



Faculty Senate Meeting 535

March 7, 2013

12:45 p.m. in BAB 123

Present: *Wai Mok, Chris Allport, Charles Hickman, Jeet Gupta, Keith Jones, Eletra Gilchrist, Derrick Smith, Chad Thomas, David Neff, Kwaku Gyasi, Christine Sears, Carolyn Sanders, Deborah Heikes, Anne Marie Choup, Bhavani Sitaraman, Eric Seemann, Mitch Berbrier, Ramon Cerro, Junpeng Guo, Jeffrey Kulick, David Pan, Sherri Messimer, Kader Frendi, James Blackmon, Faye Anderson, Ina Warboys, Anna Benton, Marlena Primeau, Peggy Hays, Phillip Bitzer, Carmen Scholz, Debra Moriarity, Leonard Choup, Richard Miller, Jakobus le Roux, Nikolai Pogorelov, Vistasp Karbhari*

Absent Without Proxy: *Jeff Evans, Luciano Matzkin, Mohamed Ashour, James Baird, Tim Newman, Peter Slater, Claudio Morales*

Guests: *Dr. Altenkirch, Dr. Wren*

- Called to order by Dr. Richard Miller at 12:43 p.m.
- Approval of minutes for Senate Meeting 534 moved by Dr Mitch Berbrier and seconded by Dr. Jeet Gupta
- **President Altenkirch Report:** Capital Projects Update
 - Greenway spring 2013 completion. Done in days to weeks—thinking about a ribbon cutting at the April Board meeting. Charger Union Fall 13 completion date.

 - Nursing on track and

 - SWIRLL and OBK Technology Hall on track

Now looking at functions in Madison Hall and UC and Shelby Center and Engineering and what is there. Enrollment in Engineering—looking at moving around and get the right functions together and this is predicated on building a new Madison hall. Do have bonding capacity to float bonds for a new Madison Hall—it would be the focal point for visitors and recruiting, etc. Tearing it down and building a new building is more economical.

- Hockey—there are 38 games—we are allowed to play 34 games. The games in Alaska do not count. We have 16 home games with only one outside the Conference. We got a better ticket split at the VBC—we got a 50/50 split.
- Strategic Planning Proposals reviewed by the Deans twice, the VPs and the Steering Committee Task Force, Aerospace, aerospace systems, biotech, cyber security and big data, earth, atmospheric and space science, gaming and electronic, arts + general education—good proposals and will initiate the process. There was a question of whether there would be any formal presentation to the campus at large? Dr. Altenkirch stated it is all on the web.
- Enrollment—collecting college enrollment plans, collecting perceptions of policies that negatively impact enrollment.
- Budget for 2014---+2% of base appropriations. Up to \$1 M for Nursing \$200,000 for State Climatologist.
- Dr. Richard Miller asked How do we the Senate help get some of our items to the priority on the budget list? Is there some process to make sure things we agree on are a high priority for implementation. Dr. Altenkirch responded to make sure they are on the funding request list. Right now we are balancing the budget. Enrollment decline this spring is affecting balancing the budget. Put requests together and they would be discussed.
- 4 year UAH price and cost @15 hours/semester—some things had to do with community college and competition. UAH price is \$35,000 over 4 years. If a student gets the minimal scholarship \$22,000 over time. If they get more scholarship the cost is \$19,000. Two year and transfer cost is \$26,000. It is not necessarily less expensive to transfer from a community college. There were 668 students with some transfer. Considering the GPA and ACT score—the majority would have benefited from coming here. Need to promote that it is not less expensive to go to a community college and transfer. Fold into recruitment material. We do not want to anger friends. Part of the job of the enrollment task force is to disseminate information. Also talk about GER and courses that are not equivalent. Good co-op program could help as well. We have initiated conversations on a co-op program. We need a formal program. Mississippi has a large program and they have to pick up and go somewhere for the jobs and that is not true here, we can walk across the street. There were a lot of informal agreements with students working constantly and continuously and we were not capturing those students in a formal program. Someone mentioned that we had an excellent program that worked great and we had many students that were successful and won awards and the program was accredited when Suzanne Norris was in charge and then it fell apart when the SSC took over. It was stated that students do not identify themselves in the underground co-op. We will begin to pull information together.

