
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
December 13, 2018
12:50 P.M. SST 103

Present: Chris Allport, Laird Burns, Kevin Bao, Amy Guerin, Andrei Gandila, Carolyn Sanders, Deborah Heikes, Shuang Zhao, Christina Steidl, Yu Lei, Gabe Xu, Christina Carmen, Angela Hollingsworth, Jennifer Palmer, Katherine Morrison, Eric Mendenhall, Carmen Scholz, Harry Delugach, Tim Newman, Shangbing Ai, Seyed Sadeghi, Vladimir Florinski, Monica Dillihunt, Ron Schwertfeger, Fat Ho

Absent with Proxy: Milton Shen, David Stewart, Holly Jones, Joe Conway, David Johnson, Sherri Messimer, Elizabeth Barnby, Ron Bolen, Lori Lioce, Robert McFeeters, Jeff Weimer

Absent without Proxy: Sophia Marinova, Dilcu Barnes, Jeff Neuschatz, Kirolos HARleem, Meong-Moo Yoo, Earl Wells, Francis Wessling, Robert Griffin, Thomas Sever, Paul Whitehead

Ex-Officio: Provost Christine Curtis

- Faculty Senate President Carmen Scholz called the meeting to order at 12:52 pm.
- **Meeting Review:**
 - **Bill 427 passed second reading unanimously.**
 - **Bill 428 failed to pass second reading unanimously.**
- **Approve Faculty senate minutes. Carmen moves. Member seconds. Ayes carry.**
- **Accept FSEC report. Carmen moves. Member seconds. Ayes carry.**
- **Administrative Reports**
 - Provost Christine Curtis
 - I want to thank everyone that was at commencement. We didn't have any trouble getting anyone in. In June, some families didn't make it in the ceremony. I heard one comment about the reception. They would like for us to have a reception after every ceremony. If you have any input, please send that by early January.
 - Carmen – I strongly support the idea of having the receptions. One student had parents came from Ghana and they were not pleased.
 - Provost – We will probably have to get another room to host the reception.
 - Monica – The second ceremony we forgot to have the students turn their tassels.
 - Provost – I don't remember us ever doing that.
 - Carmen – I saw it maybe 10 years ago, but not recently.
 - Laird – When we came back the first time, I had a number of faculty and students ask where the reception was. This also happened in the second. I think the small ceremonial event would be appreciated.

- Provost – We will have to see if we can rent another room.
- I want to remind you that the drop/add dates are going to be the same this coming semester. This is in the Registration/Scheduling Policy.
- The President wanted me to mention that they have contracted with a planner for Executive Plaza. The planner comes out of Atlanta, Perkins and Will. They are four subcontractors within that group.
- The Associate VP for Facilities came to the Dean’s Council. He told of the work they are doing. One of the things that we have pushed is the exterior lighting. He started early this fall assessing the lights. There were 80 out and now there is less than a handful. Those are the more difficult ones to fix, but they are working. Some close to SSB are on dimmers. They are unable to switch them to high. He is working to have them on high all the time. The other goal is to start replacing older ones to LED. He will have to do this as budget allows. He is also working to replace out interior lighting with LED fixtures. Again, this will be as budget allows. Tim, I spoke with two people about the whiteboards. I asked that the really old ones be reconditioned. Also we have asked they be cleaned daily except the smart boards. We don’t have time to order whiteboards and have them installed before spring. We will watch the ones that are reconditioned and see if they need to be replaced. We need to know if you are in a classroom that has boards in need of attention. If they need to be cleaned, let me know, as well as if they aren’t being cleaned.
 - Carmen – Can you, facilities, look to see what it would take to change the lights in the building to go to emergency lighting? Unless someone turns it off at night, it is well light all night. If it is on emergency, it is well light.
 - Provost – I would like to have it light rather than not, but I understand saving energy when we can.
 - Carolyn – In the music building, the upper hallway, there has been a recent leak. Who do I need to contact?
 - Provost – With leaks, there needs to be a work order done through facilities. If it hasn’t been fixed, then assume they don’t know about it. We tend to think someone has already done that, but contact them and make sure.
- Member – Talking about exterior lights, would the university consider instituting some kind of safety walk/buddy system? I don’t see anything on the UAH PD website. It seems as we add housing, we need this option for students.
 - Provost – I will talk with Student Affairs. I am quite sure, if the student feels uncomfortable they can contact the police and they will come. I will ask about an escort service.
- I want to thank the Academic Misconduct Policy committee for developing the policy. We are almost to the point of sharing it with the Deans. Once that is done, I will share it with the Senate. At this point, Brent is creating a flowchart of the process. I asked him to do this. We will also include in this policy, in writing it can either be emailed, mailed, or hand delivered. We need to make that clear in this policy as well as the Academic Appeals policy. If you can’t reach the first person, you then go to the second. That needs to be clear in that policy.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- Carmen Scholz, Past President
 - No report.
- Christina Carmen, Ombudsperson,

