

Faculty Senate Agenda - Meeting # 532

January 17, 2013 12:45-2:15 pm, BAB 123

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes, Senate Meeting # 532
3. Consideration of Ongoing Senate Business
 - Will entertain motion to suspend rules and return to ongoing Senate business following President, Provost, and Internal (Senate) Reports.
4. Administration Reports
 - Dr. Robert Altenkirch, University President
 - Dr. Brent Wren, Associate Provost
 - Mr. Joel Lonergan, Associate VP of Advancement
 - Dr. Alan Constant, Director, Student Success Center
5. Internal (Senate) Reports & Discussion
 - Acceptance of 10 January 2013 Faculty Senate Executive Committee Minutes
 - Senate Officer Reports
 - Senate Committee Reports
 - University Committee Reports
6. Ongoing Senate Business
 - Vote on Acceptance of Faculty Handbook Revision
 - Senate Bill 361: Disease Policy (2nd reading)
 - Senate Bill 363: Differential Tuition Analysis (3rd reading)
 - Senate Bill 365: Performance Criteria for Tuition Remission (2nd reading)
 - Senate Bill 367: Eligibility for Senate Officers Elections (2nd reading)
 - Senate Bill 368: Notification of Senators of Regular Senate Business (2nd reading)
 - Senate Bill 369: Restoration of UAH GER Integrity Rule (2nd reading)
 - Senate Bill 370: Definition of Faculty Representation (2nd reading)
7. New Business
 - None
8. Adjournment

Proxies for Senate meetings must be a Senate-eligible individual from the same academic unit. No individual may carry more than one proxy.

PLEASE SEND PROXIES TO PEGGY BOWER: bowerp@uah.edu

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE FACULTY SENATE

Senate Bill 361 : Improved Integrity for Communicable Diseases Information

Bill History: 10/20/11 Before FSEC, Passed at First Reading
10/27/11 Before Senate for Second Reading, Further Action Deferred until Jan. 5, 2012 Meeting
1/5/12 Before Senate again at Second Reading, action deferred until April meeting
5/10/12 Back before Senate for Second Reading (adjourned Apr meeting before consideration)

WHEREAS, The University solicited comment from the Senate on an updated Communicable Diseases Policy that was approved already by Campus Counsel and the Emergency Management Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Many faculty believe that this policy needs additional revision as well as time for deliberation; and

WHEREAS, Certain terms in the policy have the potential to be interpreted in an overly broad way (for example: “diseases posing a **significant threat ... to health**”); and

WHEREAS, The Dean of Students is tasked in the policy to implement it, yet that individual has not been previously viewed as being responsible to the Faculty or directly involved with decisions directly, substantially impacting faculty life; and

WHEREAS, The policy in the long term may allow the Dean of Students and other officials not part of the faculty members' job-reporting chain to acquire information about faculty members' illnesses, including matters which some faculty view as deeply personal, and

WHEREAS, The policy allows faculty members to be excluded from work until a physician's statement is provided about treatment, and that the faculty member obtain indicated follow-up treatment by a physician (Sections G and H), without there being any exceptions for reasons of conscience

WHEREAS, The policy directs individuals have a duty to report others believed to have any disease potentially covered by the broad description of disease in the policy

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the policy be reworked to include (1) a less broad definition of communicable disease, with that rework to include more input from faculty, including health care faculty, (2) a time limit of a very small number of years that a disease incident can remain on file, (3) a requirement that on an annual basis, each faculty member will be notified if information about the faculty member was reported in the prior year, what information was reported, which individuals came into contact with that information, and given the opportunity to add a statement to the file. Any submitted statement by a faculty member must become part of the file and be attached to the disease incident report as long as the report is maintained.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That no University records maintained in keeping with this policy be stored out of the State of Alabama, to allow ready legal action (avoiding international or out-of-state courts) and to increase the capability for privacy protection to any faculty member. This restriction precludes storage of the information in a digital form, unless that digital form is strictly kept within this State.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the position Dean of Students have more accountability to the Faculty, in part by annually reporting in writing to the Faculty Senate by January 31 of: (1) the number of faculty who had communicable diseases that resulted in the collection of information, (2) a detailed explanation how that information was safeguarded in the prior year, (3) a detailed explanation of all individuals who came in contact with any identifying information about any faculty member reported to have a communicable disease, and (4) when that information will be destroyed. This reporting requirement is to be enforced by the Provost by incorporation of it into an annual list of tasks each Dean of Student is expected to perform.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That no faculty member be discriminated against in his/her ongoing employment for having a communicable disease.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE
FACULTY SENATE**

