
FACULTY SENATE MEETING #568
Special Session
16 August 2016
12:30 P.M. in NUR 205A

Present: *Wai Mok, Xuejing Xing, John Schnell, David Stewart, Joseph Taylor, Irena Buksa, Christine Sears, Carolyn Sanders, Jeremy Fischer, Anne Marie Choup, Eric Seeman, Kyle Knight, Michael Banish, Ramon Cerro, Earl Wells, James Swain, Kader Frendi, Mark Lin, Casey Norris, Ann Bianchi, Cheryl Emich, Lenora Smith, Debra Moriarity, Tim Newman, Ming Sun, Vladimir Florinski, Monica Dillihunt*

Absent with proxy: *Azita Amiri, Udaysankar Nair, Luciano Matzkin, Tim Landry*

Absent without proxy: *Eric Fong, Anna Devlin, Diana Bell, Joe Conway, Ying-Cheng Lin, Richard Fork, Babak Shotorban, Ken Zuo, Marlana Primeau, Monica Beck, Larry Carey, John Shriver, Jeff Weimer, Peter Slater, Grant Zhang*

Guests: *Provost Christine Curtis
President Bob Altenkirch
Brett Johnson, Higher Education Partnership
Gordon, Higher Education Partnership*

➤ Faculty Senate President Kader Frendi called the meeting to order at 12:36 pm.

➤ **Administrative Reports**

- President Bob Altenkirch
 - The incubator building is on track to break ground next summer. It is being currently being designed. The new residence hall is going before the board in September to get approval. It will mirror charger village. This fall every bed is full. Some are in Beville center and 150 are in apartments. Next fall will be worse. This residence hall will open next fall. It will give us 402 beds. In addition to that, we will go to the board in September for three more Greek houses. They will open the same time. The residence hall is built by issuing bonds, and the rent pays the bond. It's revenue neutral. The Greek houses are too small to issue bonds, so we will be the lender. Parking is going to be difficult this fall. The parking in front of the Student Services Building has electric video boards specifically for visitors. Please do not park in those spots. There are six electric vehicle spots, please don't use if not with electric vehicle. Parking decals are available in several different colors and designs. We have hired a parking consultant to take data based on the decals and figure out how to better manage our parking. The state appropriation maintenance fund increased 2.99%. Most of our revenue for the general fund comes from tuition and fees. We increased from state overall 6.5%. This increase was caused by

earmarks. We received \$400K to oversee a consultant to see if the dream chaser aircraft could land in Huntsville. If you look in the state budget you won't see that earmark. It is hidden within maintenance. With enrollment, last fall was 7,866. Projection model showed that this fall would be 8,343. Last night it was 8,344. It will come up even more. Good unofficial news is that the average ACT score is 27.5.

- Debra – I have noticed that in biology some have had 17 and 15 in math. Is there not a minimum?
- President – The average is 20. Acceptances are made in admissions. We did not want to disturb that immediately. We look at combo of ACT score and high school GPA - 2.0 or better at end of freshman year. That captures the variance, not everything. The sliding scale does this and uncovers the predictions.
- College academy kicked off in Jenison High School. Enrollment projections for fall 2017 are 8,747. We are adding 400-500 each year. Freshmen recruiting added 1,027 last year and 1,250 this year. That has increased by 6% over two years.
 - Ramon – Are we adding faculty?
 - President – We are about normal in our faculty numbers. We run 22-23 students to faculty.
 - Ramon – The problem is based on average. Chemical Engineering is 60 to 1. In my department, we are 30 to 1.
 - President – I understand, but there is a financial structure we have to adhere to.
- If you look at enrollment growth and faculty growth, we are on track with others. There may be some misdistribution that cannot be fixed overnight. We have to watch individual units, but overall to meet salary demands.
 - Joseph – Are we watching for negative returns? Like mechanical, which is down faculty and students, don't feel they are getting classes in the right time and enrollment dwindles.
 - President – We haven't seen that. Mechanical and Aero is where we are hiring.
 - Debra – We are losing students because of this issue. They feel administration is not paying attention to faculty growth to student demands. Maybe release info as to why we aren't hiring. Because we are opening other colleges, some areas aren't receiving the attention needed.
 - President – We added 31 this fall.
 - Provost – Remember we had 6 searches for tenure-track that wasn't filled.
 - Tim – One colleague of mine was in a room and the computer lab computers took forever to get going and something wasn't working. He didn't know who to call. He asked we task someone to visit all classrooms before the start to make sure everything is working. Also to get a reference card on the equipment with POC and instructions in the event something doesn't work.
 - Provost – Many of the classrooms have that info, but we will double check. There was an email sent last night that has this information as well.
 - President – This is a problem. Also, if you don't use the equipment frequently you forget how to use it.