- No report.
- Tim Newman, Parliamentarian
 - Mr. President I don't know if you are a bear or bull. WE had a fair market in 2009, 2010, & 2011. I have some concerns that we are entering a academic recession. There is a pattern of retribution for whistle blowing. Process of sanctions. I have received report that faculty receive sanctions for speaking up. There
 - Laird – Do you have ideas on how to resolve these issues?
 - Tim – It is important that those in authority issue sanctions and have the highest authority. We shouldn't engage in biased speech. There probably needs to be other things done too. Maybe we need a blue ribbon within the senate to look into these things. Some committees may wish to take this up. These reports are starting to emerge in every corner of campus.
 - Carolyn – In respect to not naming names, is there anything you can add that would help us understand better? I respect your sentiment but it is very general. I don't really understand what you are talking about.
 - Tim – You aren't alone in thinking that. I don't want to call names. I haven't researched these. There are multiple reports. I think we have to have decent. There can't be threats of sanctions. The processes of sanctions in the handbook should be followed. I am reluctant to name names. Some I have received names on don't have the same protections that other have. I certainly don't want to call out those situations.
 - Carolyn – I don't want names, just understanding.
 - Harry- My impression is that all people that may have committed those may think I didn't do that. Sometimes being too general won't win. Specific situations and actions should be discussed in generality.
 - Laird – Confidentiality is important but makes it hard on both sides. If you feel it is appropriate to have smaller discussions.
- Lori Lioce, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Monica Dillihunt, Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair
 - We worked on the Academic Appeals policy sent it out to committee and came back with comments.
- Jeff Weimer, Finance and Resources Committee Chair
 - Jeff, Mike, and I have been working to improve the language on the Copyright Policy.
 - Harry- The committee met on the 30th. The procedure we are going to follow is the procedure faculty will follow. We also had a couple of bills that we looked at. OIT policies had a number of changes within them. It was our understanding that all concerns had been addressed. We want the administration to respond with the changes to policies for the record. Bill 425 was proposed. What is the policy for initiating new programs?
 - Monica – There is a procedure for it. It would be located in the Curriculum committee. It's in the handbook.
 - Harry – I think the obvious concern is that programs not be initiated without their knowledge. We want to affirm that procedure.
- Gang Wang, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair

