

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE
JOURNAL OF THE FACULTY SENATE
VOLUME XXV
MINUTES OF MEETING #564, 28 JANUARY 2016
APPROVED 25 FEBRUARY 2016

Present: *Wai Mok, Tim Landry, Eric Fong, David Stewart, Joe Conway, Joseph Taylor, Irena Buksa, Carolyn Sanders, Jeremy Fischer, Eric Seeman, Mike Banish, Richard Fork, James Swain, Kader Frendi, Babak Shotorban, Mark Lin, Casey Norris, Ann Bianchi, Azita Amiri, Monica Beck, Cheryl Emich, Lenora Smith, Udaysankar Nair, Luciano Matzkin, Debra Moriarity, Jeff Weimer, Peter Slater, Tim Newman, Ming Sun, Vladimir Florinski*

Absent with proxy: *Christine Sears, Xuejing Xing, Anne Marie Choup, Larry Carey, John Schnell, Diana Bell, Ramon Cerro, Ken Zuo, Marlena Primeau, John Shriver*

Absent without proxy: *Xiaotong Li, Kyle Knight, Ying-Cheng Li, Earl Wells, Monica Beck, Grant Zhang, Monica Dillihunt*

Guests: *Provost Christine Curtis
Mr. Ray Hayes*

- Faculty Senate President Kader Frendi called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm. Motion is given to suspend meeting rules. Tim Newman seconds motions. Ayes carry the motion.
- **Presentation – Mr. Ray Hayes, Incoming University of Alabama Chancellor**
 - The presentation will discuss higher education funding (nationally and within the state), overview of the system office, and look into the future giving my perspective. Facts prove that higher education funding is declining. Nationally higher education is spending 28% less per student than 2008. From 1975 to present, we receive more funds from tuition than state appropriations. Students have to pay more in tuition to offset the decrease from state funds. The other two campuses are looking the exact same in this area.
 - The system has over 63,000 students over three campuses. This is based on the fall semester. We employ almost 37,000 within the system. A large portion of this comes from our health facilities, especially due to facilities in Birmingham. We have a lot of affiliates within the health system. When you combine faculty, staff, and students, we are housing 100,000 people which is equal to the 5th largest city in the state. We house over 13,000 students on campuses. We serve 24,000 meals on campuses. We have a police force on each campus. It's a very big operation when you look at the system statewide.
 - Some Legislatures believe that the system office can transfer funds between each campus, that is not so. Federal grants and contracts are specific and have to be spent on what it was awarded for. UAH's grants and contracts are larger than the University of Alabama's. You still cannot shift this around, it stays within that university. State funding equals \$451

million dollars, and we have a \$5.4 billion dollar budget. As you can see we do not receive our entire budget from the state, there are other sources. We have over \$1.1 billion dollars in our endowment fund currently. Legislatures want to cut our budget and think we can utilize these funds to compensate for the cut. The endowment fund is accumulated by restricted gifts given by friends, faculty, and alumni. These funds may be allocated to award scholarships, and that cannot be changed. The idea that it is used for general support for the campus is incorrect.

