
FACULTY SENATE MEETING

March 31, 2022

12:50 P.M.

Chan Auditorium

- ***Present: Tobias Mendelson, Dilcu Barnes, Laird Burns, Angela Balla, Kwaku Gyasi, Andrei Gandila, Anne Marie Choup, Kyle Knight, Mike Banish, Rui Ma, Maria Pour, Fat Ho, Bryan Mesmer, Chang-Kwon Kang, Susan Alexander, Elizabeth Barnby, Azita Amiri, Miranda Smith, Leiqui Hu, Larry Carrey, Jeff Weimer, Harry Delugach, Vineetha Menon, Themis Chronis, Gang Li, Andrea Word, Sarah Dyess, Michael Crow, Ron Schwertfeger, Carmen Scholz, Joey Taylor, Carolyn Sanders, Tim Newman***
- ***Absent with Proxy: Sarma Rani, Donna Guerra***
- ***Absent without Proxy: Sophia Marinova, Anthony D'Costa, Kristin Weger, Emil Jovanov, Gang Wang, Amy Hunter, Lori Lioce, Jerome Baudry, Sivaguru Ravindran***
- ***Ex-Officio: Interim Provost Bob Lindquist***
- ***Guest: President Charles Karr***
- **Faculty Senate President Carmen Scholz called the meeting to order at 12:50 pm.**
- **Meeting Review:**
 - **Title XI passed with comments.**
 - **Bill 458 passed second reading. It will come back for third reading.**
- **Carmen – Before we continue, we have several senators that received tenure. Congratulations! Thank you for your work. It is really appreciated!**
- **Approve FS Minutes from February 17, 2022. Carmen – Ron sent in some corrections. Motion to approve. Member moves. Azita seconds. All in favor of approving as it. Ayes carry.**
- **Accept FSEC Report from March 3, 2022. Motion to accept. Mike moves. Miranda seconds. All in favor of accepting the minutes as is. Ayes carry.**
- **Administrative Reports**
 - **President Karr**
 - **The Budget and Planning Committee. We have some things that will be happening through this summer. We need this committee to convene. We will be discussing budgetary items this summer. It is looking promising. We are very hopeful that we will be able to discuss a raise program of about 4%. We will also try to come up with dollars to increase the size of the faculty.**
 - **BOT will be meeting on our campus next Thursday and Friday. It is a great opportunity for us to put our best foot forward. The institutional community meeting will be Friday. We will meet in SSB 112. We are excited about these visitors coming in and we will be giving them a tour of the campus.**

- Interim Provost – When you apply for one, you just apply for scholarships. They match what you have written to a scholarship. No student applies for a specific scholarship. The scholarships aren't always available. So, it could be listed but a current scholarship holder hasn't rolled off yet. My recommendation to prospective students is to just apply. Many scholarships are department related. Concerns usually comes from someone taking advantage of the system. I am sure it wasn't UAH.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- Carmen Scholz, President
 - I would charge the next senate to look into the timing of the tenure notification.
 - Carolyn – I am not sure that waiting until the time designated by the Handbook is a good time. It should happen earlier.
 - I received a phone call from Dr. Hakkila relevant to his previous discussion about a lack of procedure for expelling Graduate students not in good standing. He clarified that he and the Registrar found an old procedure that will stand in as a placeholder. He will come back to the senate to discuss this further.
- Joey Taylor, President-Elect
 - No report.
- Tim Newman, Past President
 - I would like to say I found it quite ironic that the administration suggested a change Chapter 7 regarding tenure notifications. Maybe we can take it as a positive that we can get our changes to Chapter 7 considered. We need a yes or no. I am discouraged because of all the efforts this body has put into this. If we embark on that again, there has to be a commitment that they will treat us with respect that is due.
 - Carmen – I also sense that things are being moved toward a new Provost coming in.
- Carolyn Sanders, Ombudsperson
 - No report.
- Andrei Gandila, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
 - Before the break, we asked Department Chairs to elect new senators. We are in the process in filling vacancies on University Committees. We have 50 vacancies. We have received nominations. Please remind colleagues of these. I called for nominations for Ombudsperson and President.
- Azita Amiri, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair
 - I want to say that I heard all forms (relative to curriculum proposal and change) are becoming electronic. I think we need to hear from the Provost to explain what is going on. We are busy.
- Laird Burns, Finance and Resources Committee Chair
 - I yield to Susan for RCEU comments
 - Susan – We had 26 recommendations. The submission process is complicated. We are working to resolve that. There is a lot of administrative work that has to be done that should not be done by faculty.
 - Carmen – There are a lot of administrative hurdles. We have money for more than 26 slots. If we don't use all slots, money will be pulled.
 - Tobias – I heard back from the Provost Office from Distinguished Speakers Series. They have submitted \$20K for this.

