



SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 17, 2011

12:45 P.M. in SKH 301

Present: Severn, Warboys, Rountree, Etzkorn, English, Joiner, Gupta, Gupta has Componation proxy, Williams, Karbhari, Newman, Sitaraman

Scholz and Componation not present

President Williams Report:

- Dave Williams reported the Board Of Trustees met a short while ago, it was a quiet meeting. The prospects for the State budget are uncertain. There is talk of a couple of percent of proration. There is no clarification from the administration in Montgomery. Legislature opened last week, the Council of Presidents goes to the Chamber and Carol Garrison represented us. They put in a statement to restore the 1/3 to 2/3 split for K-12 and Higher Ed and bring us to the ACHE mandated minimum. Ray Pinner assures us if proration comes of a couple percent we can handle it this year unless the economy changes drastically. There is talk of 10% next year but it includes the stimulus funds and we did one time costs not continuing costs. Unless it goes beyond the stimulus we should be sound next year's budget outlook is sound. Admissions prospects are looking good for next year if it follows through to enrollment the budget should be sound for next year. As we and the system can be assured we are satisfied we are in a sound fiscal shape. Bond rating was increased reflecting sound university fiscally. Financial standing recognized bond rating puts us in good company. Number 3 rating. Median size for that rating is 17000. As considered other infrastructure items in line with growth in student body. Would appreciate you allaying fears about proration. NIH and NSF increase according to presidents budget. Hope we continue to grow and we will be in a sound position. There was some discussion of making the Club H a more permanent expectation. When ideas and planning is more firm will seek your input.
- Letha Etzkorn asked about the National spelunking society requesting to locate here. Dr. Karbhari responded there is nothing more yet --it is at the same place it was last year. It has not gone any further.
- Clarke Rountree stated that Wilson Luquire had a contract that we are not going to have in future. Is the Library budget going to cover that. The Provost will deal with that.

Provost Karbhari Report:

- Dr. Karbhari stated the Executive Committee has his notes. Four items approved at the Board Meeting. We are preparing for the submission of a few more. We are considering trying to rename the Institute for Science Education to the Center for Stem Education. Higher Education day is scheduled for April 7. I have sent a message to Deans and I hope they sent it to you so we hope you will have no tests on that day so students can be excused from class. Students go to Montgomery to convince the Legislature that higher education is important. Students who are involved come to faculty to let them know they are missing class and they will come back the next day with a note saying they were there. This idea came from the SGA so we would appreciate your assistance.
- Honors day is Tuesday April 5—the campus wide event will be in the morning starting at 9:00. The individual college ceremonies will be in the afternoon. We are forming a review committee for the honors program review. There will be representatives from each college and Jack Fix is the chair—we are considering names. There will be an internal review followed by an external review.
- The Search for the Athletic Director is ongoing. The list of Committee members are in the notes you have.
- Following February 12 we are looking at various ways we can assess things brought up by faculty, students and staff. Draft document distributed of policy we have put together. I spoke to you while we were in the formative stages about something to put together. We have involvement from all of campus. This is a means for individuals to inform the group of a threat or change in behavior. If something concerning can assess and provide recommendation. I ask you go through the document and provide comments and would like to take this to the next EMOG meeting the second week in March so please do it before that. This is a living document. There will be a page on the website with the same information available when it is completed. We are putting together the BETA Team and we are requesting that the Senate nominate a member to the committee. We are asking the Staff Senate to do the same. We are requesting these individuals serve a 3 year term. The Team will be looking over a period of time and will undergo training and a constant changeover would not be in the best interest of the University. Although we have not had a policy in place we have been working under this aegis. Jennifer English is on the committee currently until a representative is determined.
- Bhavani Sitaraman asked does it have to be a faculty senator or can it be an at large faculty. Dr. Karbhari stated we are just asking for a representative. There are no restrictions on it per Dr. Karbhari. One thing to stress to everyone is that the team does not prescribe treatment or discipline but makes recommendations and legal and others do the discipline or prescribing. Look through the document and let us know things that can be done to improve it. We know some things are not there but we need a policy in place.
- Bhavanai Sitaraman stated there is some confusion about why the alert system is not used for weather. Dr. Karbhari explained that the UAlert system is meant for real emergencies where immediate action must be taken—such as tornadoes, a serious incident on campus. It creates a problem for doing this for weather, etc. Dr. Sitaraman stated that timing is an issue and thinks

a policy is needed. It does not make sense to have people come to campus and find out we are closed. Dr. Karbhari stated we followed most others in Huntsville and the policy used by most others in Huntsville of opening late but we found out that the roads were still treacherous and made the decision then that it was better to shut down. We felt it was better to close even if it was late. Dr. Sitaraman stated some people feel they have to come to work and they need to know earlier. You might consider an email alert instead of just the website. The Deans are notified earlier and some send notification to faculty. Dr. Sitaraman stated some are cut off if the power is off and cell phones are still the best way. Dr. Karbhari stated he will check into it.