- A former trustee, Sid McDonald, gave a \$4 million dollar gift to build an office to house all system employees. We have 85 system employees. The majority are attorneys and internal auditors. The rest work within investment and benefits.
- Our trustee board consists of fifteen members, two of which are from this area - Ron Gray and Brent Sexton. Trustees are volunteers. Trustee Gray is Chair of our Finance Committee and Trustee Sexton is Chair of our Investment Committee. They are very good and spend a lot of time committed to their work. In previous systems that I have worked for, the trustees were government appointed. In those times, I felt it was very political and not focused on the best interest of the campuses. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and need to be thanked for their efforts.
- I do want to discuss the changes that have occurred on campus. Our Senior Senator was involved in giving a large amount of funds earmarked for the development of the Shelby Center. Since the Shelby Center has open here on campus, bachelor's degrees in engineering has risen 50%, bachelor's degrees in science has risen 40%, master degrees in engineering has risen 16%, master degrees in science has risen 48%. These buildings make a significant change for the campus.
- We are a very significant economic engine for the state. I don't think this is communicated very well. UAH has sustained 1,531 jobs giving an annual impact of \$684 million dollars. These are very significant numbers within our state. We have fourteen public universities within the state of Alabama, our campuses within our system graduates 43%.
- Our population increased from 4.4 million to 4.8 million during 2000 – 2013. Our per capita income increased \$39,000 to \$42,276. In this same time period, the degrees awarded increased 28%. My idea is that one of the best economic premises for the state is growth in graduates. Investment in higher education is a great investment for the state of Alabama.
- We are very involved in Alabama Unites for Education. We are doing well, but we need to better protect our trust fund. Last year, the Legislative session took funds from the education trust fund and moved it to the general fund. We will have the same issue during this year's session. Chancellor Whitt and I have joined with Tommy Bice and the K-12 Superintendent to focus on protecting the education trust fund. To be honest, we all know K-12 teacher's need a raise. We have argued the difference in salary between K-12 and higher education professors. Our main focus is still just to protect the education trust fund. If we can accomplish this, there will be extra funds that can be shared among the three universities. We feel we have made an impact to the legislature to protect this fund. I think it is a great investment to raise the per capita within the state.
- Lastly, I have spent my entire career in higher education. We focus on administrative bureaucracy and forget what we are about. We are here to help students pursue their degrees. We don't spend enough time talking about this. We are going to spend more time on this subject on the future. We appreciate all that you do as a faculty member.
 - Michael Banish – RSA – you don't control it, but we hear there is a move underfoot to dissolve RSA.

- Mr. Hayes – I sit on that board and rolling off July 1st this year. There is a faculty member from UAB taking my place. I don't see it dissolving. Future faculty members may have more options outside of defined benefits options. Everyone currently in the defined benefit program should maintain. We had to add liability to our books this year. That liability is of the state not of the three campuses. I think over the years we will get defined benefit funded.
- Tim Newman – There is a perception among the community that the university has difficulty with board in regards to sports. A lot are saying that UAH and UAB are the step-child to the UA system. Do you think this is a reality? What does the system office need to do to aid us?
- Mr. Hayes – I don't think it is a reality. I do think the athletic department is going to have a difficult time in the future. The Power 5 Conferences are getting a large piece of the TV/media information. The other conferences aren't in the same ballpark. Some schools like UAH, Division 2, are a different magnitude. Last year total revenue at UA in athletics was \$154 million dollars, UAB totaled \$30 million dollars, and UAH totaled \$6.2 million dollars. It's obviously different among the colleges. A division two athletic program can do great things. However, we don't express this. UAH's strength is science and technology bringing in more contracts and grants than Alabama.
 - In addition to these revenues, there is \$6 to \$7 million dollars from licensing that transfers into the campus fund.
- Jeff Weimer – I have a question in regards to your silo graphs. We have these resources among each campus that have programs that could share these resources. I see a difficulty in convincing the UA System that it is from their side to share these resources instead of each campus having to pull from their own "silo" to share.
- Mr. Hayes – I agree 110%. We are going to make a presentation next month about systems that we can upgrade that would be faster and more efficient rather than relying on each campus to do so. I am hopeful to get each campus to spend more time with each other. We don't do a good job interacting among other faculty.
- Kader Frendi – In regards to the infrastructure issue, as UAH grows and student population grows, our need for larger classrooms will increase. What helps to push new development?
- Mr. Hayes – That is primarily initiated by the leadership of the campus. We haven't had any capital money from the state in 8-9 years. Other states give capital money to campuses every year. If we protect the trust fund, that may allow us to allocate an amount to campuses to help build buildings.

➤ Approval of Faculty Senate Meeting #563 Minutes from December 17, 2015
 Deb Moriarity **motions to approve** Minutes 563. Tim Newman seconds the motion.
 Ayes carry the motion. No oppositions.

*Motion to approve Faculty Senate Minutes 563 **passes.***

➤ FSEC Report from January 21, 2016
 Michael Banish **moves to accept.** Eric Seeman seconds the motion.
 Ayes across the room. No oppositions.

