
FACULTY SENATE MEETING

**August 31, 2017
12:50 P.M. in SSB 201**

Present: Chris Allport, Sophia Marinova, Laird Burns, David Stewart, David Harwell, Ryan Weber, Joe Conway, David Johnson, Andrei Gandila, Carolyn Sanders, Jeremy Fischer, Anne Marie Choup, Dianhan Zheng, Kyle Knight, Mike Banish, Yu Lei, Tingting Wu, Fat Ho, James Swain, Gang Wang, Christina Carmen, Fran Wessling, Angela Hollingsworth, Ann Bianchi, Sharon Spencer, Qingyuan Han, Shanhu Lee, Roy Magnuson, Carmen Scholz, Jeff Weimer, Harry Delugach, Tim Newman, Shangbing Ai, Lingze Duan, Monica Dillihunt, Shannon Mathis

Absent with Proxy: Milton Shen, Kevin Bao, Earl Wells, Vladimir Forinski, Roy Schwertfeger

Absent without Proxy: Kader Frendi, Tracy Thornton, Lindsay Bridges, Mary Bonilla, Amy Hunter

Ex-Officio: Provost Christine Curtis

Guest: President Bob Altenkirch

- Faculty Senate President Carmen Scholz called the meeting to order at 12:50 pm.
- Carmen – I want to thank you for dedicating time to serve on the senate. I would like to have a motion to suspend the rules for the senate meeting time. We are supposed to meet at 12:30. Laird motions to suspend. Mike seconds. With Tuesday and Thursday class schedule, the FSEC decided to change the time from 12:50 – 2:20. All in favor of new time change, ayes carry.
- Approve Faculty Senate meeting minutes from April and May, also FSEC minutes. Monica motions to approve all minutes. Mike seconds. Ayes carry. 1 abstains.
- **Meeting Review:**
 - Bill 410 passes second reading unanimously.
- **Administrative Reports**
 - President Bob Altenkirch
 - Welcome back. I am going to comment about parking. We have a lot of parking experts on campus. Last year people bought stick on decals which is good through August 31. We went ahead and placed zoning signs in place and have them start parking accordingly now, many people said no. We ended up with residential students who should stay put, driving to class. When you drive around, most designated faculty/staff spots are vacant. They are parking in commuter plus spots. This should be used only if the faculty/staff spots are full. When you do an analysis, we have too many residential spots. With them leaving and too many spots, the commuters are not finding spots in the commuter lots. Come September 5th, if you

park out of zone, it is a \$50 ticket. We will start taking data to see where people are really parking. We will use that to make adjustments to the parking. We need to designate some lots to commuters only. The other thing is the expansion lot south of MSB should be done around September adding 200 spots. We own executive plaza now. Parking will open there. There will be spots for tenants and UAH decal. Please don't park in tenants spots. The executive plaza parking lot behind SWIRLL will be done when we construct an entrance. The sidewalk that goes across Sparkman is finished.

- VP for Finance and Administration – We have four finalists coming to campus. The position announcement and resumes will be on myUAH. September 11 -13, 27 - 29 are the days of visit.
- The board meeting is 14 – 15 September. There is a stage one request for a renovation to Morton Hall. The HVAC system is shot and needs to be replaced. The building is old and the construction causes it to be impossible to replace. The walls of this building have asbestos. We are not going to only work on the air conditioning system; we are going to renovate it. This is the first step of the approval process. We thought we would consolidate history there. We are going to renovate the CTC building to a classroom building and expand the cafeteria. I don't think it will be on the board agenda. You should have seen the message about the incubator. There is a fence up and they have started to work on this. Later in September, there will be another fence up and that will be for fixing the greenway. There was a map that was sent out to show the fencing areas.
 - Roy – When does the expansion lot by MSB open?
 - President – This semester some time.
 - Roy – Is that a commuter lot?
 - President – The lot by the athletic fields is now split into residence and commuter/faculty/staff. We really don't need those residential spots. We have to look at each lot to make adjustments.
 - David – Any idea as to what will happen to those in Morton during renovation?
 - President- You will have to be relocated. We are talking about possibilities, one is the CTC, and the other possibility is Executive Plaza. The building houses offices that would be possible.
 - Provost – If you have any other ideas, please offer them.
 - Member – Will Roberts stay the same until Morton is finished?
 - President- Yes.
 - Provost – Roberts is before Morton.
 - President – Yes, that is correct.
- Provost Christine Curtis
 - We are deep into the semester already. I hope that everyone has gotten off to a good start. I wanted to tell you about the faculty we have hired since the fall 2016. We were successful. There were several searches that we failed at. This wasn't because of the faculty failing on the search committee. We had a crisis and one tragedy; two individuals shown here are not working right now, but hopefully will be able to. We have fantastic assistant professors coming into all colleges. I have a list showing the distribution. The lecturers are due to growth in enrollment. We knew we didn't have enough faculty to cover. Some disciplines, there aren't any in the

community. We looked at accreditation issues. We had a strong faculty orientation. I thank Carmen for sharing well about the faculty senate.

