
FACULTY SENATE MEETING

January 21, 2021

12:50 P.M.

Chan Auditorium

Present: Sophia Marinova, Dilcu Barnes, Joey Taylor, Kwaku Gyasi, Christina Steidl, Mike Banish, Abdul Salman, George Nelson, Kader Frendi, Susan Alexander, Elizabeth Barnby, Azita Amiri, Donna Guerra, Mark Reynolds, Jeff Weimer, Huaming Zhang, Seyed Sadeghi, Sarah Roller, Ron Schwertfeger, Tim Newman, Carmen Scholz, Carolyn Sanders, Gang Li

Present via Zoom: Jose Betancourt, Candice Lanius, Emil Jovanov, Jerome Baudry, Paul Whitehead, Laird Burns

Absent with Proxy: Andrea Word, Kevin Bao, Christina Carmen, Amy Hunter, Darlene Showalter, Harry Delugach

Absent: Tobias Mendelson, David Allen, Andrei Gandila, Jeremy Fischer, Seong-Moo Yoo, Fat Ho, Bryan Mesmer, Leiqiu Hu, John Mecikalski, Sivaguru Ravindran,

- **Faculty Senate President Tim Newman called the meeting to order at 12:55 pm.**
- **Meeting Review:**
 - **Summer School Operations Policy voted to send forward.**
 - **Gift Acceptance Policy voted to send forward.**
 - **Bill 446 passed second and third reading.**
 - **Bill 450 passed second and third reading.**
- **Approve FS Minutes. Kader motions to approve. Carolyn seconds. Carmen moves amendments. Kader seconds. All in favor of motion to amend. Ayes carry. All in favor of minutes as amended. Ayes carry.**
- **Accept FSEC Report from January 14. Motion to accept. Mike moves. Kwaku seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.**
- **Accept FSEC Report from January 15. Motion to accept. Mikes moves. Kader seconds. Add Mike Banish to participants. All in favor of the amendment. Ayes carry.**
 - **Carmen – This was a joint meeting. Can we list the library hours here? The hours listed in January 14th report were incorrect.**
 - **Tim – All of those in favor of accepting 1/15 minutes. Ayes carry.**
 - **Carmen moves to reconsider 1/14 minutes. Christine seconds.**
 - **Tim - All in favor of reconsidering. Ayes carry.**
 - **Carmen – I move that the library hours as posted in the administrative brief are the correct ones.**
 - **Tim – Mike seconds. All in favor of motion to amend. Ayes carry. All in favor of accepting the 1/14 minutes as recently amended. Ayes carry.**
- **Administrative Report**
 - **President Dawson**
 - **Most are the same on the facilities report. The only big change is Greenway Phase III is on hold. Only three bids came back from the five we requested. We will**

probably have to back out for bids. The other item added is we received a substantial donation. We will be able to renovate inside.

- We have ordered 1,000 COVID vaccines. We don't know when we will receive those doses. As soon as we receive those, we will implement the policy to vaccinate our health care workers. We will send out a memo explaining how Phase I will work.
 - Mike – Can you tell us who is involved in the plan development for 1A, 1B, and 1C?
 - President – We are following the guidelines from the ADPH. That is listed out on their website who should vaccinate according to their plan. We have a list that spells out who will vaccinate under 1A. That will come out on Monday. We will do a communication on who will fall under each phase.
 - Jerome – When you say 1,000 doses, does that vaccinate 1,000 or 500?
 - President – It is only 1,000 doses. We will vaccinate 1,000 people. Then those will get an appointment for the second dose. We are automatically in the queue for the other 1,000 for the second dose.
- Provost Curtis
 - I would like to welcome to campus Dr. Steinwandt. He became the Dean of the College of Science as of January 4. We are glad he is on board.
 - Dr. Greene is undergoing fifth year review.
 - I would like to discuss the '21 spring calendar. March 23rd will be Honor's Day. That will be virtual. We are going to continue on our path to keep everyone as safe as possible. There will not be any classes that day. Classes end April 23rd. We will have two study days. The senate asked for that and we are implementing that.
 - I sent Tim Newman the fall calendar and asked for the senate input. Classes will start August 18th. There will be the Labor Day holiday. In October, there will be a fall break. This will be two days. We will have a week break for Thanksgiving. We typically don't have good attendance those days anyways. The finals will begin 6-10 December. I wanted to go over that schedule. Spring is a typical semester. We are planning a week spring break, March 21-25. It would have two days for study days and a week for finals. That is a quick outline. I suggested to Dr. Dawson that we consider a week at Thanksgiving. This gives a chance to travel to family when we can. I also suggested not having a fall break. Dr. Dawson doesn't believe the students will like not having a fall break. I go back to Auburn with a week at Thanksgiving and no fall break. They now have a fall break as well. I suggest giving it a trial and see how it goes. The week of Thanksgiving gives everyone the chance to finish their projects and get ready for finals. I would like to ask if you have comments or questions.
 - Sophia – For fall and summer, we will continue with the blue and silver protocol?
 - Provost – It is on everyone's minds. Our hope is that the vaccines will be widely distributed and everyone will have had the opportunity to take the vaccine. Our hope is in the summer every student will be able to take the vaccine. We hope that will allow us to get back into normal routine. Our hope is that we will have a "normal" fall semester.
 - We don't know ultimately what will happen for those semesters. We will delay registration for summer and fall. We have worked with the Deans and Associate Deans to see when we could do this. The best schedule we have created is having

