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**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**February 25, 2021**

**12:50 P.M.**

**Chan Auditorium**

- ***Present: Tobias Mendelson, Sophia Marinova, Dilcu Barnes, Joey Taylor, Kwaku Gyasi, Andrei Gandila, Kristin Weger, Christina Steidl, Mike Banish, Abdul Salman, Emil Jovanov, George Nelson, Kader Frendi, Susan Alexander, Elizabeth Barnby, Azita Amiri, Donna Guerra, Amy Hunter, Darlene Showalter, Leiqui Hu, Jerome Baudry, Jeff Weimer, Huaming Zhang, Seyed Sadeghi, Sarah Roller, Ron Schwertfeger, Carmen Scholz, Carolyn Sanders, Laird Burns***
- ***Absent: Paul Whitehead, Gang Li, Sivaguru Ravindran, John Mecikalski, Bryan Messmer, Fat Ho, Seong-Moo Yoo, Jeremy Fischer, Jose Betancourt, David Allen***
- ***Absent with Proxy: Kevin Bao, Candice Lanius, Christina Carmen, Andrea Word, Mark Reynolds, Melissa Foster, Jerome Baudry, Harry Delugach,***
- ***Guest: President Darren Dawson***
- **Faculty Senate President Tim Newman called the meeting to order at 12:54 pm.**
- **Meeting Review:**
- **Approve FS Minutes 612. Tobias Mendelson moves. Kader Frendi seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.**
- **Approve FS Minutes 613. Tobias Mendelson moves. Carmen Scholz seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.**
- **Accept FSEC Report February 11. Kwaku Gyasi moves. Member seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.**
- **Meeting Review:**
  - **Vehicle Safety Management Policy passed to send forward with comments.**
  - **Security Camera and Video Surveillance Policy passed to send forward with comments.**
  - **Policy for Naming Opportunities Policy passed to send forward with four comments.**
  - **Guidelines for Fundraising and Gift Solicitation Policy passed to send forward with comments.**
  - **Employee Occupational Injury Policy was rejected.**
- **Administrative Reports**
  - **President Dawson**
    - **Shelby Center renovation is scheduled to start next week. We are going back out for bids for the Greenway and take that to the board in April. We did get approval from the board to do interior renovations in Spragins Hall.**
    - **We have some updates on the vaccine plan. We sent out a survey to see who would be interested. We think we can get some vaccines transferred to us from the UA System.**
  - **Provost Curtis**

- On February 16<sup>th</sup>, I sent out a tenure letter out to all faculty for the sabbatical leaves. That information is out there. If you need a copy please contact Michele Kennedy. We sent out letters to all faculty that would have had their sabbatical in 2021 so they can take that this coming year. Most of the colleges will be able to start accommodating some faculty this year. College of Engineering is postponing to 2022-2023.
- There are changes to the Health and Safety Plan. There are changes to the quarantine protocol for vaccinated persons. The information will be going into our website. We have new visitor protocols. The dining protocols have changed. The recommendation from the Health and Safety Sub-Committee is campuses may plan to return to full schedule on campuses this fall. We have delayed registration but with this indication we will start our full scheduling.
  - Jeff – There were some indications through email chains that faculty would be required to hold remote sessions in addition to teaching traditionally in the fall is that true?
  - Provost – We are still working on that. I am working with the Deans. Some students will have financial difficulties. We want them to be able to finish their course of studies.
  - Carmen – Our faculty ran into issues when they took out all the audio equipment. The students online could hear but not in class. This was done in the large auditoriums in Shelby Center.
  - President – I don't have any information on that.
  - Provost – Do you know who did this?
  - Carmen - I would have to ask the help desk. They were aware of it but it sounds like it was from an outside source. Some faculty have heard that some faculty were provided tablets to do online teaching. The question is will there be tablets for everyone? It is understood that engineering was able to do this.
  - Provost – Let me check the status on some tablets that we ordered using the CARES Act money. I believe the plan was to be put in the library for faculty and students to check out. Last I heard, we were transferring them from the receiving department to the library. Some cases, every college, have had faculty that needed certain pieces of computer or tablet to conduct their class. My understanding is where there was a need the colleges stepped up to provide that.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