- Carmen – Do we have applications for speakers?
- Tobias – No. I believe this is for next year.
- Mike – It is really strange that we had so few applications to the RCEU. It really shows a lack of engagement. Before, we had 35 slots and we were throwing out a third or half. Something is fundamentally happening that is not going in the right direction.
- Carmen – Faculty or student side?
- Mike – 70% student and 30% faculty. I think we need to look more at the student level.
- Carmen - Everyone of us should educate our departments on the opportunity RCEU brings.
- Elizabeth Barnby, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
 - No report.
- Andrea Word, Personnel Committee Chair
 - No report.
- **University Committee Report**
 - Themis – In relation to the meeting we had with Admissions. Joey and I met online with Ms. Masters. I have participated in science outreach with UAH for the past 5-6 years. I haven't missed a single one. I love science and teaching science. We wanted to discuss how to make this more official not on a voluntary basis. Even ask for a tiny budget so I don't have to bring my equipment from my lab. That is hectic and things do break. I asked for a small amount of funding for recruiting demonstrations. I tried to be politically correct and not overstep my bounds. The overall feeling from admissions was, "Thanks, but "we got it."
 - Joey- I asked specifically about faculty going on the road recruiting. This was done in the past and Provost Curtis would tell us (in English) to go down to liberal arts colleges and recruit. Now, Admissions' position is "no". Admissions wants the process to be efficient for us (faculty) by bringing the students to us. They were very clear on faculty not going out on recruiting trips. Does that include local fairs? I don't know. The faculty are partly the draw to a campus, obviously, beyond campus life, curriculum, other opportunities. They did emphasize they don't prioritize one department in recruiting. She emphasized on-campus events as having the biggest yield on securing students. She deferred a lot to the Deans for requesting funding for college-specific recruiting on-campus. Remember too that they have consolidated admissions when the Graduate School was restructured, so undergrad and grad admissions are together now.
 - Jeff – How do we compare to other universities? Do others allow faculty to go out?
 - Joey- I don't know.
 - Harry – Some do and some don't.
 - Joey – We are emphatic about getting in front of the students. We want more facetime with them. My college person, Jenny Russell-Clifton, is good about notifying us about events and setting them up. I don't know what happens among other colleges.
 - Mike – I don't know about UA. In the case of both Auburn and UAB, they typically had Deans or Chairs go on recruiting events. I don't know if they ever got down to individual faculty.
 - Carmen – We can conclude that the faculty have reached out to help with recruitment.

- Joey- If you have experience of trying and had issues, please let me know.
- Andrea – How do they know who we are? I have never seen anyone from admissions.

Joey – In our college, Jenny does ask what we would like in our flyers, etc.

➤ **Title IX**

- Carmen – I put this first on agenda because today is the deadline. Andrea and her committee have gone through the policy you have. We have these documents before us. Can I have a motion to discuss and approve? Andrea moves. Joey seconds. Any discussions?
 - Tim – I found the description of Alabama Law very graphic and thought that it shouldn't be quoted. It can change at any point then the policy isn't up to date. I think it should refer someone to look at the current laws. On the procedures document, I have concerns with the timelines. Academic year timeline is fine. Going into the summer, I think they are too short. Ten days is great except at the end of a semester. I then feel it isn't enough.
 - Carmen – Do you want a remark made back to Laterrica's office?
 - Tim – Yes. There needs to be something discussed for summer. On page 25 in Appeals Process, written request for appeal should be submitted within three days. Over summer that is not acceptable. There has to be a proviso in there to cover over breaks.
 - Laird – That shouldn't be over breaks alone. You could be on travel for four days during a regular semester.
 - Carmen – The document as amended by Andrea's group plus Tim's remarks, anything else you want conveyed?
 - Joey – There needs to be some checks on who is monitoring those timelines. I have had colleagues go through this process where the faculty are held to strict timelines but he admin is not. And this says that the petitioner should receive a report on an investigation but I have heard that they are told they have to come into office and that they can only look at it there.
 - Carmen – The fact on how they handle those things opens another discussion. All in favor of passing this policy as is with comments going back. Ayes carry.

