
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
March 15, 2018
12:50 P.M. SST 050

Present: Milton Shen, Laird Burns, Katie Baldwin, David Harwell, Joey Taylor, Joe Conway, David Johnson, Andrei Gandila, Carolyn Sanders, Deborah Heikes, Anne Marie Choup, Dianhan Zheng, Kyle Knight, Mike Banish, Yu Lei, Tingting Wu, Yuri Shtessel, Fat Ho, James Swain, Kader Frendi, Christina Carmen, Fran Wessling, Angela Hollingsworth, Sharon Spencer, Monica Beck, Shanhu Lee, Carmen Scholz, Roy Magnuson, Jeff Weimer, Tim Newman, Harry Delugach, Shangbing Ai, Lingze Duan, Vladmir Florinski, Monica Dillihunt, Shannon Mathis, Ron Schwertfeger

Absent with Proxy: Gang Wang, Chris Allport, Lori Lioce, Amy Hunter, Qingyuan Han

Absent without Proxy: Sophia Marinova, Kevin Bao, Earl Wells, Ann Bianchi

Ex-Officio: Provost Christine Curtis

Guest: President Bob Altenkirch, Mayor Tommy Battle

- Faculty Senate President Carmen Scholz called the meeting to order at 12:55 pm.
- **Meeting Review:**
 - **Bill 416 passed second and third reading.**
 - **Bill 419 passed second and third reading.**
- **Guest:**
 - Mayor Tommy Battle
 - We talk about our assets that will help us grow. Our four year universities are the tip of the spear that will help us grow. We make sure we have the building blocks in place to help us grow. Ten years ago, we started to change our conversation. How many have come from out of the state and have a preconceived notion of Alabama? As we have people come in, we have it where they come in and see our university, Space and Rocket Center, and our intelligent population. When people leave, most people say they had no idea it was really the way it was in Alabama. We wear pens that say "Huntsville, Smart Place". We talk about our engineers and the intelligence we have here. Going through this, it has been interesting to talk about our smart city. Things are done here that are not done anywhere else. When you start thinking about it, let's start changing the conversation. You have done work that has been ground breaking. It has helped us grow. The research and development done here has helped industries come here. The key to all of this is great success in the community. Many say that it starts with Pre-K. We have people who are asking what we can do to further what we are doing. When we look at that, the question is

how can we help ourselves? I say thank you to each of you for being part of our success. The idea that we believe in education is reality. We spend \$10K per student in this community; Oklahoma City spends \$6K. This is the value that we have in this community. We value our two year and four year schools. The workers I recruit depend on UAH and our other four year institutes; the pay scale is \$80K - \$100K per year. We can do this because of this four year institution.

- Kader – Thank you for coming. As UAH grows into more of an pedestrian campus, we are growing more towards Sparkman Drive. Crossing that road is a challenge. Will the city do anything?
- Mayor – We haven't really started talking about that. We need to start thinking how to get students across easily. We have seen some plans of what will happen in this northern area. We are going to have to get some plans together to help with out. You have had terrific growth here. We all have to start thinking about plans as this institute grows.
- Mike – When you talk about supporting large name companies that come here, we take pride in businesses that grow from our alumni. It seems the state has a philosophy we will promise you a lot if you come here.
- Mayor – You can easily figure out what companies have come here and grown. When you start talking about local companies, we can recruit easily because of our educated population. We have a very low tax base. There is a philosophy here that the people have had all along. We are trying to get people here out of the state. They provide job multipliers. We have to have a system of incentive to bring them here, but there has to be a return on investment. I think us as a community will see things go to other places if we don't have a return on investment.
- Harry – Standing as a faculty at UAH, you come here from the city perspectives. Can you give us insight on how to collaborate with our sister institutes?
- Mayor – It is an interesting concept. You have the Center of Innovation coming. All of those ideas have come together because of the environment in the city. It is really interesting to see the intellect of the kids that are in our community. They are trying to tie into the technology here. I think we have put together an environment that helps. We will be able to co-join for learning. We have encouraged a lot of that. We have a lady that lives here and works for Disney in Orlando. We have put a lot into place.
- Laird – We have a couple new graduate programs. I see that some companies have been working with our students on certain projects. I am wondering if the city would be interested in looking into those too.
- Mayor – We would love too. We need the set of outside eyes. We work close with A&M with their planning school.
- Carmen – Looking into the future, education is chronically plagued with no money. What is your thought on the topic of a lottery?
- Mayor – That is a great education. Lottery is just a financial tool. We have a lot of people leaving here to go to Tennessee. There are two arguments. It takes money from those who really don't have it. The second part is people are going to do it. I believe the people should vote on it. It is a different tax system. You have to have a commission that is beyond reproach. Second,

where does the money go? I think half goes to the two year colleges. Then the other half goes to four year colleges. We are putting money into the job multipliers. That is where I stand on it.

