
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
November 18, 2021
12:50 P.M.
Chan Auditorium

- ***Present: Tobias Mendelson, Anthony D’Costa, Laird Burns, Angela Balla, Deborah Heikes, Kristin Weger, Christina Steidl, Mike Banish, Rui Ma, Maria Pour, Fat Ho, Sarma Rani, Beth Barnby, Azita Amiri, Donna Guerra, Anna Aultman, Miranda Smith, Leiqiu Hu, Jerome Baudry, Jeff Weimer, Harry Delugach, Themis Chronis, Andrea Word, Sarah Dyess, Michael Crow, Ron Schwertfeger, Carmen Scholz, Joey Taylor, Carolyn Sanders, Tim Newman***
- ***Absent with Proxy: Sophia Marinova, Andrei Gandila, Gang Wang, Lori Lioce, Vineetha Menon***
- ***Absent without Proxy: Dilcu Barnes, Jose Betancourt, Kwaku Gyasi, Emil Jovanov, Chang-Kwon Kang, Susan Alexander, Larry Carrey, Sivaguru Ravindran, Gang Li***
- **Faculty Senate President Carmen Scholz called the meeting to order at 12:52 pm.**
- **Meeting Review:**
 - ***Chapter 7 passed third reading.***
 - ***Bloodborne Pathogen Policy passed with amendments.***
 - ***Bill 467 passed third reading.***
 - ***Bill 468 passed second and third reading.***
 - ***Bill 466 passed second reading.***
- **Carmen - I asked to suspend the sequence and move Chapter 7 after administrative report. Mike moves. Laird seconds. Ayes carry.**
- **Approve FS meeting minutes. All in favor of approving. Ayes carry.**
- **Accept FSEC Report. Tim – Motion to approve with two changes. Page 7, bottom, next to last line. The word voting should say “meetings”. Before Bloodborne Policy, instead of handbook it should say “ombuds bylaw change”. Mike seconds. All in favor of accepting. Ayes carry.**
- **Administrative Reports**
 - **Interim Provost Robert Lindquist**
 - **There isn’t much to report. Most of these weren’t voted on, so I don’t want to influence the senate. We received some heads up that bills were coming and asked for clarification. I don’t really have a report. It has been a transient time these past few weeks. I will answer questions the best I can. The Communicable Disease Committee did meet. Auburn and Alabama have lessened the mask policy. We have decided to remain the same. UAH was not open to reducing the mask until the end of the term.**

- Harry – I am very pleased to see an itemized list of bills from the Provost that we have forwarded with a status. It has been a long time since a response like this has come. We will want to follow up after decisions are made. I am very pleased.
- Carmen - There was a little bit of confusion here. They have been passed through first reading and became known to the Provost Office via the Senate meeting packages but we didn't expect for a response. I do appreciate all the help.
- Carolyn – UAB, what is their masking policy?
- Interim Provost – I believe they have not lessened any restrictions at this moment. I believe UAH and UAB have taken their own path in regards to the system. There is no system mandate.
- Tim – I wanted to ask if commencement is still on target.
- Interim Provost – Yes. It won't be similar as to what we planned with Dr. Dawson but it will be Dr. Karr standing there. The diploma will have Dr. Dawson's name on them.
- Laird – I wanted to publicly thank the Provost again for stepping up to work with the senate. We encourage the same behavior with a new provost.
- Jeff – When would you anticipate that there would be another meeting in regards to the mask mandate? Not that you know the decision, but the news would come out for spring?
- Interim Provost – I think they meet two weeks after they met yesterday. There isn't any other option until we know the status we are in or that changes.
- Carmen – We will now move to the discussion of Chapter 7. There were no amendments made we were still discussing. Are there any amendments? All in favor of Chapter 7 as the bill is before you. I would suggest a secret ballot.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- Carmen Scholz, President
 - I want to talk about the BOT meeting. The UA Systems have reached an agreement with Elsevier Publishing House for a joint contract for all universities in the system. The price is \$ 18.5 million with an annual increase of 1.5-2%. I want to thank the senate. That is what we have pushed over the years. I want to thank Mike, Tim, and Jeff. This is a major accomplishment. It should be implemented 2022.
 - Mike – I want to thank you for the thank you. Everyone needs to realize what a momentous thing this is. We have finally have the state fighting for us against these monopolies of publishing's.
 - Carmen – I want to state that I sent a thank you note to Clay Ryan.
 - We come to what the university plan is in regards to buildings. We have a ground lease for the forensic lab. It will be placed behind Tech Hall. I think it is very advantageous to the university. We anticipate chemistry, biology, and psychology students will be involved with the lab. The Alabama lab is the second oldest in the nation. They will perform drug chemistry, genetic testing, and death investigations.
 - The ACT/SAT score is optional. One third of students in Tuscaloosa took the test. They had the largest freshman class in history. The board members did ask questions. The optional testing seems to worry them to some extent.