- This is something I showed you last year. As soon as we can find it off the web, we will give it. Many institutions started later so they haven't come to their census date. We are at 1,345 new first time, full time freshman. Total freshman is higher due to students starting last year didn't make thirty hours. Our census total is 9,101. That is the highest ever at this institution. We are proud of everyone that stepped up and helped during preview days. It was a tremendous effort on everyone's part.
- I did a comparison, unofficially; we are at 27.9 on our ACT score. We are very proud of our students. Honors College went up in both numbers as well. Our retention stayed the same. We thought we were at 84%, but between August 1st and yesterday, we lost twenty students. We have been trying to figure out why. If we get them registered by May 15th, we will keep everyone. Nothing happens after this date. We did everything to contact those students who didn't register. We didn't get any response or any changes. The second thing we learned, there are going to be some that don't come back that last month, most of them have poor grade points. Some came in with good GPA's. Some wanted to change to majors that we didn't offer. Some engineering students didn't come back. A lot of these students are not located in the area. I think it is financial, performance related, and some cases moved elsewhere.
 - Roy – Do you know how many students lost scholarship money?
 - Provost – Some of those did lose scholarship money. We can get that data. Some of the twenty that left did lose scholarship money.
- Let's look at new numbers. We have 129 new freshmen this time. I am going to guess that the out of state rate will go up. We have 583 more undergraduates. We have 50 more graduate students. It has been hard to convince students to come here to the states. Our new transfer student's number went up. We have 219 new compared to last year. The total difference is 633. We can contribute this to what you have done in the classroom. I think that this is very important. I feel this very deeply. I feel students come here with dreams and goals, almost all of them having something they are trying to achieve. We are part of their achievement. Retention is important because it builds our people. It is our responsibility, we admitted them here. We want them to achieve their dreams and goals by graduating. There is more discussion at the state level for performance funding. There are a lot of legislatures discussing this. The parameters will include retention, graduation rate, along with other things. I pushed our IR office to give a predicted graduation rate; it is between 48-49%. We were at 49% rate last year. We need to keep pushing this retention up so we can increase the graduation rate. We are tuition driven. I am being told there will be no increase in higher education funds. We want to excel and we need revenue to do so. Retaining is very important in accomplishing this.
- I am pleased to say that NISP on the board's agenda for a joint PhD degree in Nursing with UA.
 - Harry – Whose name will be on the diploma?
 - Provost – Both, this is a joint program. They take courses from both institutions.
 - Harry- For national statistics for PhD credits, who gets the credit?

- Provost – I will have to see.
- The question that was asked by one of the board members about tenure track teaching. My antenna went up in regards to that question. They came back and asked about viability data. We reported back and gave our reasoning for the viable data. The President went to a Presidential retreat; we are going to have deal with this with more detail. It is important we increase our numbers within majors.
 - Jeff – Can we find that report on my UAH?
 - Provost – I don't know if it is there. I could place it there.
 - Mike – Could you send it to the faculty senate when you do?
 - Provost – Yes.
- Monica – Has the early childhood been approved by the board?
 - Provost – Yes. In the early childhood in the learning center, we are at capacity. We are between 170 – 180 children there. We have about 60 children in the RISE school. They are broken down from 6 months – 6 years. About a week ago, there were some openings.
- Tim – I have been hearing a lot of comments about quality. I wanted to bring three before you. I truly believe that you are interested in the quality of education. There is something that happens from your level to the ground. In my unit, as enrollment increases, the classrooms are moved from place to place. The faculty member may make a syllabus for one number, and then they are moved with more students, then again. It is really a challenge for a faculty member to plan out assignments to grade. Secondly, I brought this issue up a year ago. There are problems with technology. There was supposed to be a sweep. First classroom a colleague went to the board didn't work. Sweeps are being done, but something is wrong. Our lecture capture system has issues. My colleagues recorded a lecture and only half was available to the students. As faculty members, we are the first line of interface to the students.
 - Provost – Would it be possible to let me know who the instructors are? I would ask everyone. We have changed the organization, Academic Technologies and Online learning, to report to the Provost office. Brent Wren is serving as Chair for both of them. We need to know specifics. I agree with the frustrations and the quality. I have been putting money in the facilities line for technologies. We are putting a substantial amount in to upgrade the classrooms. We are putting money in for new computers. If we need new cameras, I need to know. We need feedback. If we need to hire another person, let us know.
 - Carolyn – Who needs to receive the feedback?
 - Provost – John Thygerson, Brent Wren, and copy me. I will then make a note to get with them for status update.
 - Carolyn – We only have one classroom for music, it is easy to track changes. Our smart monitor was removed over the summer and replaced with a regular monitor. We weren't made aware of this change. We called the help desk and they said that they are not replacing the smart monitor because of the cost. We just need to know of the changes.
 - Provost – One thing John Thygerson said they go in and fix the problem, with so many classes and people that day, another problem can surface. We need a lot of communication.

