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**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**April 29, 2021**

**12:50 P.M.**

**Chan Auditorium**

- ***Present: Tobias Mendelson, Dilcu Barnes, Jose Betancourt, Candice Lanius, Joey Taylor, Kwaku Gyasi, Andrei Gandila, Christina Steidl, Mike Banish, George Nelson, Kader Frendi, Susan Alexander, Elizabeth Barnby, Darlene Showalter, Mark Reynolds, Melissa Foster, Leiqui Hu, Jeff Weimer, Harry Delugach, Seyed Sadeghi, Gang Li, Andrea Word, Sarah Dyess, Ron Schwertfeger, Tim Newman, Carmen Scholz, Carolyn Sanders, Laird Burns***
- ***Absent: Sophia Marinova, Kevin Bao, David Allen, Jeremy Fischer, Kristin Weger, Abdul Salman, Seong-Moo Yoo, Emil Jovanov, Fat Ho, Bryan Mesmer, Jerome Baudry, Sivaguru Ravindran, Paul Whitehead***
- ***Absent with Proxy: Christina Carmen, Azita Amiri, Donna Guerra, Amy Hunter, Melissa Foster, John Mecikalski, Huaming Zhang***
- **Faculty Senate President Tim Newman called the meeting to order at 12:54 pm.**
- **Meeting Review:**
  - **Policy 03.01.08 approved to send forward.**
  - **Bill 463 passed on second reading.**
  - **Tuition Assistance Policy approved to send forward.**
- **Approve FS Meeting Minutes from 616. Candice moves. Kader seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.**
- **Accept FSEC report from April 22. Kader moves. Tobias seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.**
- **Accept FSEC report from April 23. Kader moves. Mike seconds. All in favor. Ayes carry.**
- **Accept FSEC report from April 26. Mike moves. Carmen seconds. All in favor.**
- **Administrative Reports**
  - **President Dawson**
    - **Spragins Hall has been pushed out to May 14, 2021. We are looking at doing a demolition with Executive Plaza buildings this September. The city will do a lot of work for us. We think that will generate more interest and let us move forward. We got approval from board to do the Spragins Hall interior renovation. This project will take a while to complete. We will have to go out for bids.**
    - **We will continue to do COVID vaccination in Executive Plaza.**
      - **Jeff – You mentioned Optics Building roof replacement, the Material Science Building has the same vintage. Is there any look at doing this too?**
      - **President – Yes, I will look at that too.**
      - **Tim – Is there a university policy that students will be vaccinated against COVID for fall entry?**
      - **President – No.**
- **Provost Curtis**

- The College of Nursing Dean search is underway. If you know of any colleagues that you believe would be an excellent candidate, please send your recommendation.
- The Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate School preliminary interviews are completed. The committee has made their recommendations based on strengths. We hope to fill this position in May.
- Fifth year review for College of Business Dean is still ongoing.
- The Academic Success Advocacy Program will have its first three new employees start on May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Current health and safety requirements are in place until May 9<sup>th</sup>. Health check will go away on May 10<sup>th</sup>. For summer terms, there is no need to look for passports. The classes will have three foot social distancing instead of six. That will remain in place for all of summer semester. Domestic travel can resume on August 1<sup>st</sup>. We will go back to regular approvals. The system is encouraging us to meet virtually if we can. It does save cost but it also is another form of health protection. I have asked about masks before this meeting. At this point, there is no change in masking. They will remain in place all summer. The task force for the system meet every other Friday. If there changes from the CDC, they are discussed there. We did say if you walked along the greenway alone that was fine. If there was a group, you needed to mask. I will ask again what the protocol needs to be.
- I am pleased to announce tenure and promotion to the listed professors. I want to thank all faculty that participated in the review. It is a lot of service.
- We announced the University Excellence Awards.
  - Joey – As we roll into the fall semester I want you to move to the front of your consideration mental health. We have had more students discuss issues and depression. I have seen more of this than I have in my ten years here. Please keep that has a significant focus as we enter regular mode this fall.
  - President – Yes, thank you. We have heard that as well. Over the next year, we hope to get the counseling center in the CTC.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