- We received 24 request forms. We are working to get that done by the end of the semester.
- Vladimir Florinski, Personnel Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Bill 427:
 - Carmen moves to have second reading. Member seconds.
 - All in favor of second reading. Ayes carry. Bill passes second reading unanimously.
- Bill 428:
 - Monica moves for second reading. Christina seconds.
 - Member – Is it necessary to spend \$15K to find out how other institutions do their class finals? Where does that money come from? Can we not give it to the library instead?
 - Laird – This was Mike’s bill. He didn’t say why.
 - Provost – He didn’t want to do the work. I suggested in the FSEC meeting, the senate give me a list of institutions you would like to look at. Then I would ask IORA to do an analysis. If the list is reasonable, then a committee can look on the website for final days.
 - Carolyn – I am in total agreement with you, Laird. I don’t think we need to spend \$15K on this.
 - Laird – I do know that Mike drafted a schedule. When you look at retention at my view, we are researchers. Almost all of us are professional researchers. I haven’t had the time to dive into retention and see what the best practices are.
 - Provost – I asked a committee of Dean’s to look into the research and have been for the past six months. They are planning to come around to the colleges for input.
 - Laird – Is there something that they can tentatively share?
 - Provost – They are planning on coming around early January.
 - Carolyn – I go to national conferences and there are experts there. They go well past the first year. There is tons of literature for those that want to seek it out.
 - Laird – I don’t know if we have the budget for this, but can we support one GRA to the senate research. I am hoping that we can consider something like that.
 - Harry – I just did a google search. There are thousands of papers on this topic.
 - Laird – I agree, but I do want to professionally caution everyone that some are better than others. I want to be careful that we get the highest quality.
 - Tim – I am voting against the bill. I appreciate the sentiment behind it and we need to do targeted research. In the first year, you can really see those who have been here for those first year courses. They seem to track with us on what we are trying to do. We need more investment to send people with Carolyn to these meetings. This would be a steady stream of ideas. I think we need to retarget the money this is using.
 - Laird – I agree with that. This isn’t one semester targeting issue. We need a long term strategy. I think it is coming up on us faculty to take the research side. I am grateful that you have looked at this. Maybe we can collaborate with the Deans to have a special group to look into this.
 - Carmen – I voted in the FSEC to bring this forward. The longer I think about it, I think it is an over simplification. We have struggled with graduation rates. We have come up from ten years ago. Our rates are lower because of our unique positioning here. Also our past, that we are just now overcoming, plays into the rate.

- Member – I have a question about the last sentence. Are there an accepted number of finals in a given day?
- Laird – In this case, what others do isn't the solution, especially if they have retention issues. I agree to not putting any sacred value on what others do.
- Member – I have a daughter that is attending college in another state. She sent me her syllabus. She wanted to know if her grade would round to an "A". She emailed me her syllabus, there were so many holes. In the syllabus, it stated if the student has more than three tests in one day; the student can appeal to take one another day.
- Carmen – We have that for the middle exam. It isn't day, it is 24 hour period. Two finals in a day aren't overly strenuous.
- All in favor of bill 428. Opposes carry.
- Academic Appeals Policy:
 - I know that Monica and Lori were working on this policy. I will bring up the draft.
 - Monica – The first comment was no date on the form to start the clock or receive date. Where would we like for that to be? At the end?
 - Laird – Where do you want to put that?
 - Monica – I guess it should be with the procedures.
 - Laird – Do you have language?
 - Provost – If you would let us know what you want on this, we can do it and get it back to you.
 - Monica presented comments to the Provost.
 - Tim – I have a question and comment. The point was made about a student being gone and alternate arrangements. Sometimes faculty members will leave. I know a faculty member will go to unusual places. I think that needs to be addressed. There are occasions where faculty members don't have access to email.
 - Provost – The goal is to not let a student come back a year, two, or three. We multiple size terms. What we were trying to do is limit it to 30 days. I am hearing you say the 30 days after fall is now, when many aren't here. Maybe we should say 30 days after the start of the next term.
 - Tim- If you want to wait that long, I don't think you need 30 days.
 - Provost – You take a 5 week term, then the next 5 week term.
 - Tim – I see what you are saying. I agree. On the procedures, it talks about the student appealing? Can the faculty or administrator appeal?
 - Provost – It would then go into Appendix E procedure.
 - Laird - Do we allow this?
 - Tim – Yes, in Appendix E.
 - Laird – Then that needs to be made known so the student is aware.
 - Monica – Are you okay with those changes?
 - Provost – Yes.
- Are there any other issues?
 - Fat Ho – I think you can feel free to use my case as an example of Tim's issues earlier. I am hoping that I can be given a chance to present my whole case.
 - Laird – You have given Tim permission in your specific case?
 - Fat Ho – Yes. I can give my case openly to the whole senate.
- Motion to adjourn. Members moves. 1:55 pm.