
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
February 16, 2017
12:30 P.M. in NUR 101A

Present: *Sophia Marinova, Laird Burns, Yongchuan Bao, David Stewart, Ryan Weber, Joseph Taylor, Irena Buksa, Christine Sears, Carolyn Sanders, Jeremy Fischer, Anne Marie Choup, Dianhan Zheng, Kyle Knight, Michael Banish, Ramon Cerro, Tingtin Wu, Earl Wells, James Swain, Kader Frendi, Christina Carmen, Casey Norris, Maria Steele, Roy Magnuson, Debra Moriarity, Carmen Scholz, Jeff Weimer, Harry Delugach, Tim Newman, Dongsheng Wu, Ming Sun, Vladimir Florinski, Monica Dillihunt*

Absent with Proxy: *Xuejing Xing, John Schnell, David Harwell, Fat Duen Ho, Marlena Primeau, Amy Hunter, Shannon Mathis*

Absent without Proxy: *Yuri Shtessel, Babak Shotorban, Mark Lin, Ann Bianchi, Tracy Durm, Mary Bonilla, Qingyuan Han, Shanhu Lee*

Ex-Officio: *Provost Christine Curtis*

Guests: *President Bob Altenkirch*

- Faculty Senate President Mike Banish called the meeting to order at 12:31 pm.
- Approve Faculty Senate Minute from meeting #575. Monica Dillihunt motions to approve. Member seconds. Ayes carry.
- Accept FSEC Report from February 9. Kader Frendi motions to accept. Member seconds. Ayes carry.
- **Meeting Highlights:**
 - Cover a Charger Bill passed third reading unanimously with amendments.
 - Sense of the Senate Resolution fails by one vote.
 - Handbook Chapter 4 passes second and third reading.
 - Bill 401 passes second and third reading.
- **Administrative Reports**
 - President Bob Altenkirch
 - I am going to go over the active construction projects that are in place. As part of the project for the residence hall, the greenway is being extended. The street will not come through there anymore. You will still be able to make a left turn into SSB but cannot go any further. This finishes the southern part of the greenway.
 - Member – Do you have measurement of how much traffic is coming through that area now?
 - President- Yes, the parking study captured that and there isn't much at all.

- Kader – From this picture, the engineering building needs to go. It is in the way.
- Ramon – What is the deadline to finish this?
- President – Before the fall of 2018. This residence hall will open up with 400 beds in the fall of 2018. It will be full or close to full when we open it.
- The next one is the incubator building. As per the last board meeting and the gift from Dorothy Davidson, it will be called the DS Davidson Invention to Innovation Center. This will break ground early spring/late summer and will open by the fall of 2018.
 - Kader – How many tenants will be in the building?
 - President – It will house 35 companies.
 - Kader – This will make the parking on the outside a lot worse, correct?
 - President – You haven't seen the parking proposal yet.
- We thought we were going to build two fraternity houses and one sorority house, but we will only be building one. All of these projects will be done by fall of 2018.
- We had a policy for residence halls that gave a trial period for six weeks to those students who live within 30 miles. At the end of the six weeks, if they want to leave they can move out and commute with no financial commitment. It isn't possible to execute that anymore due to being full. We rescinded the trial housing policies. We took it off the web and we aren't using it in any marketing material.
 - Ramon – Do you have any statistics on how many did this and stayed?
 - President – We went from 20, 40, to 60. Then about 85% stayed for the academic year. The issue now is we don't need to entice them, because they want to stay and we are full. When we had the beds it worked fine.
- There is a list that is managed by US Veterans Affairs; it is called military friendly colleges. There are a lot of websites that market that. If you go and get a list for Alabama universities, we are the only ones not on the list. We don't have a policy for students that are called to active duty. When we applied to be military friendly, we were rejected because of this.
 - Tim – During Franz's administration there was a policy put into place. I thought we were acting on that?
 - President – It is a practice. You have to have a policy allowing them to withdrawal or take leave along with a tuition reimbursement. I am going to have a Christy draft up a policy. I am going to ask that you approve it very quickly. I don't want to be the only university in a military town not on the list.
 - Member – In order to move quickly, can you use a template that is recognizable?
- The written parking study will come in this week. The consultant will give a presentation to the Vice Presidents, me, and the police officers. We then may tweak it and place it on the web. Just because the consultant proposes something doesn't mean we have to do it. The basic concept is zone parking and a transportation loop.
 - Harry – What is a transportation loop?
 - President – A couple of buses and a wait time of 7 – 10 minutes.
 - Ramon – Will that include satellite parking?

