- Open
- Institutional Climate Committee
At Large Faculty – replacement for the rest of the term till Aug 2022
- Mathias Le Bossé (Geography)
- Institutional Review Board
Non-Scientific Area Representative (2 positions) – 2 years
- Cynthia Stunkard (Special Education)
- Patricia Lutz (Elementary, Middle Level, Library & Technology Education)
- Scientific Area Representative – 2 years
- Matthew Junker (Physical Sciences)
- Professional Development Committee
College of Education Alternate – replacement for the rest of the term till Aug 2022
- Kristen Bazley (Elementary, Middle Level, Library & Technology Education)
- Undergraduate Admissions Exceptions Committee
College of Business Undergraduate Faculty – 2 years
- Kerri Cebula (Sport Management & Leadership Studies)
- University Academic Honesty Committee
College of Visual & Performing Arts – Spring 2022
- Elizabeth Schneider (Art & Design)
- Undergraduate Exceptions Committee
Counseling Center – 2 years
- Aimee Adams (Counseling & Psychological Services)
- University Conduct Board
At-Large Faculty Representative – replacement for the rest of the term till Aug 2023
- Lindsey Runell (Criminal Justice)

2. The Committee on Committees sent out a survey form for Governance Committee Chairs, and we have so far received responses from 22 out of 31 committees. Information collected includes future meeting dates, summary of past achievements, and plans for the upcoming year. We will study how to make the meeting dates available to Senators. The summary of past achievements will be documented by Senate.

3. Senate Secretary – M. John

Governance Committee Elected Positions

Kunio Mitsuma is currently on leave for Fall 2021. Immediate replacements were needed for elected positions on the Committee on Committees and the Grade Appeal Board. Replacements for the fall 2021 were selected using the criteria of seconded highest votes received during previously conducted elections for the open positions.

Committee on Committees

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Representative – Fall 2021 Anne Delong (English)

Grade Appeal Board

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Representative – Fall 2021 Richard Courtney

(Geography)

University Senate Representatives on Governance Committees

The terms of current University Senate Representatives appointed to Governance Committees by Senate shall be extended in order to align the position term ending date with other appointed or elected positions on the committee.

The following positions will be extended.

Committee	University Senate Representative	Current term expiration	Revised term expiration
Center for the Enhancement of Teaching Advisory Board	Michelle Sims	January 2023	August 2023
Enrollment Management Committee	Tony Wong	January 2022	August 2022
Space Allocation Committee	Fran Cortez-Funk	January 2023	August 2023

4. University President – K. Hawkinson

- This past Saturday the Foundation had a comprehensive kickoff event,
- We raised \$34m, hopeful we will meet the goal of \$40m by the end of the academic year,
- Alumni participation goal of 40 000 service hours has been met: thanks to foundation leadership and donors,

- Enrollment final freeze date numbers: new degree seeking students' numbers up by one student, we're up in transfer students, up overall in graduate students, up in out of state students (due to scholarship, athletics and tuition discounts),
- Incoming freshmen have highest combined GPA in history of university (3.31), 26% minority freshman class (highest in history), 23% minority students overall, retention is up to 78%, down 2.75% overall in headcount due to graduation in May, 4-year graduation rate went from 37-42% this can be credited to the re-working of GenEd, best enrollment numbers in State System (SS) even though our numbers are down. We are highly scrutinized by SS with regards to numbers,
- KU is down 2.75% in enrollment, other schools are down a lot more, our performance is significant.

Matt Delaney

- KU's original placement was in plan two or the orange category in Fall of 2019 and 2020 (categories: green, yellow, orange or red)
- Annual comprehensive submission that was done in Fall of 2020 and 2021 and reviewed by 14 CFOs and 14 Provosts
- As of June 30th, KU had one of each color, operating margin still in red, yellow in primary reserve and green in minimum reserves (colors alone don't tell full story).
- Clear justification was provided for change based on recent success
 - KU has balanced its budget for 4 consecutive years, increased unrestricted net assets and cash balances in FY20 and FY21, improved three-year average for operating margin, most recent year being positive, improved primary reserves.
- KU has now moved from plan two to plan one, we are now 1/4 yellow schools in the State System, we are 1/2 schools in the State System that improved rankings over past year. Student to faculty ratio continues to improve (currently at 17.7:1)
- Hard work has paid off over time, a lot of positives by still much work to do, we continue to strive for green status where there is no plan.