○ Tim Newman, President

- I am trying to collect university committee and standing committee reports. Some as supplied that, thank you. If you haven't, please get that to me. I want to let you know that you observed in the FSEC committee report that we have created a committee for one our bills. I went to board of trustees on April 9<sup>th</sup>. I made a presentation on the state of the faculty and senate. On the tenure and promotion list, there were four on the list that is a part of our senate. Congratulations to you four! I pointed out to the board the accomplishments of this body. I told board that this faculty is ready to lead the way out of the COVID era. I am certain you will rise to that challenge. The board promised that they would do everything they would to see us reach our potential. Carmen and I met with the Provost and with the President as well. Our bylaws haven't been sent to legal counsel yet. That concerns me. There has been enough time for that to take place and that concerns me. We brought up a payroll calendar issue. We are going to have committee chair elections today if we can. This is our regular meeting of the year. I think this body has several issues it needs to keep at the forefront. We need to make certain the university committees need to move forward. We have a pay equity issue. I believe our salaries are lagging. The FSEC has tried to raise the issue that we have not seen

a raise in faculty numbers as student numbers rise. I would like to handle our committee elections at this point.

- Carmen Scholz, President-Elect
  - I attended the BOT meeting virtually. ACT scores are optional. That opens questions about scholarships. The board was not enthusiastic about this option. This will put more pressure on admissions in the future. GRA's may go away. With ACT going away, that could be a big hurdle. I represented the senate in the selection of the New Investigator Awards formally known as mini grants. We used to have 25 applicants. We only had eight. I found this troublesome. It is an indication that we aren't hiring tenure track faculty. We are hiring clinical and lecturer. That aren't eligible for these.
    - Joey – Is that the old junior faculty grant or IIDR?
    - Carmen – No, it is the \$10K for senior faculty.
- Laird Burns, Past President
  - No report.
- Mike Banish, Parliamentarian
  - No report.
- Carolyn Sanders, Ombudsperson
  - No report.
- Kader Frendi, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
  - We do have elections. Andrei, you are the ombudsperson. Joey, you are President-Elect for next year. I would like my committee to stand to thank you.
- Jeff Weimer, Finance and Resources Committee Chair
  - Thank you committee members for your service. It was a great year for RCEU and Distinguished Speaker.
- Kwaku Gyasi, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
  - I wish to thank all my committee members.
    - Tim – We had a special committee meeting to go over faculty development that this committee produced. Thank you for the list.
- Mike Banish, Personnel Committee Chair
  - We have been through four or five chapters this year. Everyone did a great job.
  - Tim – I think one of the most important jobs of this senate is looking over the faculty handbook.
- University Committee Report
  - Ron Schwertfeger, Library Committee
    - I know we have a lot to do in FS meeting today. With just a few minutes, I should be able to cover the important points from the Library Committee meeting on April 13th.

Tim, I would be happy to share the meeting report & attachments with all of the senators, or send directly to you to relay, if that is your preference.

ScienceDirect subscription will be up for renewal at year-end; Elsevier has been adjusting their position, and starting to work a little in negotiations with some of their larger university customers, like UC system. Library Director David Moore is hopeful that Alabama university libraries will be able to apply combined leverage in this renewal.

Library has also added a couple of other subscription resources lately (including Cambridge Complete) and also some one-time-purchase e-book collections. These cover multiple disciplines, so I assume the other senators may want to see that list from the committee report. Regarding new Cambridge Complete online database, this expands the libraries collections of Cambridge university press online journals from 16 titles to 387 titles, across a variety of disciplines. As a part of the press release for that agreement, which is linked on p. 11 of the committee meeting notes, the Cambridge press release also indicates that UAH faculty can publish in 372 of those open access journal titles AT NO COST [direct link <https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/open-access-policies/read-and-publish-agreements/university-of-alabama-in-huntsville> ]. This seemed pertinent to one of the discussion points from the FSEC report for the special FSEC meeting on April 23, so I thought I should mention it here.

Discussion in Library Committee about the additional ETL equipment now available to faculty through the library, and there were also other updates, including the library's integration in Canvas.

To address the question that Mr. Banish had in April 8th meeting, the library does currently have some materials in storage in Executive plaza, and is aware of the upcoming demolition. I believe question last time was about archival collections; library has no archival collections in EXP. 3 years ago, when library was offered space in EXP, library moved over approximately 600 print journal titles, with another 1000 print journal titles still in Salmon Library building. These 600 in storage are titles library no longer subscribes to in print, and for many of these 600 titles, they run from the 1930s/1940s through the early 2000s, which was the time when the library started to transition from print to online subscriptions. For some of these titles, there is also SOME online coverage; however, that online coverage does NOT necessarily equal the coverage of those print volumes in storage. And note that there has been little-to-no usage of those titles in print since they went into storage.