- I attended the Counsel of Alabama Faculty Senate Presidents. The representative from ACHE spoke about how to implement the work force development demands made by Governor's Office. He mentioned apprenticeship being tacked on to degrees. The Provosts of all universities are working on that. Personally, I don't have an opinion on that.
 - The second and bigger issue discussed are the developments in Georgia where tenure is replaced with continued evaluation. There is some concern that it may be on the agenda for the legislature as soon as next January. It is an erosion on the institution of higher learning. The value of tenure is not understood by those who make decisions. I wasn't aware that it may come to Alabama quickly. The Faculty Senate Presidents agreed to work on a statement if it makes it there.
 - Jerome – Will you ask us to discuss that collectively?
 - Carmen – I am wanting on instruction from the President of that counsel. I will keep you informed. We will not release a statement beforehand. If I am tasked to do something, I will involve you all.
 - Laird – At what point would we consider asking the system office their perspective on this?
 - Carmen – We have the trustees here in January. I think we could discuss that then with them.
 - Angela – Is there a reason to wait? What is the rationale on waiting to make a statement?
 - Carmen – The consensus was we don't want to give anyone an idea. As soon as it shows up, we will act but not before that.
- Joey Taylor, President-Elect
 - I attended the BOT meeting with Carmen. They talked about micro academics. This will mean more certificates given to students (outside of degrees) relative to their current or aspirant jobs. We (the UA System) signed a deal with Elsevier for journal access that will benefit us more than UA or UAB because of the costs. These deals are important because we are far behind UA and UAB in monies. UA is in the middle of the Tide Pride Campaign (having already raised nearly \$1 billion of the \$1.5 billion goal). Some senators have talked about bringing our advancement office in to the Senate meeting ask some questions. This office's approach has always been conservative. I think it is something we need to think about going forward.
- Tim Newman, Past President
 - No report.
- Mike Banish, Parliamentarian
 - I think one thing we discussed in FSEC was having a separate FS meeting where Chi Loo agreed to meet with us to outline the budget. He has always been open to share. He understands the numbers better than anyone. If you wanted to see if there was any interest?
 - Carmen – Yes, we said that we would use a senate time slot. Mike/Andrea, you are leading. Any idea on a date?
 - Mike – Who would be interested in sitting in this?
 - Carmen – I think this warrants a classroom.
 - Andrea – Just so you know Chi will walk through a narrative. It is not just numbers. He is extremely versed in communicating and answering questions. He explains very well. If you are at all interested in

understanding what is going on, I encourage you to come. It is a pleasant experience to work with him.

