
FACULTY SENATE MEETING

November 19, 2020

12:50 P.M.

Chan Auditorium

Present: Tobias Mendelson, Jose Betancourt, Candice Lanius, Kwaku Gyasi, Andrei Gandila, Kristin Weger, Christina Steidl, Mike Banish, Bryan Messmer, George Nelson, Kader Frendi, Susan Alexander, Elizabeth Barnby, Donna Guerra, Darlene Showalter, Mark Reynolds, Jerome Baudry, Jeff Weimer, Seyed Sadeghi, Gang Li, Sarah Roller, Ron Schwertfeger, Tim Newman, Carmen Scholz, Laird Burns

Absent with Proxy: Sophia Marinova, Melissa Foster, Andrea Word

Absent without Proxy: David Allen, Dilcu Barnes, Jeremy Fischer, Abdul Salman, Seong-Moo Yoo, Emil Jovanov, Azita Amiri, John Mecikalski, Carolyn Sanders

Zoom Remote Participants: Ex-Officio: Provost Christine Curtis, Guest: President Darren Dawson, Kevin Bao, Joey Taylor, Fat Ho, Christina Carmen, Amy Hunter, Leiqui Hu, Harry Delugach, Huaming Zhang, Sivaguru Ravindran, Andrea Word, Paul Whitehead

- **Faculty Senate President Tim Newman called the meeting to order at 12:49 pm.**
- **Meeting Review:**
 - **NCSARA passed second reading.**
 - **Bill 440 passed third reading.**
 - **Electronic Signatures passed second reading.**
 - **Bill 448 passed second reading.**
 - **Communicable Disease Policy passes.**
 - **Bill 456 passes second reading.**
 - **Bill 441 passes second reading.**
- **Approve Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes 608. Mike Banish moves. Jerome Baudry seconds. Ayes carry.**
- **Accept FSEC Report from November 5, 2020. Kader Frendi moves. Jerome Baudry seconds. Ayes carry.**
- **Administrative Reports**
 - **President Darren Dawson**
 - **We are working out a few things with Morton. Spragins is scheduled to end on February 2021. Beville Cooling Tower project will be done by December 21, 2020. Shelby Center Exterior will start around March. The Greenway is still moving forward. We received approval from the board. Campus IT Data Center is continuing on schedule. The Cyber Security Lab is still moving forward and complete summer 2021.**
 - **We have meetings planned for the Budget and Planning Advisory Council, Campus Planning, and Financial Aid Committee.**
 - **Candice – I did sentinel testing earlier this week. I heard there would be re-entry testing for everyone for spring. Is that true?**

- President – There will be some re-entry. Right now it is planned only for clinical faculty in nursing and residence hall student. Athletes are tested once a week and will still continue to be tested.
 - Provost Christine Curtis
 - We are continuing with our Dean search for the College of Science. When we hire a faculty member at the rank of professor, we go through the tenure process. We hope to have this concluded early in December. If everything works out, the candidate will be with us early January. The committee got started on the fifth year review for Dean Greene in the College of Business.
 - I understand you will look at a number of policies. I appreciate that.
 - You saw in the notice yesterday, we will not have a live commencement. The numbers in Madison County are very concerning. The city officials are extremely concerned about Huntsville and Madison County. With due amount of caution, it seems more cautious to not have commencement. We were able to work with a company that works with us on live commencements. They do virtual commencements as well. We will have short welcomes, a presentation by the President, then the conferral of degrees. Each student will have their name, degree, and by choice a picture and comment. Those slides will be searchable for the students. They can zero in on theirs and send to family and friends. We plan to have commencement on December 14th. It will be scheduled at a time so that friends, family, and graduates can gather together. Those students that want to come back and have a live ceremony, when we can, they will be invited and welcomed to do so.
 - Tomorrow is the last day for in person classes. The week of Thanksgiving, we don't have classes.
 - Classes will start on January 13th. There will be sentinel testing for the campus during the first two weeks. This will be heavy testing. There won't be any requirement for re-entry testing at this time for faculty and staff.
 - I mentioned to you in a memo that the facility division has offered to place plexi glass around lecterns. Submit a work order for your classroom.
 - The ACT Test Optional Pilot is underway. It was accepted by the BOT.
 - The other announcement I sent out to you was the Expectation and Enforcement Notice has been changed. We had very rigorous violations. This doesn't relax our requirements of social distancing, mask, health check every three days. All these things are our personal responsibility to each other. If the violations are to occur they will be handled under the staff handbook and the faculty handbook. I was thankful to the system that they decided we follow our handbooks versus the process they imposed on us.
 - Pass/Withdrawal for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. The instructions have been sent out to the students. If it is required for a prerequisite, their grade will be known. Faculty will be able to get those grades through their department office. The question was asked about withdrawals, do they count. Yes, they count. We are extending the withdrawal past the grades for fall and spring semester. It shows on the transcript. It has no other meaning than it was a withdrawal. If your college allows only a number of withdrawals, it counts. There was a question about an Argos report. There really won't be any need for that.
 - Dr. Dawson has been working with all of us to increase our effectiveness and abilities to serve our community. One thing that he has noticed is many other