- It was mentioned that Engineering had some plans to outsource some courses—as a chance to get our foot in the door and recruit. When we implement things we need to know the objective and track and determine if we should continue. Analyze and determine if we continue. Trial policy worked in perspective of capture rate. Numbers were small but the percentage was good. We could market it and get more on the front end. It takes a while for a network to build. Looks promising. Costs us nothing. Do we have data for Calhoun and Athens? Yes, Athens shows up less expensive. We have to make quality and campus life argument when going head to head on the same programs.
- VPR Search—Dr. Altenkirch reported we had 3 candidates we brought to campus, 2 dropped out and we did not want to select by default. We are making personal contacts—there will be a candidate coming to campus next Friday—he is the Associate VP at Mississippi State. Will post vita on Charger Net. Was head of Computer Science there—his area is cyber security. Status of Dean Smith—will he stay until we hire someone? Are you still accepting nominations? Yes, we still accept nominations. Dean Smith will stay as long as needed or until he wants to do something else.
- Beta Policy—It will be reviewed through the diagram and back to the President from the EMOG group and will go through and finish it and it will come here.
- **Provost Karbhari Report:** We will have 3 items at the April Board Meeting-- the Science, Technology and Society cognate, Music emphasizes-piano pedagogy, music business and church music and the Doctor of Business. The first 2 will be information items and the last is a NISP for the first stage in the process. We are talking about moving from the honors program to an honors college—we are talking at the System level. A new unit requires a proposal to go to the Board and ACHE and there is concern for new units and the administrative cost but here there would be no administrative costs because we already have the unit, it would be a nomenclature change and we are trying to use this to recruit and enhance what we have. We will have to go through the process and we are trying to go through so there are no blocks. We hope this can be used to give us more opportunities to grow. It is a nomenclature change but it raises our status. It is much easier to market an honors college instead of an honors program. We are starting a search for a dean of the Graduate School—it will be a full time position, it will be an internal search, Dr. Karbhari stated he will talk to Rich about the committee membership.
- **Associate Provost Wren Report:** This year we were able to synchronize spring break and we have to decide if we want to have a unified spring break next year. The School Systems are talking about moving the date up a week and the downside for us is that leaves only 19 days from spring break to end of the semester. We would like your feedback. Send your feedback to Dr. Rich Miller.
- **Dr. Altenkirch** reported that Commencement in December was on December 14th but we have to move it to Sunday December 15th. The hockey association, the Mayor and the VBC are all involved. We have scheduling priority but this goes into the future—The VBC has contracts they

cannot get out of, wrestling, globetrotters, rodeo—had to maneuver hockey schedule so we had to allow them to schedule 13th and 14th and the Conference said we needed it so we had to move Commencement. This is the only one that created an issue.