T. Robinson: The programs that are continuing to do well, will we continue to fund those programs?

K. Hawkinson: Yes, those programs will be funded. Enormous scrutiny is being placed on non-performing universities, State System will send teams into those schools in the orange and red categories.

5. University Provost – L. Basden Arnold

- Working on strategic planning documents for this year that will be sent to Cabinet; this includes requests for funding initiatives related to the strategic plan,,
- Programs and Deans are working on TT hires, KU is behind in getting searches out, working on getting this done in the mid-spring (for next year searches) so KU can hit the ground running and interview the best candidates early,
- Online schedule is currently available for viewing so students can plan ahead

- Advising holds are already on so advising can begin earlier and is not done in a compressed two-week period. Working on making registration dates more clearly indicated on the academic calendar.
- PASSHE is continuing its discussion on program evaluation considering other factors besides the number of graduates (factors being considered: DWI rates, GenEd offerings, if courses are filling, whether a major is strongly enrolled by underserved populations). The rationale is to find a more nuanced way of looking at program health other than the number of graduates.

J. Carelli: Students do not know about the process for signing up for classes in spring. Can we communicate this to students that this is just for informational purposes?

L. Basden Arnold: We can send out an announcement on when the actual registration dates are. Ben Trout has been asked to indicate this on the academic calendar in advance so that there is no confusion.

6. Student Government Board – K. Sherry

- Well-being ribbon cutting was held on 10/7/21.
- PrideFest will be held on Thursday 10/14: SGB will provide craft activity, cotton candy, and a raffle basket,
- #ElectHer Sat. 10/23 1- 4:30 PM: ElectHer is a one-day nonpartisan training for women on how to run for student government & political office,
- Grad Fest, Tuesday 10/26: SGB will be volunteering for Grad Fest.
- Homecoming 10/30 -- SGB is participating in the Homecoming Spirit Court this year, there will be a table at National Voter Registration Day, and participation in KU Cares Day of Service to give back to the KU community,
- Fall Fest 11/4 5-7 PM: SGB's annual Fall Fest event is planned for 11/4 5-7 PM. Many student groups are signed up,
- The PASSHE Board of Student Government Presidents: SGB just approved our "Keep Our Campuses Open" statement to remind students about the importance of following proper COVID-19 safety protocols in order to keep us healthy, safe, and on campus. That statement can be viewed on the official PASSHE website under BSGP, and SGB will also be pushing it out on our social media.
- SGB recently had a discussion about Senate's intent to not offer a Pass/No Credit grading option this semester to gather student's input. SGB collectively decided our stance on P/NC was one of support and believe it is a necessary system to implement for this semester to support the well-being of our students.

7. Assessment Office – K. Rauch

- Assessment reports were due Sept 15th, Deans sent off the reports that were turned in,
- Academic Assessment Council met this morning, feedback will be provided soon,
- If you have technical problems let us know, you can reset your password to prevent lag,
- Administrative unit programs are currently submitting their assessment reports; feedback will be provided,

- Assessment reports will be written earlier this year because we do not have a Middle States visit nor do we have to write a Middle States report.

VI. Unfinished Business

S. Lem: A number of policies are at ASPC for review, we hope revisions will be back soon.

1. Course Grading – Undergraduate Students (ACA-048) @ ASPC
2. Final Examinations (ACA-025) @ ASPC in progress
3. Repeating Courses – Undergraduate Students (ACA-008) @ ASPC in progress
4. Individualized Instruction (ACA-034) @ ASPC in progress
5. Course Withdrawals (ACA-011) @ ASPC
6. Senate Constitution Revisions - @ Task Force

VII. New Business

1. Senate Exec Officer Nomination Committee – A. Pfeiler-Wunder, C. Price, G. Sirrakos

S. Lem: Officer elections coming up in December. Senators Wong and John may not return due to term limits, so there is a need for other senators to run; nominations will go out next month.

VIII. Good of the Order

J. Downing

- Approaching Oct 15th adoption date for winter and spring,
- Timely adoptions save students money,
- We appreciate adoptions for OER.

IX. Adjournment: P. McLoughlin moves to adjourn, A. Pfeiler-Wunder seconds; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.

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