



Faculty Senate Meeting 529
September 27, 2012
12:45 p.m. in SC 109

Present: *Wai Mok, Chris Allport, Jeet Gupta, Charles Hickman, Keith Jones, Eletra Gilchrist, Angela Balla, David Neff, Kwaku Gyasi, Christine Sears, Deborah Heikes, Anne Marie Choup, Eric Seemann, Bhavani Sitaraman, Mitch Berbrier, Ramon Cerro, David Pan, Sherri Messimer, James Blackmon, Faye Anderson, Ina Warboys, Marlena Primeau, Anna Benton, Peggy Hays, Philip Bitzer, Luciano Matzkin, Carmen Scholz, Tim Newman, Richard Miller, Leonard Choup, Jakobus le Roux, Nikolai Pogorelov, Vistasp Karbhari*

Absent with Proxy: *Jeff Kulick, Claudio Morales,*

Absent without Proxy: *Mohamed Ashour, Derrick Smith, Carolyn Sanders, Robert Lindquist, Kader Frendi, Jeff Evans, James Baird, Peter Slater,*

Guests: *Robert Altenkirch, Brent Wren*

- ❖ Meeting Number 530 was called to order at 12:45 p.m.
- ❖ Dr. Richard Miller announced that the Senate rules require us to handle ongoing business first on the agenda. He stated he would entertain a motion to suspend the rules. It was so moved by Marlena Primeau and seconded by Faye Anderson.
- ❖ **President Altenkirch's Report**—Dr. Robert Altenkirch reported that we went through the SACS accreditation and then we submitted a 5 year interim report. They came back saying it was good except we forgot to address certain items and in actuality we were told we didn't need to address those items but now they say we do need to address them and they were going to put us on a monitoring and Dr. Robert Altenkirch wrote a letter and they said okay and now we just need to submit the report.

Retirement incentive plan—another set of documents was sent out because there was a discrepancy of Exhibit A and there was a new set of FAQ sent with it. If have questions not answered on the FAQ please go to HR and they will update the FAQ document.

Dr. Robert Altenkirch has asked the CIO to set up an intranet and there will be a site to login and material will be there for private use for business services. If someone asked for a document in the public we would give it to them but we don't have to put everything out there for all to see.

Eventually banner will migrate in so there will be one site to go and do things and eventually there will be only one password-a single login.

Parking—There is plenty of parking it is just not convenient. There are some rough spots with the new parking system but the kinks are being worked out. We had a meeting with the campus police and they are going to be a little more lenient.

Strategic Planning—we had two sessions, one on Friday and one on Tuesday on the task forces steering committees we put together. Individuals were only required to come to one. These were informational sessions. Following that the task force leaders will set up meetings to suggest tactics to accomplish. We want to move along quickly. We want to increase enrollment as one example. The numbers this fall are basically the same as last fall so we need tactics to accomplish the goals.

VPR Search—We have engaged the Wheless Search Firm and they are on campus today for the first meeting.

University place school—I think the superintendent and I have a handshake agreement and the attorneys are working on a contract and we will see if it passes the school district –we will know in a few weeks.

Dr. Robert Altenkirch reported we hired a new hockey coach—we are getting in position to get into a conference. We have a visit by the conference representatives on Oct 12 and 13. Come to the game on the 12th. The more we have there the better it looks. It is important to get in the conference.

Basketball—We got into conference playoffs which will be in Manhattan Kansas. This is the National championship. If we win then the next round will be in New York.

Carmen Scholz asked why we have not made a big deal about the fact that the newly elected prime minister of Libya is a former faculty here. Dr. Robert Altenkirch stated he would ask about it.

- ❖ **Provost Vistasp Karbhari Report**—Our enrollment is at 7,636—that is 7 above last year. 5,882 of those are undergraduates. We received approval from ACHE for the BS in Economics and Computational Analysis as well as the Masters of Education in Differential Instruction. We will seek final approval from the Board in November and I am working with Charles Nash on a cognate in Public History and a Foreign Language and Literature Certificate. We are working on having the degree title printed on the diplomas. We are in discussions with the Board and ACHE about the Engineering Degree Titles. We will have some less expensive options for purchase and rentals of robes for students and faculty. Alan Constant has joined us as Director of the Student Success Center. I would encourage the Senate to extend an invitation to him.

The Search for the Director of International Engagement has been extended. We brought 4 candidates forward and only 2 were interviewed.

We are talking about career paths for lecturers. We will form a Committee with representatives from the Senate, and with some Deans and Chairs. We hope to have the Committee established soon to have career paths established and implemented.