➤ **Bill 458**

- Thank you, Carolyn and Andrea, for finalizing this bill.
 - Tim – Motion to approve on second reading. Harry seconds.
 - Andrea – We had the original and then the amended. My understanding was that we would have to vote on the amended version first.
 - Tim – The motion was that the bill would come back with the amendment included in the bill. The directions of the committee were that it come back as a harmonized bill.
 - Joey – I thought we agreed we would vote on the amendment then distribute the bill amended.
 - Andrea – We were going to make sure that Bill 469 could stand alone. Another was to make sure that Carolyn's amendments were inputted into the correct version of 458.
 - Tim – The motion was that it came into the bill.
 - Joey – I clarified what we would bring back to the senate. That is what we discussed. I never voted on the amendment being folded in without the senate weighing in.

- Tim – Now is your chance to weigh in.
- Angela – My thinking was the same of Andrea’s and Joey’s. That motion seems out of order of the original charge. First, we need to consider the amendments and the harmonization. Then discuss approving the bill.
- Mike – I am still very confused as to what we are trying to achieve. I am not sure if we are trying to find a vehicle to include lecturers as representatives to the senate or trying to change departmental numbers to reflect the full representation of faculty relative to Senate representation. College of Education has one lecturer.
- Andrea – I think two.
- Mike – Business has four.
- Joey – You asked in FSEC, Mike, the point of these bills. I say yes to both of those.
- Mike – To speak for College of Engineering, I think we have six lecturers.
- Joey – English will have thirteen lecturers and math has eleven.
- Mike – You add up math and English, they are more than 50% of lecturers on campus. There is a massive disparity among Math and English based on full time dealing with undergraduate instruction.
- Carolyn – We have been working on this for years. Angela, I understand slowing down but I feel we will never move forward. Is this perfect? No. We are trying to strike a compromise. We are trying to give lecturer representation on the senate. This is compromising to those who believe they don’t need representation here. I have gone through this bill and know what should be changed. Andrea knows this as well. I think an easy solution is departments with more than ten lecturers get two. If we continue to split hairs, we will end up with nothing.
- Kang – My Aerospace Department has five lecturers.
- Mike – We need to ask ourselves what we want to achieve?
- Laird – I support the faculty trying to move this forward. We have a motion that was provided to committee. We have to close that out before we can do anything else. We are debating what that is. We had a formal one provided; we have to close that out.
- Angela – Tim’s motion was out of order.
- Laird – This is a parliamentary question.
- Jeff – Motion to extend. Mike seconds. All in favor.
 - Carmen – What is your suggested path forward? I would like to call on second reading.
 - Tim – The motion was to direct... According to our bylaws, it is back at the second reading. What came back was that unified entity. My motion again is to debate this on second reading. It is in order. We can amend this further.
 - Joey- There is a disproportionate number of lecturers among colleges. If you make eligible lecturers’ part of the full-time faculty, I don’t know why they have not been. It would give lecturers rights to other aspects of being full-time faculty, like Modified Duties. It would allow them maternity leave, for example, which they don’t have at the moment. It would expand the senate broadly. The senate will get bigger because we are counting more faculty toward representation. Ron as a Librarian-Lecturer, English, and Math lecturers can finally vote for all their work that they already do. We are taking 20% of the full-time faculty and saying they are different; they cannot have representation.
 - Harry- I agree with you both. The compromise should be accounted for here. I like the compromise. The exact number of making sure each department is equal isn’t

that important. Our votes are not that close. I can see the model that you are suggesting, Joey, will be the model here.

- Ron - If we don't run out of time and it doesn't pass unanimously, it comes back for third reading.
- Mike – Yes.
- Carmen – All in favor of passing this as it stands on second reading. 17 in favor. 5 opposed. 4 abstain. It passes second and will come back for third.

➤ Meeting adjourned at 2:27 PM.