universities are increasing their graduate enrollment. University of Alabama is bragging about their increased enrollment and diversity in graduate school. One of things we can do is a professional masters. We are going to take the opportunity to take the position of the Dean of the Graduate School and International Services into a new Associate Provost position. We are setting up a new office that will be an advocate office for undergraduate students. The associate provost will be responsible for academic quality and academic integrity of the graduate and international programs. Brent Wren will focus his efforts to get the office established and the program underway.

- Dr. Berkowitz will be retiring January 1. Dr. Sean Lane has agreed to serve as the Acting Associate Provost. We will start the search for associate provost soon. We are in the process of forming the committee. Dr. Lane will be setting up a working group. I am asking for faculty senate representation.
- There is a listing of proposed master degrees that the Deans have put together for enhanced marketing. I have asked the Graduate Council for their input and I am asking for yours. If you can think of any additional, please send them my way. I am wanting this by December 14th.
- I listed some summaries of the student and faculty surveys for your reading.
 - Harry – One question is for the virtual graduation, will we have videos for students to see and a commencement speaker?
 - Provost – There will not be a commencement speaker. We are keeping this simple and direct. I will be giving a few words of congratulations. We will name the top scholars and Dr. Dawson will say a few words. The company will put the name and degree of every graduate from spring, summer, and fall. The student can add in a photo and comment. The company can put that in a stream. We will have a video of the alma mater. It is going to be simple but plan for it be very meaningful. I think the conferral of the degrees is the most important we can do. We will ask the student to stand even amongst their family.
 - Harry – Is it free?
 - Provost – Yes.
 - Harry – For those doing hybrid classes, would we want a second screen? Was there a decision made?
 - Provost – At this point, we received \$1.336M as cares money. It was designated for remote learning. We received information in late September, decisions were made in early October. ETL had started sending our bids and requisitions that equipment is starting to come in. It all has to be installed by December 30th. Those monitors would be in that batch. We have put a call out to the colleges, IT, library for volunteers to help install these monitors. We do have a contractor but they have limited people and they can't get it done in time. We hope we receive everything in our order.
 - Laird – Thank you for that effort. A class I teach has offered to create a new survey to make it a little better. Can we receive the spreadsheet, info to create this?
 - Provost – That would be great.
 - George – I had a follow up question on graduate school reorganization. I was wondering what thoughts are being put into recruitment.

- Provost – I think that will be part of the working groups effort. Other institutions have put effort to bring in researchers. I am going to ask the acting provost to include that in the working group. I believe that we can do a better job than what we do now. I think it is to be answered. I have a model in mind, but I don't know if it is the best for now.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

○ Tim Newman, President

- There are ballots at the front. If you would hold onto those. The President-Elect would like to talk about the Research Council. We vote on four and the VP for Research will select two names. I want to mention the Equal Opportunity Advisory Group. The President elects that person. We want to give the President an idea of who we would like to be considered. There are two other vacancies.
- I want to thank the Provost for lobbying and lessening the penalties.
- There are nine items on the agenda. That is not the complete the agenda. There are five other bills on deck from February/March. There are some on the FSEC report that aren't before you today because of the backlog.
- The reorganization is an intriguing thing. I think we can re-examine and be better moving forward. I have provided a name for the search committee.
- You saw the list of professional master degrees. The Provost would like feedback by the December 14th. Option one is that we could debate and discuss on December 10th. Option two the bylaws say you can turn this over the FSEC and they act on behalf. The third option is establish an ad hoc committee and report back.
 - Mike – My request is move through the FSEC. Allow the committee chair to poll their committee and report back.
 - Jerome – If we operate that way, we should send out ideas to the FSEC, not the Provost?
 - Tim – Yes.
 - Laird – I wasn't able to see the list. Can you send this out to us?
 - Tim – Send me a reminder and I will send it out.
 - Laird – Master Degree in Business Analytics isn't on there.
 - Tim – Is the one Mike mentioned the option you want to go with?
 - Jeff – I will certainly agree with Mike. I wouldn't want this to come back to the senate given the amount of the things we have to do.
 - Laird – Do we have a scope or statement of work for this effort?
 - Tim – I have a memo that has a little more in it. Is the sense of the senate to delegate to FSEC. Jerome Baudry moves. Kader Frendi seconds. All in favor of delegating to FSEC understanding you will receive a report back. Ayes carry.
- There is a working group that is chaired by Sean Lane. I will need a name. If you are interested, please send me an email.
- I want to let you know there is an ad hoc committee looking at Chapter 7. That committee will look at Chapter 7 after Personnel sends back ideas.
- I discussed Chapter 9 revisions with Provost. We are hopeful that something will be ready back from the administration soon.
- I received a report on spring 2020 enrollment versus spring 2021. We are flat. College of Science was up, Nursing was down. Everything else maintained a straight line.