- President – There is parking over there. I will tell you the loop will cost \$.5M a year.
 - Debra – Will you have to pay to ride?
 - President – Most have said that doesn't work well.
 - Harry – The students won't use and it will slow down the system.
 - Carmen – Could you give me a two sentence explanation on the charger innovation fund?
 - Provost – It has a lot to do with the innovation center now.
 - Debra – It was a fund that students and faculty could apply for innovative ideas. I think the advisory group has some people outside of the university on it.
- Provost Christine Curtis
 - I asked the FSEC to look at the modified duties and the extension of tenure clock policies. I asked them to go ahead and put it into policy before the handbook is completed. I have had the request from search committees to show that we are a friendly campus to our faculty. I have had request coming out of our colleges saying it isn't clear. We have faculty that become ill and need to be excused from some duties. We are constantly facing one or two situations each semester. I ask that you consider that.
 - The tenure/promotion files have made it through the colleges and URB. We will be getting the letters out right before spring break.
 - I have sent to Mike chapter 8 of the revised faculty handbook with comments. That chapter has a lot of student policies in it and sought comments from those who work within that area. After I finish the tenure promotion files, I will be sending the committee the first part of chapter 7.
 - Roy – In reviewing the probation period, I understand the new policy makes some things automatic. I think the modification of duties is lingering.
 - Provost – in the revised chapter 9, there is a statement about parental leave. It also addresses, with justification, the illness of family, deaths, so people can deal with illness. When you think about it, once you grant someone tenure we keep them about thirty years. If we can grant those a semester during that time in the event of illness, family issues, we have made a tremendous investment in those individuals.
 - Ramon – Dr. Banish has a copy of a policy coming from student success center that accommodates special issues for students that need extra help.
 - Provost – I found them as I was looking at chapter nine of the revised handbook. From what Tim told me, that chapter came forward around 2009.
 - Mike – We have on the web the 1998 faculty handbook. There was a version approved in 2012 that was not approved by administration or the board.
 - Roy – A few years ago I used the testing center, sometime more recently, I found out they are not providing that service anymore.
 - Provost – DSS is providing those services for students that need specific accommodations. That information came out early this fall. DSS has areas for individual testing.

- Sophia – It says we should accommodate at the faculty department level. Should I inquire if I need DSS?
- Provost – I would call Rebecca and see what you can work out.
- Tim – In point three, with an upper division student, the department may be asked to assist. I know our staff was in an uproar when testing services said they wouldn't do that anymore and the student had to come to our department. We had one student that has extra time for test and need for a scribe, they told us to provide that. It puts an extra load on us to provide this.
- Provost – We had students in physics, psychology, and computer sciences go to DSS before the department. The physics students were getting frustrated because they couldn't tell the scribe how to write it down. If you have a situation like this, I suggest you work it out with DSS. If they say they can't do this, go to Brent. We have to remember our responsibility is to help the student.
- Ramon – The opposite problem arose in our department. What if a student reading is helping the student beyond the reading?