There was some question regarding the Regalia and whether it would be the plain black regalia. Dr. Vistasp Karbhari stated there should be the same choices for the rental and purchase. We will know the exact choices by Grad Fair next week.

Dr. Jeet Gupta wanted to make a motion to suspend the agenda for the remainder of the year to place the business after the reports. He was informed that he cannot do that.

- ❖ **Minutes**—Dr. Neff moved, seconded by Ina Warboys to approve the minutes.
- ❖ **Senate reports**—Executive Committee Report—Ramon Cerro moved, seconded by Jakobus le Roux to accept the Executive Committee Report.
- ❖ **Officer reports**—Dr. Richard Miller reported he met with the CIO and they discussed a number of topics. He showed the list of items and stated he believes she will help a lot. Dr. Richard Miller will serve informally at the liaison with her on Strategic decisions. Dee is looking into a guest/visitor wireless. She has looked at Eduroam and she will likely implement this soon—she is looking into the modest security issues. She does believe there is a software solution. College and department i.t. support—Dee seems committed to figure out how best to work on that. She was surprised at this issue. There is continued work on infrastructure, and a central backup. Dee is looking at faculty needs and Research computing support. There needs to be a survey. The Senate Faculty and Student Development will meet with her and develop a survey. She is also dealing with website hosting issues. She negotiated for 3 positions during her hire: There will be a search for an Academic Technology Director to enhance the E-learning enterprise. We have been asked to provide 3 names for the search—if any of you are interested please send me an e-mail. I will advise the CIO and the Provost by close of business Monday. There will be a search for a Chief Information Security Officer. There is some question of whether we have a role in that search. I think we should be involved. The other position is Director of Network Systems. That will be an internal search and I don't think we need representation for that. Dr. Ramon Cerro commented why does the administration keep growing while the faculty numbers keep going down. Dr. Richard Miller commented these positions serve all of us very well.

Library—Dr. Richard Miller reported discussions are on-going regarding the Library. There was a realignment from dean to director. This is being done to align us with other universities that have a single library rather than more than one library. This change was linked with a commitment to provide a new rank structure for the librarians. They are professionals with terminal degrees in their field and if they are, then why are they not in faculty positions. Dr. Richard Miller showed a quote from the memo from the Provost. The Director will be involved in the change. This will establish a rank structure for lecturers. This is a positive thing for our colleagues in the library.

Center for Teaching Excellence—Dr. Richard Miller stated he requested a proposal from the Provost and received that on 25 September and that he would be happy to share that if anyone wants to see it. He gave an outline. The Proposal calls for a director, staff assistant and 4-5 rotating faculty fellows. This will serve to diffuse what these faculty have learned to other faculty. There will also be 1-2 GTAs/RAs. This is a 3 phase implementation. We have charged the Faculty and Student Development Committee to review the document and if there are no major issues move forward. There was a question regarding whether the Faculty Fellows are with a stipend or a release. The details can be decided. Dr. Richard Miller will send the white paper to all.

Dr. Richard Miller went to the Board Meeting a couple of weeks ago. He highlighted a couple of things. There were 3 areas in the report to the Board that bothered Dr. Richard Miller. This is reported quarterly. There were named and endowed professorships—0 here and 14 at the other universities. Student and faculty achievements, there were 11 CLA, 9 CON, 4 COS, 3 COB, 3 COE. Advances in research there were 21 from centers, 15 non-affiliated, 12 from chemistry, 1 atmospheric science, 2 biology, nothing from others. These do not represent what we are achieving here and these numbers are what the Board is seeing. We are achieving things and the Board needs to know about them. Carmen Scholz stated these reports are a thorn in the flesh—they have been sanitized over and over. What is submitted is not what is showing up. There is a major communication problem. Dr. Richard Miller is personally committed to making this different. He is asking you as representatives of your departments help him to help Brent Wren. He has been in charge of this for the last 10 months. Get input for what your faculty and students achievements are here. They are occurring across campus. If have suggestions of how to communicate better let Dr. Richard Miller know. Set criteria for what counts. We are engaging the Associate Provost on this. Right now submit all and they will clean it up. Dr. Jeet Gupta stated he would like to see what UA and UAB sends. Develop a means for reporting. Dr. Ramon Cerro wants to know why does the responsibility fall on us. Dr. Richard Miller stated he does not know the answer but wanted to talk about it and do a better job. Have asked UAB and UA how they do it and will share that when I have it. Dr. Richard Miller is willing to work on this. Dr. Charles Hickman shared how it is done in Business.