- David – What is your commitment to the arts in the college and community?
- Mayor – We are very lucky in this community to have the emphasis on the arts. They provide imagination, ingenuity. They provide everything we need in an engineering world. When you look at what the arts do for us, they give us the ability to grow. They give the young student a spark of imagination. The arts to me drive our ingenuity in our state. There is nothing better that we can do but promote the arts. Everyone has something that is a passion to them in the arts world.

➤ **Administrative Reports**

- President Bob Altenkirch
 - Christine will talk about the board agenda. I have been working on one item with Ray Vaughn. We will be creating a program to help with intellectual property. Most institutions that have incubators have this type of thing.
 - Tommy mentioned Executive Plaza. We moved the Counseling Center over there on a short term basis. We moved four startup companies into the plaza.
 - This afternoon is the employee recognition program.
 - Carmen had asked me about putting signs on the building stating no weapons in the building. I looked into this and it is complicated. In 2013, Alabama put a law into place that restricts where you can have fire arms. It restricts firearms to certain types of facilities – police station, mental health care. You can't take those in unless you are approved to do so. Facilities that have guards or security features are not allowed to have weapons in them. On those two kinds of facilities, you are supposed to put signs up that state no weapon. We don't have them up, but we are going to get those up. Spragins Hall has police during athletic events. There are certain facilities that you aren't allowed to restrict. Buildings on campus that aren't guarded, Alabama law permits people to enter with a weapon. We have a policy that says no weapons. This grew out of the law in 2013. It is possible that our policy is not consistent with the law. The argument for having the policy is the Board of Trustees manages the campuses. The board can put into place policies that may not follow Alabama Law. In the Alabama constitution, every citizen has a fundamental right to bear arms. No one has challenged our policy yet. The consensus from the legal counsel and police, if we try to enforce this in every building, we will have a legal challenge. We don't want to disturb the debate. We will put signs on Spragins and other venues, but not all around campus.
 - Roy – We clearly have a police station on campus. To some degree, we patrol the campus. If you care to, will that provide justification to being guarded?
 - President – No, it has to be the facility. This facility isn't guarded.
- Provost Christine Curtis
 - I wanted to give you an update on Morton and Roberts Hall. The architects are working on Morton Hall now. The dream is usually bigger than the pocket book. They are taking some additional flourishes away from the building. They are working on the classrooms in the addition to provide a size we need. At this point it looks like we will have three classrooms for 100 and one over 100. We will have three that are 70 – 80. I think the addition will provide the larger classrooms that

you have spoke of. Morton and the addition will include medium size classrooms. There are multiple steps for the presentation. The renovation will be done by fall of 2019. The addition will hopefully be available by January 2020. Roberts Hall will start their renovation in fall of 2019.

- Tenure and Promotion – I want to thank all the departments that have people going up for promotion. All the letters have gone out except one letter. It will go out as soon as external letters come in.
- We are working with the librarians. This will place them into the ladder. A faculty committee has gone through and worked to place the librarians in a career ladder. The final decision will be made June 30th.
- We are starting next fall to allow promotion for lecturers and senior lecturers.
- The board items on the agenda are the PhD program in Nursing and the RTMC. ALDOT came and talked with our civil engineering to have a joint center. They are providing the equipment and personnel to allow students to work with them to analyze data. It is opened to any faculty member interested on campus.
- Honor's Day is on April 10th. We will start with Honor's College in Charger Union. Each college then has their Honor's Day. I hope that all of you will participate.
- We have Faculty Awards on April 13th. We will ask all those that have received tenure and being promoted to come.
- The Dean search in Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences, they have gone through the Zoom Search. They have had video interviews with nine candidates. Now four will come on campus for an interview. We will have these in April.
- Faculty hiring is going very well. There are a number of interviews going on at this point. A couple of offers have been made. It looks like most of our searches have been successful.
 - Tim – As a final decision been made on Faculty 180? On the board agenda, I didn't hear Chapter 5?
 - Provost – It isn't ready yet. Per Board Rule 108, it doesn't go to the board. I am getting the chapter in final form and will send it to the President. I honestly don't know if it has to go to the committee. It no longer goes to review by the Vice Chancellor.
 - Carmen – Have you requested that each ceremony be short for Honor's Day?
 - Provost – It is an hour and fifteen minutes. When we had them overlap, parents complained. We have tried very hard so that a college could finish and the parents get to another place.
 - Carmen – Chemistry has been told they can't give out Chemistry specific awards due to time constraint.
 - Provost – I am not aware of that.

➤ Approval of Senate Meeting Minutes 586. All in favor. Ayes carry.

➤ Accept FSEC report. All in favor. Ayes carry.