- Laird – Andrea and I have been working on this for three to four years. He has been very supportive. My suggestion is to pick one in January. Maybe the last week of January.
 - Carmen – Like I said, Mike/Andrea you are tasked with setting this up and letting the senate know. Let me know how many are interested.
 - Carolyn – Tim went through a lot of trouble to dig through numbers. Those questions to Dr. Dawson went unanswered. I hope that we will keep those questions in regards to lack of raises on the forefront.
 - Laird – I advocate that we not put Chi Loo on the spot of raises. That is not his decision.
 - Carolyn – I understand that. The question was understanding the numbers that Tim pulled out.
 - Laird – May be we can send questions ahead of time so he is prepared.
- Carolyn Sanders, Ombudsperson
 - No report.
 - Andrei Gandila, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
 - Ron - We had last month a ballot for two elections. This month we need to fill a vacancy on Traffic Appeals Committee. I will pass out the ballot, please return to me.
 - Christina Steidl, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair
 - We met today and approved 67 curriculum changes.
 - Laird Burns, Finance and Resources Committee Chair
 - No report.
 - Emil Jovanov, Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair
 - No report.
 - Beth Barnby, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
 - No report.
 - Andrea Word, Personnel Committee Chair
 - No report.
- University Committee Reports
- Andrea – Community Engagement will have their final report on strategic planning.
 - Carmen – There is a question mark now that we have a new President.
 - Ron – David Moore had the Library Committee meet November 5th. In regards to funds, we have added e-books. We are in a good place for FY23. We have renewed many subscriptions at a 1-2% increase, instead of the typical 5%. Elsevier was approved at a -1% increase. That is a significant savings. David will need to meet again with the next Provost to look at funding for those routine subscription increases. Dr. Lindquist and Dr. Gaede have asked the library to look at the information literacy learning objectives in the First Year Experience courses across campus; the library will be working on that. He discussed the upcoming launch of the new Institutional Repository through the library. Ron asked about sharing the notes and slides from this meeting; he will send those to Lauren to share.
 - Carmen – We have dropped requirements to leave bound copies of dissertations. Now we are here with students gone and a collection of paper leafs. Can you speak to that?

- Ron – I will relay that to David. That isn't just your department. I believe David has been in touch with Dr. Hakkila.
 - Carmen – Can I have the vote count for Chapter 7? We have 28 yes, 4 no, and 2 abstain. That means Chapter 7 has passed third reading.
- **Bloodborne Pathogen Policy**
 - Carmen – This is the policy and it refers to this plan. Beth and her committee were working through this plan to see if it was acceptable.
 - Beth – There was only one controversial thing. That sentence could be removed. It was a reference to a location at the University of Virginia where managers who needed additional information could go. We could leave it or remove it. Otherwise, the committee agreed it was ready to go forward.
 - Carmen – We need to decide how I return it? With the sentence or without? Do we want a reference to the Virginia Health System? Or replace with something close to Alabama?
 - Mike – I take the second one.
 - Beth – It isn't needed for the policy.
 - Mike – Motion to strike the sentence. Jeff seconds.
 - Carmen – All in favor of striking that sentence? Ayes carry. With the policy, I send back with a list of changes. I also will recognize that you fixed the hyperlinks. Do I have a motion to vote on this policy? Jeff moves. Jerome seconds. All in favor of accepting this policy as amended? Ayes carry.
- **Bill 467**
 - Beth moves to approve on second reading. Laird seconds.
 - Carmen – All in favor of approving. Ayes carry. 1 abstains.
 - Mike – There was some discussion from the Provost that the "whereas be resolved" that we asked for is almost impossible to implement. Our Dean has lunch once a semester with faculty senators and asks what is going on. That perceived causes a problem indirectly. I think it needs to be cleaned up.
 - Jeff – As the author, the intent of the bill certainly does not have to get in the way of the wording. The disconcerting fact is that Deans will sit with faculty and tell them how to vote under threat. How the wording is adjusted, I am open.
 - Joey – I think Bob wanted a clear action called for. He felt there wasn't a clear action.
 - Jeff – If we want to put it on the Faculty Senate President if there are rumors. Then the President can bring that to the Provost. "Undertaking any actions that attempt to influence in any way."
 - Tim – There is no motion. I move to third reading. Mike seconds.
 - Jeff – Now the amendment.
 - Jerome – Is this acceptable? I think we leave it open for the ex-officio to speak.
 - Jeff – There is a difference in purposeful intent/opinion. I don't know if your distinction could be made in that. I would agree that I am not asking that we limit opinions be listed. This is an attempt to influence. I would err on the side of caution that Deans not speak up unless asked for their opinion.
 - Tobias – The FS request any member from the administration refrain from taking any undue influence.
 - Carmen – This policy had a reason for being written.
 - Tim – I second the motion to amend.
 - Carmen – All in favor of the language as it is shown now. Ayes carry.

