



Faculty Senate Meeting 529
August 30, 2012
12:45 p.m. in SC 109

Present: *Chris Allport, Jeet Gupta, Charles Hickman, Keith Jones, Eletra Gilchrist, Derrick Smith, Angela Balla, David Neff, Kwaku Gyasi, Christine Sears, Carolyn Sanders, Deborah Heikes, Anne Marie Choup, Eric Seemann, Bhavani Sitaraman, Mitch Berbrier, Ramon Cerro, Robert Lindquist, David Pan, Kader Frendi, Jeff Evans, Faye Anderson, Ina Warboys, Marlena Primeau, Anna Benton, Peggy Hays, Philip Bitzer, Luciano Matzkin, Carmen Scholz, Peter Slater, Tim Newman, Richard Miller, Claudio Morales, Leonard Choup, Jakobus le Roux, Nikolai Pogorelov, Vistasp Karbhari*

Absent with Proxy: *Jeff Kulick, James Baird, Sherri Messimer*

Absent without Proxy: *Wai Mok, Mohamed Ashour, James Blackmon*

Guests: *Robert Altenkirch, Brent Wren*

- The **Faculty Senate Meeting number 529** was called to order at 12:47 p.m. by Dr. Richard Miller. Dr. Miller thanked the Senate Members for volunteering to serve. He stated he appreciated their involvement and would call on them throughout the year. Dr. Miller stated he wanted to have nice arguments, discussions and debates—he asked all to please speak up and represent your colleagues.
Dr. Miller reported we have quite a few items from last year’s business. The Bylaws call for us to deal with those first. I will entertain a motion to approve the minutes from July. Motion to approve by Dr. Phillip Bitzer and seconded by Dr. David Neff. Minutes are approved.
I will entertain a motion to suspend the rules in order to get reports from President Altenkirch and Provost Karbhari. Motion to suspend the rules by Dr. Jeet Gupta and seconded by Marlena Primeau.
- **President Altenkirch** welcomed everyone back. President Altenkirch showed an article in the Chronicle regarding the issue surrounding tenure and -time –age—and talked about the retirement plan—and emphasized that it is voluntary. He went over the plan. The launch date is tomorrow. People who are eligible will get an email with documentation and instructions. It will also be mailed to the home of those eligible. There will also be an email to all faculty stating we are launching the program and if you think you are eligible and did not get a package go to HR.

Strategic planning is moving along. We have the steering committee and we have asked the committee to come up with task force members—we are figuring out how to convene the groups to work on tactics. Example is enrollment management group—tactics. Taking some information from Tuscaloosa. Recommend tactics review objectives. All is on line on the website.

We have hired a VP for Advancement Bob Lyon. He built and rebuilt Advancement at UTC and before that at Vanderbilt. He will develop a branding exercise first. He will outline how to use graphic identity and how to use graphics, etc. Letterhead design, font style, etc. There is a group working with a firm out of Birmingham. It is a marketing firm—they have worked to come up with preliminary graphics, etc. There will be 2 or 3 options. Graphic identity needs to fit on an app. We will go into a signage activity on campus.

We are appointing John Cates to be Chief Compliance Officer. There are laws to comply with—he will coordinate all activities. Bring all together who work on this and make sure we are working together. He will work with a newly hired Compliance Officer in the Systems Office—Director of Risk Management—the System Compliance Officer will coordinate with the 3 campuses. The positions are somewhat new. The regulation went into effect and we had to have the policy in place August 24. We took the NIH policy—developed it and put it in place as an interim. The Senate will have a chance to review the policy as we review and revise it—we had to get it in place on the 24th but there will be an opportunity to review. The policy was focused on those who do work with drug companies and their regulations—it will likely spread to other agencies.

Dean Smith was appointed as Interim VPR—He is from Texas Tech and Hawaii. Hawaii is somewhat like what we do—they also do a lot of DOD work. He has been on campus for a week and will be here more permanently after Labor Day—he will be here for 6-9 months. He will take a look at the organizational structure and how effective it is and how to deploy resources. He will look at ICR funds. The funds are divided and there is distribution unrelated to recovery. We have a Search Committee—showed that list. It is on the website. We have put out an RFP for a search firm—the responses were due this past Monday. There is a meeting being set up for next week.

