
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 24, 2020
12:50 P.M.
CTC Exhibit Hall

Present: Tobias Mendelson, Dilcu Barnes, Candice Lanius, Joey Taylor, Kwaku Gyasi, Andrei Gandila, Kristin Weger, Christina Steidl, Mike Banish, Emil Jovanov, Bryan Messmer, George Nelson, Kader Frendi, Susan Alexander, Elizabeth Barnby, Donna Guerra, Mark Reynolds, Melissa Foster, Jeff Weimer, Harry Delugach, Seyed Sadeghi, Sarah Roller, Ron Schwertfeger, Tim Newman, Carmen Scholz, Carolyn Sanders, Laird Burns

Absent with Proxy: Kevin Bao, Christina Carmen, Azita Amiri, Amy Hunter, Huaming Zhang

Absent without Proxy: Sophia Marinova, David Allen, Jose Betancourt, Jeremy Fischer, Abdul Salman, Fat Ho, Darlene Showalter, John Mecikalski, Jerome Baudry, Gang Li, Andrea Word

Zoom Remote Participants: Ex-Officio: Provost Christine Curtis, Guest: President Darren Dawson, Christina Carmen, Huaming Zhang, Sivaguru Ravindran, Paul Whitehead, Leiqui Hu, Seong-Moo Yoo

- **Faculty Senate President Tim Newman called the meeting to order at 12:56 pm.**
- **Meeting Review:**
 - **Bill 451 passed third reading.**
 - **Bill 452 passed third reading.**
 - **Online Course Policy passed.**
 - **Communicable Disease Policy passed.**
 - **Electronic Signature Policy sent back to FSEC.**
- **Approve Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes #606 from August 27, 2020. Kader Frendi moves. Carmen Scholz seconds. Ayes carry.**
- **Accept FSEC Report from September 10, 2020. Kevon Bao's Proxy moves. Kader Frendi seconds. Ayes carry.**
- **Administrative Reports:**
 - **President Dawson**
 - **Morton Hall renovation is completed. Spragins is almost complete. Shelby Center investigation is done and we will move forward. Hopefully it will be done over the next year. The Wilson Hall is complete. Shelby Center renovation stage II did receive approval. We received approval for Greenway Stage III. The Campus IT Center located near the facilities building, we will take the proposal to the board. We will move the existing IT from Von Braun to this building.**
 - **403B matching program will be put back into place October 1st.**
 - **The UAH Police and Huntsville System were able to get together and safety improvements were made at Technology Drive and Sparkman.**

- Provost Christine Curtis
 - Thanks to the Chief for this effort. I know Kader is excited as well. Kader, if you watch it when we get back full to make sure the issues were resolved.
 - The Dean of Science search will be starting again. The committee has been contacted and the top two candidates will be coming in for a second interview. We went through four candidates that were recommended by the committee. Both candidates are still interested. It is yet to be determined if the interviews will be on campus and virtual or only virtual. The committee is working through different scenarios. I mentioned to the FSEC that Dean of College of Engineering and Education were reappointed. The other fifth year review is in its final stages.
 - We still have a number of policies leftover from last time. I received from Russ Ward this morning the Electronic Signature Policy. There were questions from the Executive Council. The recommendation of non-compliance. The change conforms to our other IT Policies in regards to security operations. There is a document that Russ has put together on how to get an electronic signature. I am sure there are some that would like to test run that to make sure there aren't any issues with that.
 - I fail to update the fall '20 preliminary data. I apologize on that oversight. We are at a flat 10,000. Originally, we had double counted and had some auditing students. As the data cleaned up, we have a flat 10,000. Our fourth year graduation rate is the highest we have ever had. We are at 39%. Our sixth year graduation rate is at 57%. We are one below from last year. What we know is that we have to keep every student every step. Our retention is 82%. Our ACT is at 26.7%, compared to 28.4%. If you look at our out of state students, the number we had last year compared to this year is substantially different. Out of state students typically have a higher ACT score. The reason is because we recruit them with our merit scholarship matrix. We no longer offer housing and changed some percentages. For this coming fall '21, these scholarship matrix have changed for in state and out of state. They are quite different. They are now dollar figures rather than percentages. Take the opportunity to look at that.
 - I began a comparison with enrollment, just from '19-'20, we had two programs approved by BOT. Also, two NIST approved. The next step is the proposal going before the board in a few meetings. We completed faculty awards and the winners are very excited. We hope to have an awards ceremony in April. We will celebrate 2020 and 2021 award winners at that time.
 - We had to cancel commencement for last April. Many students and faculty were very disappointed. It is always a fun time to celebrate. What to do this time? I don't know if you have seen any pictures of the U of A commencement from summer. To be able to do it, we will have to maintain six feet apart. The logistics are very interesting. The committee decided we needed to conduct a survey. As of Wednesday afternoon, 500 students have responded. If we take spring, fall, and summer students who graduated, we could have 2,300 to 2,500 students there. They were given the choice between Spragins and Von Braun. They want Von Braun. There was a percentage that wanted virtual.
 - As you all remember, after Thanksgiving, we are going totally virtual. November 20th is the last class day for fall semester. Knowing what we know now, we can't really let students go and have a great spring break, then come back to campus. We are planning to move spring break week one in January and delay the start of class until the January 13th. It gives faculty a little more time to prepare for spring. It is a