➤ **Officer/Committee Report**

- Christina Carmen, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
 - We are working to secure senators. We will have a brief meeting today.
- Monica Dillihunt, Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Tim Newman, Parliamentarian

- No report.
- Laird Burns, Finance and Resources Committee Chair
 - We have an ineligible student for the summer, other than that, it is finished.
- Mike Banish, Past/President-Elect
 - No report.
- Kader Frendi, Ombudsperson
 - No report.
- David Johnson, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Anne Marie Choup, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair
 - We met a few weeks ago and are up to date.
- Bill 416:
 - Tim – Last time in your report, you had a letter on the Child Policy?
 - Carmen – It is with the President. It wants a similar type letter for the sexual misconduct policy. This bill came back from David Johnson’s committee. It has been submitted to the FSEC. Tim moves to pass bill. Kader seconds.
 - Roy – I was curious as to where it came from?
 - Carmen – Who wrote the bill?
 - Mike – I don’t remember who wrote the bill actually.
 - Roy – I try to do my due diligence.
 - David J. – The committee met with Laterrica. The plan is for the university to maintain its current standard. If the DOE has another Dear Colleague letter, they have to follow that.
 - Roy – Do we need a bill to say that?
 - David J. – I didn’t write the bill.
 - Tim – There was some discussion in our committee meeting. I think the consensus was we wanted the faculty on record where they stood on the issue.
 - Carmen – All in favor of Bill 416. Ayes carry. 3 abstain. Bill passed second and third reading.
- Bill 419:
 - This goes back a couple of years ago when faculty who taught large classes received incentives into their PI account. Under the Williams administration it was removed.
 - Mike – When Phoenix University got sued for paying recruiters to bring in students. They said this fell under the same thing and removed it.
 - Carmen – Mike wrote the bill. The intention is to bring this bill back.
 - Mike – The other problem that existed in the previous structure was we had certain departments that couldn’t take advantage of this. They were limited to their class sized by certain laws. We tried to recognize that by saying if you kept 90% of your starting number.
 - Tim – We did pass an amendment on this bill. This bill distributed doesn’t reflect that. A fourth category was added for 80 students.
 - Anne Marie – I think we cleaned up the language.
 - Tim – I think the concern is we gave you a grader, you have been compensated.
 - Mike – The easier way to say that would be under the first be it further resolved.
 - Jim – Is that cash money or PI money?
 - Mike – I think it was PI. There were precedents for this already.
 - Laird – Does complete the class count toward the 90%?
 - Carmen – I think “F” students count

- Mike – It says for the courses that are limited by class size by certain laws. That is one category. We are trying to make this more inclusive across campus.
 - Joe – I don't understand the numbers.
 - Mike – You will be set at the compensation levels based on those numbers.
 - Joe – Where does this come from?
 - Mike – The old policy broke down those tiers.
 - Joe – You may want to make that clear.
 - Mike – For English and nursing, it is set at the compensation for a 35 person class.
 - Carmen - I think it is unclear to those who weren't here when this was in effect.
 - Joe – Would it be easier to do percentages? I am more concerned about those who overload their classes. We routinely have 38 students so they can take the class. I would like to see incentives for those who take in more so they can get their class in when others sections are full.
 - Laird – I have a friendly amendment, “and increasing incremental compensation”.
 - Roy – To some degree, all these categories will be an administrative nightmare.
 - Tim – Personally, I think we just need to pass it as is. The administration can adjust these numbers or they can reject it. I think we would be satisfied with anything that comes back. We have a lot of folks that are doing extra work and grading. Moreover, I heard there was a faculty that had 70 students that said he wouldn't do any grading or assignments other than the final. I think that is horrible. I think we need to pass this for support.
 - Jeff – Motion to vote.
 - Carmen – All in favor. Ayes carry. 2 oppose. 2 abstain. Passes second reading. Mike moves for third reading. Monica seconds. Carmen, all in favor of third reading. Ayes carry. 1 opposed. 4 abstain. All in favor of Bill 419. Ayes carry. 1 opposed. 1 abstains. Bill passed third reading.
 - Bill 420:
 - Tim moves to adopt Bill 420 on second reading. Mike seconds.
 - Jeff – I had put an amendment forward through email. I am the author of this. This is in regards to the frustration of money taking for depreciation. My comment at that time is we are going to orphan our sons and daughters to put a roof on our house. A comment was made that it reads more of a sense of senate. I have an amendment to the existing bill.
 - Roy – I second the amendment.
 - Joe – I move the amendment. Mike seconds.
 - Carmen – All in favor of the amendment as read by Jeff. 26 in favor. 1 opposed. 5 abstain.
 - Roy – Motion to amend. You can delete one sentence that will make the amendment stronger.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:21 pm.