○ Tim Newman, President

- Hopefully you are watching COVID numbers, they are way down. Alabama is below the national average. Some comments that follow here have also been made in the FSEC. Carmen, Mike, and I met with the Provost in January. The Legal Counsel opinion is the FS is not a self-regulating body. Thus, the position appears to be that approval is needed for bylaw changes. There is a handout here showing that. Also, there is a handout here showing the handbook states that Faculty Senate is self-regulating. So there is some disagreement there. Our by-laws changes have an uncertainty now. Instead of following them, we need to follow the bylaws as they were at the beginning of the academic year. I strongly encourage each of you to get the two handouts on this issue. This speaks to the issue of the FS to regulate

itself. Carmen and I met with the President. QEPO was one point discussed. I know there are concerns with it about the time to complete it, academic freedom issues it may interfere with, and its efficacy - those are ones I have heard from many of you. I brought up the issues of the sabbatical being delayed and seems we have made progress there now. We also brought up challenges with instructional deliveries.

- I went to a budget committee meeting this week. I want to share the highlights with the senate. One thing that was shared by the VP for Finance. Todd has made every attempt to be transparent and straight forward with us. He showed a chart of our scholarship expenditures and actual spent. In FY 18-19, we had a \$7M shortfall. In FY 19-20, we spent \$40M and only budgeted \$28M. I have made the point numerous times. I am of the view that the administrators have written checks the faculty need to cash. I think we need more sharing. I do salute President Dawson in more sharing and academic governance. When discussions are being made on spending, there are impacts. If the two years are taken together, equal to about 20% of a single year's budget for us. As faculty members we have to keep our fingers on the pulse of the spending here at UAH. We have got to hold officials to account on these points. Todd put up a chart on unit reserves. If you notice the university as a whole has \$14M ahead of what they have had. Our reserve situation is better.
- There was a BOT virtual meeting earlier this month.
- I want to update you on the bill status. We have several bills and policies. The five policies you see today were put intentionally because they are approaching the 90 day limit.
  - Joey – Andrea Word and I sent a bill forward, 458. This bill was tabled according to the FSEC notes until Chapter 7 is finished. The senate passed Bill 447 complaining about Chapter 7. I am worried about our bill relating to the finishing of Chapter 7.
- Carmen Scholz, President-Elect
  - No report.
- Laird Burns, Past President
  - No report.
  - Mike Banish, Parliamentarian
  - No report.
- Carolyn Sander, Ombudsperson
  - No report.
- Kader Frendi, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
  - Our committee is working to update our membership.
- Azita Amiri, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair
  - No report.
  - Tim – I know you have tackled a lot of items. Do you have an account since January 1?
  - Azita – Around 50.
- Jeff Weimer, Finance and Resource Committee Chair
  - We had 39 initial proposals for the RCEU. We have 30 final proposals. We are in the process of completing the reviews.
- Emil Jovanov, Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair
  - No report.