paid university holiday. We really need to have staff on campus that first week. We will make arrangements for our staff to take the full five day holiday leave that just won't all be taking it at the same time. It will depend on the unit as to what works. They will be treated fairly and have the leave. That is the calendar that we are strongly considering. We would like to hear any thoughts.

- Our ACT task force, a number of universities are going to ACT Optional. Over the summer, I got the feeling that UAB and U of A were leaning toward this. I set up a task force and they created a report. There are answers that still need to be answered. We have to know how to handle situations where we use ACT scores for placement. Going optional is more than admissions and scholarships. We will have to work through this as a faculty and with our advisors. The students who choose the optional pathway have to be treated fairly. I expect to know tomorrow afternoon if UAB and U of A are going to present this to the board. I fully expect this is what they are going to do. If you look at the competitors, our choice is minimal. For the students who don't want to take the ACT, they would have the option to apply to UAH without the test. I think that is where we will be headed.
 - Mike – President Dawson, we had discussions about putting an overpass over Sparkman Drive. It is great that the traffic signal is fixed, is the overpass still in discussion?
 - President- The whole thing at Executive Plaza is stalled out due to the pandemic. The one for the plaza would be a part of a comprehensive development. A plan for one to Tech Hall, we don't know where we would get the money. If you put up stairs and a bridge, people don't use it.
 - Carolyn – President and Provost, thank you for all your effort. I am coming forth to express a concern from my faculty concerning COVID reporting. The basic and serious concern is that the policy for students reporting they have been placed in quarantine is on the shoulders of students. From what I am being told, that is working in an inconsistent matter. Some report and some only learn in other ways. The concern is all the responsibility falling on students to report to faculty. There are other students who feel they have to be in class and choose not to do this. A worrisome concern has been mentioned about the current procedure in place. I think the appeal is there a way to alter the procedure when students are contacted, the faculty could be contacted? Secondly, if that isn't possible, I can tell you I only learned of this policy this week. I just assumed that I would learn from administration. I would request that communication go out so that all faculty, staff, and student be aware this is a current policy.
 - Provost – I want to make sure we are talking about the same thing. When we are talking about quarantine, we are not talking about someone who as COVID?
 - Carolyn – Yes.
 - Provost- We are talking about those who have been in close contact? We notify the individuals in class and the instructor of anyone who has tested positive. We describe the recommendation. That is everyone in the class be alert they aren't exhibiting any symptoms and go into health check on a daily basis.

- Carolyn – All that makes sense. One of my colleagues pressed to find out what the policy was. The policy stated that the students are to inform of their quarantine. I am aware of a faculty member who has a student who just went absent and didn't let the faculty know they were in quarantine status.
- Provost – If the student is on campus, then we call that isolation if they test positive. I asked this question yesterday of the UA System. I asked if we could inform faculty of students who are placed in quarantine. The answer was no. The answer was no because of the information of who tested positive would become evident. If we are to change that answer, we are going to have to do more work. We would have to take it before a task force.
- Carolyn – I recognize the sensitivity of this. If the procedure can't be changed, I think it is extremely important that it be made clear to the faculty that the students are to self-report.
- Provost – I understand. We added the last question to health check asking if you were told to be in quarantine. If people answer truthfully, then it should have to come back as a red passport. That is self-reporting.
- Carolyn – I think it is the administrations duty to make sure the faculty is to be made aware of the policy.
- Provost – Just give us some time and thank you for your explanation. Talk to your risk managers and Dr. Vickers to see what lead way we have.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports:**

