

FACULTY SENATE MEETING #555

January 29, 2015

12:45 P.M. in BAB 114

**Present:** *Wai Mok, Charles Hickman, Tim Landry, Eric Fong, Jill Johnson, Pavica Sheldon, Joe Taylor, Linda Maier, Carolyn Sanders, Nick Jones, Anne Marie Choup, Eric Seemann, Michael Banish, James Swain, Kader Frendi, Babak Shotorban, Mark Lin, Ellise Adams, Kristen Herrin, Azita Amiri, Monica Beck, Cheryl Emich, Luciano Matzkin, Debra Moriarity, Jeff Weimer, Peter Slater, Grant Zhang, Lingze Duan, Seyed Sadeghi*

**Absent with proxy:** *Jack Schnell, Richard Fork, Ken Zuo, Marlana Primeau, John Shriver, Letha Etzkorn, Nikolai Pogorelov*

**Absent without proxy:** *Xiaotong Li, Derrick Smith, Joe Conway, John Kvach, Kyle Knight, Ying-Cheng Lin, Earl Wells, Junpeng Guo, Lenora Smith, Larry Carey, Udaysankar Nair*

**Guests:** *President Altenkirch and Provost Curtis*

➤ Faculty Senate President Wai Mok called the meeting to order at 12:48 pm.

➤ Kader Frendi **motions** to suspend the rules. Eric Seemann seconds.

➤ Administration Reports

❖ President Altenkirch

**Smoking Policy**

We recently changed the policy to prohibit e-cigarettes in buildings. We added another detail to prohibit the water pipes, as well. I now have a question for the Senate: should we pursue a tobacco-free campus? Tuscaloosa put theirs in place January 1st. A&M put theirs in place a year ago. Auburn is recently smoke-free. UAB's policy is a bit vague, as it says you can't smoke in buildings, facilities, or spaces—and I'm not sure exactly what "spaces" are.

- Anne Marie Choup: Can we take advantage of these institutions' policies to find out how their experiences have been?
- President Altenkirch: UAB's policy has been in effect for a decade and A&M has been over a year, so there might be information they could share with us. Tuscaloosa's "governing bodies" endorse this.
- Senator from the floor: Because smokers can't smoke on campus, they might be gone longer than usual from their job. That's my past experience with it.
- Kader Frendi: If you go to any building, the entrance area is always full of smoke because the current policy isn't doing what it's supposed to be doing. From that point of view, what we have now isn't functional.
- President Altenkirch: Since our sister institutions are going for it, we will take a look at it.

- Peter Slater: I oppose the prohibitionist mentality of seeking to ban individuals' behavior because we think or know their actions are harmful to them. We should protect non-smokers while leaving the smokers responsible for their own actions.
- Carolyn Sanders: I agree with Kader, what we are attempting to do now is to respect smokers, and at the same time provide a smoke-free environment for non-smokers. We should be role models for these students. I know this is a touchy subject.
- Deb Moriarity: In terms of us having the right to tell people what to do, this is a university campus—so to an extent we can. We say no guns, no drugs, etc. Smoking is damaging to the health of other people, and to their own health. Lots of workplaces have gone smoke-free.
- President Altenkirch: I'll have HR survey these institutions and give it to Wai and the FSEC.
- Nick Jones: I would favor a smoke tolerant campus, with designated gazebos for smoking or something.

### **ID Badges**

We are doing some background work on this.

### **4-day Workweek in the Summer**

Friday won't be a workday. The first Friday this will start would be May 29, the last Friday would be July 31. That's 10 weeks. We would save \$150,000 to \$200,000 in energy costs, not even factoring in maintenance, over those 10 weeks. Four 10-hour days including lunch, comes out to 37 hours of work in one week. Workday moves from 8:15am-5:00pm to 7:15-5:15, with requirement that everyone be here 9-4. Start and stop times would be worked out within the unit. The staff unanimously would like to pursue this. My recommendation is that we try it as a pilot and see what the pitfalls are. If it doesn't work, then we say we tried it and it didn't work.

- Jill Johnson: Are our custodial staff hourly? Will it affect their rate?
- President Altenkirch: No, it won't.
- Senator from the floor: During the summer, on Fridays, will campus be closed? What about the labs?
- President Altenkirch: If you need a lab to be opened on a Friday, you call facilities and ask them to open it on that particular Friday, or if it needs to stay on the whole time for temperature-control, just let them know.
- Peter Slater: There are a good number of faculty members who will be here every Friday, so the offices will need to be on.
- President Altenkirch: Not a problem, as long as you are really here.
- Joseph Taylor: On July 2, there will be no classes, correct? To observe the holiday.
- President Altenkirch: Correct.

Some buildings will need to be left on, like Kramer Hall.

- Charles Hickman: We've been calling students as part of admissions. So far, 6 out of 20 have said to play Lacrosse is why they are coming here.

Peter Slater: Have you checked on handicap spaces?

- President Altenkirch: Yes. We did a survey of how many there are. We are equal to or more than the requirements. The parking folks are watching it and if it becomes a problem, we will add some more.

❖ Provost Curtis

### **SACSCOC**

We have received a number of reports on SACSCOC. We will be getting back to you. We engaged an expert as a reader/editor/coach/guide. He's chaired various committees. Dr. Ed Rugg. He is now retired and serves as a consultant.

### **BOT Meeting**

There is a Board of Trustees meeting in Birmingham next Thursday and Friday. We have put 2 proposals before them.

Master of Arts in Teaching

Master of Arts in Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education—focused on birth to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. 121 hours, linked with RISE School and special needs children there.