- Tim – Has there been a meeting to reconsider bankruptcy?
  - Emil – No.
- Kwaku Gyasi, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
  - No report.
- Mike Banish, Personnel Committee Chair
  - Since Joey asked, I have sent out what I hope is a final version. We have been looking at Chapter 7. Hopefully this version will pass through our committee and passed onto administration. It does include your thoughts and desires. You can contact your Personnel Committee Representative to get a copy. You can contact Jose. The Provost sent us back a response to Chapter 9. We will look at it and respond back.
- Mike Banish – Financial Aid Committee met a week ago to discuss the distribution of the CARES Act money. This pot of money for the second round doesn't require receipts. The requirement was not a one/one match. We received more money in CARES II.
  - Joey Taylor – I appreciate your words, Mike. The point of the issue is for the bill to be discussed in the full senate. I can't seem to get that past the FSEC. I motion that we vote to move this item to the FS agenda for March.
  - Tim – Would the member consider an adjustment? Roberts Rule states that this should be advertised for in 30 days. This motion is to do first reading of Bill 458 today. Beth seconds.
  - Andrei – Is there possibility to send to committee?
  - Tim – The motion is subject to amendment. Is there a motion to commit?
  - Andrei – Governance and Operation.
  - Tim – Second? Sophia seconds.
  - Christina – I think this is something that the FS needs to be able to discuss. I argue that we do not send it to committee and full senate discuss.
  - Andrei – I may be wrong but the full senate will still be able to discuss.
  - Jeff – I appreciate this interested to include the chairs here. I feel it is a worthwhile venture to put that forward. I understand the fine line that we cross is now we cannot have zoom meetings. This is an important decision. I would state that the committee take it and bring back a synopsis.
  - Laird – What is the number of instructors we have? I don't have a clue. I am asking the President if we could ask the administration to list those out. If we can at least get a list of those numbers.
  - Carmen – This bill is of a large interest to all of us. It proposes to make significant changes to how we operate. It also includes that there would be changes to the bylaws. We have a compounded problem with 458 because of the bylaws. We have two different things going on that converge on this bill. I support Andrei's opinion of taking to committee.
  - Kwaku – I think I support to Joey's motion to bring before full senate. If it goes to committee it could stay there and not brought back in a timely manner. I don't think the issue with bylaws and this bill are mutual.
  - Sarah – Andrea has stated in Zoom chat that she can provide a breakdown of faculty by rank and role.
  - Joey – To speak to the issue of committee, I have been proposing this since 2015. Even in committee, we are dealing with a small number of people filtering it. This is an issue of shared governance going the other way. My desire is that the full senate will have two months to look at this bill before coming at the April meeting.

- George – Is it feasible if it goes to committee that it come back before April meeting? If we do have that time, it gives us time to go back to our department and elicit opinions from people we represent.
  - Tim – Shall 458 be committee to G&O?
  - Kader – I think the bigger problem is the fact that our bylaws have been sent back to us with legal opinion that we can't change bylaws. This bill will have to change the bylaws. We have a bigger problem. Will we be able to change our bylaws?
  - George – I am going to say I wouldn't let the legal opinion tie our hands on discussing this. We should still make a stand for what we want to do as a body.
  - Tim – Called for a vote on committing 458 to G&O. Ayes carry.
- Vehicle Safety Management
  - Tim – I believe some committees have looked at this and made comment. You can motion to approve or other. Is there a motion to approve? Mike moves. Carolyn seconds. I noticed a number of points that need to be cleared up. On driver requirements, it sounds like it applies to all of us but I thought it would be only to university owned vehicles. I would like to propose that we include that clarification. Driving Privileges, this states that our students can't drive their cars off of university campus.
    - Carmen – Under Definition A, Authorized Driver should state UAH vehicle.
    - Tim – Called for a vote on sending forward with the comments just discussed. Ayes carry.
- Security Camera and Video Surveillance
  - Tim – I believe this a replace of a prior policy. Motion to approve. Kader moves. Sophia seconds.
    - Jeff – If you would scroll to monitoring educational research cameras. This states that they would be subject to monitoring. It sounds like someone could come knock on the doors and take the camera away. We proposed new wording of that sentence. Educational/Research Camera Systems are subject to periodic audit by the Security Camera Administration to ensure compliance with this policy as it relates to security use and NDAA compliance. We are asking that we are auditing to ensure we are following policy not being monitored.
    - Tim – In my department, we teach a class in image processing. Image collected on student's phone may be included in that. Should we change the clause?
    - Jeff – I am not sure we step into the hardware of the student's device. I think it would be the image into the public domain and checked against this.
    - Laird – Would you consider a friendly amendment?
    - Jeff – University owned.
    - Tim – Any objection to adding this statement?
    - Emil – This is real professor issue I have on page 1. We didn't introduce Security Camera Administrator. We don't define that person. We need to introduce security camera administrator. We also need to state what is research and educational camera.
    - Tim – Any objection? See none.
    - George – There is a definition page on page eight.
    - Tim – On page eight it states that the VPFA will appoint someone.
    - Mike – We should be able to define where the common areas are for camera use. Areas must be defined, not state "not limited to". I have heartburn with not limited to.



- Tim – Called for a vote on of returning it back rejecting it due to the paragraph.  
Ayes carry.
- Meeting adjourned 2:20 PM.