- Tim Newman, President
 - This is the election meeting. We usually do that in the spring, but we didn't meet. I want to welcome new senators. I am super proud that we have those great in service and other things! I have some committee nominations. NOMINATIONS. Are there any objections? All are appointed. Is there anyone who wishes to resign from a committee and move to another? No one.
 - Behavior Evaluation and Threat Assessment: In 2010 this was established, BETA Team. This senate chose Jennifer English for a three year term. From my knowledge, we have never held that election. Jennifer has served for ten years. We need to resolve this. There is one faculty senate representation for this team. This is not a university committee, but team. The senate needs to make a decision how we proceed. There is a nominee and we can bring forward others.
 - Mike – I would like to have the Governance and Operations Committee take care of this.
 - Jeff – I second that motion.
 - Laird – Is the motion that it will be done at some point or now?
 - Mike – Now.
 - Tim – We do not need to delay this. The motion is to charge the G&O Committee to solicit nominations and conduct an election. We will vote at the next senate meeting.
 - Kader – If we need to fill right away, why can't we do that right now today?
 - Tim – I have blank ballots to do this today.
 - Jeff - I might ask that in the interest is anyone willing to step forward for nomination.

- Laird – Is that appropriate for when the committee starts the election?
I would like a three sentence explanation of what the team does.
- Tim – This team handles situation where an individual has concerning behavior. The individual is reported to this committee and they decide if there is just cause for the concern. They then take a number of actions.
- Carmen – If we have a volunteer nominee, move forward.
- Laird – When this team activates, it could be at any time. It isn't a 9-5 committee.
- Christine – Is it necessary that the person is from the senate?
- Tim – It is not but elected by the senate. All in favor of sending to committee. 18 in favor. 9 oppose. Ayes carry.
- Next I want to talk about our bill status. I want to be as transparent as possible. We inherited a lot of bill from February to March. In our FSEC meeting, we did not make a decision on the ordering of these bills. This is the backlog. We are working on policies. One was postponed in last meeting. The NCSARA was postponed. We found some information on this.
 - Sarah – I had to reach out. At the faculty level, we don't handle all the certification loops. The College of Education needs this policy. It demonstrates how we will handle this regulation. We are a certification program. It ensures they know how to become certified.
 - A motion would be needed to place back on agenda for second reading next meeting. Sarah moves. Kader seconds. Any discussion? All in favor. Ayes carry.
- I want to mention that last week I attended the BOT meeting virtually. The Provost mentioned some topics that came up. Also, a former member of this body was named Professor Emeritus. There are a lot of property transactions. U of A holding the most. A building renamed on U of A campus. Ron Gray was re-elected as a representative for the Fifth District. Personally, I have had productive exchanges with Ron. I was pleased he was re-elected. He has timed out as President Pro-Tim. I want to call to your attention to things we gave feedback to the administration on. NCSARA was one of them. We had feedback on a policy that is on our agenda today, Electronic Signature Policy. There are some changes to that policy. I will ask us to push that back to the FSEC because it is a dead letter. There are potential severe repercussions of violating these. Many of your committees saw the Title IX interim policy. The short term is that something be brought to you to show the changes. Employee Benefits are being reinstated. If you want some documentation on fee on your TIAA CREF. Some faculty would like the freedom to have set times for final exams. There are some support for such practice for spring semester.
- Carmen Scholz, President-Elect
 - No bills have been received. I have only received the amendment to Electronic Signatures.
- Laird Burns, Past President
 - No report.
- Carolyn Sanders, Ombudsperson
 - No report.
- Kader Frendi, Governance and Operations Committee Chair

- We were tasked to count ballots for university committees. There are ballots on the table for those we will vote on here in the senate. The university wide ballot will go out via email to the faculty. I want to thank everyone for getting this taken care of.
 - Tim – If everyone could make their way forward to grab a ballot.
 - Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair
 - Paul – We do have some to vote on and will have those to you by next week.
 - Jeff Weimer, Finance and Resource Committee Chair
 - I would report that we will be charged to look at the RCEU Program to move forward virtual or online only. We will determine if we will permit them and how we will permit them. We will put a proposal to the Provost to see if she will support the program. The announcement that you could give to your faculty is there is a high chance for the program this summer. We are behind due to COVID. I am positive that we will have a good effort to do this within the next few weeks.
 - Joey Taylor, Finance and Resources Committee Co-Chair – There will be a Distinguished Speaker Series this semester. The awards will be reduced. They will be virtual events. We are not sure about the award distribution right now but thinking \$500-\$700.
 - Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee
 - Tim – There isn't a chair still. I am charging that you meet and elect a chair.
 - Gwaku Gyasi, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
 - No report.
 - Mike Banish, Personnel Committee Chair
 - Committee would like Chapter 6 to be untabled and moved forward. College of Business would be underrepresented in Graduate Council. We have serious concerns about summer school salary policy and feel it shouldn't be supported by the senate. We are struggling to understand the Sexual Assault and Harassment Policy. We are hoping to have a presentation to better understand this policy. We brought up the current COVID pandemic has highlighted a lot of issues with our Communicable Disease Policy. We feel there should be more faculty representation on that committee. We were very concerned and put forward that it was a black and white policy.
 - Tim – There was a mention of one the bills on my list, 440. Chapter 6 was postponed in our February meeting.
 - Mike – I would like to make a motion that we untable 440 and on the next faculty senate agenda. Tobias seconds.
 - Tim – All in favor. Ayes carry.
- Bill 451:
 - Tim – Is there a motion to introduce at third reading. Mike moves. Beth seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry. Passed third reading unanimously.
- Bill 452:
 - Tim – This is a modification of interim Academic Misconduct. Mike moves. Carolyn seconds. Carolyn has invested a lot of work on this.
 - Carolyn – I commend my committee for working hard on this. Simply put, the Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs worked on this last year and summer. The goal is to have a current policy. We have added an Academic Misconduct Monitor Board. This is to monitor repeated offenders. We could go on months to rework this. I was asked by the administration to incorporate their changes. One being fair sanctions to repeat offenders.