registration for summer March 1. Most summer courses will be online. There may be a few that will be meeting hybrid. There may be a few that are particularly necessary for laboratory. We could go ahead and put those on our schedule. We will finalize the plans for fall. March 28 will be the opening day for registration for fall. The students will not have as much time to register. It is important to encourage them to register. Those that register before finals come back.

- We do not have re-entry testing except for residential students and athletes. We will start with sentinel testing on the 28th. Every staff and faculty member will be in the pool. We are keeping all of our safety measures through the summer. We will keep six feet apart in the classroom. Face coverings are still required. We are continuing with enhanced cleaning. If you see anything, please contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety. They do have a supply room. We purchased more supplies last fall. There was some need and have a lot leftover. We have put all the academic affairs supplies in the OEHS supply room. They are located in Shelbie King Hall.
- The library is providing group study spaces. If a student group needs a larger study space, they are to go to User Services Group. They will try to get something set up for the students. Students complained last fall they didn't have somewhere to study. We are providing that in the library. The Student Success Center is available as well. They have in-person and online tutoring.
- If there is anyone who test positive within faculty/staff, contact Laurel Long. If a student test positive, contact Dean of Students. That will then start the process of cleaning and notification. The dashboard should be updated this Friday. It will be updated as far back as November 24 – January 13, then this week. There will be a large number for that time period. I asked about the vaccinations. Would they put information up on that? They aren't going too. Right now it is only medical and 75 years in age or above. If students get involved, they are considering putting information about the vaccines.
- Enrollment as of yesterday is given. The difference from last year to this year is 13. We are up 79 graduate students. We have a few more than last time. Undergraduate didn't fare as well as graduate. I think online classes have helped our graduate program. Our new international students were much lower this year.
- Final exams are a ways off. Online and remote section exams will be conducted online. You can have in class exams six feet apart. You may have to split among two rooms if you can't distance. Everyone is alerted to this need. We will do our best to conduct hybrid and traditional class. Always stay prepared if we have to do something different. This is our current plan right now.
 - Carolyn – Thank you for all the information. I want to ask about the prompts we received through email, I am not getting any of the prompts.
 - Provost – Thank you for letting me know. I will let Malcolm know. If over the holiday you did not continue, you have to resign up. I asked the same question yesterday and that was the answer.
 - Elizabeth – The Governor extended the mask order until March 5th at 5 PM.
 - Carmen – Please relay to colleagues that the cleaning supplies are available to them.
 - Gang – Do we need to make an appointment to get the items from Shelbie?

- Provost – I honestly do not know. Let me ask and we will send that information out.
- Sophia – On the technology issues, I am already experiencing some issues with my hybrid and online. We will adopt as necessary. Is it recognized how important technology is?
- Provost – Have you reported this?
- Sophia – Yes, I think we need to prioritize this.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- Tim Newman, President
 - Happy New Year and welcome back. The FSEC was asked for feedback on the academic calendar. You can see in the minutes the four points sent back. We will have a special meeting next week. We have 22 items in our hopper. We have 12-13 that came in since Thanksgiving. Carmen, Mike, and I started dialogue graduate study issues. I made a suggestion in regards to sabbatical that it be resumed. I made the point that we are getting a fusion of funds from CARES II. That will be split between administration and students. I think we want a more effective outreach to students. I am asking that we tell the students how to prioritize their request. I think that it falls ultimately under the Financial Aid office.
- Carmen Scholz, President-Elect
 - No report.
- Laird Burns, Past President
 - No report.
- Mike Banish, Parliamentarian
 - No report.
- Carolyn Sanders, Ombudsperson
 - No report.
- Kader Frendi, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Azita Amiri, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Jeff Weimer, Finance and Resource Committee Chair
 - We have no report right now.
 - Joey – The first three distinguished speaker series events are up. You have until tomorrow to get in additional proposals.
- Emil Jovanov, Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Kwaku Gyasi, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Mike Banish, Personnel Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Carmen Scholz, University Committee Report
 - I want to forward information from conference to you. We are part of a Federal Partnership. I was asked to be the faculty representative for the university. This agency looks at academic research. If you took a no cost extension, that is where it came from. Urgency was the catalyst for the quick development of the vaccine. NSF will be phased out in 2022, and we will go to research.gov. NIH money reporting regulation is tightening. NASA requires risk assessment for all awards.

