



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE
JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE
VOLUME XXV
MINUTES OF MEETING #519, 27 OCTOBER, 2011
APPROVED 1 DECEMBER, 2011

Present: *Wai Mok, Charles Hickman, Eric Fong, David Stewart, Eletra Gilchrist, Derrick Smith, Laurel Bollinger, David Neff, Kwaku Gyasi, Sam Thomas, Deborah Heikes, Eric Seemann, Bhavani Sitaraman, Ramon Cerro, Jeff Kulick, David Pan, Jennifer English, Nathan Slegers, David Moore, Louise O'Keefe, Ina Warboys, Brenda Talley, Marlana Primeau, Kristen Herrin, Roy Magnuson, Carmen Scholz, Ramazan Aygun, Tim Newman, Peter Slater, Claudio Morales, Dongsheng Wu, Richard Miller, Max Bonamente, Nikolai Pogorelov, Vistasp Karbhari*

Guests: *Brent Wren, Gordon Stone, Robert Altenkirch*

Absent with Proxy: *Carolyn Sanders, Kathy Hawk, Seong Moo Yoo, Jason Cassibry*

Absent without Proxy: *Mohamed Ashour, Paul Componation, John Mecikalski, James Baird*

- ❖ Dr. Timothy Newman **called the meeting #519 to order** at 12:45 p.m.
- ❖ Derrick Smith moved, seconded by Louise O'Keefe to **approve the minutes**, the minutes were approved.
- ❖ Dr. Timothy Newman announced that the **Director of the Higher Education Partnership** is here today for brief bit of information to the Faculty Senate. Generally he comes once a year to talk about the Partnership and Higher Education Day. This year he will meet with the Finance and Resources Committee on November 16 to give more detailed information and to answer questions. If you have specific questions please send them to the Committee so they can get answered there and the Committee will report to the Senate.
- ❖ **Gordon Stone—Higher Education Partnership**—Gordon stated the Higher Education Partnership represents the 4 year institutions. He stated it was formed in 1997 as a grassroots organization to come together to express the position on policy and represent all of higher education. The legislature is skewed and sometimes left higher education out. We can report success and frustration. This is going to continue as long as we have the same budgetary

process and dependency on sales tax. What happens with the economy has to do with what happens to us. The differences since last fall is that we now have a republican controlled House, Senate and Governor's office. The most dramatic change was the ethics law changes and how it impacted advocacy organizations. If any of you used payroll deduction for your dues we did away with that. The changes had an impact on us and K-12. Some ideas were suppressed before coming to the forefront now. We will see Charter schools come forth. Most likely we will not get involved in that if it does not impact universities. But if it does impact universities we will get involved. At the Federal level they are trying to find jobs and ease indebtedness. This has an impact on students and universities. There is some correlation with state and federal levels. We have to watch what happens in Washington—could affect the number of students. We want them to be equitable in funding and move back to 1/3 -2/3 distribution. This is simplified. We have always advocated taking care of all education. Former Governor Riley and Governor Bentley are engaging and includes us at the table. It is going to be tight because there is no stimulus money now. We have to make sure the universities get our portion and that policies that come up are friendly to universities. People leading the House and Senate have voted for us before in tough times. March 1 is Higher Education Day. Please leave this date with less due that day so students can come. All are welcome to come. Check to see if you are still a member and go to <http://www.higheredpartners.org> and sign up if you are not still a member \$1 month is basic membership.

- ❖ **President Altenkirch's Report**—Dr. Altenkirch stated it is great to be here, it is exciting to be here. I have spent some time randomly with various people on campus. I will spend more structured time when am officially here next week. I think it would be a good idea to develop a crisp strategic plan so you have ownership and can execute it. I am looking forward to working with you and to working with Tim.

- ❖ **Provost Karbhari's Report**—Dr. Karbhari reported we are presenting 2 resolutions, the Bachelor of Science in Economics and Computational Analysis from Business Administration and the Masters in Education for differential instruction from Liberal Arts. We are also seeking acceptance of a gift of \$3.746M for an endowment from the Durkee estate. It goes to specific units on campus by a formula in the estate. There is also a building with land and the value of that will go to the Board for approval. We are very grateful for the gift. We have a call with ACHE regarding the Master of Science in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and the Master of Science in Earth System Science. If there are no problems we will have these in place for spring semester.
We have scheduled 2 webinars in the near future—November 7, 2011, 12:00-1:30 p.m. and November 10, 2011, 2:00-3:30 p.m. in Library 233 right now and if we have more than that room will hold we will move to Shelby Center 301. There will be a 2 part webinar in January on January 24 and 31 from 12-1:45 in the Library Room 111.
Louise O’Keefe made a plea for the Staff and Faculty Clinic and they were able to hire a .50 FTE nurse practitioner and we are looking at where to place the Clinic when we get the new Student Center.