- Ron – I just wanted to ask with the wording and the intent of the bill. The wording here talks about the Monitor Board. Is the intent have the monitor and board to look at students who are repeated offenders or first time offenses?
 - Mike – We have students that have academic misconduct in one college and move to another college and have a first offense there. It is to see if it was a first offense.
 - Ron – I was wondering if we removed the word repeated. If the intent is for first time or repeated offense.
 - Tim – Is your wish to remove the two words repeated? Harry moves. Laird seconds.
 - Carolyn – I would say to me the easy solution is to remove the word repeated in both spots. That means then the monitor board can see all cases.
 - Laird – The clarity of removing the word repeated is valuable because we didn't always know what happened in other colleges. The Provost has set up a tracking system. This is consistent with how the Provost set up a tracking system.
 - Tim – The motion on the floor is to remove the word repeated. All in favor of the motion to amend. Ayes carry.
 - Jeff – I had sent forward a request that it be tabled so we could provide feedback. I had sent forward some comments in regards to grammar. It is really appropriate that we have this bill. I would offer those phrasing for grammar as a friendly amendment.
 - Tim – I don't think we can do that. Someone's grammar may be someone's significant change. We have to have it documented and voted on. Carmen and I are the transmitters of this. I don't want to step out and make a mistake.
 - Carolyn – I just sent it to you.
 - Tim – May I propose that we pass over this one in the interest of time? Any objections?
 - Tim – Jeff is bringing forth grammatical changes. All in favor of those changes. Ayes carry. All in favor of adopting on third reading. Ayes carry.
- Online Course Policy
- Tim – I would delegate someone to handle the debate. Carmen, are you willing?
 - Carmen – Can I have a motion to enter the policy? Mike moves. Kader seconds. Any discussion? All in favor. Ayes carry.
- Communicable Disease Policy:
- Carmen – Can I have a motion to put this forward? Beth moves. Kader seconds. Any discussion?
 - Beth – I make a motion to table this for further study.
 - Mike – We want to postpone this until the next meeting and send back to Personnel.
 - Tim – I would caution sending back to committee. Will the committee meet before the next FSEC? We have a 90 day limit to respond.
 - Laird- We raised this a number of months ago. I was on the communicable disease team. We are around 750 employee, with one representation. I was the one that raised an issue because they didn't see the issue from the faculty standpoint. We need more representation.
 - Carmen – I call for a vote on sending back to committee. All in favor. Ayes carry.
 - Mike – Motions to extend by five minutes. Carolyn seconds. Ayes carry.
 - Tim – A motion to consider on third reading. Mike moves. Kader seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.
- Electronic Signature Policy:

- Tim – The policy has been modified since bring placed on the agenda. The order would be to send back to FSEC. Is there a motion? Kader seconds. Kevin Bao’s second. All in favor. Ayes carry.
- Bill 439:
 - Tim – Motion to consider on second reading. Kevin Bao’s proxy moves. Mike seconds. Since the bill was initially considered, you have passed 451. It replaces everything in the bylaws. You will undo everything that we just did. It will preserve what we have. I need someone to accept the language as an amendment or instruct me back to what the committee had? Mike moves to amend. Carolyn seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry. Any discussion on modifications? I would like for you to discuss the provision that would allow units to do elections as they wish. Last time I was in this chair, we had an election controversy. There was a unit that conducted an election without considering all nominees. I want you to think about it.
- Mike motions to adjourn. Kader seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.