- The Executive Committee Minutes were accepted moved by Dr. Jeet Gupta and seconded by Dr. Charles Hickman.
- **Dr. Richard Miller Report:** New Compliance Officer—John Cates for UAH working with the System. We have a representative on the UAH Committee. It is Ina Warboys.
- Budget there is some increase but also some drop in enrollment—will this jeopardize faculty positions—no it will not impact faculty searches or filling positions.
- Dr. Richard Miller reported there is a background check policy going into effect—any new employee will get a background check before they are hired and also pertains to tenure and promotions to high level positions that would be high risk. It will include a criminal history and credit check. He stated he is in receipt of the policy and has some concerns but overall it is a good policy. It was sent to the Personnel Committee and hope to get it back soon. Local AAUP is looking at it and will send it to the national AAUP and see if they have the same response. Dr. Ramon Cerro urged the Personnel Committee members to attend the meeting he will schedule. Dr. Miller said he has the policy and he will share it if the Senate wants—it is a draft. The cost to the university is between \$30 and \$50 K. Less than an FBI check. Dr. Eric Seemann pointed out that there are multiple checks for records updates.
- Dr. Richard Miller reported there are classroom updates going on and discussions regarding recordings and ownership of content. He does not have an answer yet. He is trying to get information on a policy. One answer was that lectures could be used one other time. We need a policy.
- Dr. Richard Miller reported that there is a Research infrastructure of \$500,000 available but with a 50% cost share up to \$200,000. Not many departments could handle that kind of cost share. That would target centers, etc. The President will look into this and get back to Dr. Miller. Fifty percent is onerous. If it is internal why matching—it is to ensure colleges and departments have skin in the game. We have an issue with the magnitude of the cost share. There is no problem with some commitment.
- Dr. Ramon Cerro asked that Dr. Richard Miller keep all informed regarding the Beta Policy.
- **Governance and Operations:** Dr. Phillip Bitzer reported that most new Senate positions are completed. There are 3 departments and 4 senators that he has not heard from. There was some concern with the COB but that has been straightened out. Once this is done we will move on with Officers but we should be done by the next meeting.
- **Finance:** Dr. Wai Mok reported they have 25 proposals for the RCEU program. He will call a meeting and hope we can fund most. There are currently no proposals for Distinguished Speakers.

- Director Academic Technology: Dr. Richard Miller reported he has been giving input and Dee Childs will be making the decision.
- **Senate Bill 368**—Dr. Ramon Cerro moved, seconded by Dr. Jeet Gupta the bill to the floor for discussion. Dr. Richard Miller stated he has tried to give information in a timely manner. This bill was submitted to make sure officers get information in a timely manner. Dr. Jett Gupta, seconded by Dr. Eric Seemann called the question. The bill failed. Dr. Jeet Gupta moved, seconded by Dr. Debra Moriarity to send the bill to Governance and Operations to include in the changes to the Bylaws, this passed. The bill will be sent to Governance and Operations.
- **Senate Bill 369**—Dr. Jeet Gupta moved, seconded by Dr. Kader Frendi to consider the bill. Dr. Richard Miller showed the Senate supplementary information—graphs. There are drops in credit hours. There is about an 8000 credit hour drop in Liberal Arts and Science has a drop but not as big, Business is slightly less. The trend is that it is down. From a public relations standpoint it may hit as the housing policy did. If it becomes policy there will have to be arguments made to support it. Data will be needed. Dr. Bhavani Sitaraman did research and gathered data on reverse transfer and losing students totally. Would not necessarily apply to current students because they can continue under the catalog they started under. Dr. Mitch Berbrier stated we can provide a better education and it is better for the students. Is this ok with AGSC and with ACHE? The bill goes to Academic Affairs and they make the decision and would have to finesse the publicity, etc.
- Discussion of allowing students transferring back and forth. Be careful how you market it and get information out to students that it is in their best interest to be here. Concern that students will stay away longer and not come until they have 64 hours. Having them start was better than what we were doing before and them waiting to come. See correlation of data with tuition and the economic state. Options: vote to send this to committee. Dr. Kader Frendi stated students leave to take a course because of the cost but we need to show as the President did that the cost is the same. We need to do a good job on selling. The Ayes have it—the bill passed.
- **Senate Bill 370:** Committees, search committees, etc. Senate represents the faculty—representation of the faculty. Carmen Scholz asked to correct the grammar in the last paragraph “or faculty member”. Accepted as a friendly amendment. Discussion that faculty represent faculty and do not have to be on the Senate. The Senate is not the only body representing the faculty. There is a feeling the faculty represent themselves. A Senator represents self—not the job to represent self. Amendment to say Faculty Senate representation—no second. Dr. Mitch Berbrier stated faculty on a committee should be representing faculty so we need Faculty Senate representation. Shared governance –the Senate represents faculty. Can they delete a permanent body? Call the question moved by Ina Warboys and seconded by Phillip Bitzer. The bill passed.
- Move to **Adjourn** by Dr. Ramon Cerro and seconded by Dr. Charles Hickman.