
FACULTY SENATE MEETING

August 16, 2018

12:50 P.M. SST 103

Present: Chris Allport, Milton Shen, Laird Burns, Dilcu Barnes, David Stewart, Amy Guerin, Holly Jones, Joe Conway, David Johnson, Andrei Gandila, Carolyn Sanders, Jeff Neuschatz, Christina Steidl, Mike Banish, Yu Lei, Fat Ho, Gang Wang, Angela Hollingsworth, Elizabeth Barnby, Ron Bolen, Lori Lioce, Katherine Morrison, Robert Griffin, Eric Mendenhall, Robert McFeeters, Jeff Weimer, Tim Newman, Shangbing Ai, Seyed Sadeghi, Monica Dillihunt, Paul Whitehead, Ron Schwertfeger

Absent with Proxy: Kevin Bao, Earl Wells, Jennifer Palmer, Thomas Sever, Harry Delugach, Vladimir Florinski, Meong Moo-Moo

Absent without Proxy: Sophia Marinova, Deborah Heikes, Shuang Zhao, Kirolos Harleem, Sherri Messimer, Gabe Xu, Christina Carmen, Fran Wessling, Carmen Scholz

Ex-Officio: Provost Christine Curtis

Guests: Ron Gray and Britt Sexton

- Faculty Senate President Mike Banish called the meeting to order at 12:52 pm.
- **Meeting Review:**
 - **Standing Rules were approved.**
 - **Committee Chairs were established.**
- **Guest Speaker**
 - Ron Gray
 - There are some things I would like to say. We are part of the higher education partnership. There are 14 major universities in the state. They are major economic contributors to the state. We are the single largest employer in the state. A lot of people are getting paid with research funds. In the Cullman newspaper, they interviewed the incoming Chancellor. One of the BOT's members stated that the UA system is the largest employer to the state.
 - Britt Sexton
 - I was raised in Decatur; my dad was raised in Huntsville. In last fifteen years we got into the private equity business. Some businesses we invest in have some higher education components. I was elected to serve on the board in 2009. We can serve three six year terms. This allows continuity. We have a good group and are well represented. Thank you for having us. One thing that was brought up at lunch was growing pains. I know there are some projects that were over budget. We don't anticipate any slow down. We know this place is out growing itself.
 - Ron Gray
 - We advised the faculty senate that the influence to the board is greater than you realize. Britt and I have served chairs of major committees. We believe we represent this campus in a great way. I graduated from Grissom High. Britt and I

came on in 2009. I am still the only engineer on board. I represent that constituency. This university has a technical focus. Birmingham focuses on medical and Tuscaloosa is very broad. We do have judiciary responsibility. We have 50,000 employees and 70,000 employees. We are approaching \$7B from an economic stand point. We have a core group that spends a lot of time on this. The rest of the board does a lot of service. In order to succeed, we follow our chain of command. It's your job to run the university. That isn't our job, but we will help with any issues. When I was put on the board, we had no idea what shared governance was. Now we take that very seriously. I want to update you on two activities. The first is the previous Chancellor, Ray Hayes, has elected to transition to another assignment. We have selected an interim until we find a permanent Chancellor. He is doing this uncompensated. We are beginning to execute a search. Input for the expectations of that job, we would like to receive from you. We want to meet around the September board meeting. This would allow the faculty senate president to speak for their senate in this area. From a board standpoint, we view the position as a CEO position. My expectation is someone who has a strong academic history, performing at an institution in a senior role. Without that, I would be very disappointed. We want the position to change a little. The past Chancellors have been more involved in day to day operations. Now we want the leaders to execute at the institution. We want them to be external focused and represent higher education. We are responsible for our system, but we want to bring it forward across the state, and in Washington. We have opportunities with research funding. Dr. Altenkirch has decided he is ready to transition to retirement. He has agreed to serve until we select his successor. We are in the process of forming a search committee. We will be launching into that within the next month. We are available. Our emails are published. I will close by saying our board is extremely proud of this campus. This campus has tremendous support and respect. It is critical to what we are doing. We are growing to take a more aggressive posture to make sure we are providing the adequate resources.

➤ **Administrative Reports**

- Mike Banish, President
 - I want to welcome you and thank you for serving. You represent your departments as a collective body. The first order of business is to approve the meeting notes. Laird moves to approve. Lori seconds. Ayes carry.
 - Next we will accept the FSEC report. Tim moves to accept. Laird seconds. Ayes carry.
 - Before we start administrative reports, Laird and I have asked the President and Provost to keep the reports to twenty minutes. This is part of the bylaws. We also save our questions to the end.
- Provost Christine Curtis
 - First I want you to remember 6 and 6. You will have in front of you an interim policy for registration and scheduling. This will make it simpler to have added on the sixth day and drop/add on the sixth day. We have a drop date on the tenth day, and add day on the sixth. This didn't make sense. The tuition refund stopped at the tenth day, now on the sixth day. It allows the student to decide earlier and make changes. Our freshman knows, but our returning students think the old way. It will help the students if you will let them know.

