

Administrative Brief for Faculty Senate for September 2020

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9/9/2020—updated 9/23/2020

Faculty Senate Report

Ongoing Projects

- **Morton Hall Addition & Renovations** – the University and the State Department of Construction Management accepted substantial completion of the interior on June 22, 2020. User move-in, as well as installation of furniture and furnishings has been completed. Assuming agreeable weather, the Contractor will be completing minor site work, landscaping and punch list items through the end of the month. As intended, the building is fully accessible and functional for the start of the Fall Semester.
- **Spragins Hall Exterior Renovations** – Pearce Construction Company is still completing roof flashing installation, exterior sealant installation and modification of exterior metal trim details. Anticipated final inspection should be conducted by the end of the month. Pearce Construction Company was also the successful low-bidder for the Exterior Column Wrap project. Therefore, all exterior renovations on Spragins Hall will be completed and warranted by a single General Contractor. Construction is tentatively scheduled for completion by the end of the year.
- **Shelby Center Investigative Demolition** – The Contractor, EMW Construction, completed construction on August 9, 2020. The Contractor is scheduled to have most of the punch list items complete on or before August 17th. As intended, the building is fully accessible and functional for the start of the Fall Semester.
- **Wilson Hall Brick Repair** – H&H Waterproofing remobilized on July 13, 2020. They initially focused on corrective work above the main building entryways and canopies. Due to clear weather and the efforts of multiple masonry crews, they are currently well ahead of their original schedule and anticipate to be complete with all work by September 1, 2020. The temporary safety provisions will be removed by the first week of September, returning Wilson Hall back to normal service conditions.

New Projects for September Board Meeting

- **Shelby Center Exterior Renovations** – Upon completion of the Site Investigative Demolition project, the design professionals have submitted a revised project scope of work and budget with the additional exterior renovations necessary to alleviate the concerns of the subsurface water conditions that caused flooding in the building in 2019. We have prepared a Revised Stage II Submittal for approval at the September Board of Trustees Meeting.
- **Altenkirch Lawn “Greenway” Phase III** - Facilities and Operations received approval of the proposed design and scope of work from UAH Administration. We have prepared a Stage III Submittal for approval at the September Board of Trustees Meeting.

- **Campus IT Data Center Hardening Upgrades** – Facilities and Operations received approval of the proposed \$2.6 million stand-alone data center from UAH Administration. We have prepared a Stage I Submittal and Stage II Waiver for approval at the September Board of Trustees Meeting.

Interim Title IX Policy (Effective - August 14, 2020)

- New Definition: Sexual Harassment : “severe, and pervasive, and objectively offensive”
- Formal Complaints: Mandatory dismissal if complaint does not meet certain requirements
- Live Hearings
 - Formal Complaints go to live hearings and allow cross-examination when adjudicating sexual-misconduct complaints
 - Both parties will have an adviser who will pose questions on their behalf
 - UA System Office of Counsel is working on a pool of Attorneys to serve as advisors
 - We will create a recording of any live hearing.

Academic Affairs Dean Search and Dean Reviews Update 9/23/2020

- Dean of Science. Search resuming. The top two candidates will have a second interview either on campus or virtually.
- Dr Mahalingam is reappointed as Dean of the College of Engineering. Dr Quick is reappointed as Dean of the College of Education. Dean of Professional and Continuing Studies is in final stages of the review.

Policies

Received response from Faculty Senate that the Faculty Senate has “*not endorsed*” 02.01.71—Safety and Health Requirements for Presence on UAH Campus During the COVID-19 Pandemic (interim) “*for a life beyond the six months it would have as an interim policy.*” The SGA and Staff Senate have yet not responded.

- **Interim Policies – Due December 1, 2020**

02.01.35—Online and Hybrid Education Policy (interim) (was under review by Faculty Senate during fall and early spring semester 2019-2020)

02.01.51—Communicable Disease Policy (interim)

- **Interim Policies – Due February 1, 2021**

02.01.52—Summer School Operations Policy (interim)

02.01.70—NC SARA Professional Licensure Notification (interim)

- **Outstanding Policies -- Due November 20, 2020**

These policies were sent to the Faculty Senate in December 2019 with return comments and recommendations due in the late spring 2019.

02.01.xx—Authorship and Classroom Material Selection Policy

02.01.xx—Electronic Signatures

- **Under Review by Faculty Senate**
02.01.67—Academic Misconduct

Fall 2020 Student Enrollment and Data

Fall 2019	Fall 2020 (as of 9/9/2020) (Still Preliminary)
Undergraduate Enrollment: 7,989	Undergraduate Enrollment: 8,027
Graduate Enrollment: 1,999	Graduate Enrollment: 1,973
Total Enrollment: 9,988	Total Enrollment: 10,000
2019 4 th year graduation rate: 35%	Preliminary 2020 4 th year graduation rate: 39%
2019 6 th year Graduation Rate: 58%	Preliminary 2020 6 th year Graduation Rate: 57%
2018 Retention Rate: 82.9%	Preliminary 2020 Retention Rate: 82% (FTFT only)
Freshman Class: (FT/PT-1,497)	Freshman Class: (FT/PT-1,350)
Average ACT: 28.4	Average ACT (full and part-time): 27.6