Diploma—what is on it “degree”—according to ACHE—the degree is a Bachelor of Science not a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. We have been asked why the area of study is not on the diploma. Provost Karbhari checked into it and there is no uniformity and ACHE does not care what we have on the diploma. Provost office did an inventory of all programs we have. The inventory lists the degree and program. We are suggesting we can consider putting Master of Arts in Psychology. If we do this in December we have to move quickly. I asked Dr. Richard Miller to poll the Senate to say is it a good idea or not. If you choose to go this route we will print for those from the past and sell it to them.

Dr. Richard Miller asked about the email regarding the office of internal audit. Robert Altenkirch replied it is not new. Every institution has an internal audit function. We have a plan of audit so that every office that handles financial resources is audited on a regular basis. They take a look at control—how many people spend money—they look at risk and make recommendations after the report. Whoever is in charge of the office responds. Internal control is to make sure we comply. There is a Board policy that states the memo is sent out periodically to state this.

Dr. Kader Frendi—asked what procedures and paperwork to follow for the diploma change. Provost Karbhari stated we are trying to look at Engineering—to do what they want we would have to go back to ACHE. That would change the name of the degree itself. What we were talking about here is just printing a diploma.

Dr. Mitch Berbrier asked if part of the signage around campus would include refurbishing existing signs or putting up better signs. Dr. Altenkirch stated it won't be just a replacement but they will do a redesign. Using Tuscaloosa's firm. Dr. Berbrier asked if there will be more directional signs.

- **Provost Karbhari**—Welcome back—had a good start with installation, convocation, groundbreaking, and the picnic—it was good to see you there and the students enjoyed it. Thanked those who took part in WOW. There were Faculty in tents welcoming students.

There were about 32 new colleagues joining us across all 5 colleges.

Alan Constant will be joining next month as Director of SSC. He comes from the University of Texas, Austin.

Some might have already met Dee Childs the new CIO. She is quickly coming up to speed. She is looking forward to meeting with faculty and coming up to speed and she will be upgrading facilities and upgrading AV equipment—this will take about 3 years—there will be a detailed program that she will share.

Enrollment is now best described as flat. Graduate enrollment is up undergraduate is down. We are looking at things to do in the future to affect it.

Dr. Richard Miller—in January or February asked about a new travel form issued asking about what the faculty member is doing with covering their class. Now we are looking at when does the semester start and when does it end. When we meet tomorrow—we will discuss this and how it will affect guidelines.

Center for Teaching Excellence—Senate passed a bill—I would love to see it go forward—have to discuss this and I would like to hear the views of the Senate and where we should go. It is a priority. It is not currently in the budget but we want to go forward—it would help address the needs of faculty and students. Not to say faculty are not good. Suggested—Senate said no—it came back and Ina Warboys was working on it.

Ramon Cerro—we need more faculty input with Search Committees—there is a lot of duplication. Dr. Karbhari stated the recent Search Committees did not have much duplication—we received names from Deans and individuals were recommended from the Senate. We will look at broadening the Committees.

Search for the ISSO Director—The Search Committee has gone through an extensive list and recommended 4 to bring to campus and we are looking at that and will have open session and question and answer and will announce shortly.

There was a question of whether the 8% increase in tuition had an affect on enrollment. Dr. Karbhari stated we will look at a lot of data and assess. We will look at feedback from students.

The questions was asked if the CIO can fix it so that we only have one password. Dr. Karbhari stated she will look at that.

Carolyn Sanders—stated she is taking a course somewhere else and she took an ipad and they have public access—is it possible for that here. Provost Karbhari stated we are one-third through making buildings wireless and phase 2 and 3 will occur in fall. We had to remove a cable that went through charger village. We are one-third of the way through. President Altenkirch—wireless access for those here and public also? Provost Karbhari stated as we go to large numbers of people and open to the public we can quickly overrun the capacity we have put in place.

Dr. Robert Lindquist—stated that wireless input affects research—some bandwidth—Dr. Karbhari stated that is what Dee Childs will do quickly.