- I received from the institutional research the latest data as of today. Our census day is the tenth day of class. I will have the firm numbers on those days. Our overall enrollment is 9,700. Last year at this time, we lost 64 students from the second day and tenth day. The number of freshman is 1,445 at this point. Our preliminary retention rate for first time full time freshman is 84.1%. This is a little better but still needs work. The really good news is we have broken through the 50% mark on graduation rate. If this holds, it will be above 50%. This is preliminary, but is looking good. The average ACT score for first time full time freshman is 28 or slightly above. Our students are coming in with fairly high ACT scores. As we work with them, teach them, and encourage them to study and learn, let's hope we can push this up. This is 2017 data; we will have a similar data later in the fall for 2018. Our transfers for the fall are 860. This is a little higher than last year.
- The classrooms were finalized yesterday at 8 am. There was a tremendous effort by a group of people since late July to optimize the classrooms. They started with the largest classes. We have two classrooms that hold 120 students. They tried very hard to get the classes and classrooms in home departments. The problem came up with 9:40 am on MWF; we had to utilize rooms that aren't typically used for classes. We understand the struggle of not knowing where the classes are. We won't have any more classes for this spring of fall. Morton Hall came in way over budget. One reason was the added 15% increase for expected tariffs. The other is the contractors and subs are not hungry. They are all busy. If we go back out on bid, we would delay and it could be higher. The bond issue we discussed with the board was under what we agreed. They will vote on September to increase the bond to cover Morton Hall. Britt Sexton is quite sure the board will approve Morton and the bond issue. Before the bids came in, the architects asked to extend the time. They thought this would help with the bids. We took the advice. Now Morton Hall and the addition will be available spring 2020. This means spring and next fall will difficult as well. We will have to look carefully on how we schedule classes. They will have to be spread out more over the day and the week. We don't have a choice but to do that. I ask you to think if you teach at a popular time to consider another time.
- I want to remind you of an opportunity. Last year we read a book by Dr. Sandra McGuire. She will be here on the 23rd and 24th of August. There are a number of seminars at different times. She will also have workshops for faculty and students. The handout includes the agenda as well.
- Russ Ward is here and will speak with you about two factor authentications. At the last senate meeting, there was discussion of an incident. We had an enterprising student who had a key logger. He put this device between the keyboard and computer. This allowed him to retrieve the professor's password. The student went into banner and changed all grades along with a couple of students. This student received over 100 counts and is passed on to the grand jury. We also found another student during this time. We are going to have to implement two factor authentications. I plead with you to keep copies of all your grades.
- During the last meeting, I told you I would speak about Bulgaria. They have contacted us to see if we would be interested in joining them. They asked if we would help improve their education and research funding. They haven't received any and would like to. Bulgaria has quite a space industry. Romania has a deployment of Patriot missiles. Since they contacted us, David Berkowitz has gone.

The Chamber of Commerce will be going as well. This is still in the talk phase. The exact model has not been created yet. The opportunity for collaborative research is another benefit. We would have to collaborate with the Bulgarian institutes. We would have to do some research there in Bulgaria. A lot more discussion has to happen. Another benefit would be the recruitment of PhD students. Some of those opportunities have diminished.

- Tim – Could you update us on the situation in the Bursar's office?
- Provost – The VP for Finance and Administration has engaged with a bursar consultant. My memory is the time on campus is increasing. The search for the bursar has failed.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- Mike Banish, President
 - Standing Rules: We need to approve the standing rules for this academic year. We have had these in place for 2-3 years and have served us well. First, you need to inform the President or President-Elect if you are sending a proxy. The second rule has to do with the policies that are put forth before the senate. Some of these policies are sleepers and don't have much to do with us. As a way to be more efficient, during the executive committee we vote to have those policies deemed unshared governance. At that time, all committee chair man receives the policy. At the following FSEC meeting, we ask the chair man if any committee members want them shared governance policies. We then vote for a second time on that policy. I am going to ask for a motion. Laird moves. Member seconds. Ayes carry.
- We need to set up our committees. Beforehand I am making one move. Kathleen, you are shifting with Lori. You are going to move from governance and operations to undergraduate scholastic affairs.
 - Laird – Kevin Bao is coming off finance and Dulci will take his place.
- I will let you gather for ten minutes to form committees and elect chairs. Some have agreed to stay on as chairs.
- G & O: You have two jobs. You are to run the elections for faculty senate officers. You will work with the Provost Office to make sure that all university committees have proper representation.
- Personnel: You will monitor the policy and procedures. Monitor the handbook for annual review.
- Undergraduate Curriculum: For this committee, this is the most daunting committee on campus. Any class change, program change that moves through this university moves through this committee. At one point there were 160 changes last year.
- Finance and Resource: You will primarily see them cover RCEU and distinguished speakers. They are supposed to help the President by giving faculty advice on budget resources.
- Undergraduate Scholastic: They should be monitoring policies on admissions, withdrawals, probation, grading systems.
 - Provost: We will be creating an Academic Misconduct Policy.
- Faculty and Student Development: This covers retention rates. My personal opinion is the faculty has not been listened to. I don't think there has been enough support from the administration. We met last year with departments that have improved graduation and retention. There were ten departments there. Truthfully, at the start of the meeting, no one understood the point of the meeting. No one knew their rates were above the university average. Department Chairs didn't know which departments had above or below. Departments that do things have a common theme. Some of us that are above have a way

to connect with the students a couple times of year. It involves some activity among the faculty and students. My charge for this committee is for you and G&O to get together. I would like for these committees to have their meetings on the same Thursday. I would like for you to visit the colleges, departments, and programs. Look to see what is working. In areas that are below, see what would be useful to them.

- **Meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.**
- **Russ Ward presented on Two Factor Authentication. Presentation attached below.**
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