- Dr. Tim Newman stated he briefly reviewed the BETA policy and he wants the Administration to consider not so broad a policy in the final policy. He stated he doesn't know if you want policing on campus of people who write poems about violence and play video games, or have a lack of compassion. This is too expansion and is infringing on academic freedom. Dr. Karbhari stated it says if person see this they could report it to the BETA Team and as a concern and the Team or the supervisor if it is reported to the supervisor can evaluate and say it goes further or no it does not go further. Dr. Karbhari stated it is picking up signals over time that cause concern or is this just normal behavior. We looked at and have taken a lower threshold than others. There is a fine line between keeping safe and infringing on rights and freedom. The BETA team can evaluate or the supervisor may decide it is not a concern. We need to have a mechanism in place. Dr. Karbhari stated according to Legal Counsel if we provide a mechanism it will contribute to lower lawsuit possibility. Dr. Rountree stated this is a nightmare to do this with all that it entails. Dr. Karbhari stated this just allows us to pick up on some cases. We may be restricted by law in the actions taken. Dr. Newman left the meeting.
- There was a question of the Advancement VP movement. Dr. Williams stated he is doing due diligence with the 3 candidates. This is taking longer than he expected but we are moving forward. The start date will depend on the individual.
- Dr. Karbhari stated there is planning for a new student center. There have been meetings with students. The intention is to go out and look at various sites and then call for an architect firm and move forward. The funds will come out of student fees. The students are on board and think this is a good thing. If you have looked at the master plan you will find this is a multipurpose facility at the heart of campus. It will be a building at the edge of Holmes and John Wright. If you have thoughts or input contact John Maxon.
- Dr. Letha Etzkorn stated she had heard that several interdisciplinary programs are being run by Research Centers. Dr. Karbhari stated the Modeling and Simulation program is in CS and under the control of the Dean. Dr. Etzkorn asked about Optics and Materials Science. Dr. Karbhari stated that OSE is in Engineering and Science, Material Science is in Chemistry and faculty in Chemical Engineering and the two deans are involved and Mike Banish is in charge. None are run out of a research center. They are housed in colleges. Dr. Karbhari stated he is not aware of any run except in colleges. In some instances several departments or faculty on behalf of departments are involved.
- The makeup for Tuesday Thursday classes was discussed. Dr. Karbhari stated he discussed this with deans and study day is made available and the deans are to work with departments to handle this. Some have already dealt with this. Ask you to work through your chair and dean

and with the Registrar to schedule the makeup classes. It did not appear the best thing for us to dictate since some have already taken care of this in a variety of ways.

- John Severn stated that Dr. Donna Shalala will be the speaker for Commencement this year and will be here early and Fay Raines will arrange a presentation. She has been the President of 2 universities and in the Clinton administration. She recently chaired a committee on nursing and how we move forward. Will also attend the pinning ceremony in Nursing. If you have not attended a Pinning Ceremony it is wonderful and the College of Nursing would welcome you.

Comments from Jennifer English:

- I did not attend the Board Meeting. I stayed in Moulton because of weather.
- Regarding the Modeling and Simulation program Dr. Gaede met with Science and Engineering Faculty and Deans and Dr. Petty. Dr. Petty has been handling the paperwork and the Deans were happy with how it is handled. The Deans and Chairs are happy with way things are progressing. Dr. Petty has approval and then CS and then a copy goes to the Dean and the Engineering Dean and also to ISEEM. The Provost and VPR are working with Dr. Petty to charge his time appropriately. Faculty should make sure Department Chairs stay active in these matters. Dr. English stated there is a home academic unit for control purposes. Dr. Gaede will make sure there is an order to the people signing off on things so that the academic side has a role.
- Dr. English stated the request will come out soon for Committee members for the RCA Committee.
- Jonna Greer asked for five minutes at the next meeting to tell faculty about higher education day.
- Faculty development –Dr. English stated she is still trying to get someone to talk to about why it is beneficial
- There was some discussion regarding the Vision statement and the discussions not being well attended and what came out was not what was discussed.