Senate Bill 363: Differential Tuition Analysis Request

Bill History: 11/17/11 Faculty Senate EC Approved at First Reading
12/01/11 Before Faculty Senate at Second Reading (ran out of time; did not consider)
1/05/12 Before Faculty Senate at Second Reading (began debate, time expired during debate)
1/26/12 Received Majority Approval at Second Reading
2/23/12 Before Faculty Senate at Third Reading, final action deferred until April meeting
5/10/12 Back before Senate for Third Reading (adjourned Apr meeting before consideration)

WHEREAS, Recruitment and retention of students is paramount to the future viability and success of our University, and

WHEREAS, The University has significant competition from other academic institutions, and

WHEREAS: The faculty of the University of Alabama in Huntsville believe that new, well-motivated ideas highlighting the uniqueness of UAHuntsville academics while promoting the University’s financial viability can serve both the institution and students/families, and

WHEREAS: Ideas for increasing student enrollment and retention were presented in the “Restructuring Report” drafted by an ad hoc Faculty Senate committee, yet little or no relevant discussion or action has been taken regarding these ideas,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Faculty Senate requests that the Offices of the Provost and VP of Finance perform a detailed analysis of the viability of scenarios related to the concept of “differential tuition”, a term referring to tuition and/or fee schedules that depend on academic level (e.g. freshman, sophomore, etc), examples of which were included in the Faculty Senate’s “Report on Realignment and Restructuring” submitted to the University Administration;

AND THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That these scenarios be analyzed for viability as an option increase student enrollment, encourage matriculating students to enroll in UAHuntsville courses whenever possible, and to creatively identify financial solutions advantageous to both the University and students/families;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the requested analysis be reported to both the Faculty Senate and University President and made available to the Faculty Senate no later than 3 months following the passage of this bill.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE
FACULTY SENATE**

Senate Bill 365: Performance Criteria for Tuition Remission

Bill History: 02/16/12 FS Exec. Comm. Placed on Senate Agenda (First Reading) (sub. by Sen. J. Kulick)
 02/23/12 Before Faculty Senate at Second Reading; time expired before consideration
 03/15/12 Before Faculty Senate at Second Reading, action deferred until April meeting
 05/10/12 Back before Senate for Second Reading (adjourned Apr meeting before consideration)

WHEREAS, A well-educated faculty and staff and their dependents are an asset to themselves, the community and the university, and

WHEREAS: UAH also desires to provided employee benefits comparable to employers in the local private sector, and

WHEREAS: UAH has an interest in encouraging high standards of student achievement, particularly students sponsored by the University,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Any person requesting tuition remission for an undergraduate course shall have a GPA of (2.0) to be eligible for tuition remission;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Any person requesting tuition remission for a graduate course shall have a GPA of (3.0) to be eligible for tuition remission;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

A student must earn the grade of C for any undergraduate course for which tuition has been waived;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

A student must earn the grade of B for any graduate course for tuition has been waived;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Students failing to earn the requisite grade for any course taken shall be required to reimburse the university for the cost of the course before being eligible for any further tuition remission and,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

Previous grades shall be grandfathered in and the GPA computation shall commence with courses taken following the enactment of this bill;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the University shall encourage faculty, staff, and family members to educate themselves in areas outside their work domains by encouraging students to take courses for audit credit with no performance requirements, and be if further resolved that the university shall encourage employees to participate in professional development and continuing education programs through the existing tuition discount plan as part of this activity.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE
FACULTY SENATE**

Senate Bill 367: Eligibility for Senate Officers Elections

Bill History: 04/20/12 Received from (non-Senator) faculty member
 05/03/12 Executive Comm. directed bill onto Senate Agenda for reading before the Senate
 05/10/12 Before Faculty Senate for Second Reading

WHEREAS, The faculty senate President-Elect and Ombudsperson are elected by the entire senate eligible faculty of the university; and