Director of Library David Moore has spoken with Greg Smith in facilities; NO other options for on-campus storage anywhere else on campus. Only remaining option to continue to keep these in print would be to look at renting offsite storage here in town, w/ additional costs.

In the Library Committee meeting, the approach that David suggested to the committee members was as follows: David has a list of those titles & their print holdings, he asked me to share with the committee members - one from each college - so that they could check with faculty in their colleges, to identify which titles are important. The committee members will then collect that info and provide that info to David. One of those titles are the ones that the library should look to replace with the online equivalents. Committee members agreed with him on this approach. When asked if there was a deadline to get back to him; there is not: the print titles in EXP storage will be discarded; then, once the Library Committee members have gathered the input from their peers in their colleges, they'll report back to David with that info.

That is to say, the Lib is being transparent with our fac. and with the campus community about this issue, and about its impact, and about the proposed solution, and we are offering a mechanism for interested fac. to have a voice in this issue, by sharing their input with their Library Committee members from their colleges, who will then relay that to our Director.

- Carmen – Can you please clarify where we stand with the library subscriptions as an Alabama System versus individual universities?
- Ron – We have lots of subscriptions of individual titles. Any specific?
- Carmen – We talked about subscriptions for just UAH because we couldn't get in with the system.
- Ron – I will need to get back with David and Laura. I can share that back out.
- Seyed Sadeghi
  - We are hiring Chief Information System Officer. We have a good list of candidates. If you have any concern or question you want to relay to committee, please send to me.
- Policy 03.01.08
  - Tim – Is there a motion to recommend that the university go forward? Mike moves. Kader seconds. Any discussion? All in favor of sending forward with senate approval. Ayes carry.
- Bill 463
  - Tim – Motion to approve on second reading? Mike moves. Carolyn seconds.
    - Mike – I will highlight four changes from the last time. Last but not least, we did add the Campus Safety Committee. There is no charter put into this. We can negotiate it if accepted. We evaluate chairs on four or five intervals. We put that back in 6.1. We looked at the Graduate Council. Now, only business and education will have two members. We put three in for everyone. If there is not one of the members elected not a faculty senate member, we will elect an ex-officio member to be a part.
    - Darlene – It mentions the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee. I believe that is “undergraduate”. From the Chair and Co-Chair, they believe more thought should be put into this. They believe the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee should be included. If graduate courses should be added to workload, that isn't doable.
    - Mike- We tried to be specific here. Yes, I feel sorry for those people. This is a very specific sentence. The only things to consider are creation, merger, or deletion.
    - Sarah – Why undergraduate committee considered for graduate items?
    - Mike – We may want to change the name of the committee. There is not a better place to put this.
    - Darlene – Can this go back to this committee to revisit that statement?
    - Tim – Yes, motion to refer to committee or motion to amend.
    - Mike – We did consider it.
    - Darlene – Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee doesn't exist.
    - Andrea – It doesn't exist yet. By passing this, are we saying it exist? What will be the outcome?
    - Tim – We find a committee that has that name. The interpretation would be the undergraduate curriculum committee.
    - Joey – Is this intended to make sure the senate has a hand on what is happening? So that we aren't surprised?
    - Beth – You are exactly correct. That is the purpose.