- Provost – I wanted to ask for everyone’s help. Our undergraduate enrollment is down, graduate is up 30%. Undergraduate is down 5%. Please encourage your undergraduates to register. They need to know we want them back. I know it’s difficult but we want them back.
 - I attended the BOT meeting virtually. Upgraded MRI machines at UAB and UA. Building rename consideration continued. There were three items of interest. The approval of lawn greenway extension. There was acknowledgement of hockey donation from a former student. Also the extension of in state tuition for Tennessee.
 - I talked with the President about budget and he planned a schedule.
- Carmen Scholz, President-Elect
 - I don’t have a formal report. I would like to say a couple of words about our representation in the research council. I held that position several years ago. It is very important. Whoever becomes the representative your job is to fight for us who wants to do research but doesn’t have the support and advantages of research centers. As you know, tenure depends more and more on research dollars. At our campus, it seems to depend entirely on research dollars. We need to fight for our representation. This needs to be communicated, especially the implications for tenure. I was made aware of one not receiving tenure because they didn’t have the appropriate amount of dollars. I am not sure that this a fair assessment process. Whoever is elected is charged with a big task.
- Laird Burns, Past President
 - No report.
- Kader Frendi, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
 - I have to give these results tonight. I need volunteers to count the ballots.
- Paul Whitehead, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair
 - Academic Affairs distributed their catalog timeline for you to take back to your departments. The deadline is January 15th. We have until the end of January to review those.
- Jeff Weimer, Finance and Resource Committee Chair
 - We have extended the deadline for RCEU until the Monday after Thanksgiving. Distinguished speakers deadline was extended until January.
- Emil Jovanov, Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Kwaku Gyasi, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Mike Banish, Personnel
 - We have met once or twice since last meeting. We are continuing to go through the Chapter 7. I hope to plan to meet through December. I do want to remind everyone of what we have agreed to. Please get your input and pass it up. Things are seeming to get really bad. Think about Thanksgiving and Christmas, maybe pass a gift for yourself to a local charity. Scholarship Committee met yesterday. Our national merit finalist money comes out of the Nectar funds. This fund is underwater. It is controlled by the BOT. There will be some shifting of funds. We are going to try and keep them special. We have had a hard time passing out CARES money. There is still \$450K in that account. Students must not realize they have expenses.

- Tim – My understanding is that it has been limited to undergraduate, can it be shifted to graduate?
 - Mike – I don't think that is part of the law.
 - Carmen – Mike, I have a comment on that. I have a faculty member that is trying to help a student with CARES Act money, but that student only gets the run around and no money.
 - Mike – I can try to intervene personally. They have to qualify for some amount of federal aid.
 - Carmen – Student was told the university picks the person and deadline was over.
 - Mike – They had to be qualified for a FAFSA to begin with.
- Electronic Signatures:
 - Tim – This policy comes from us by the FSEC adding comment that the university provide the appropriate software to do so. What is in order is an order to approve this and send this forward. Is there a motion? Carmen moves. Mike seconds. The floor is open.
 - Jeff – The statement at the very top says the FS acceptance contingent upon. Does this mean we are being asked to vote? Does someone have to tell us this is approved?
 - Tim – I don't think I can defend it as worded. I understand the intent of the FSEC to be is the concern of not having access to the appropriate technology to achieve that. This states that everyone needs access to that and supplied centrally.
 - Laird – The University should provide this.
 - Tim – The floor is open to amendments. We can add in other comments as well.
 - Jeff – In order to help, I would ask that we would make that statement a formal amendment in the policy stating therefore the university will provide Acrobat to all faculty and staff as an example.
 - Tim – Do you want to pass over this temporarily? I am asking for a motion. Mike moves. Christina Steidl seconds. Ayes carry.
- NCSARA:
 - Tim – I need a motion to accept. Mike moves. Kader seconds. I believe Sarah's unit and College of Education has stated they would benefit from this. All in favor to send this forward. Ayes carry.
 - Pass over Electronic Signatures until next bill. Ayes carry.
- Bill 440:
 - Tim – Motion to approve. Mike moves. Kwaku seconds. There are three amendments.
 - Mike – There are three amendments. One of the points of discussion is this Chapter will live for six months to a year. One has to deal with how many members each college has. There is only one lost sheep, College of Business, which will not have a PhD. We just suggested everyone have two. Amendment two is that the graduate council requires approval from the undergraduate curriculum committee. That is what we do for undergraduate is was just never specific in this policy. Lastly, the matters dealing with academic policies or catalog goes before the council of deans and Provost.
 - Tim – Further discussion on changes to Chapter 6. All in favor of adopting Bill 440. Ayes carry. Passed third reading.
- Electronic Signatures:
 - Jeff – If you would go to section 3.2 within the first paragraph, I motion the following. At the end of the first paragraph, "The University will provide faculty and staff with the required software to carry out digital signatures as needed."