WHEREAS: The President-Elect and Ombudsperson represent the entire senate eligible faculty of the university; and

WHEREAS: The current faculty senate bylaws requires the unit of the President-Elect to elect another faculty senate, and

WHEREAS: The requirement to be an outgoing or incoming faculty senator for senate officer's election is an undue, redundant, and duplicative,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That any faculty senate eligible faculty member of the university can be a candidate for election to the positions of faculty senate President-Elect and Ombudsperson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the first sentence of the faculty senate bylaws section IIIC be changed to "In the spring of each year, the Senate Operations and Governance Committee will nominate, from the Senate eligible faculty, candidate(s) for President-Elect and Ombudsperson."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That these proposed changes become effectively immediately.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE
FACULTY SENATE**

Senate Bill 369: Restoration of UAH GER Integrity Rule

Bill History: 10/18/12 Before Fac Sen Executive Committee for initial consideration
 1/10/13 Passed at First Reading
 1/17/13 Before Senate for Second Reading

WHEREAS, The Faculty respects the high quality of education provided in undergraduate General Education courses at UAH, and

WHEREAS, The Faculty realizes that for our strong four-year professional programs to realize their full potential, we need to be confident that our students are experiencing effective and rigorous General Education courses in their first years on campus, and

WHEREAS, The Faculty understands that its General Education courses are recruiting grounds for majors in the UAH colleges of Science and the Liberal Arts, and therefore GER courses are a key component of our efforts to retain that portion of students who will inevitably withdraw from our professional programs (given that approximately half of all undergraduates change their majors at some point) and

WHEREAS, The Faculty recognizes that campus General Education courses generate net revenue for the university, and

WHEREAS, The experiment of allowing open access to junior college GER classes (a policy identical to the only upper-level two-year

institution in the state) after enrollment at UAH appears to have had no positive impact, and any impact it has had has been in the direction of inhibiting the growth of UAH enrollment and credit hours generated, and

WHEREAS,

The current policy limits the potential for pursuing the UAH administration's declared goal of increasing enrollment in the liberal arts, and

WHEREAS,

The Faculty believes that the university and its junior and senior students benefit from maximizing the number of courses they take at UAH, and

WHEREAS,

The UAH Faculty believes that the current Undergraduate Handbook policy encourages students to minimize enrollment in UAH GER courses, and attend junior colleges in their junior and senior years,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the Faculty Senate requests that the following statement be deleted from the UAH Undergraduate Catalog (under the section *Transfer Students from Alabama Junior/Community Colleges*):

"A maximum of 64 semester hours of credit from a junior, community or two-year college may be transferred to UAHuntsville and applied toward a degree program," and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That the Faculty Senate requests that the following statement be restored to the UAH Undergraduate Catalog (under the section *Transfer Students from Alabama Junior/Community Colleges*):

“A maximum of 64 semester hours of credit from a junior, community or two-year college may be transferred to UAH and applied toward a degree program. Once a student has enrolled at UAH and has accumulated a total of 64 semester hours of credit from all sources, no additional credit may be transferred to UAH from a two-year Institution. Exceptions to this policy must be approved prior to taking additional coursework. Requests for exceptions must be in writing and approved by the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled.”

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE
FACULTY SENATE**

Senate Bill 370: Definition of Faculty Representation

Bill History: 10/18/12 Before Fac Sen Executive Committee for initial consideration
 1/10/13 Passed at First Reading
 1/17/13 Before Senate for Second Reading

WHEREAS, The Faculty Senate is the permanent body representative body of the faculty for the formulation of university policy and procedures in matters relating to institutional purpose, general academic considerations, curricular matters, university resources, and faculty personnel, and

WHEREAS, All issues of university governance affecting the faculty at large should go before the Senate before implementation, and

WHEREAS, The Faculty Senate will participate in the selection of academic administrators and in alterations of the academic administrative structure, and

WHEREAS, Faculty Senators are the voice of the faculty, and

WHEREAS, These and other foundations for faculty representation are enshrined in the Faculty Senate bylaws,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That “faculty representation” on university committees shall be defined as a sitting Faculty Senator or Senators, or faculty members appointed by the Senate.