
FACULTY SENATE MEETING

March 11, 2021

12:50 P.M.

Chan Auditorium

- ***Present: Tobias Mendelson, Sophia Marinova, Kevin Bao, David Allen, Dilcu Barnes, Jose Betancourt, Candice Lanius, Joey Taylor, Kwaku Gyasi, Andrei Gandila, Mike Banish, Abdul Salman, Emil Jovanov, George Nelson, Kader Frendi, Susan Alexander, Elizabeth Barnby, Azita Amiri, Donna Guerra, Darlene Showalter, Mark Reynolds, Jeff Weimer, Huaming Zhang, Seyed Sadeghi, Gang Li, Andrea Word, Ron Schwertfeger, Tim Newman, Carmen Scholz, Carolyn Sanders, Laird Burns***
- ***Absent: David Allen, Jeremy Fischer, Kristin Weger, Bryan Messmer, Leiqui Hu, John Mecikalski, Jerome Baudry, Harry Delugach, Sivaguru Ravindran, Paul Whitehead***
- ***Absent with Proxy: Christina Steidl (R. Thomson), Fat Ho, Christina Carmen, Amy Hunter, Melissa Foster, Sarah Dyess***
- ***Guest: President Darren Dawson, Ex-Officio Provost Curtis***
- **Faculty Senate President Tim Newman called the meeting to order at 12:54 pm.**
- **Meeting Review:**
 - **Bill 454 passed second reading 24-5, then reconsidered and passed second reading by majority.**
 - **Bill 455 did not pass second reading unanimously, will come back for third reading.**
 - **Bill 459 passed second reading, needs to come back for third reading inclusive of language to change the by-laws to accommodate.**
 - **Policy 03.01.06 passed to send forward.**
 - **Policy 03.01.07 passed to send forward.**
- **Approve FS Minutes from February 25. Three corrections were offered from Ron Schwertfeger. On page 2, change “ere” to “here”. After Mike Banish’s report, change “off” to “of”. On page 5, change “bills” to “vehicles”. All in favor. Ayes carry.**
- **Accept FSEC Report from March 4. Kader moves. Sophia seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.**
- **Administrative Reports**
 - **President Dawson**
 - **There are only two or three issues with facilities. Shelby Center exterior renovations will start in March. We received bids back from the Altenkirch Greenway and take that back to the board in April with hopes to start in May. We will start on some interior renovations in Spragins.**
 - **We are scheduled to get delivered 1150 Pfizer doses this Friday. We will receive the same number for the second doses. We will send an email out to faculty and staff when we receive those. If everything goes well, we will be giving vaccinations next Thursday and Friday in SSB 112.**

- Kader – I am hearing the BOT meeting in April will be held in Tuscaloosa. That is usually held in Huntsville, why is that?
 - President – Mainly due to the pandemic. We have been meeting virtually. They wanted to do it in an environment they have been in before. They did it for the safety and health protocols.
 - Kader – We have received university memo’s that haven’t been signed. Why is that?
 - President – They have come from the university leadership that I don’t write on my own.
 - Tim – I went to a board meeting in Tuscaloosa. They claim that is the largest room in west Alabama.
- Provost Curtis
 - We are going to continue with the health and safety regulations through the end of the semester. We will do mask, health check, social distancing, passport. We are talking with the health and safety task force as to what we need to do this summer. Everything remains the same until they decide if we change. The memo from the Chancellor stated if you are fully vaccinated they are following CDC Guidelines. After two weeks, you don’t have to quarantine up to three months after that.
 - We will have orientation on campus in May. It is going to be held as normal but socially distanced. We will follow all rules that are in place during orientations.
 - We will be coming back fully in the fall. The reason is that President Biden has stated that there will be enough vaccinations for everyone. By fall, we should have the faculty and staff fully vaccinated. This will be by choice of each individual.
 - All tenure and promotion files have been reviewed. The individuals have received their notices. I can’t make public announcements until the tenure people go through a background check. That is part of our policy. There was a long delay last year due to courthouses being closed. Hopefully, it will be much quicker this year. I want to personally congratulate everyone that was tenured and promoted.
 - The first round of reappointments were successful. We were able to use RPT. There will be another set of reappointments coming in within the next few weeks. Thank you for using RPT.
 - I have an academic technology report on classrooms. I received a report yesterday of every classroom’s condition and what is being worked on. Our academic technologies group is organized and are working hard to make sure the rooms are functioning. All of you know that John Thygerson has taken a new position. He has left.
 - There was a question about equipment being available to the faculty. Through the CARES money we received more equipment. It is equipment that ETL ordered and the library is housing it. You are welcome to use the equipment and the students as well.