You will see people walking around the buildings and they are working on the wireless system. November 7 starts the first phase and they will be working until 6 January. They will have tags on and there will be someone from IT with them. There are about 12 buildings in phase 1 and they are academic buildings. We hope this will give more wireless access and resolve some problems.

One hundred and one student organizations have completed registration and this is a new high from 68 last spring. These are all assisted by faculty as advisors and we thank you for your service in this capacity.

- ❖ **Acceptance of Executive Committee Report:** Laurel Bollinger moved, seconded by Eric Seemann to accept. The report was accepted.

The Guests and Dr. Karbhari left.

- ❖ **Faculty Senate President's Report:**

Report included a summary of items in the Senate Meeting packet distributed electronically. There is a contribution inequity in the teacher's retirement with 12 month verses 9 month—I have alerted the VP for Finance to address this. Specifically, the inequity is that faculty on 9-month appointments taking their pay over 12 months are penalized by the retirement plan contribution increase from 5% of pay to 7.25% of pay. The result of the inequity is that the University receives a windfall of about \$10.30 per \$10,000 of salary for each 9 month faculty member taking pay over 12 months. There is no such windfall to the University for anyone taking pay over 9 months, nor is there a windfall to the University for those on 12 month appointments.

Emergency Notification issues—Dr. Timothy Newman stated he met with the security group and there is a 2 phase plan that will cost about \$3M to enhance the fire alarm system and make the announcements through the fire alarm system. We hope this will clear up problems.

Feedback on updated Communicable Diseases Policy—Dr. Timothy Newman reported he sent comments to the Provost and there is a bill addressing this. There was not enough involvement of the faculty in the development of the policy especially faculty in the health related area.

Dr. Tim Newman reported he has met with President Altenkirch and shared with him that there are damaged relationships with the faculty that need to be mended. He is willing to engage faculty. Tim Newman and Richard Miller, the President-Elect have been meeting with departments and the message they are hearing from faculty is that they are willing to engage. There are also damaged relationships with the community that need work and need to be addressed and we want to be a part of that. The closure of the varsity hockey program was a miss-step with the community. We also need to highlight our distinctives and the varsity hockey was one of those distinctives.

University positions on Senate actions:

Accepted the **Sense of the Senate Resolution** regarding the Faculty and Staff Clinic.

Senate Bill 355—Ombuds Office: The Provost supports and will consider funding in the 12-13 budget.

Senate Bill 351—Encouraging Second Degrees: It was accepted in part and partially rejected—It will be added to the catalog and the Deans will discuss with the student. The Deans are looking at the requirements and working on this part. It was stated in the response that the Deans are already doing as much as possible and do not see flexibility requested as possible. Do we want to do more.

Senate Bill 353—Supporting Second Degrees After Graduation: This was accepted in part. The Deans are in support generally but the idea of less than 25% required creates some issues in Nursing and possibly in Science and Business. In Engineering and Liberal Arts it is possible. Consider if Senate needs to do more.

Senate Bill 354—Full Refunds for Those Deployed—the take on the memo is that the Bill was rejected because it is not needed. We've been practicing this for many years and there is no legal requirement. Received some information regarding errors and would like more information. Scholastic Affairs receives requests for refunds and withdrawals.

Senate Bill 340--Department Chair Eligibility: Waiting for a response—January 5, 2011, the Provost requested more time. Need advice on how to handle these.

Senate Bill 352--Midterm Grading: No response.

Senate Bill 332--Program for Teaching Excellence: The Provost is willing to work with Faculty and Student Development. Awaiting implementation on that.

We may have another bill or two awaiting implementation.

Carolyn Sanders stated those on which we've been waiting a while---has that indicated a decision? How should the Senate proceed?

❖ **Senate Committees:**

There are written reports included with the minutes. You are encouraged to look at those. The highlights are in the minutes.

Finance and Resources: Wai Mok stated it is all in the package.

Personnel Committee: Ramon Cerro pointed out again the reason the Personnel Committee recommended the post tenure section be eliminated from the Handbook. The phrase there is an assault on tenure.

The Committees are looking at revisions to the Handbook and we hope to bring it to the Senate this year.

Research Council—Dr. Carmen Scholz' report is included.