- Provost Christine Curtis
 - The email yesterday was sent with a welcome. It will be exciting this year with the new students. We will have convocation this evening. Please attend and bring some colleagues. I wanted to remind everyone to use canvas for syllabus and grading. Please set high expectations and then help the students reach them. We have to challenge them because they are bright. They will have freedom for the first time as freshmen. Encourage them to attend class and many faculty have attendance requirements. One thing we need to work on is giving feedback to the students. They need to adjust and they can't float. Our attendance at fast sessions is not what it needs to be. We have proven they can improve their letter grade. This year we have rebounded early alert. We worked with student affairs and the student success center; we will use a new program, Charger 360. This is a total circular way to look at the students issues. Information on that will come out as soon as we receive it.
 - The collaborative learning center is up and running in the Student Services Building.
 - I am pleased to report that the SACSCOC response was sent out yesterday. We believe we have fulfilled the requirements. There was an interim policy put into place. Debra's feedback with Carolyn was much appreciated in serving on this committee from the senate.
 - We will be setting up task force with committees to cover SIE's. I know there were some issues getting feedback from students; we will ask that committee to better this.
 - We worked Mike to create an oversight committee on the charger foundations.
 - Again, at the senate meeting in the spring there was discussion on digital measures. The program comes due next year; I have heard enough to not renew it. I have asked Tim to chair a committee on university college dept database and annual report and how it can be done effectively. I will be asking for names from the senate to serve on this committee.
 - The last task force that will be set up will be on teaching learning. This is historical. How can we best utilize our resources and integrate our faculty. These requests for task forces with committees will be coming out in the next weeks. They are really important and are needed to be successful the next five years.

➤ **Presentation by Gordon, Higher Education**

- We represent you in Montgomery. We try to make sure when discussions are held we echo that to get you taken care of. We just finished a planning session with Congress to kick off the year. On behalf of UAH, Mike Banish was there. We are excited about what we have in front of us to share the university story. We are the largest economic engine in Alabama. Over 1.5M Alabamians are employed in the 12 counties that the campuses are located. Our message is to remind our policy makers if they cut our funds they will drastically hurt us. When our income is negatively impacted in our state, it cannot resolve our concerns. We have 14 successful institutions that work hard. We have opportunities in Alabama that are unfulfilled. We need your help. Dr. Banish has some opportunities that he has learned about that he can share. We want a team from this faculty to sit down with Brett. Alabama has a hole in Medicaid a lot of proposals are in front of the legislature. Our position is to guard and protect education. We work very hard to make sure the people know we work hard.

- Carolyn – I am concerned about RSA. Do you know what’s going on? With this group, how do you play a part that legislatures won’t mess with RSA?
- Gordon – There is a serious group of legislators involved with retirement. What you hear is not talk, they want to get involved. The reality is when they try to get in, they get pushed back. I know from 25 years in the business, a lot of you and before you took jobs in Alabama due to the benefit package. We will work to make sure that those recruiting tools won’t be messed with. We understand that. There isn’t anything on the table today to affect RSA. This legislature is very independent. There are too many people reading polls and making decisions based on these. They are scary because they are opinion orientated. I can give comfort because I haven’t seen anything.
- Mike – If you aren’t at the table, you are on the table. In Alabama, that is really true.
- Tim – Thank you for the work you do and you do make a difference. Recently there was a piece of news about Alabama Association on Higher Education funding and the use of dark money to influence legislation at the state and not regulated by IRS. You are a different organization than this, correct?
- Gordon – Yes. I was aware they were forming, but I have not had any conversation or involvement with them. I can’t comment on them, I don’t know what exactly those are doing.
- Tim – My other comment is it is important that higher education partnership is to follow ethical standards. The dark money is fishy. It’s bad publicity for Alabama system. If we have bad publicity, we will lose public opinion.
- Gordon – We have always used ethical standards that can be frustrating. I hope you heard what I said, guard and protect education trust funds. We don’t need to battle something that isn’t in your best interest. These ethics law out there now; no one knows what to do with it. It is very confusing. Lawyers that came out of the same body deciding on these laws give conflicting advice. We are trying to be very careful what we do. It hasn’t been easy to voice for higher education. It was very clear at the conference our voice is on the table and every article written is not true. I can ensure that we work diligently.