- The FSEC asked that the FS be able to provide input on Dean searches. I have listed members of the College of Nursing Dean search. I have asked for input by March 12th. We are moving forward with that committee.
- Parking Services has been moved and will not be directly related to the police.
 - Carmen – You made it clear that the mask mandate stays in place through the end of the semester. The Governor’s office stated to end the mandate after Easter. Can we overrule the state ruling?
 - Provost – We have the rule that in campus buildings you are to wear mask. It is a system requirement. We are not telling them what to do off campus, but on our campus they will need to wear mask.
 - Ron – I wanted to thank Dr. Dawson and Dr. Curtis with their leadership through the pandemic. I have heard the frustrations from faculty about getting vaccinated. We appreciate you working hard to get those here for us.
 - Provost – We are happy to help. We have had a lot of people help us in getting these doses. There have been so many people pushing for us to get vaccines.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- Tim Newman, President
 - I was asked to supply a name for the NFR. I have sent that forward. I wanted to give you an update on our bylaws revisions. Those revisions are not currently usable. We are instead going by the bylaws that were in effect August 1, 2020. Our September and October items have not reached system legal. There is a revision of the Tuition Assistance Policy. You will be seeing that soon. It is about a tax clarification, not a major change. I heard that our part timers had some unease about online certification. A short alternative will be available for them soon. It should be about an hour and a half long. We passed a Summer School Policy but it is still under review. Carmen and I met with the Provost. The BOT meeting will not be held in Huntsville but Tuscaloosa. We want all of our committees to report at the end of year. I would like a paragraph summary. Hopefully next senate meeting or the one after, we will place that in the senate packet. We want University Committees to report as well. I would like to ask each of you that is on a university committee, please send a summary or state that it didn’t meet. You can send it to the G&O Committee Chair or myself.
- Carmen Scholz, President-Elect
 - No report.
 - Regarding committees reports, the Campus Planning Committee met earlier this week. She attended, along with Kader. Some highlights:
 - Executive Plaza was bought a couple years ago under the previous administration; the building there will be demolished. The price tag is \$4M, and it will be done in two phases. The City of Huntsville will hopefully participate and pick up some of the cost.
 - The buildings used by UAH must find a new place.

- The buildings used by tenants must find a new place.
- The Shelby Center is under renovation. Hopefully things are fixed so that, even if it rains again, we don't lose the basement. \$6M.
- Roberts Hall is the next building to be renovated.
- The VP for Facilities is in fact-finding mode.
- The departments in Roberts Hall are asked for what they would like to see and have.
- Please speak up and let your needs be known.
- Comment from Carolyn Sanders, Ombudsperson: Carolyn expressed her enthusiasm for this news; it's about time.
- Several buildings will be getting new roofs, including
 - Optics Building
 - Cramer Hall
 - Tech Hall
 - Johnson Research Center
 - There was a question: last time, there was the news that the Johnson Research Center has been decommissioned; why is it getting a new roof?
 - An answer was given that the building also houses the Propulsion Research Center, too. (There was a brief explanation about the history of the Johnson Research Center as a campus organization, separate from the building that also houses the PRC.)
- Laird Burns, Past President
 - No report.
- Mike Banish, Parliamentarian
 - No report.
- Carolyn Sanders, Ombudsperson
 - No report.
- Kader Frendi, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
 - All units except one have elected their new senators.
 - We also have a list of university committees that need new members for next year.
- Azita Amiri, Undergraduate Curriculum Chair Committee
 - No report.
- Jeff Weimer, Finance and Resources Committee Chair
 - We will get to the RCEU proposals. The due diligence is behind schedule. Next time, they should have a report on the 30 proposals.
- Emil Jovanov, Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Kwaku Gyasi, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Mike Banish, Personnel Committee Chair
 - We are still working through Chapter 7.
- **University Committee Reports**
 - Kader Frendi, Benefits Committee
 - There will be no major changes.
 - There was discussion about the COVID vaccine.

- Carmen – Last time I looked at the budget, we had a good cushion in healthcare. In the past, I remember our healthcare copays went up significantly after the shooting because we had a lot of bills from 2-3 injured people. That was given the reason for the high copay. Now that we have a cushion, we should look at lowering copays.
- Kader – I will take that to committee.
- Carolyn – Are you at a point to speak in regards to tuition assistance?
- Kader – I am not in the loop. It was not discussed.