Dr. Richard Miller introduced himself as President of the Faculty Senate.

He stated that Dr. Tim Newman was President last year and that last year was a transition year and a difficult year for many reasons for many people. Being Tim's #2 and crying and talking over beer—I learned a lot from Tim. His calm way of dealing with administration and I consider him a friend and want to recognize him. Dr. Richard Miller presented Dr. Tim Newman with a plaque for his service as Senate President.

Dr. Richard Miller's Report—There are still open seats in the Senate—I will send a new membership list. There is one open seat in ECE. There is an at-large seat in Science. Dr. Tim Newman will run an election some time soon the at-large seat in Science.

Diploma issue—Dr. Miller conducted an informal poll—it was a voice poll—the degree and program—I will tell the President the Faculty Senate supports the decision to make the change on the diploma. They will give departments a chance to look at the list of degrees and programs and make sure it is complete.

Dr. Richard Miller stated that a few years ago I spoke before the Senate and asked “what do you want”---it was open ended and as we move forward I ask again “what do you want”. We can answer this together. There might be 40 odd answers—but we want to see this institution as an elite public institution and values and scholarship for all. Dr. Richard Miller listed what he wants. There are 3 levels—recruitment and retention of students, fundraising and facilities, faculty and student success. Faculty connected to all. The President is planning for the university to invest in various programs. Groundbreaking, nursing, retirement, new V. P. advancement, these and other endeavors we hope will be successful. Faculty scholarship and success are relative to us and can affect others. Our scholarship and success is the key issue and at the heart of any institution. Without this we are Calhoun. For those of you who did not attend convocation the President only mentioned two or three successes. There are many more. Dr. Richard Miller mentioned Dr. Deborah Heikes, Dr. Clarke Rountree, Dr. Christine Sears—books, Dr. Max Bonamente—Physics, Dr. Tim Newman, Computer Science—highly cited journal publications. He apologized for not listing all. Imagine if these were communicated to the community and students when they visit. These are the kinds of things that get publicized and it makes a difference.

I do have an agenda as President but I hope to get feedback and ideas from you.

Establish or re-establish the Senate in University operations with the –President and Provost.
Solutions and projects for our success and that of the students.

Establish center for faculty excellence.

Annual evaluations for Deans not to punish but to improve.

Ombudsperson

FARs—is there a better way to evaluate and communicate what we have done

Scholarship support—growing what we do.

If writing a book get release time

Interim VPR—met with him and he is very much in favor of transparency—this is a high priority

Nonacademic decision making—outside sources.

Scholarship and support decisions.

Focus faculty minds rather than distract.

Show how we can solve problems.

Dean Smith identified teaching loads as prohibitive to research. Discretionary funding decisions on line.

Preparing for permanent VPR.

How best to communicate needs of faculty. Ad hoc Research and Creative Achievement

Committee. Dr. Carmen Scholz will Chair the Committee—there will be one from each college, they will gather issues they can bring to the Interim VPR that will help all in scholarship. Cannot fix or address what he does not know about. If you want to serve send an email. He has written a book—I have ordered it.

Nursing building-fund raising to add extra floor so hospital training can be colocated. Tuition analysis—concern for increase—we are told we are 12% below national average—not sure how that is relevant. Enrollment flat—part time and full time. See how full time break out.

Lastly make a note we have an AAUP chapter on campus—formed May 1 and has 14 members.

Claudio Morales is President, Carmen Scholz is Vice President and Bhavani Sitaraman is Secretary and Andrée Reeves is an officer. This is another venue for sharing and facilitating success.

- **Senate Committees—Faculty and Student Development:** Ina Warboys—we had one meeting to elect Chair. Working on teaching excellence—this is stuck in Administration.

Finance and Resources—No Report

Governance and Operations—Jeet Gupta---elected a Chair.

Curriculum—Derrick Smith—will contact soon to set up the first meeting—focus on program changes and new courses. Talk about DL policy development-may have to bring to Senate

Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs--Deborah Heikes—will meet with Brent Wren to talk about SSC and other issues.