- Tim – Is this a motion to add this sentence? Is there a second? Mike seconds. All in favor of this amendment. Ayes carry.
 - Kwaku – Will you remove the red at the top?
 - Tim – Would you like to motion to remove that? Carmen moves. Mike seconds. All in favor of removing the comment in orange. Ayes carry.
 - Tim – Any further discussion? All in favor of sending this policy forward with the amendment. Ayes carry unanimously.
- Bill 448:
- Tim – Motion to approve? Mike moves. Carmen seconds. All in favor of adopting Bill 448.
 - Jerome – Can you give brief summary?
 - Tim – There was a committee assembled about a year ago to look at instructors using instructors own book in classroom. That is a conflict of interest. This states there will be a group set up within the unit without that person to decide if it is okay.
 - Jerome – The committee isn't in charge of approving everyone's material?
 - Tim – I didn't notice that in the language when I read it.
 - Carmen – It is only about the material being used in the classroom.
 - Jeff – I will also add that this is the second reading. If it is voted and approved, that will be third reading. There are two possible options for royalties. They can be waived or the professor can have those funds directed to a fund.
 - Tim – All in favor of passing Bill 448. Ayes carry. Jeff, this is the second reading. Having no nays, it passed third reading.
- Communicable Disease Policy:
- Tim – This is a revision to the original. Kader moves. Kwaku seconds. Any discussion?
 - Mike – Context wise of this bill, I don't have any problems with it. I trust the experts that wrote this policy. What does bother me is the very heavy administrative content of the committee or make up of the committee. We have faculty, staff, and students that represent 25% of this committee. The students are not responding to communication. I suspect that faculty are guilty too. There are expertise on this campus besides the FSC, Student Health Clinic, and Risk Management. I would recommend having a doubling of faculty, staff, and student representation.
 - Carmen – I have a question and recommendation. On confidentiality, when test are performed with Corona, what happens to the genetic material collected? I would like to see something that shows the material destroyed after the test is collected.
 - Mike – I will make an amendment that the number of representative to show three senate reps, staff reps, and SGA reps. Carmen seconds.
 - Laird – I want to share that I was involved in three of these committees. We had a lot of administrators and one faculty voice. I strongly the support the amendment to triple this representation.
 - Tim – Shall the word be changed to three representatives? All in favor. Ayes carry.
 - Carmen – I want to make a motion under confidentiality, add point four. The university will ensure that any genetic material is destructed after testing.
 - Tim – Is there a second? Jerome seconds.
 - Jerome – I agree with that. I would specify genetic material of the human.
 - Tim – Any objection to change human genetic material. Should we add another point four? All in favor. Ayes carry.
 - Mike – Prior to any other testing.
 - Tim - The motion is to amend to say after this testing before any other testing.
 - Mike – This is a test only for communicable disease.

- Tim – Is there a second? Jerome seconds. All in favor of the amendment. Ayes carry.
- Candice – I would like to echo a concern from Joey Taylor. I would propose that we would amend to say three representative of faculty.
- Tim – Motion to extend by five minutes. Candice moves. Christine seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.
 - Tim – The faculty senate can send anyone.
 - Candice – I want to make sure that it isn't just faculty senate. Three faculty representatives selected by faculty senate.
 - Tim – All in favor. Ayes carry. All in favor of policy as amended. Ayes carry.
- Bill 456:
 - Tim – Motion to approve. Mike moves. Beth seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry unanimously.
- Bill 441:
 - Tim – Motion to approve. Mike moves. Kader seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry unanimously.
- Motion to adjourn by Seyed Sadeghi. Kader Frenedi seconds. Meeting adjourn at 2:23