- ❖ **Senate Bill 350—Conflict of Interest:** It is back before you. The history is listed in the write-up. Personnel reworked the bill and it is back for second reading. Claudio Morales moved, seconded by Richard Miller to accept the bill for second reading. We have widened the scope to include faculty. Bhavani Sitaraman is concerned with how vague it is. It is so open ended and too general to be effective. Ramon Cerro asked does immediate family include spouse and children. Kwaku Gyasi stated this just indicates it is reported but what happens? This does not solve the conflict of interest.

Jeffrey Kulick stated this is just a means of documenting not addressing.

Laurel Bollinger stated this was worded "directly supervised" but now that "faculty member" is added in it-no longer makes sense. David Stewart stated the concern was the supervisor. Laurel Bollinger made this an amendment and David Stewart seconded the amendment. The vote was that the amendment carries. Vote on the amended bill. The bill passes at second reading.

- ❖ **Senate Bill 357—Faculty Professional Meeting Attendance Support Bill:** Deborah Heikes moved, seconded by Kwaku Gyasi the bill to second reading. Richard Miller stated the lack of funds in units is an ongoing problem and the goal is to assist with faculty and student development. There was a motion by Peter Slater, seconded by Max Bonamente to change line 17 and 35 to the same language as line 25. The motion passes. Claudio Morales asked about the history on money for conferences for faculty by the University. There are differences in different colleges. He stated there was money in the past and there is none now. Is \$600 enough and \$7500 total. There is a larger thing to address. Some things larger than faculty development are being supported. This is a start and we will push for more once a history is established. Vote—passes at second reading.
- ❖ **Senate Bill 358—Ph.D. Student Professional Meeting Attendance Support Bill:** Richard Miller moved, seconded by Deborah Heikes the bill to second reading. Peter Slater moved, seconded by Ina Warboys to change line 20 to the same language "legitimate". The motion passes. Brenda Talley pointed out there are other doctoral students other than Ph.D.s She asked to use doctoral not just Ph.D. Brenda Talley moved seconded by Derrick Smith to replace Ph.D. with doctoral. The amendment carries. Roy Magnuson stated he is not in favor. It is too little money and too much bureaucracy. Richard Miller asked does it have more effect to draft a bill that encourages x amount of funds to the department set aside for travel. Roy Magnuson stated it might be. Derrick Smith stated they had a similar program when he went through graduate school. It makes sense to go through the graduate school. The money is not enough. Roy Magnuson stated you need to increase the money or do 80% or 100%. I Like to send students early. What about masters students would they benefit from others and then send again when

more mature. Peter Slater stated this sets something. Brenda Talley stated why not ask for more. Think about the amount. Roy Magnuson proposed, seconded by Claudio Morales an amendment to change to \$1000 in line 28 . The vote was 21 for 6 against. Dongsheng Wu, seconded by David Stewart to change line 25 to \$5000. Roy Magnuson stated that is not enough. It was amended. Motion by Roy Magnuson seconded by Sam Thomas to change line 25 from \$5000 to \$10000 the amendment passed. Ramazan Aygun moved, seconded by Claudio Morales to change doctoral to graduate. Ramazan Aygun asked if we should give more to doctoral students. Brenda Talley suggested more than one pot of money instead of dividing up one. Kristen Herrin stated why not make it a terminal degree seeking student. Richard Miller suggested maybe we need a more comprehensive bill since we amended this one. Louise O'Keefe agrees with Richard Miller. Louise O'Keefe moved, seconded by Ramon Cerro to table. The bill is tabled. Richard Miller asked for suggestions on revised wording.

- ❖ **Senate Bill 361: Improved Integrity for Communicable Disease:** Sam Thomas moved, seconded by Kwaku Gyasi the bill to the floor for discussion. Roy Magnuson commented on the policy that it is written badly. The language is bad. We need to learn more about what we have been doing and what we want to do. We need more background. David Stewart moved to strike everything in the bill after line 5 and state the policy be reworked. Brenda Talley seconded the motion. The vote carries. Richard Miller stated there are already policies on how to deal with such matters. Louise O'Keefe stated the original policy was established in 1988 with Aids and HIV in mind with regard to campus safety and individual rights. In 2009 it was H1N1 that was the concern. The University is concerned with easily communicable diseases and the safety of the campus. There are laws in place—if there are communicable diseases they are reported to the State. The State has a list. Louise O'Keefe talked about the membership of the Committee changing and they are looking at the policy. There was some discussion regarding the state laws and the development of the policy. Dr. Timothy Newman checked the Roberts Rules and determined the motion to table was not in order so Dr. Richard Miller made a motion, seconded by Dr. Peter Slater to postpone the bill to January.

Peter Slater **moved to adjourn** and the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.