➤ **Bill 459**

- Tim – I need a motion to approve on second reading. Mike moves. Joey seconds.
- Carolyn – We have discussed this in the senate body. There was the description of the ombudsperson in one of the chapters but wasn't specific. We wanted to say 1/3 reduction to work load, someone who is knowledgeable of the campus. We put a lot of time in this and great discussion. We worked hard to put forward a position description.
- Ron - I appreciate the changes that the bill would propose to Chapter 4. I don't have any objections to the description or role. The language here doesn't agree with the bylaws.
- Tim – That is an important point. That is an issue the senate will have to tackle. If accepted, it is inconsistent with bylaws.
- Carolyn – Keep in mind this was part of Chapter 4 initially. That was a bill that passed many years ago and we never dealt with that. It is critical we move in this direction. I understand the logistical challenges. I hope you will consider supporting this. The challenges of the ombudsperson is we can't widely advertise it. Each case takes time. Unless we get something finalized to get a load reduction. I appreciate the challenges but hope we can get this passed.
- Jeff – I would like to ask a question about the next step. Given it does pass and is in disagreement with the bylaws. Is it possible the bill wouldn't be instituted until the bylaws are changed?
- Tim – That is an excellent question. Asked for a motion to amend to include a "be it resolved" to state our intention to change the bylaws. I have not heard a procedural objection to this yet, although such an objection would be suitable to raise now.
- Mike – I move an amendment that if the bill is accepted, the Faculty Senate commits to revise the bylaws to be consistent with revised language in Chapter 4. Member seconded.
- Andrei – Should the bill include the amended language for the bylaws?
- Tim – That would be wonderful but there are three sections that are needing to be addressed. It would have to be 30 days before it could pass. I would suggest not doing that today. If there is a group willing to bring language, we can send it out and start the 30 days. Asked for a vote on the amendment. Ayes carry.
- Mike – I don't think we need to worry about this anytime soon. We have had Chapters out there for years. We do have some time.
- Carolyn – I agree with that message. This is one single position. It is a critical one that has been ignored for several years. I hope that we will do what we need to in order to get it expedited.
- Tim – What's your view on the timeliness of the language? Do we want to delegate a subcommittee?
- Carolyn – We could have the same ad hoc committee that came up with the language of the bill work on the bylaw language.
- Tim – Carolyn moves that the ad hoc that developed this revise the bylaws. Carmen seconds. Asked for vote on giving such an order to that committee. Ayes carry. Then asked

for vote on approving bill 459 on second reading. Ayes carry, but will need to come back for Third Reading.

➤ **Bill 454**

- Tim – I need a motion to approve Bill 454 at second reading. Mike moves. Kader seconds.
 - Andrei – Could you provide clarification about the academically disqualified faculty?
 - Tim – The phrase is academically disqualified faculty, does anyone know if there is language on this? We have language on faculty termination.
 - Carmen – This bill was brought forward by a faculty member. It was to ensure that those serving on PTAC are qualified to serve. There has been concern that those serving on PTAC would not be capable of serving on that committee.
 - Joey – I would like to move to amend the wording in 7.9.8 to state “faculty of each college should determine? Carmen seconds.
 - Tim – Asked for a vote on this amendment. Ayes carry.
 - Carolyn – I wanted to speak with our process of promotion and tenure. I have been at UAH for a long time. I know it isn’t perfect, but I have grown to appreciate the impartiality of it. In our college, PTAC members are selected for the nomination slate. I feel strongly that this could open a can of worms for colleges operating differently. I think the impartiality is a great strength. Not knowing the history of this bill, it worries me. Going into my 31st year here, it hasn’t been perfect, but overall it is a fair, ethical system.
 - Carmen – I have to say that the impartiality has been in question lately of the PTAC and URB committees. People are being more blunt about this bill. This bill says that if someone is a full professor but has never brought a dime in of funding, they can then deny tenure to someone else for not bringing in enough research money.
 - Carolyn - I am sorry, Carmen. I recognize there are committee members that cannot vote.
 - Laird – In my college, they have had full professors who have not published anything. They're deciding that you didn't do this, when they don't even know the field. They're making decisions about people in fields they don't know about. They're deciding the fate of people who do bring in funding, who do work with students, who do advise grad students. I agree with Carolyn in general, we have a decent process, but there are exceptions that don’t match with that. There are some colleges that have such silos, with such disrespect for people outside of those disciplines, that you can be outvoted, and those politics often dominate common sense and fairness.
 - George – If we look at the comparison of funding. If someone may qualify but doesn’t have 50 – 60 publications, the expectations change. The definition of qualification needs to be clearer.
 - Ron – Joey, if we are adding “faculty of” to the wording for 7.9.8 to determine the standard of academic qualification to serve on PTAC, do we need to consider a similar amendment to add “faculty of” to the wording of 7.9.11 to determine the standard to serve on URB?