New charge to Governance and Operations –Senate Committee structure, annual review. Showed a restructure idea. Both other institutions have research committees. Should have one here. Effectiveness, efficiency, reduced number of committees.

Travel Requests—change in travel requirements. No guidelines. Some had denied travel. No guidelines some question of whether it is ok or not. After months received response— personnel will look at. Showed statement and thinks reasonable. Allows academic freedom. Interpretation, academic freedom, patterns, complaints/response. Guest lecture, substituting appropriate meeting, hours convenient to students, substituting another pedagogically appropriate alternative. Some require policy. Some funding agencies require. Some feel puts undue burden on faculty.

Ad hoc Research Committee—Carmen Scholz, Joe Ng, Jason Cassibry, Derrick Smith, Peggy Hays, Xuejing Xing, goal is to interact with VPR and develop a rapport with the VPR.

- ❖ Dr. Tim Newman reported the Science at large Senate Member—Deb Moriarity.
- ❖ Faculty and Student Development—Ina Warboys reported—Most has already been covered with the CIO and the Center for Teaching Excellence.
- ❖ Finance and Resources—Wai Mok reported—they met and will talk to you later.
- ❖ Governance and Operations—Jeet Gupta reported they have been conducting elections and will take up Committees when this is done.
- ❖ Personnel—Ramon Cerro reported he is the Ombudsperson and he was elected Chair—they had a vote and decided he should continue to be Chair and Ombudsperson.
- ❖ Undergraduate Curriculum—it was reported they sent emails about their concerns.
- ❖ Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs—Deborah Heikes reported she met with Brent Wren about the SSC—they are planning to keep the academic side and move the career side and get going and bring in a new director—we will invite the new director to talk to the Senate.
- ❖ University Committees—Working out first meeting of the Library Search.
- ❖ **Handbook—Chapter 9**—it is still open for amendments. Mitch Berbrier—9.4 question—end—retirement benefits and last paragraph not related. Motion to move paragraph to 9.4.1, David Neff seconded, ayes have it.

Angela Balla and Mitch Berbrier—tuition assistance 9.19, does it have to be unmarried dependent children. Motion to remove “unmarried”, Marlena Primeau seconded. Ina Warboys stated the language follows same language as in HR policy. We are matching two documents. Just a reminder from Richard Miller—The Handbook will go to the administration and Legal and they will point out inconsistencies and they can be resolved then. Charles Hickman stated you have something before the administration that cost money. Tim Newman stated they talked with administration about tuition remission and they think it is dead—ask someone why no answer. National push to say no. Vote—motion carries. Definition of dependent discussed. Wording of second sentence—Charles Hickman stated you cannot be a dependent of a dead person. Chris Allport move to change to the next sentence. Added “a spouse or”. Partners—motion by Angela Balla to change to “domestic partner or”. Seconded. Charles Hickman—Alabama—connotation no protection for marriage. Tim Newman—run into legal in Alabama—if take out spouse, Angela Balla proposed “spouse, domestic partner and”. Ramon Cerro seconded. Jim Blackmon—let Legal Counsel give feedback—Richard Miller stated we will get

that feedback. Can ask here but will get it anyway. Ayes have it. Charles Hickman—we have not resolved deceased dependent issue—let a Committee look at this paragraph—Charles Hickman-proposed to commit this part to a committee for more considered revision to 9.19. Chris Allport seconded—Jeet Gupta—it goes to legal anyway so why do we want to go this way. Charles Hickman—stated you cannot be a dependent of a deceased person. We need something in passable form and we do not have it at this point. Look at and come up with better language. Ayes have it. 9.16.1 do we need the last paragraph. Jeet Gupta stated we need it because we are asked to serve. Other part that was there was not passed. Christine Sears--if you are paid to teach a course then not being paid for other things. Christine Sears moved to delete the last paragraph. Ramon Cerro seconded. Ina Warboys stated it was added because those who were teaching in summer were asked a lot and this was to protect them. If you take it out then replace it with no service in the summer. Jeet Gupta stated faculty on nine month contract perform service only if compensated. Tim Newman—stated those who advise for thesis and dissertation are not paid. Has colleague on unpaid leave during the summer—didn't feel right because advisees needed to be registered and thought he needed to support the students. University is going beyond what we should be expected to do. Jeet Gupta motion to send back to committee Mitch Berbrier seconded. 9.16.1. Ayes have it.

❖ Motion to adjourn by Jeet Gupta.