



Faculty Senate Meeting 524

March 15, 2012

12:45 p.m. in BAB 121

Present: Wai Mok, Charles Hickman, Eric Fong, David Stewart, Eletra Gilchrist, Laurel Bollinger, David Neff, Molly Johnson, Carolyn Sanders, Deborah Heikes, Kathy Hawk, Bhavani Sitaraman, Ramon Cerro, Mohamed Ashour, Seong Moo Yoo, Jeffrey Kulick, David Pan, Jennifer English, Paul Componation, David Moore, Louise O'Keefe, Ina Warboys, Brenda Talley, Marlena Premeau, Philip Bitzer, Roy Magnuson, Carmen Scholz, James Baird, Ramazan Aygun, Tim Newman, Peter Slater, Dongsheng Wu, Richard Miller, Nick Pogorelov, Vistasp Karbhari

Guests: Robert Altenkirch, Brent Wren

Absent with Proxy: Eric Seemann, Jason Cassibry, Kristen Herrin, Claudio Morales,

Absent without Proxy: Derrick Smith, Kwaku Gyasi, Nathan Slegers, Max Bonamente

- ❖ Senate Meeting Number 524 was called to Order by Dr. Tim Newman at 12:47 p.m.
- ❖ Dr. Jim Baird moved, seconded by Dr. Charles Hickman to **approve the Minutes** from meeting 523 as amended to state "increase College of Nursing enrollment to about 1300".
- ❖ **President Robert Altenkirch**:—Presentation— we are focused on the building project for the Board agenda in April. The Greenway, SWIRL, and the College of Nursing. Dr. Altenkirch showed the greenway from the project master plan diagram. He also showed the artist rendition. The area to the left of the fountain will be the Memorial Garden for the Biological Sciences faculty—it is not designed yet. This is funding for this final piece of the intermodal facility. We have \$2.8M in the bank for this project. SWIRL—ESSC proposed this to NIST—it will house mobile units deployed in severe weather. It will also house graduate students and will be a command and control center for monitoring the equipment deployed. NIST cancelled the program before anything was funded—they have proposed to the Governor to use bond funds to build. Have some in hand but cannot meet the deadline on those so we will pull back and request new funds for this. More state funds to education and training. \$7-8M facility. Nursing Building expansion and upper floors renovated. The way this is funded is through bonding at about \$9 or \$10M and then fund raising \$3M and then debt service paid for by revenue from

additional enrollment build from 918 to about 1307. About 50-60 students per year. No new parking. Nursing and SWIRL are in phase 1 and the greenway is in the final phase. Roy Magnuson commented on the size of the sidewalks in the rendition. Dr. Tim Newman stated in the Board presentation the walkway was wide enough for a vehicle. The greenway runs from Lakeside to the Student Life Center per Dr. Altenkirch. Dr. Wai Mok asked if anything is being done regarding crossing Holmes Avenue. The response was that they are working on reducing the speed limit and putting in a light at the crosswalk. Dr. Karbhari stated they plan to take the crosswalk and elevate it. Dr. Wren stated they are doing what they can to make it less attractive to drive across campus. Someone asked about the Preschool and the response was that it will be relocated but they do not know where yet. Dr. Neff asked about the Greenway between Morton Hall and Frank Franz Hall—Dr. Altenkirch responded he has not heard that discussed.

- ❖ **Provost Vistasp Karbhari**—reported there is nothing much new—we have two programs before the Board Master of Education and a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Computational Analysis. Both have been submitted and we expect approval and then they will go to ACHE and back to the Board. Thanks to the faculty regarding midterm grading—we have learned from the issues and will make a few changes. We will work out the glitches. We are extending Library and UC hours the week before and the week of finals. We tested this last time and it worked well so we will make it permanent for the semester. We will coordinate lights in the parking lot to stay on for that. Some have asked about money brought in from tags—we get anywhere from \$42,000 to \$58,000 from the State. 2006-\$49,727, 2007-\$58,383, 2008-\$53,524, 2009-\$58,303, 2010-\$46,653, 2011-\$42,949, 2012-\$14,525 (for 3 months so for 12 months it would be \$58,000).
- ❖ **President Altenkirch** stated there was concern regarding Tuscaloosa having a Research Office here— it is not a research office on campus—it is an employee of Tuscaloosa in the Research Office working on joint projects—educational recruiting type projects. In talking to Robert Witt they will open a system office on campus and they will then have a System Office on all 3 campuses and he will spend time at all three and the person who will be in the System Office will be more of a liaison for the System Office and work. Coordination for various entities. The question was asked if there had been any feedback from the community about Robert Witt being the Chancellor and being too Tuscaloosa connected. Some Board Members and Robert Altenkirch met with the Community Committee this week and Robert Witt's name came up and nothing was said. What kept coming up was the Research Office so we are addressing that as the System Office helped. Dr. Robert Altenkirch is setting up an External Advisory Committee and he will run the meetings and that will phase out the Community Committee. We are in strategic planning we should have Advisory Committees that can advise. Dr. Bhavani Sitaraman asked how is the System Office funded. Each campus pays a fee to the System Office and we get services back. It is not costing any more to have one here. We get legal services and lobbying services.