➤ **Officer and Committee Reports**

- Kader Frendi, President
 - Quick announcement - we will have a faculty lounge/club in CTC. Mike and I was there yesterday. It has been painted and food can be brought in. It has three rooms. You can have committee meetings there also. It will be very convenient for all of us there. The room numbers are CTC 103 & 104.
- Bill 389, Chapter 4 (third reading)
 - Tim – Handbook revision started in 2009. In 2011 a draft of the handbook was ready for senate to look at. Committees brought it to the floor in 2012. In 2015 some administrative revisions came back to us. We had a handbook committee the past year to work through these issues. The sections looked at were Chapters 1-6, Appendix A & B. We were able to work through Chapters 1-6, and Appendix A. Appendix B is still being worked through. That isn’t before you due to the issues. Some of the concerns addressed are what is tenure? Is it a term? We did address that point with tenure rights. There is a lot of discussion on the role of the chair. There are a lot of models of a chair. There were issues that lessened the role of faculty. We addressed a statement about serving at the pleasure. This language

was put there for legal reasons. We did differ with admin with the role of chair. What it takes to remove a chair? I tried to summarize in a table what is before you right now. The version doesn't have that language. University committees are majority faculty that is in now. Appoints research council? As we set forward we want faculty senate in all council that is what is before you now. We pretty much came to agreement with administration. What does it take to remove chair or appoint chair? Current handbook says you have to have majority of faculty. We do not address this issue of majority as it is part of Appendix B. To serve in senate you cannot be higher than a chair. Higher than that cannot serve in a voting role.

- Carmen – Tim you and I worked months on a realignment committee. Did any of our language make it?
 - Tim – The bills were passed by senate and the prior Provost verbally rejected and another was sat on and never rejected. What we have done with the handbook is we have tried to take the language from those two bills. Carmen is given much appreciation for working on this. There was interest expressed from current President and Provost to incorporate that language. Key points from the bills are here.
 - Kader – Is there a motion to vote for Bill 389? Debra gives motion. Tim seconds. Any discussion?
 - Jim – What happened to the continuing education? There was discussion on this.
 - Debra – There is a list on here that states Dean of Professional Studies.
 - Kader – It is there.
 - Provost – It will need to be modified to be put on the list.
 - Kader – All in favor of Bill 389. Ayes carry. Bill passes third reading. I want a motion on bill 390. Mike motions. Ramon seconds. Comments on Chapter 5?
- Bill 390, Chapter 5 (second reading)
 - Kader – All in favor of 390? Ayes carry. Bill 390 passed unanimously on second reading.
 - Bill 391, Chapter 6 (second reading)
 - Kader – All in favor of bill 391. Mike motions to accept bill 391. Ramon seconds.
 - David – 6.2's sentence is marked out. Normally was struck in the original and made it was all. Do issues mean all? If the intent is all, should it show all?
 - Tim – What happened is we started with all and then it changed to normally, we didn't go back with all. I agree with David, the language should be all. David makes motion for friendly amendment to add all and I second.
 - Kader – All in favor of chapter 6 as shown here with amendment. Ayes carry. Bill 391 passes second reading unanimously.
 - Bill 392, Appendix A (second reading)
 - Kader – Ramon motions to accept bill 392. Mike seconds.
 - David – I would like discussion on 2A. This refers to dean on the performance of the faculty. The provost may remove dean at any point. Does this require a process?
 - Provost – There is a process for the review.
 - Mike – If the dean's performance is unsatisfactory.
 - David – I read there is no process.
 - Debra – 1B states the process.

- David – 2A reads that it is always an option and 2A stands alone.
 - Debra – Below it reads on to explain.
 - David – It is confusing on who determines. Does this give Provost the power to determine?
 - Provost – I have to have that power.
 - Joseph – 2A is the large statement on how it works broadly. B and C state the process.
 - David – 2A does not mention that there is any process.
 - Tim – We have a section later that talks about how to do the review. What we hoped was the process to be followed was made clear. Make the statement, “according to process and procedures lineated in B and C.” On the review, you want a statement to make certain the process is followed.
 - Tim- I make a motion at the end of sentence, replace period with comma and state according to end of term section in this appendix.
 - Monica – According to the procedures outlined in this appendix.
 - Kader – All in favor of appendix A amended. Ayes carry. Bill 392 passes second reading unanimously.
- **A motion was given to adjourn the meeting by Debra Moriarity, Monica Dillihunt second, senate affirmed. Meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.**