- Member – At the end, add “on the grounds of shared governance.” It drills down the message.
- Mike seconds the motion.
- Carmen – All in favor of the language as it is shown now. Ayes carry.
- Jeff – I want to vote for third reading.
- Carmen – All in favor as it is. Ayes carry. Bill passes third reading.

➤ **Bill 468**

- Carmen – Motion to approve on second reading. Mike moves. Carolyn seconds.
 - Jeff- I will open the floor as the initiator. I am glad to have the feedback from the Provost. I respect the comments back from him. I will provide background. This varies from college to college. There are some Deans that are more than willing to sit down with faculty. There are Deans that blatantly ignore request. It would be the same as us ignoring the students and their complaints. It was based on the process of hiring and reappointing Chairs. The concern is the faculty should stay away from the hiring decisions. In the interest that this bill receive prompt approval, I have some broad based changes to suggest. They are here today in red. That this amended revision be put forward for second reading.
 - Carmen – Here are the changes in red.
 - Angela – Is there any interest in the senate to have a separate bill in regard to hiring?
 - Carmen – There are no constraints to bring another bill forward. This bill was also written with purpose. All in favor of the amendments. Ayes carry. 1 abstains. All in favor of the bill as amended. Ayes carry. 1 abstains. Bill passes second reading.
 - Jeff – I move to third reading. Mike seconds.
 - Carmen – All in favor of this motion. Ayes carry.
 - Mike – I move to suspend rules to move to third reading. Laird seconds.
 - Carmen – All in favor of third reading. Ayes carry.
 - Mike – I make a motion to introduce Bill 466. Deborah Heikes seconds.

➤ **Bill 466**

- Carmen – Do we have any discussion?
 - Ron – I wanted to point out the way the bill was submitted with ballots. Could I suggest removing that?
 - Jeff – I do not see the request for the report in a certain period of time?
 - Mike – You are not missing that.
 - Jeff – Any proposal on a timeframe?
 - Mike – Since we asked the Chancellor’s Office for it, I think that makes the statement. We can be upset if Dawson didn’t return documents. The weight is asking the Chancellor.
 - Jeff – I am satisfied.
 - Carmen – There is a motion to delete ballots. Mike seconds. All in favor of deleting ballots. Ayes carry.
 - Carolyn – There are a few typos on the last page, third sentence. Chancellors should be Chancellor’s. Same thing in the next sentence. In the last line as well and remove apostrophe with trustees.
 - Jerome – The first sentence of the same paragraph.
 - Tim – This is a demand so it should be plural. “Of by” is a problem.
 - Carolyn – Get rid of “of”.

- Andrea – In the second paragraph it would be helpful to not request the request. There was a discussion at FSEC as to what these are called.
 - Tim – Retention Incentive.
 - Jerome – He did state that it was in his contract. There isn't anything you can do about contractual issues.
 - Carolyn – I accept friendly amendments. I think we should state "any". Last line, we are using bonus payment. We should be consistent.
 - Tim – Can we vote?
 - Member – Chancellor's Office is capitalized in some paragraphs but not at all.
 - Joey- I would capitalize it.
 - Andrea – Can you request a fiscal analysis without stating what it is for?
 - Mike – It says underneath the reason why.
 - Andrea – Are we analyzing the cost?
 - Mike – If you go back to the beginning, Dr. Altenkirch said we always did an analysis. Stating if we do this, we will get more money. We have done all these things and have less. Someone did an analysis and said it was true.
 - Carmen – All in favor of language changes. Ayes carry. All in favor of this bill with amendments. Ayes carry. Bill passes second reading unanimously.
- Meeting adjourned 2:17 PM.