- ❖ Dr. David Neff moved, seconded by Dr. Deborah Heikes for **acceptance of the Senate Executive Committee Meetings**. The report was accepted.
- ❖ Faculty Senate President Dr. Timothy Newman Reported—The Board had a meeting a week ago Monday where Dr. Robert Witt was named Chancellor—I listened in on the call—one comment came from Trustee England acknowledging the sentiment of UAB and UAH feeling like stepchildren and he viewed Dr. Robert Witt as the best the System has to offer. As the Chancellor Dr. Witt spoke to the points of the emphasis on out of state students and his interest in student involvement on campus and producing engaged members of the Community. UAH and Tuscaloosa are working on a degree program perhaps in Business.

Regarding the EPA violations—I received a document—you can see it if you want—there was an open container that could contain solvents in addition to the battery and light bulb items mentioned previously.

The Board will be here in 4 weeks for our institutional presentation. There are 5 or 6 meetings a year and there is one on each campus and the one on ours is in April and the Faculty Senate President presents. Send me information about achievements, etc. and I may include it in my presentation.

I received a comment from the Faculty Senate at Tuscaloosa about the Resolution on the HB immigration law that they want to do something similar. UAB commented they were glad to see we followed in their footsteps.

You have a document in your packet of the *Bylaws* and the *Handbook*—we received Chapters on the *Handbook* and received the *Bylaws* to the Executive Committee and there were some stylistic problems—we solved some but there are still others. When we saw what came back we knew there had to be an investment of time to bring something to you so it would not be an embarrassment. We spent time on stylistic problems on Chapters 1-6 and we have parallel *Bylaws* from the Committees and we could not bring a single document. We met 13 hours and did not have time to get to those. They are back to the Executive Committee to clean up and we will bring one version back to you. We will harmonize and analyze and bring it back at the next Senate meeting—rules request number 2. Dr. Richard Miller moved seconded by Dr. Jim Baird to approve this. Ina Warboys asked could it not go to the Governance and Operations Committee to clean up. Dr. Tim Newman reported there have been some issues with getting a quorum and some personal issues for the Chair that have prevented the Committee from meeting so the Executive Committee is working on it. The Ayes have it by a 2/3 majority to approve rules request number 2.

We had a discussion with the Governance and Operations Committee. And with the Faculty *Handbook* being lengthy we thought we would go through it chapter by chapter and amend it on the floor of the Senate and then when you are satisfied we will go on and then at the end we can look at the entire document and then if you want to reopen any part you could do so then.

Take a census on sections that need addressed and hit those and maybe there are some that are not controversial that we can move on. Amendments, can speak 60 seconds per person—although there is a provision for an exception. This is Rules request 1—Dr. Bhavani Sitaraman moved, seconded by Ramon Cerro to approve Rules Request Number 1. Richard Miller stated you only mention chapters not appendices—are the appendices not before the Senate. Dr. Tim Newman responded that appendices can be approved appendix by appendix. The Ayes have it by unanimous vote to approve Rules Request Number 1.

- ❖ Charles Hickman—reported on behalf of the Finance and Resources Committee that the Committee asked that people send proposals for Distinguished Speakers to the Committee. He encouraged colleagues to suggest speakers. Jennifer English stated the Executive Committee moved to reduce the number to 5 to increase the amount —Charles Hickman will send that to the Committee to consider.
- ❖ Responses to Resolutions from the Provost. We met and spoke with the Provost after conferring with the Executive Committee —there are loose ends to tie up on 4 resolutions and it is reasonable to move forward on these. On one there is a clear yes.
- ❖ **Senate Bill 360: Integrity for Behavior Tracking System Information**—3rd reading—motion to accept at 3rd reading—Ramon Cerro moved, seconded by Laurel Bollinger to accept the Bill at 3rd reading. Ramon Cerro—reported they had an Ethics training and he was surprised. There was a nice gentlemen that talked to the faculty and asked them to comply with the BETA and the gentlemen was not aware of any objection to the BETA. Has it not been communicated that we had an objection to the BETA. Richard Miller stated the issue came that the policy should have come before the Senate before it was implemented. It is an issue that Tim Newman has addressed with the Provost and President. It is not surprising Mike Bryan does not know about the objection. Senate Bill 360 passed at third reading and becomes SR 11/12-09.
- ❖ **Senate Bill 365: Performance Criteria for Tuition Remission**—2nd reading. Jeff Kulick moved, seconded by Paul Componation to accept Senate Bill 365 at second reading. Jeff Kulick—commented on how much we spend and it is about half a million a year and we might want performance requirements. They have looked at a few schools and some have a policy similar to what is proposed here. We think we should have such a policy. Roy Magnuson asked if this is retroactive—Jeff Kulick stated this is the way it is done at other universities—it is kind of a loan and if the individual does not do well they will not get credit and will not get the money. Carolyn Sanders asked is there any data indicating this may be a problem. The problem is not necessarily failure but withdrawal. Peter Slater asked do they apply for a course get grant and drop it. Carolyn Sanders asked is there a way to separate Ws. Mohamed Ashour stated faculty and staff maintain a 2.0—and work together. Laurel Bollinger—stated there is some concern for learning difficulty—they get a D then it is punitive and maybe we should look at progress toward a degree. Sometimes there is a good reason for withdrawal. Ina Warboys—stated the value of half million dollars—use the business model—you pay up front and when you succeed then you