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- President-Elect, Carmen Scholz
 - I received one bill that is the buyout policy and has been moved to personnel and faculty development. As ombudsperson, I have not received anything.
- Past President, Kader Frendi
 - Our committee met to discuss ways to increase our PhD production. The recommendations from the committee are as follows creation of PhD in the college of arts and humanities. We also recommended that there be a matrix for graduate students. It seems like Dave Berkowitz has gotten a head start on that. Also, Dave is investigating on fundraising. We do not need to forget our duty to increase research funding.
 - Provost – The funding for the international recruiting agents comes from the first year tuition of that student. When the student pays tuition, as of October 1, then we pay the agent. The student has to get here, pay tuition, stay enrolled, and then we pay the agent.
- Parliamentarian, Tim Newman
 - No report.
- Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair, James Swain
 - No report.
- Personnel Committee Chair, Ramon Cerro
 - We will have comments on the lecturer policy.
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair, Christine Sears
 - No report.
- Finance and Resource Committee Chair, Joseph Taylor
 - We finished the RCEU evaluations and awarded 41 stipends. The finance committee met with Bob Lyons about advancement and fundraising.
- Governance and Operations Committee Chair, Monica Dillihunt
 - We are working on the UAH mission statement.
- Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair, Earl Wells

- No report.
- Anne Marie Choup
 - We have met with two great candidates for the Title IX Coordinator. We will meet again to make our recommendation to the President.
- Tim Newman
 - The faculty database committee has been meeting and done evaluations on three products.
- President, Mike Banish
 - Third reading of cover a charger bill. Mike introduces as third reading. Tim Newman seconds. I am going to say there was a typo that made it through but has been corrected. It was a repetition of “undergraduate student”. I would like a motion to amend, Tim. Kader Frendi seconds. Debra - there is a second typo under now therefore it be resolved, it needs to say, “embark on a”. All in favor. Ayes carry.
 - Roy – I thought we added the words “income share agreement.” The point was that we described it something like the back a boiler plan income share agreement.
 - Mike - Do I have a second for this? Tim Newman seconds. Ayes carry.
 - Carolyn – I am assuming for a bill like this the description is adequate? I don’t have any understanding of what this entails. Should I go back to back a boiler plan?
 - Mike – This is for the President to say if we can do it.
 - Kader – Given where we are, is the timeline adequate?
 - Mike - All in favor. Ayes carry. Bill passed third reading unanimously.
 - Sense of Senate Resolution – There is an amendment to this, a rewrite of the verbiage. The red highlighted area shows the change. Kader Frendi motioned to introduce the amendment. Carmen Scholz seconds. Ayes carry.
 - Roy – I would like to speak against this. This inspired me to look up our core values. I don’t think this adds anything to the core values. The wording of, “we will not tolerate”, in a document that is to promote tolerance, could cause issues. This doesn’t add anything and might actually detract.
 - Sophia – Is there change in the language, we will not tolerate?
 - Roy – I am asking that we not pass this, not just approve the amendment.
 - Tim – I imagine there are a number of reasons we would consider this at this time. One of our colleagues in our college has expressed concerns that our faculty and students have in regards of expressing themselves. I think a lot of our colleagues feel we need to make a statement as faculty. The university has made a statement, but I think it would be good if the faculty could restate this.
 - Kader – I attended the multicultural gathering last Friday. The anxiety among our international students is very high. They were very pleased to see faculty senate representation at that gathering. We have a lot of Iranian students on campus and they are nervous. I think this is needed from our side as faculty. The President did come out with a statement. I think we owe it to our students and colleagues working with us.

- Sophia – I wonder about civil rights only. What about sex and gender? I know for HR purposes we have to include that statement, but it isn't the most inclusive way.
- Roy – Some of the students that feel the most immortalized on campus include international students, as well as "Trump supporters". They feel they are not the majority. I would recommend at a minimum we strike, "we will not tolerate." I agree that we will not tolerate, but I think it is a harsh term.
- Jeff seconds. Ayes carry.
- Jeff – It sounds to me that striking that will also accomplish the task to opening this up to political gender. It just says we will be respectful. I see it covering two birds with one stone.
- Sophia – Yes, it is more inclusive.
- James – Is the problem with the sentence or phrase not tolerating?
- Roy – Both.
- Ramon – If we do not tolerate, does that mean we will tolerate?
- Roy – We already have plenty of things in the values about treating others. We get into this thing that we tolerate people that tolerate other people. I think there should be sanctions for those who use misbehavior, but not immediate expulsion.
- Ramon – This comes after some things have happened. Groups have gone into universities that have painted ideas, and we are responding to that.
- Roy – I am happy to respond to that but not over respond.
- David – This is important to have. Our students are feeling very mistreated. There have been comments on the internet that are threats towards students posting about political views. We need to protect our students, especially our Trump students.
- Jeff – I think we are talking about two things. Would you accept, "we do not tolerate"
- Roy - I would like to keep the amendment the same. The positive to this is to treat others with civility and respect.
- Ramon – The problem is with the definition of the word tolerate. Tolerate means we don't accept.
- Roy - It means to me extreme action.
- Carolyn – I take great pride that we work for the most accepting university within the city/state. If we don't step up now, when will we? I don't think letting the core values stand for themselves at this point is enough. I want this to come from the senate. I am glad that our President stepped up. I think it needs to be spelled out what we mean as a senate.
- Mike – All in favor of striking highlighted sentence. 15 in favor. 16 opposed. Amendment fails.
- Sophia – Two issues came up, I think we need to be more inclusive.
- Harry – I would like to propose an amendment that we strike based on race, religion, or sexual orientation. The list of things we don't want people to discriminate is really long. Member seconds.
- Ramon – Leave on our campus.

