

# University Governance Notes

## January 2017

*The following are our perceptions and interpretations only, not those of the Senates at large or their Executive Committees. We welcome addenda and corrections, which we will include in the next edition. We also welcome suggestions for improvement of content, length, or presentation.*

*For more information, including copies of the documents mentioned below, visit the [University Governance website](#). To have the newsletter delivered to you or someone you know, write [govern@ku.edu](mailto:govern@ku.edu).*

*Respectfully,  
Joe Harrington, University Senate President  
Pam Keller, Faculty Senate President*

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January is named for the Roman god Janus, who has two faces, one looking forward and one, backward. While we don't advocate being two-faced, this is an appropriate time to recap the activity of the fall semester and preview the spring semester – which is typically more active for governance.

### **FALL 2016: Some Accomplishments**

**Representation on Chancellor Search Committee.** The University Senate passed a resolution urging the Board of Regents to conduct an open search and to include on the committee students', staff's, and faculty's elected representatives from their respective senates. Unfortunately, the first request was rejected: names of finalists will not be disclosed. However, there will be representatives from governance on the Committee. They are: University Senate President Joe Harrington, Student Body President Stephonn Alcorn, Staff Senate President Liz Phillips, Faculty Senate President-Elect Amalia Monroe-Gulick, Student Body Vice President Gabby Naylor, and Staff Senate President-Elect Brian Moss.

**Anti-“Campus Carry” Resolution.** Both the University Senate and the Faculty Senate passed [resolutions expressing opposition to guns on campus](#). The resolutions received limited press coverage, but they do put the Senates on record, on behalf of their constituents, as opposing the presence of concealed firearms at KU. This fact will be a necessary (but insufficient) condition for an extension of the concealed carry exemption for universities; bills to effect that extension will soon be considered by Kansas House and Senate committees. Given the increase in the number of moderate members of that body, we have hopes of positive developments on this issue.

**Multicultural Student Representation.** Members of the Board of the Multicultural Student Government (MSG), a student organization, put forth a couple of proposals for enhancing diversity in the student contingent in the University Senate. While neither of these proposals came to a vote, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee successfully moved the formation of an “Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” (DEI) to carry out recommendations made by the

Provost's DEI Working Group to the University Senate. These include examining the composition and elections system of the Student Senate, as well as student representation in the University Senate. The committee will be composed of faculty, staff, student senators, and members of the MSG, and is charged with considering proposals to change the various Codes and Rules and Regulations in the interests of greater inclusivity.

**Student Elections Campaign Fund.** The Student Senate has already enacted several measures of its own to enhance diversity in the Student Senate. Foremost among these is the "Equitable Elections Fund." The purpose of this fund, administered by the KU Endowment Association, is to eliminate inherent monetary disadvantages and inequities in the Student Senate elections process. Candidates may apply for the Fund for this year's Student Senate campaign. In addition, all student senators are now required to undergo Cultural Competency Training, as a condition of office. Donate to the Equitable Elections Fund by going to the KU Endowment page specify fund # 10663.

**For Students Only: The disclaimer** above the login for Enroll & Pay was expanded and beefed up last year, to the point where staff and faculty started to worry about incurring financial and legal liability simply for doing their jobs. That language is still there (in very fine print), but Enrollment Services now precedes the disclaimer with "For students –," since it applies primarily to tuition & fee payments.

**Faculty Code.** After years of back-and-forth between the Faculty Senate and the Administration, both agreed to a new Faculty Code of Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct. The Code was passed in Spring 2016 but required some final negotiations and tweaking to arrive at its present form. The Code is a quasi-contractual statement of faculty's working conditions and job duties.

**Some Committees** have submitted preliminary reports, per their charges:

- 1.) **The Big Cable Cut – Aftermath:** Academic Computing and Electronic Communications Committee (ACEC) heard from Eric Freeze of IT on what is being done to avoid another campus-wide internet outage. KU now requires "multiple-level approval sign-offs for work like digging near the network infrastructure" to avoid the mistake that led to the cable cut in March. IT is also trying to negotiate a zero-cost link to the KU/City fiber along 23<sup>rd</sup> Street; this link would provide redundancy, in case the main cable were (once again) damaged or cut.
- 2.) **Athletics Committee Reports on Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention.** The Sexual Assault Prevention & Education Center (SAPEC) has been offering numerous training and education sessions "for both Kansas Athletics staff as well as KU student-athletes." While the sessions are not mandatory, there are many opportunities to attend, and KAI strongly encourages student-athletes to do so. In addition, the football team alone "participated in 20 sessions during the spring 2015 and fall 2016 semesters." SAPEC Director Jen Brockman is currently working on developing a training session called *How to Flirt Without Being Creepy*. This new session, "requested by [football] team members," is designed to provide a better understanding of what constitutes sexual assault and harassment "while

addressing the different cultures, economic backgrounds, and differing views they may have.”

- 3.) International Affairs Committee – Shorelight.** The IAC reported what they heard from representatives of the Academic Accelerator Program (AAP), who are the folks who prepare Shorelight-recruited students who are non-native English speakers. About half of the AAP students last semester were “Pre-AAP” students, meaning they needed extra prep work. The total number of students enrolling was down 31%, from 175 last fall to 121, this; 98 of those were from China, and 68% of them were male; the majority major in Business or STEM fields. A new MA track has been added in hopes of boosting enrollments. AAP reports that it “is working to record data correctly and has a plan for maintaining and tracking data.”

### **SPRING 2017: Unfinished Business:**

The **University Senate DEI Committee** will get underway (see “Multicultural Student Representation,” above). Given their late start and big tasks, it is unlikely that they will be able to develop legislative proposals in time for any of the Senates to act on them this school year. However, given the controversy surrounding the committee and the importance of its charges, their work is sure to be closely watched.

**Consultants.** Previous University Senate President Mike Williams requested of then-Interim Provost Sara Rosen a cost-benefit analysis of major consultancy contracts the University has undertaken in the past several years: Huron, Shorelight, Everspring, Academic Analytics, etc. In October, current University Senate President made the same request of current Provost Neeli Bendapudi, who agreed to develop this analysis. This has not been completed, as of this writing, but we expect to receive the information at some point and will share it with you when we do.

**Budget.** Both the Planning and Resources and the Ad Hoc Committee on Cost Savings has requested extensive budgetary information for analysis (including information on payments to private consultants). The result will be recommendations to the Administration for cutting unnecessary spending.

**Intellectual Property.** The School of Engineering Senate unanimously passed a resolution last semester stating that “Engineering Senate objects to pre-assignment of faculty, staff, and students’ intellectual property (IP) in the KU Pre-Invention Assignment Agreement and the KU IP Policy for IP created outside of university time and resources.” Talks are ongoing, between the administration and Faculty Senate President Pam Keller and University Senate President-Elect (and EECS professor) Suzanne Shontz, to resolve the most contentious issues with the pre-assignment agreement.