get reimbursed. Putting in half million and resulting in poor performance. Richard Miller—in 2011-12 there were 22 faculty, 151 staff and 100 dependents out of 10,000 people and how many are causing a problem. Kathy Hawk—stated put something in that only a certain number of drops are acceptable. Ramon Cerro—asked are we trying to solve a problem before it happens—is this a problem? Louise O’Keefe—asked if this is the total number. Richard Miller stated the spirit here is that the University is providing a benefit and we need to set standards for that benefit. 300 out of 10,000 even if they all withdrew is not a real problem. Ramon Cerro stated it looks like this is a policy to discourage using this benefit. Charles Hickman stated it encourages people to do the work or pay. If the tuition waiver becomes one for a full waiver the amount will increase to about \$1M. Tim Newman stated it could go to \$¾ million according to a document in hand. Carmen Scholz stated we should find out if this is a problem. Unless we have solid numbers then no decision. Eric Fong stated this is a lot of money and we are making an investment. This is like protecting our investment. A "C" is not a lot to ask. Encourage students to do better. Some students pay to take courses up to 5 times. Encourage students to pass classes and put in a greater effort. Louise O’Keefe reported she gets patients in clinic that are not working toward a degree—they are just taking classes—does it make a difference? Roy Magnuson stated he is concerned about unintended adverse effects—the way it is written now someone could be going along and some bad thing happen and then they get a bill. Already on track and fail and want money back. Deborah Heikes—what we do with scholarship people—do we make them pay? Charles Hickman—encourage people to audit the class, reimburse before another tuition remission. Richard Miller—business or accounting people help us—remember this is funny money and it only cost if a person is taking a seat from someone who is paying tuition. We are concentrating too much on a half million and that is not really a cost to the university. Ramon Cerro—same question—if it is funny money—only cost if taking seat from paying student. Lot of hypothetical questions. We need to find out if it is a problem and what is the magnitude. Bhavani Sitaraman—several types of people collapsed in this. Some take a class for recreation—have to separate from going for degree and doing for recreation. Look at a bigger sense—degree. Line 11 anyone in degree program. Paul Componation—some resources to do this. How much of problem is it. Would like to have numbers. Paul Componation—would like to get data and would make a call—motion to defer action to next Senate meeting so Paul Componation can get data, Carolyn Sanders seconded the motion. The motion carries.

- ❖ Senate Bill 366: *Handbook* Revision Cross-Boundary Complaints--Motion to approve by Richard Miller, seconded by Phillip Bitzer. Tim Newman gave some background—In Oct the Counsel and the Provost came to Dr. Newman and stated we need to cleanup some language in the *Handbooks* to make it clear that faculty with a grievance against a student should use the student *Handbook* and a student with a grievance against a faculty should follow the *Faculty Handbook*. They asked for something to be worked up and put in all the *Handbooks* for situations if someone has a grievance across personnel boundaries. Ramon Cerro asked will the office of the ombudsperson have an impact—it was stated the Ombudsperson’s role is to ensure the grievance policy is followed. Laurel Bollinger—stated right now it is not clear how this is handled and this bill makes it clear.

Roy Magnuson—stated this is not clear. There is a lot of language to say what it means. Laurel Bollinger asked if it gets into the *Handbook*—will there be another opportunity to change it—no—it would be in the Appendix. Ayes have it. The bill only passes by majority at second reading so we will have to have third reading.

- ❖ **Handbook Chapter 1:** Ina Warboys moved, seconded by Paul Componation to review chapter 1. Tim Newman brought up Chapter 1 on the screen. Laurel Bollinger—stated this is the version edited by the Executive Committee—it is strictly cosmetic –redlining does not indicate differences from the old *Handbook* but differences from the *Handbook* Committee version. Graphical elements—Roy Magnuson—examples of seals and comments on PMS 293. Scrub all references to URLs. If title of something include it. Paul Componation—if final version needs changes that are nonsubstantial it does not have to come back to the Senate but can be done. We can refer it to someone else but if only a cosmetic or minor problem we can fix it now. Richard Miller amend to take out the return in the “doctoral programs” paragraph. Laurel Bollinger requested to remove all hard returns in the “Doctoral programs” Paragraph. In favor of revised version of Chapter 1—motion carries
- ❖ **Handbook Chapter 2:** While Richard Miller attempt to move and Charles Hickman voiced a second to review Chapter 2 of the *Handbook*, President Newman tallied a count of Senators present and found we had lost quorum. Thus, motion ruled out of order. Adjournment in order.
- ❖ 2:10 p.m. Senate adjourned.