*Motion to accept Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report January 21, 2016 **passes.***

➤ **Officer and Committee Reports**

- President Kader Frendi
 - There is a board of trustees meeting next week. Mike and I will be in attendance. The whole executive committee is invited to attend by Alecia Gross. We as set presidents have been meeting together for lunch after the board of trustee meeting. We are hoping this will start collaboration among other faculty members between campuses.
 - Our Chapters 1, 2, and 3 are on the board's agenda for this meeting. Hopefully they will be approved and on the website shortly after.
- Past President , Wai Mok
 - No Report.
- Ombudsperson, Carolyn Sanders
 - No Report.
- Parliamentarian, Tim Newman
 - No Report.
- Personnel Committee Chair, Ramon Cerro
 - No Report.
- Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair, Eric Seeman
 - No Report.
 - Tim Newman – I have received some evidence that student evaluations remained open after final grades were distributed. Some students were still submitting evaluations well into this semester. This seems irregular to me and may be appropriate for this committee to look into this. Another thing to consider is a lot of the courses are only getting 40% participation with online evaluations. We were receiving 90% with paper evaluations. I think as faculty we need to look and see if we are happy with that.
 - Debra Moriarity – I would like to make an additional comment in relation to SIE's. I have a feeling that the SIE's on the testing services now are more complicated than we realize and we want to be sensitive to that. However, I received SIE's last week. I would like to get those back in a timely manner so that we can apply that feedback for the next semester.
 - Eric Seeman – This would also be beneficial to those professors who just finished teaching their first course. If they don't have any SIE's and the tenure committee meets, that could pose a problem.
 - Debra Moriarity – It has improved. We use to get them much later.
 - A senator added that some of the lecture courses don't meet these requirements at all. We receive no data from evaluations.
 - Debra Moriarity – I was on the committee early on. The number of options has decreased. They are now at a 4 rather than 5. There is almost no distinction anymore. The detail has been lost in the SIE. Our committee should look at this to give more granularities there.
 - Kader Frendi – There was a discussion that went on for a while in regards to this topic.
- Faculty and Student Development, Lenora Smith
 - No Report.
- Governance and Operations, James Swain

- I attended an operation meeting on the 7th of January. It is time to elect new senators. We have contacted every chair to notify them that senators are to be elected by March 1st.
- We also considered a bill that was submitted about deanships. We couldn't come to agreement.
- Kader Frendi – I would like to stress for elections to be done on time. We would like all rolling off and new senators at the last meeting together. I would like to have all chairs elected by the end of the semester.
- Finances and Resource Committee Chair, Joseph Taylor
 - We will meet next week to finalize the distinguished speakers. Please encourage your faculty to consider distinguished speakers to bring to campus for 2016 – 2017. Last year we only had six applications total, so we couldn't fill the spots offered. It's a great opportunity to bring people outside of campus.
 - Next faculty senate meeting Ray Pinner will be here to answer questions about the budget. I will send out a link to the budget book so you can review.
 - Kader Frendi – When is the announcement for distinguished speakers that is coming up?
 - Joseph Taylor - Hopefully it will be out next month.
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Co-Chair, Eric Fong
 - As you know last December Dean Clanton came to propose Professional Studies. The Provost agreed for the undergraduate committee to review this proposal. The majority of the curriculum committee does not agree on this as it currently stands. The issues have to do with having students who can concentrate in certain areas and receive a professional studies degree. Some people feel that could damage the reputation of our current degrees. As these students in professional studies create a program of study, there is nothing that states they need a 400 level course. They could only take 300 level classes and receive a degree claiming a certain concentration. The program typically houses students 24 years old or older. This doesn't preclude current students who couldn't pass 400 level courses and transfer over to professional studies. We realize that something needs to state how many 400 level courses they would need.
 - Another issue is that we are creating an infrastructure that already exists within current colleges. Many colleges are already interdisciplinary. Is there a way to include other colleges and to house it in a college that is interdisciplinary in nature?
 - How people earn credits is another issue. How do we determine if they get credit for an experience and who will determine that? Will there be a faculty committee created to determine credits?
 - What would it take for us to be ok with this? We can potentially agree that Dean Clanton could get with each college and discuss the programs offered. This would determine the interdisciplinary nature offered with those current programs. In hopes this would take away from the idea of it damaging our current degrees. What if we create six professional study programs of study that they can choose from? Then we could determine which classes need to go into each program. There are current issues with courses that are listed for certain programs. One being a 100 level English course that is offered as a 300 level course.
 - Debra Moriarity – We need to communicate that this a good program and that it is needed. We want to get this program going.