Enrollment Comparison

Fall 2019 Enrollment

By College

Total Enrollment	9,988	100.00%
Engineering	3,343	33.50%
Science	1,859	18.60%
Nursing	1,440	14.40%
Business	1,482	14.80%
Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences	987	9.90%
Education	403	4.00%
Non-Degree/Other	307	3.10%
Professional and Continuing Studies	167	1.70%

Undergraduate/Graduate

Undergraduate	7,989	80.00%
Graduate	1,999	20.00%

Racial Diversity

White	6,922	69.30%
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Fall 2020 Enrollment

By College

Total Enrollment	10,000	100.00%
Engineering	3,444	34.44%
Science	1,909	19.09%
Business	1,492	14.92%
Nursing	1,308	13.08%
Arts, Humanities, & Social Science	991	9.91%
Education	439	4.39%
Non-Degree/Other	248	2.48%
College of Professional Studies	169	1.69%

Undergraduate/Graduate

Graduate	1,973	19.73%
Undergraduate	8,027	80.27%

Racial Diversity

White	6,902	69.02%
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Black or African American	894	9.00%	Black or African American	910	9.10%
Hispanic/Latino	506	5.10%	Hispanic/Latino	530	5.30%
Nonresident Alien	411	4.10%	Unknown	504	5.04%
Unknown	483	4.80%	Two or more races	364	3.64%
Asian	352	3.50%	Asian	356	3.56%
Two or More Races	303	3.00%	Nonresident Alien	341	3.41%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	95	1.00%	American Indian/Alaska Native	77	0.77%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	20	0.20%	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	16	0.16%

Gender

	5,57	
Men	3	55.80%
	4,41	
Women	5	44.20%

Gender

	5,652	56.52%
Male		
	4,348	43.48%
Female		

September Academic Programs Approved by the Board of Trustees

- NISP for Ph.D. in Applied Experimental Psychology—September 2020
- NISP for B.S. in Engineering Technology—September 2020

Faculty Awards

Distinguished Teaching Award—Jennifer English

Distinguished Research Award—Susan Alexander

Research of the Year—Laxman Adhikari

Lingling Zhao

Graduate School Outstanding Mentor—Pam O’Neal

Graduate School Outstanding Advisor—Sarma Rani

Undergraduate Research and Creativity Mentor Award—Phillip Ligrani

College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Outstanding Faculty Award—Christina Steidl

College of Business Outstanding Faculty Award—Frank Mullins

College of Education Outstanding Faculty Award—Wolfram Verlaan

College of Engineering Outstanding Faculty Award—Phillip Ligrani

College of Nursing Outstanding Faculty Award—Lori Lioce

College of Science Outstanding Faculty Award—James Miller

Strategic Plan 2028

- Will be restarted in January 2021
- A new schedule will be forthcoming later in the fall.

Commencement

The Commencement Committee met on Friday, 9/18/2020, to discuss Fall Commencement. Options were discussed of having the commencement in the Von Braun Center or having it at Spragins. A virtual ceremony was also discussed. The committee decided to conduct a survey to obtain the graduates' opinions. Of the nearly 500 students who have responded so far, ~75% want a face to face ceremony at the Von Braun Center. About 10% want a virtual ceremony and about 15% are not planning to attend. The Commencement Committee will meet again this Friday to consider the results of the survey and to make recommendations for Fall Commencement.

Spring Class Schedule

Spring 2021		
(Classes Begin on Wednesday)		
January 1	Friday	Winter Break – University Closed
January 4	Monday	University Re-Opens
**January 6	Wednesday	Classes Begin Moved
**January 13	Wednesday	Classes Begin
January 18	Monday	MLK Holiday (University Closed)
**January 21	Thursday	Last day to add class without special approvals
**January 21	Thursday	Last day to drop and receive a refund
February 1	Monday	Application deadline for Graduate degree Spring and Bachelor's degree Summer semester candidates
**February 3	Wednesday	Last day to apply Pass/Fail
**February 10	Wednesday	Last day to change from credit to audit
**February 26 – March 5		Mid Term grading available for 100 & 200 level courses
March 23	Tuesday	Honors Day – No classes
**March 25	Thursday	Last day to withdraw
**March 29 – April 2	Monday-Friday	Spring Break Holiday (University Closed) Cancelled
April 6	Tuesday	Last day to submit Thesis/Dissertation Spring candidates
April 23	Friday	Classes End
April 24 & 25	Saturday/Sunday	Study Days
April 26 – April 30		Final Exams
May 3-4		Final Exam Makeups
May 5	Wednesday	Commencement, TBA

Staff will be able to take the spring break holiday leave during spring semester.

ACT Task Force

Recommendation: “The committee recommends a test optional policy for the 20-21 and 21-22 admissions cycles due to the COVID-19 pandemic.” The committee further “recommends that the university consider going permanently test optional.”

Both UA and UAB are strongly considering to go ACT optional for 20-21 admissions and perhaps permanently. Competing institutions have already put forward some form of testing optional policy (hereafter, TOP) for the coming year. They include:

- Auburn

- University of North Alabama
- University of South Alabama
- Samford University
- Birmingham Southern University
- Alabama A&M University
- Mississippi State University
- Embry-Riddle
- Georgia Tech
- Tennessee Tech
- Texas Tech
- MTSU