These are the important agencies I paid attention to. It was discussed what we can expect in regards to research since we have a new government administration.

- Summer School Operations Policy
 - Tim – I would like to see a motion to pass as presented in the packet. Mike moves. Kwaku seconds.
 - Carolyn – We have had a standing summer school compensation policy. The interim policy we perceived was quite a change from what had been done. The largest change was if enrollment was less than the minimum, it was possible that an instructor could be paid just 50% of the regular compensation. Across the board, that alarmed us. We wanted to keep the parts of the interim in place but the major focus was to remove the aspect of 50% less compensation. Some data was researched showing the revenue from summer school. It makes enough money that we wanted to put a proposed policy in place. We wanted to remove the 50%, and raise the ceiling that the least paid is \$7,500 and the most is \$17,500. That is the most significant change to the interim policy.
 - Laird – That was a great summary. We are trying to focus on retention and getting students through as quickly as possible. It is important for our faculty to get paid for that.
 - Tim – All in favor of sending this policy forward. Ayes carry.
- Gift Acceptance Policy
 - Tim – You have three documents related to this in your packet. The reason for those three is the VP for Advancement has looked over this again. In the in-kind gifts sections, he wanted to add a statement. Is there a motion to send forward in this form? Mike moves. Kader seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.
- Bill 446
 - Tim - Motion to approve. Carmen moves. Kwaku seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry. One nay. Passed second reading.
 - Mike – I motion to go to third reading. Kader seconds. All in favor of third reading. Ayes carry.
 - Tim – Motion to accept on third reading. Carmen moves. Carolyn seconds.
 - Christina – My concern over it is we want transparency. This bill was derived from the question at the time. It has been brought forward from previous issues rather than the two named in the bill.
 - George – I would like to know more information on this bill being new to the senate.
 - Candice – I wanted to echo that I think the issues raised in this bill are not accurate. Dr. Curtis has spoken to the curriculum committee. I am going to vote against this senate bill.
 - Laird – Some concerns were that the faculty handbook processes weren't followed. We found out how the process was working. Sometimes the Dean wasn't following the process. You could have some Deans trying to convince faculty how to vote on some things. There wasn't a vote on this. The process wasn't followed. It happened again. We just simply want the process to be followed. If the senate want to change the process, they need to be listed and followed. The idea wasn't bad, the process just wasn't followed.
 - Tim – All in favor. Ayes carry. Passes on third reading.
- Bill 450
 - Tim – Motion to introduce. Kader moves. Sophia seconds.
 - Mike – I would like to make two independent motions for this bill. The first one is that we delete what is new section 4-11.
 - Tim – Second to motion to strike 4-11. Gang Li seconds.
 - Carolyn – I have served in the ombuds role off and on. I think the most important point I can make is I support the striking. I suggest it goes to committee for reworking. During

previous administration, it was spoken that the ombuds role needed to be strengthened. I don't think the ombuds role is well publicized. It's an assignment that can be very overwhelming. There are issues within any institution. I think that role would be utilized if known available. In discussion with Provost Curtis, I don't think anyone meant to let it go unattended. I appreciate the motion to strike the section of this bill. I do think it is critical to go to committee.

- Tim – All in favor of striking. Ayes carry.
 - Mike – There are some administrative details for the second motion. In section 4.2, it says College of Business Administration. It should now just be “business”. Also in section 4.2, it states on Professional and Continuing Studies.
 - Provost – Professional Studies is the correct title.
 - Tim – Is there a second to the motion? Kader seconds. Strike and before education and the division of.
 - Emil – Coma after education.
 - Tim – Second to amendment. Kwaku seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry. Motion to approve as amended. All in favor. Ayes carry. Adopted upon second and third reading.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:19 PM