- Jeff – I have a statement back to the increase of enrollment. I applaud your efforts for bringing in new students. It's amazing to see this transformation from when I first came. The enthusiasm from you and the President is great. My question, based on looking ahead, what do you see within the next year to make the biggest statement? Meaning increasing enrollment and retention.
 - Provost - Increasing enrollment, admissions goes out and broadcast. What is critical for the faculty is to recruit for your major. We have some very small majors. That makes it difficult to provide the resources to those growing rapidly.

➤ **Officer/Committee Reports**

- Carmen Scholz, President
 - I want to make a couple of statements. Standing rules for this year, I will continue rules from Dr. Banish. Proxies – if you are not here, let me or Mike know. Your proxy should be informed about current business. The second standing rule is policies that come to the senate that do not pertain to faculty move quickly. Third rule, attendance, we had problems last year. You have been elected to represent your department. I understand things happen. Please place a permanent proxy if you can't fulfill the duties. Per bylaws, if you miss three meetings, you can be removed. I am taking that seriously. Finally, take your duty to report back to your department seriously.
 - Mike – Motions to accept three standing rules for this AY. Roy seconds.
 - Carmen – All in favor of standing rules. Ayes carry.
- Mike Banish, Past President
 - As Past President, let me tell you about bills that have been passed through here. This goes back to 14-15. We never did the climate survey. We did talk about developmental giving to department that is supposed to be implemented.
 - Provost – That isn't there?
 - Mike - No.
 - Faculty Emeritus and Bookstore – passed, but not there.
 - Bill 398, Cover a Charger, the President is working on a response. We have lost a bill – Bill 399. We don't know where it went.
 - Tim - We do think that bill was assigned to faculty and student development. If you served on a committee, please look back.
- Mike Banish, President Elect
 - We have a group of OIT policies that are coming forward. These policies were pulled up about 2015. There were a lot of problems with these policies. We have now had a two year discussion with IT along with the Provost. We set down with Russ Ward and Malcolm. We went through everything. They really didn't understand the language behind the policies. It was hard working but friendly. If we didn't understand it, they were willing to change it. The biggest problem we had was what happens if there is a data breach. This would be an accidental data breach, not a criminal intent. That came down to the department paying for it. That could be impossible. Everything now goes to the President's Office for that determination to be made. They got what they needed and were forward to us about what works.

- Roy – I just read the policy on policies. It doesn't mention faculty senate in anyway per my reading. The question impart is if this is definitely not a faculty senate resolution type issue, Carmen mentioned policies that don't have faculty concern. What role if any do we have in the process?
- Mike – The policy on policies says that we get to look at the policies. Typically what happens is Bob or Christine will say we would like for you to review this. President-Provost informs us of a Draft Policy, FSEC reviews the policy, votes that the policy is non-faculty governance, FSEC votes to release the policy to the FS committees (this is a second, required, vote in FSEC), FS committee chairman inform their committee members of the policy and request any comments, FS President announces in full-FS that a policy has been declared non-governance and the Policy was released to the committees for input, during the next FSEC meeting, Committee chairman report any comments and then the FSEC either votes to determine there are is no input from the FS and this is reported to the Provost-President, or the FSEC decided that a more complete review is necessary and informs the Provost-President that the FS want to make comments-changes to the policy.
 - The executive committee looks at the policy. If we think it is important for faculty, it comes before you. If is not applicable, it is declared non – governance, it goes to committee. If there are comments, it comes to the FSEC. During the five week time frame, if there are no comments, we vote again to pass without faculty senate. If you want to comment about a policy, you can.
- Monica – Number 5 says when the finalized draft policy is approved, it will be placed on the President's website, then to the senate.
- Mike – In my time dealing with Bob and Christine, I think there have only been accidental times it fell off the table.
- Christina Carmen, Governance and Operations Committee Chair
 - We have our two new senators from MAE, and we have our new Math senators. I don't know if they know the committee assignments. I am waiting on the university committee list. The 17-18 hasn't been put up yet.
- Anne Marie Choup, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair
 - No Report.
- Monica Dillihunt, Undergraduate Scholastic Affairs Committee Chair
 - No Report.
- Laird Burns, Finance and Resources Committee Chair
 - We've started the process of the RCEU stipends. Prior concern was students getting paid. We have a task force working this issue.
 - Carmen – I understand that is on Christine's agenda to get cleaned up.
- David Stewart, Personnel Committee Chair
 - No Report.
- David Johnson, Faculty and Student Development Committee Chair
 - No Report.
- Tim Newman, Parliamentarian
 - No Report.