- Mike – I take this as a friendly amendment that we will strike the highlighted portion. I am calling for a vote. All in favor striking highlighted portion. 25 in favor.
- Mike – I am going to call for a vote in favor of amended sense of senate. Please remember one negative vote will cause this to fail. 34 in favor. 1 opposed. Sense of senate resolution fails.
- Ramon – I would like to make a roll call count motion of the sense of senate resolution. Kader Frendi seconds.
- Mike – All in favor of roll call vote, 13 in favor, motion fails.
- Chapter 4 Faculty Handbook - We passed this in a special meeting in August. It was returned to us in January. We took a look at what they returned. We approved the changes in red and passed it by the FSEC. I am going to pull this forward to the floor. I have one amendment for the highlighted purple section, “after consulting with the faculty of the department.”
 - Tim – Motion to accept chapter 4. Kader Frendi seconds.
 - Mike - Motion to accept amendment. Laird Burns moves. Carmen Scholz seconds. All in favor. 1 opposed. Ayes carry.
 - Mike – Any other amendments to chapter 4?
 - Tim – There is some tortuous language in section 4.4. I think this is subject to a legal interpretation that would cause us to go around and around. On the second line, I would like to add “that the university shall provide either at least one year of notice or one academic year of severance pay. The choice of which to provide is the President’s.”
 - Mike – The amendment is to strike everything after “shall provide.”
 - Roy Magnuson seconds amendment.
 - Harry – Does this mean calendar year or academic? I would like for it to say one calendar year of notice or one academic year of severance pay.
 - Tim – I don’t have an opinion on that. I would suggest the language means calendar year because academic is called out specifically.
 - Ramon – Let’s make a friendly amendment to add “calendar.”
 - Debra – President should be possessive.
 - Mike – All those in favor of amendment. Ayes carry.
 - Ramon – I would like to say rather than consulting, it should say get the approval of the faculty. Sophia Marinova seconds.
 - Mike - All in favor. 17 in favor. 3 opposed. 5 abstain. I am calling for a vote of chapter 4 handbook.
 - Debra – Provost, with that language, will it move forward or come back to our committee?
 - Provost – My opinion, you will see this again.
 - Mike – All in favor of chapter 4 as amended. 28 in favor. 3 opposed.
 - Tim – I would like to move this to third reading. Ramon Cerro seconds.
 - Mike – All in favor of moving it to third reading. Ayes carry. All in favor of moving chapter 4 for third reading. Bill passes.
- Mike – Motion to move Bill 401 into second reading. Kader Frendi motions. Tim Newman seconds. This is a bill that says we are pre-approving language of the faculty handbook in relation to modified duties and extension of tenure clock.
 - Roy – The word “penultimate” is being used.

- Provost – If it is a one year extension, the penultimate year would be the seventh year. The penultimate is the year you go up for tenure.
 - Mike – Motion is we are pre-approving. All those opposed. Ayes carry. Bill 401 passes second and third reading.
- Kader Frendi motions to adjourn meeting. Member seconds. Meeting adjourns at 2:00 pm.