Bachelor of Arts in Writing—coming out of English and Communication Arts (interdisciplinary degree).

### **Faculty Awards**

Faculty Awards are coming out shortly. There is a University Teaching award and a University Research award and Research award, which are coming out of Research Centers. The Reception and Awards ceremony will be in April instead of at graduation. There is a broader based committee. Wai will ask for suggestions for a name out of Faculty Senate to sit on this committee.

### **Assessment Committee**

Mary Herrington is coming next week for training for the assessment committee. Suzie suggests getting data via surveys.

### **Departmental Meetings**

I will be going out to all departments this spring. I have scheduled two meetings already: one in Biology and one in History for this Friday. One of the issues to address is the retention of our students.

### **Academic Leadership Workshop**

We had an Academic Leadership Workshop earlier this week. The first day was QEP, which Al Willhite chairs. I would like for Faculty Senate to issue an invitation to him to come speak at a Faculty Senate meeting. The Student Success Collaborative presented on the second day. We are working with them and they are working with the advisors and deans and department chairs.

## **Presentation**

*Why are student learning and retention important to UAH?*

Our Strategic Plan clearly states we are going to recruit and retain an outstanding and diverse student body.

Our goal is to increase enrollment to 10,000 by 2020. That is 75% undergraduate and 25% graduate. There are 2 ways to do this: recruitment and retention.

The growth rate of new high school graduates going to college has been cut by more than half.

The recruitment of new students requires a lot of effort. Out of 8 applications, we get 6 admissions, which turns in to 2 new freshmen who enroll, who end up with a 46% graduation rate. We have to increase retention.

45% of our students came in as first-time full-time students. 34% of them came in as new transfers. Hanover stated that the number of transfer students is predicted to go down. So we are focusing on the transfers in our recruiting efforts. We are putting together articulation agreements, reverse articulation agreements, and pathways. We are working all angles.

We have a moral obligation to retain students. Our core values are integrity and respect. We admitted these students, so by our standards we have told them that they can succeed.

We have to meet our programmatic and faculty needs, but we only have so much revenue. This revenue comes mainly from tuition and fees. We are tuition and fees driven, so we need the students to increase our ability to teach.

There needs to be focus on learning in the classroom (Vincent Tinto). The classroom is where the action occurs. Faculty is responsible for setting high expectations, giving feedback, receiving support, encouraging students to engage, and teaching. But it's a dual responsibility. The student has to respond. The student is responsible for learning, reading the material and preparing for class, expending effort and spending time required to learn, and engaging in learning activities. The maturity level of students varies. This is a very important topic. Hopefully in our department-level discussions, we will be able to come up with ideas and share those ideas so that we can make an impact on our students.

Jill Johnson: The trouble with tracking a student is that they can't declare a major until they have a certain amount of hours in the college. So the most vulnerable student is the freshmen.

- Provost Curtis: So they don't declare their major in Art or in Psychology until after they have their hours?
- Eric Seemann: Right. We have sophomore students come to us planning out their schedule before they've even declared because they can't because they don't have the hours.
- Provost Curtis: Let me check into that.

Deb Moriarity said it is not that way for Science—students can declare whenever they want to in Science. Carolyn Sanders said students can declare when they want to in Music, as well.

Michael Banish: Many times faculty don't have a clear path to solve a problem with a student. People are busy. Either we are the first line or we aren't.

- Provost Curtis: What kind of assistance do you need?
- Michael Banish: Various issues, from having the authority to have printers fixed so students can print off homework to issues with Charger cards; specific things that don't send a good message to our students. We don't seem like a student-friendly campus with some of the problems.

One senator from the floor suggested that a junior faculty training program be established and implemented so that there's some consistency to the teaching in the classroom. He also suggested having mentors for the students to make them feel cared about, to give them a contact point—other than just an advisor to help them choose courses.

- Wai Mok: We had a proposal several years ago on Faculty Excellence. I'll check on that.

➤ Officer Reports  
None

➤ Committee Reports

❖ Governance and Operations Chair, James Swain

We stand ready to assist the departments with elections for new senators.

❖ Finance and Resources Chair, Charles Hickman

RCEU student proposals are due on Sunday. Once we have reviewed them, the faculty/researcher will be notified to select the student. The provost gave us enough funding for 2 more students. The Alabama Space Grant gave us enough funding for 2 more students, as well. The RFO for the Distinguished Speaker Series should go out soon, as well.

❖ Undergraduate Student Affairs Chair, Eric Seemann

Going through Readmission Petition reviews.

❖ Undergraduate Curriculum Co-Chair, Deb Moriarity

We are still getting course approvals. We are trying to turn them around quickly to get them into the new catalogue.

➤ Approval of Faculty Senate Meeting #554 minutes.

Charles Hickman **motions to approve Faculty Senate Meeting 554 minutes**. Eric Seemann seconds. Ayes carry the motion

*Motion to approve Faculty Senate Meeting #554 minutes **passes***

➤ Acceptance of the December 18, 2014 and the January 15, 2015 Faculty Senate Executive Committee Reports.

Accepted.

➤ Additional Business

❖ Straw Polls

**4-Day Workweek**

In favor: 28

Opposed: 2

Abstentions: 2

**ID Badges**

In favor: 0

Opposed: 15

Abstentions: 13

- Anne Marie Choup suggested that perhaps we compromise with nametags.

➤ Kader Frendi **motions** to adjourn. Michael Banish seconds.

Faculty Senate Meeting #555 adjourned  
January 29, 2015 at 1:55 P.M.