University Committees—Dr. Miller reported there was a Search for new Director of the Library—surprised at the title—had a Dean prior to this—we consider this academic restructuring—The Senate should be given the courtesy of a presentation for comments—we went to the President and the Search is on hold until we meet with the Provost to see what motivated the change. Dr. Richard Miller and Dr. Mitch Berbrier will be meeting tomorrow. There was an issue brought forth from the Library staff regarding their own advancement. All currently are at lecturer status. They are highly trained and concerned that they have no room for advancement. This has led to the loss of two of the most recent hires. We will address this tomorrow with the Provost and will report back.

We have **open Committee Seats**—will send an email out to see if anyone wants to serve—some require a vote by the Governance and Operations Committee to facilitate elections. Wai Mok and Richard Miller is sitting in on the budget planning committee that meets 6-8 times year and will communicate with you.

BETA Review Committee—anyone to report—something implemented all over the country to identify students, faculty and staff who might be a threat to others or themselves. There was a policy presented and passed a bill asking to be reviewed for confidentiality and abuse of system. Ramon Cerro kick off meeting end of July and then had half meeting—half committee—no meeting in two weeks—been about month.

Ramon Cerro asked have you been contacted regarding Search Committees—Richard Miller answered yes. With the two that have taken place I was contacted directly. One for the VPR. Richard Miller made the decision. The Library—did not submit names for that one—wanted to find what was happening before they start the search. Mitch Berbrier—gave president 4 names and he chose two. Ramon Cerro stated the same issue came up in BETA—two faculty from the Provost. Asking Faculty Senate to designate people on BETA—receptive to that. Bhavani Sitaraman—happy get to select, appoint, or elect but second issue is need understanding that if we have turnover—to be put on committee means representative and things shared back to colleagues, responsibility that we should adopt if put on it and will get around idea of having same people on committees. If have solution let's talk about at some point.

- **Ongoing Senate Business**—first item **Faculty Handbook Revision**—left with **Chapter 9**. Has been long process—multi year—got most through. Consider each chapter separately—standing rule in Senate if you have amendment or comments one minute to speak. Once complete each chapter then motion to accept as whole –if that passes—Handbook after formatting work will be forwarded to administration. If they have comments, changes, suggesting come back and we vote on those and once resolved then Handbook goes to the Board and requires approval. Effectively it is the contract by which we work. This president has endorsed it as such and will write preamble as such.

Floor open for Chapter 9. In midst of amendment to 9.16.1 and lost quorum. Dr. Neff distributed a change and stated he is doing this for Dr. Laurel Bollinger who is no longer on Senate. 9.16.1—her design of Summer Teaching—amendment in. Vote: Ayes have it.

9.16.2—Summer Funded Research put in “also include” prior to the paragraph from 9.2 about research then add amendment. Dr. Nickolai Pogorelov—faculty engaged in summer research report in every hour they participate—cannot do anything except research—only service they could do would be after hours. Spend 8 hours on research. Carmen Scholz—academic research impeded by current administration with effort reporting—putting business practices on academics—treated as contractors. Cannot do service in summer. Ramon Cerro—OSP and VPR does not know the difference between grants and contracts. Contracts and grants does not know the difference. Robert Lindquist—have to do across all faculty. Christine Sears—funded research—through grants and contracts? Mitch Berbrier—puzzled—5th line down. Also concept of “light”. Richard Miller stated I am not supposed to have opinion but will give information—in talking to Laurel Bollinger this stems from “are we employess during the summer”. Set limits on what we are “required” to do not “volunteering”. Potential that it is an unreasonable requirement. Jeet Gupta—change in wording—say “may be appropriate”. 9.16—does cover. Not required—amendment. Peter Slater minor amendment say “might be or could possibly” and delete “extensive”. Motion on floor—is there a second for the amendment. No second--

Failed. Motion to change and add---made changes and proposed amendment. Nick Pogorelov suggesting change "appropriate" to "encouraged". Question of why needed. Concerned this opens the door to service and do we need it at all. Robert Lindquist -do we need at all. No second--failed.

- Derrick Smith made a motion to adjourn. Richard Miller stated we have reached the allotted time. Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.