- Carmen – We have two issues to deal with today. Bill 410 is in your package. I need a motion to bring this forward. Mike Banish motions. David Stewart seconds.
 - Mike – This bill came out of 403. It is almost the same wording. The situation addressed in the bill concerns the college of science and engineering. It may have to do some with nursing and business. We have students in science and engineering that come in and are not ready for the four year graduation track. The current track puts them back a year. This causes them to double up and they fail, then leave. The previous bill stated if they were good students, we would let them take up to three classes in the summer. These classes would be classes that are offered during the summer. The President says we don't give away free classes. We then decided we will make a scholarship out of this. The President would inform certain groups aware that we offer this. The college of engineering ran an experiment. They picked eleven students that were on the border of losing their scholarships. The main criterion was that they were savable. My understanding is the ten of the eleven maintained their scholarships. If we do this for students, they pick their GPA up, and stay on track to graduate.
 - Carmen – This bill is open for discussion.
 - Member – What do you qualify coursework that may not count toward your degree?
 - Mike – If a student comes in and their ACT score says they cannot take CAL A, but Math 113, we don't count that towards their degree completion. Instead of CAL A, B, & C, they are doing Math 113 and CAL A. They then get behind. We expect, in engineering, students to take Physics I in their spring semester. If they haven't taken CAL A, they can't; so they get behind. This is more specific to engineering than science.
 - Provost – It is the lock step curriculum.
 - Harry – The sense is to give scholarship money to allow students to catch up?
 - Carmen – Yes.
 - Mike – The faculty senate passed unanimously 403 last year.
 - David J. – When do they take these classes?
 - Mike – Summer between freshman and sophomore year.
 - Carmen – It is designed to catch up those placed in.
 - Harry- This is an external scholarship fund? What if there isn't enough money for all students?
 - Carolyn – I understand the first "whereas", 75% isn't that great. Can that be reconstructed to focus on the graduation rate? Change "attain" to "aspires" and maintain a graduation rate.
 - Carmen - All in favor. Ayes carry.
 - Carmen – Vote for amended bill. All in favor. Ayes carry. 1 abstains. Bill 410 passes.
 - Mike – Because there were no votes against it, it doesn't need a third reading.
 - Carmen - Last item for today's meeting is the 12 OIT policies. Mike introduced the bills to you. I would like to have a motion to vote on the bills separately and severely. Mike motions to introduce. Jim Swains seconds.

- Tim – I think ultimately you may have to divide. Let me bring forward the issues brought to me, OIT number 9. If someone wants to use our system, they have to give two weeks’ notice. If a guest comes to UAH they can’t use our wireless system. If I go to Auburn, my device connects automatically.
- Mike – The reason for that is the previous VP for Facilities left them with a better system than we have. We are trying to catch the system up. The real concern is for a conference, not individual use. They don’t have the bandwidth for that right now.
- Harry- If someone is planning a conference, they tell the attendees they can’t use the wireless.
- Mike – No, just make sure you give notice.
- Tim – I have a difficult time to accepting the explanation. I don’t understand why we can’t do the same thing. I think it needs to be remedied quickly. We don’t need this in a policy. When we catch up to 2010 standards, we have to work on the policy again. Policy 05, my issue is that these policies are written to include all personal devices, student’s personal device. It covers all research devices. There are computer driven labs that don’t support the system. The policies are written by OIT from their perspective not from a researcher’s perspective.
- Jeff – The policy says “that connects to.” Your statement seems to suggest that every computer has to have these things. When could you not connect to the UAH system?
- Tim – Jeff you have to read the rest of it. It says store or transmit data. Policy 07 says all data should be classified within three classes. Where is research? There was a paragraph added. Research terminology is not discussed there or any other policy. If a student is using their personal computer to collect any data, that becomes UAH property. That then makes you have to use the university’s ID management system. Moreover, your student has to commit to keep their device up to date with all software, and operating systems. I think that is a tremendous burden on the researchers and not accounted for in the policies. I also want to say that I raised the same points a year ago. These bills are not ready to proceed ahead.
- Jeff – I stand on another side coming from the Naval Research Labs. At one point, I wanted to make a video with my phone camera. If I did that, I would be kicked out of the naval research labs. This places a burden on the faculty. I am not sure where the split is.
- Provost – There is a data integrity manual. In Policy 07, this is taken from the integrity manual. I asked questions about the manual. Does anyone know anything about this manual? Its part of our university but no one knows anything about it. It looks like we have more work to do.
- Harry – It seems we have some parts that are not controversial. If there are objections they are specifically targeted. Discussing these separately would not work.

➤ Motion to adjourn by Roy Magnusson at 2:23 pm.