- Joey – I agree.
- Tim – Did I hear a motion to add that same language to 7.9.11? “The faculty of each college” Mike seconds. Then asked for vote on amending. Ayes carry.
- Jeff – One thing I see from this discussion it brings the question is PTAC being fair? The faculty have their opportunities up front to voice their opinions about PTAC. I think this is a good representation. I don’t think it steps on anything else. The Dean ask for faculty input, faculty have no input, PTAC is assembled, and we are done. I don’t see any down side to this. It doesn’t bring discussion about a person being qualified or not up front. I am going to argue for it.
- Andrei – I think there should be clearer definition of academic qualification.
- Andrea – I am worried about the phrase academically disqualified.
- Carolyn – When I am elected by my faculty to PTAC, I am being trusted. I appreciate the difficulties you are describing. What bothers me about the wording of the bill is trying to fix the issues. I don’t think it will fix it. Because it isn’t specific, it could open up issues.
- Laird – My dean previously said to me, “I can’t tell the faculty how to vote.” No, but we can set the rules for fairness and representation. I agree with Carolyn, we can’t solve the problem but it provides a ladder to do so.
- Andrea – I would just remove “the whereas” paragraph about academically disqualified faculty. I am not sure what it adds to what you are trying to achieve. Moved to amend in this way.
- Tim – There is a motion to strike paragraph 2. Is there a second? Member seconds.
- Jeff – That lays out the originator’s thoughts. I feel it should be left as it.
- Tim – Asked for vote on amending by striking paragraph 2. Nays have it; amendment to strike is not adopted. Back to bill as previously amended. Asked for vote on that. Ayes carry.
- Mike – I suggest vote by show of hand.
- Tim – Any objection? None. Ayes raise your hand. 25 ayes. Opposed raise your hand. 5 in opposition. Passed on second reading.

➤ **Bill 455**

- Tim – I need a motion to approve on second reading. Mike moves. Kader seconds.
 - Mike – I would like to make an amendment. I would like to strike 4.5 paragraph. We are adding the student enrollment in 4.3. Also, strike the paragraph changing terms to section 4.5.
 - Tim – Is there a second to the motion? Candice seconds.
 - Candice – I am concerned about the use of the wording “and the faculty” which could be used as the basis for annual evaluation.
 - Tim – Called for vote on the motion to amend. Ayes carry.
 - Andrei – I would like to amend to remove “and chairs” from the second whereas clause in the bill.
 - Tim – Remove “chairs”. Any objections? There is an objection.
 - Mike – I would not want the deans to work solo on the development of such programs without their department chairs.

- Tim – Asked for a second to Andrei’s motion to amend. Second received. Then asked for vote. Motion to amend defeated.
 - Jeff – I think it would be better to say the responsibility of the Deans in consultation with the Chairs.
 - Tim – Asked for vote on 455 as amended by the Mike Banish amendment. All but one in favor; it needs to come back for third reading.
- Bill 454 (revisit)
 - Joey – I move to reconsider the second reading of Bill 454 to correct a typo. Carmen seconds.
 - Tim - Called for vote on motion to reconsider 454. Ayes carry.
 - Joey – I move correction of the one typo. Member seconds.
 - Tim – Any objection to the motion to amend? No objection; amended.
 - Tim – Called for vote on second reading of 454 as additionally amended. Ayes carry; passes second reading.
- **Policy 03.01.06**
 - Tim – I need a to send forward with senate acceptance. Kader moves. Mike seconds.
 - Ron – In section F, there is a list of multiple venues – Pages 9-11. There are nineteen areas listed as free speech areas but don’t match the map.
 - Tim – Is there a motion to add a specifically annotated campus map to this policy? Kader moves. Candice seconds. Called for a vote on this amendment. Ayes carry.
 - Ron – The library has hosted many events in the lawn area. Does the library need to use this form for events in the future? Or in section C, pages 4-5, could the library be added in for exception?
 - Tim – Any objection to that addition? Called for vote on sending forward. Ayes carry.
- Motion to extend for 5 minutes: Dilcu moves. Mike seconds. Vote to extend appeared unanimous.
- **Policy 03.01.07**
 - Tim – I would like to highlight two changes in the FSEC meeting. Then I need a motion to approve this policy as it has been amended. Kader moves. Mike seconds.
 - Mike – There was a lot of confusion about this policy.
 - Tim – Called for vote on sending this forward. Ayes carry.
 - Emil – Do you have two minutes for Research Council report?
 - Tim - We will do it next time.
- Motion to adjourn at 2:26 PM.