- Eric Fong – We really want to give opportunities to nontraditional students. We are all on board and no single committee member is against helping nontraditional students.
- Kader Frendi – Being located in Huntsville, we are in a prime area for nontraditional students.
- Eric Fong – Absolutely. Other universities are offering this program.
- Cherly Emmit – Do we have anything in place currently to attract in military or retired military?
- Eric Fong – I am not aware of any.
- Cherly Emmit – In a previous institution where I worked, they had an office staffed by former military that could evaluate their military career and convert that into credits and find comparable courses for them. As an example, my husband is former military and wanted to spend his GI bill on education. There wasn't anything here at UAH that interested him, and he went on to FIT.
- Eric Fong – An addition to pushing this degree could be the military aspect. One option that we have thrown out is creating an AD HOC committee to bring in ideas.
- President-Elect, Michael Banish
 - We have another policy – Online/Distance Education Policy. It was presented to us four months ago originally. We had questions about it and worked with administration. The Provost, Dr. Frendi, the lawyer, and I sat down to change some of the language. We worked with the lawyer to change the wording that you cannot copyright course syllabi. The changes greatly improve the policy and the protection of the faculty, in our view. It protects the faculty's recordings and videos.
 - Kader Frendi – Let me show the highlighted changes. We didn't make any changes to the core. You will see the crossing out in the policy that was sent out in appendix II.
 - Michael Banish – We have a very important statement at the bottom - if the faculty member leaves, they have the right to the content of the online course. At this point, I am going to thank the Provost for agreeing with Dr. Frendi and myself.
 - Kader Frendi – The special issues had four different items. We removed those that were redundant.
 - Michael Banish – The FSEC did vote on the policy and it did pass thru.
 - Tim Newman – The second change, can you page back to that? It says that the instructor owns the content if they leave, but if they stay they don't?
 - Provost Curtis – It was replacing a statement that indicated that the faculty member didn't have the right to take the content with them when they left the university. So in that context it makes sense, but I understand your point. You own it while you are here and when you leave. We may want to change the wording.
 - Michael Banish – The faculty member has right to course content including if the faculty member leaves the university. Could we make this as a friendly amendment?
 - Request affirmed by committee.

- Wai Mok – A student request to download the lecture? Do we grant them permission?
 - Michael Banish – I do not. This policy is much more in line with UA and UAB’s policies. We have a shared course with UA and the professor refuses to allow the students to have non-class time access to the videos.
 - Wai Mok – His reasoning is he is traveling with no internet access and wants to download the video to view offline.
 - Michael Banish – I would handle that by allowing the student to come to my office and watch the video asking questions as needed. This says that you own the material. This would ultimately be up to you.
 - Jeff Weimer – If they own the copyright there is also fair use privileges. When you go to that specific part in the fair use statement, there are four tenants that are stated about fair use. Within this bound, I would approach it as it is yours and you may not give it to anyone else. That is basically what copyright allows you to do. You wouldn’t be violating anything by doing this.
 - Jeff Weimer -I may have misunderstood, but one thing in here is that the faculty member has to give permission if the video is used outside the university. Is there a comparison to students who have to also give permission if they are in those videos?
 - Provost Curtis – Yes, it is listed under number two of special issues.
 - Jeff Weimer – I am questioning that it’s stated explicitly that the faculty must obtain online students written permission before using the students work.
 - Michael Banish – Kader and I have hinted that this paragraph should go to student government and let them report on this issue.
 - Jeff Weimer – If the student films for advertisement, is this covering that the faculty and the student give permission?
 - Michael Banish – I don’t think that is within this policy. The university is allowed to use pictures of students as long as they are not identified.
 - A motion to approve the policy was made by Michael Banish. Tim Newman accepts the motion with the change to sentence two. Motion seconded by Eric Seeman. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Michael Banish – We have been looking at the copyright policy in light to this but we will not discuss this today.
 - James Swain – I want to make everyone aware that the default setting on cameras leaves course material available to students indefinitely unless it is turned off. I did research this and it is true. It is very easy to change.
- Motion to adjourn. Michael Banish seconded.

Faculty Senate Meeting #564 adjourned
January 28, 2016, 1:54 P.M.