

SECRETARY'S REPORT NO. 417

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate met in regular session on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 3:30 PM in Saxbe Auditorium in Drinko Hall, with President Ted Carter presiding. There were 113 voting senators in attendance (80%), either in person or remotely. This report, along with the agenda, materials, and verbatim recording constitute the minutes for this meeting.

The Senate:

1. Approved Secretary's Report #416.
2. President Carter deferred his opening comments for later in the meeting.
3. Kelsey Badger, Research Data Librarian, presented on work at the University Libraries to collect data repositories that have been made inaccessible due to recent upheavals in federal research centers.
4. Sabrina Durso, Council of Graduate Students President, presented a CGS resolution titled "Inclusion of (Not Just) Graduate Students with Disabilities." The senate voted to endorse the resolution.
5. A panel titled "Impacts and Information Related to Changes in Policies and Procedures at the State and Federal Level" began with presentations by Stacy Rastauskas, Vice President for Government Affairs, and Anne Garcia, Senior Vice President & General Counsel, discussing some of the legislative and legal challenges facing the university at this time. Peter Mohler, Executive Vice President of ERIK, presented on the challenges in the research enterprise space due to uncertainties regarding funding, processes, and threat of stoppage for currently funded projects due to topics newly proscribed at the federal level.
6. President Carter announced the sunseting of two major offices at the university: the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) and Student Life's Center for Belonging and Social Change (CBSC), effective February 28, 2025. Scholarships administered by the Office of Academic Affairs, including the Morrill Scholarship Program and the Young Scholars Program will be maintained with modified eligibility criteria going forward. The Office of Institutional Equity will be renamed the Office of Civil Rights.
7. Following the presentations and announcement from President Carter, constituent group representatives offered their comments and responses to the announcement: Angilmarie Rivera Sanchez, IPC senator; Sabrina Durso, CGS President; Bobby McAlpine, USG President; Tracey Boggs, USAC Chair; and Sara Watson, Faculty Council Chair.
8. The meeting was extended by 20 minutes to allow for comments from the floor on the decision to be shared with the President.
9. The meeting adjourned at 5:20PM.