Systems

Security

Space

Not all fall in those areas—all areas were discussed and there was no feedback and none of it was mentioned. We need feedback.

Dr. English stated she does not agree with the vision statement. She stated that even if we have strengths in these areas the Senate will find this unacceptable. Dr. English stated she spoke with the President at length. Dr. Gupta is on the Committee as well. Dr. English stated there was a meeting yesterday and she did not attend. There was more discussion and a statement that the Senate should register its voice on the matter. Dr. English stated she has been very vocal on this. She stated the faculty should go to their representatives on the Committee and let them

know if they are not happy. It was stated there should be an opportunity to have the statement before the Senate.

Finance and Resources:

- Dr. English reported that no one will serve as Chair. Bernhard Vogler and J. Gregory asked to help out with the REU program. Someone has to run and I will go with this unless I get someone objecting then they will be Chair.
- Distinguished Speaker—some concern for how distinguished the speakers are. Going to put something out for the committee to look at and see if the college will match what the Senate does to bring in more high profile speakers.

Personnel:

- Dr. Sitaraman made a general point that some faculty are active and some are passive—some are active in reviewing the Handbook and they want to take it seriously and document the comments before it becomes part of shared governance. They would like the comments made public to Senators. Dr. English stated that Personnel reviews, The Executive Committee reviews, the Senate reviews—have comments on website and updated as they come in or have a survey instrument to use. Dr. English wanted the Executive and Personnel to work as a group and look at the edits. Some did not like that. She also suggested the Provost and HR come for things that are changed to determine if there were legal reasons it could not be changed in certain areas. For example the procedures for URB are not well defined and it has caused some problems. Tell some things need to be done and HR tell if things cannot be done because of law. Input at beginning might save time. If personnel disagrees then continue down the current road but would like a working group. Dr. Sitaraman stated she thought the Committee still wanted time to work before coming to the larger group. Dr. English has concern for turnover in the Senate and we could end up with no one who remembers why the changes were made and this is where the urgency lies to do something now.
- Dr. English distributed realignment bill information from Alabama. The Lawyers came back last year saying we could not do what we proposed and encouraged us to look at this one and we need to look at the old ones and this one and see if we want to move forward or if that is something this body wants to do.
- Dr. English stated it would be good to elect a person for the BETA team during the regular elections—that person would just be elected for 3 years. This would be done with the ombudsperson and president elect. They would include the election of this person every 3 years. You would have to add a bill because this changes the bylaws.

Faculty and Student Development –

- Ina Warboys reported no additional information

Governance and Operations—

- Dr. Gupta reported we are getting ready for elections—question—last year we did not allow colleges and departments to hold their elections and there were objections. And some departments decided they would not do it that way. The Bylaws say college and department do it. So do we let the departments hold their elections or do it centrally? Dr. Etzkorn wants a bill to say how we do it. Dr. Gupta will ask the Parliamentarian for a ruling.

Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs—

- Dr. Rountree reported everything is in the report. We have 3 bills.

Bills—340 and 350 will be on the agenda as old business.

- Bill 351—351 and 353 should have been a pair. Bill 351 is regarding the Interdisciplinary dual degree. When the degrees are in different colleges it is hard to satisfy the GREs in two colleges. Discussion regarding requirements and how it works and does it violate anything. Dr. Rountree stated the committee asked Janet Waller. Line 10 add UAHuntsville second degree. The vote was unanimous. The bill passed at first reading with the friendly amendment.
- Bill 353—Dr. Rountree reported this bill was meant to assist with not penalizing students for stopping with one degree just short of the second degree. Dr. Gupta has a problem with the wording of this bill. It does not say they are working on a second degree. Dr. Rountree will rewrite the bill and bring it back.
- Dr. Gupta stated he is against bill 352—he stated they should do away with midterm grades. Dr. Gupta left.
- Dr. Rountree stated that the Executive Committee asked his Committee to do this. Dr. Etzkorn stated it depends on the department. It varies by department. Originally wanted to just report U and do across the board. The Committee wanted S and U and suggested using a radio button. S and U for 100 to 200 and optional for upper level. It was stated it may be harder for assessment for upper level.

Moved to adjourn.