- Darlene – Motion to send back to committee to iron out the process.
- Mike – Please be more specific as to what you want ironed out.
- Tim – Is there a second? Harry seconds.
- Harry- I was looking at the charge of the undergraduate curriculum. There is no reference to undergraduate in its charge. I think the issue is not that the committee is wrong but it has the wrong name.
- George – I agree with Darlene’s points. The workload is substantial. There should be some consideration for that.
- Sarah – Have we talked with graduate council to see if these changes make sense?
- Mike – We have talked with them. They are against these changes. If you look at graduate council over the university website. You will find four sets of meeting notes of thirty years of committee. Last BOT meeting, did you know there was a merger of graduate programs? I found out there. This is an effort to bring transparency forward in this council.
- Andrea – Given that we are shifting to a new administrative structure for Grad School, it might be possible that the incoming administration give clarity.
- Susan – The committee charge doesn’t state that it is exclusive to undergraduate.
- Harry – My experience is that the graduate council covers those things. On our curriculum has always been undergraduate. The search for undergraduate only shows in the title.
- Susan – It sounds like it needs clarification.
- Andrei – I suggest faculty senate and no committee. Also, change the committee name.
- Tim – We can’t do those with this motion. Shall this bill be referred back to the Personnel Committee?
- Beth – I prefer to vote by secret ballot.
- Tim – All in favor of this motion. 17 in favor. 9 nays. The motion fails. It was 14 to 14. We are back to the original motion.
- Kader- I move to remove “Curriculum Committee”. Andrei seconds.
- Christina – That is a lot. I feel like asking the senate to approve every change of the curriculum is not on the oversight of the committee.
- Andrei – It is only for major changes.
- Carmen – It is for only those three changes. I hope we won’t see many of those. I hope it is a rare occasion. This is not for program changes.
- Harry – I share your concern in terms of volume. The way it is written it is tied to our curriculum committee. By putting it in our lap, we agree on how to carry out. I am afraid they will be more often than you think.
- Kader – That is what they had in mind, Harry. It should come to senate and then they decide.
- Sarah – I wonder if it has to state it has to be approved by faculty senate or rather communicated with faculty senate.
- Andrea – My concern is with program creation. It requires a lot of steps. I am wondering how the flow of time would be considered for the senate.
- Carolyn – I think all have made great points. It seems to me that our input shouldn’t slow down the process. I feel so strongly that we aren’t in a position where we won’t to give up shared governance. These are large decisions. Maybe some of us that have served for a long time are more sensitive.

- Andrea – Carolyn, to not slowing it down, I should be more familiar. We do have representation on graduate council.
- Mike – No, we don't.
- Andrea – Is that the reason for this? I am not sure what the process would be.
- Carolyn – I would make the point again, it is large decisions. We need to get faculty senate input. I don't want to see the process slowed down. Sometimes maybe it does need to be slowed down. I see this only strengthening our shared governance.
- Carmen – After three items are addressed, creation is probably the longest time frame. By the time you start the program and then through BOT. Allowing it to pass through us, doesn't hinder the time frame. Deletion and merger should be brought before us. We shouldn't know after the fact. When you put a PhD program together, that takes two years. That should allow time to come through here. Creation shouldn't raise an eyebrow like the other two.
- Joey – The faculty senate can be included on the initial submission. I think it is feasible.
- Beth – I agree that we should continue shared governance.
- Andrea – Shared governance is not the issue.
- Kader – We were in this position not long ago. We had a very quick turnaround. I don't think the senate will hold it up. We act fast.
- Toby – It may encourage delay if you send to committee. The committee will then review it, refer it to FSEC, then the senate. If you send it to senate, then committee, you delay a month. If we call it the curriculum committee not undergraduate committee, still sends it to faculty senate.
- Jeff – In terms of the delay, all it says is the approval faculty senate. It has to come in through a cycle. We are within our internal bounds to set up a process for those that come forward would follow procedure.
- Mike moves to extend by five minutes. Kader seconds. Ayes carry.
  - Carmen – I would like these words to be struck. The process of creating a program is a year or two years. A month of the senate will not slow down.
  - Tim – All in favor of amending by striking those words. Ayes carry. Shall this be adopted on second reading with amendments?
  - Andrei – I think the word approval will be a problem. How about saying with a consultation with the faculty senate? Candice seconds.
  - Harry – From administration points, consultation is the weakest thing we can say.
  - Carolyn – With all due respect, I agree with Harry. It weakens our shared governance.
  - Tim – All in favor of the motion. Nays carry. We are back to approving on second reading with amendments.
  - Christina – In order to be clear about the path it would take, would we want to consider motioning that curriculum committee be lower case. Then there is no concern on who it goes to or what happens. There is a lot of work but there shouldn't be a lot of these coming through. It leaves space for not having the proper name.
  - Jeff – I would like to leave the flexibility of future faculty senates. I think it is generally fine as it stands.
  - Tim – All in favor of adopting on second reading as amended. 24 to 3. Ayes carry.
- Tuition Assistance Policy

- Tim – Motion to send it forward. Toby moves. Kader seconds. Any discussion? All in favor of sending forward. Ayes carry.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:31 PM